



FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH
ADVOCACY COALITION

Activities and Goals for the 2023 Legislative Session



FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION

A non-profit, non-partisan coalition of organizations that advocates for policy changes to improve the quality of life for those who live with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder in the state of Florida.

Our mission is to foster a grassroots advocacy network throughout Florida to improve the lives of individuals and families living with behavioral health conditions. Joining voices to advocate with state legislators and other policy makers is the primary function.

NAMI Florida partners with FLMHAC to provide advocacy in Florida.



FLMHAC's History

- Originated as “The Advocacy Project” with 2-year grant from Allegany Franciscan Ministries to NAMI Palm Beach County.
- Began as two NAMI advocacy groups in Broward and Palm Beach County.
- Advocacy group leaders recruited and trained from different areas of the state.
- Registered as a 501(c)4 in 2020.
- Part-time lobbyist hired.
- Coalition grew quickly with new member organizations.



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Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition Members

Advocates for Mental Health South Florida
FAU Card, Palm Beach
Inspiring My Generation, Broward County
League of Women Voters, Palm Beach
Mental Health America of Palm Beach
Mental Health Association of Central Florida
Mental Health Association of Okaloosa/Walton
County
MHA Southeast Florida
NAMI Brevard Advocacy
NAMI Broward County
NAMI Citrus County
NAMI Collier County
NAMI Ft. Walton Beach/Okaloosa
NAMI Gainesville and Alachua County
NAMI Greater Orlando

NAMI Hernando
NAMI Hillsborough
NAMI Jacksonville
NAMI Lee, Charlotte, and Hendry Counties
NAMI Marion County
NAMI Martin County
NAMI Miami-Dade
NAMI Palm Beach
NAMI Pasco County
NAMI Pensacola
NAMI Pinellas
NAMI Sarasota and Manatee Counties
NAMI Tallahassee
NAMI Volusia/Flagler/St. John
Recovery Advocacy Project Florida
Recovery Advocacy Project, Volusia County

FLMHAC's 31 Member Groups & Organizations



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What FLMHAC Does

- **Research:** follow bills, national & state news, participate in national organization meetings (Kennedy Forum)
- **Organize:** meet biweekly/weekly; decide on actions
- **Educate:** meet legislators, decision-makers
- **Collaborate:** partner with other state orgs
- **Participate:** join committees, local task forces, Behavioral Health Day in Tallahassee



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2023 Top Three Legislative Priorities

1. Funding and coordination for the successful implementation of 9-8-8
2. Funding to develop more supportive housing for individuals living with serious mental illness
3. Integration of behavioral health care with primary health care



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9-8-8: Our First Priority

- New nationwide phone number for suicide prevention and behavioral health crises
- Created by S.2661, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.
- Activated July 16, 2022.
- Calls to Florida's 13 National Suicide Prevention Lifelines (NSPLs).



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Florida's 9-8-8 Call Centers

- 211 NW Florida United Way ★
- 211 Big Bend ★
- Alachua County Crisis Center
- United Way 211 of NE Florida ★
- 211 Heart of Florida United Way ★
- 211 Brevard ★
- Crisis Center of Tampa Bay ★
- 211 Tampa Bay Cares ★
- Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services
- David Lawrence Mental Health Center, Inc.
- 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ★
- 211 Broward ★
- Jewish Community Services of South Florida ★



★ Also a 211 Helpline center



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An Alternative to 9-1-1

- Most behavioral health emergencies handled by 9-1-1 and law enforcement.
- 9-1-1 call-takers and responders may not understand behaviors of people with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness
- 9-1-1 makes mental illness a criminalized experience
- Often results in trauma and even death
- CIT training critical but not enough



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The Promise of 9-8-8

- A new number to call for emergencies dealing with mental health or substance use
- A game-changer for families and individuals
- Potential to save years of trauma and lack of treatment
- Potential to relieve police of ~20% of response



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9-8-8 as a Portal to Access Behavioral Health

- National movement to reimagine a **more effective access system to care** as part of 9-8-8
- Help increase access to a confusing system of care
- **9-8-8 as an easy-to-access portal into the behavioral health system**
- Model crisis response programs already operating around the country



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24/7

CRISIS CALL HUBS



MOBILE CRISIS OUTREACH TEAMS



CRISIS RECEIVING FACILITIES



The Three Pillars of Effective Crisis Response

Where is Florida Now with 9-8-8?

- 9-8-8 activated statewide July 16, 2022
- Call data available for July 2021-August 2022:
 - 47% increase in incoming calls
 - 25% DECREASE in answer rate (from 77% to 58%)
- **Florida has the lowest in-state answer rates of all states**



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In-State Answer Rate by Originating State 2022-08-01 to 2022-08-31 Eastern Time

For media or research use, please coordinate with Lifeline's Communications team at communications@vibrant.org.

Data does not include calls offered to, or answered by the Veterans Crisis Line or Lifeline's Spanish language sub-network.

State	Routed	Received	Answered In-State	In-State Answer Rate	Abandoned In-State	Flowout to Backup	ASA In-State	Avg. Talk Time In-State
AK	703	670	541	81%	93	36	00:27	12:22
AL	2,925	2,774	1,981	71%	625	168	00:45	12:03
AR	1,629	1,556	1,050	67%	343	163	00:27	10:09
AS	9	9	0	0%	0	9	00:00	00:00
AZ	4,846	4,446	4,180	94%	199	67	00:18	11:16
CA	30,681	29,175	25,888	89%	3,185	102	00:36	11:17
CO	5,239	5,018	4,314	86%	474	230	00:26	12:57
CT	2,181	2,165	2,061	95%	96	8	00:24	12:08
DC	780	751	700	93%	27	24	00:17	08:51
DE	493	469	355	76%	50	64	00:24	07:40
FL	12,304	11,391	6,609	58%	2,749	2,033	00:58	10:23
GA	7,291	6,808	5,967	88%	688	153	00:20	10:51
GU	390	382	380	99%	1	1	00:13	05:22
HI	1,661	1,529	1,401	92%	83	45	00:19	07:49
IA	1,787	1,712	1,595	93%	85	32	00:32	10:02
ID	1,202	1,151	1,012	88%	94	45	00:29	12:36
IL	12,801	12,322	10,489	85%	1,270	563	00:34	15:22
IN	3,643	3,503	2,922	83%	187	394	00:18	11:48
KS	2,258	2,131	1,812	85%	225	94	00:24	13:20
KY	2,595	2,429	1,974	81%	293	162	00:33	12:25
LA	2,882	2,573	2,340	91%	215	18	00:27	12:59
MA	4,939	4,708	4,046	86%	607	55	00:43	10:49
MD	4,159	3,980	3,420	86%	556	4	00:30	11:51
ME	12,936	12,708	12,616	99%	88	4	00:03	00:34
MI	6,898	6,558	5,383	82%	887	288	00:31	11:01
MN	3,777	3,561	3,173	89%	339	49	00:42	13:24
MO	4,078	3,894	3,580	92%	297	17	00:29	14:09

■ ≥ 90 Answered
 ■ ≥ 80 Answered
 ■ ≥ 66 Answered
 ■ < 66% Answered

Status of Funding for 9-8-8

- Call centers submitted budgets to DCF in 2022 estimating costs of expansion to meet call volume:
 - **Year 1: \$25.2M Year 2: \$29.4M Year 3: \$33.2M**
- Federal funds received from SAMHSA – \$5.2M, minus administrative costs = \$4.5M over 2 years, through 6/30/24
- Federal funds via the supplemental Mental Health Block Grant = \$8.4M to call centers 22-23 and 23-24 (ends 6/30/24)
- Other states have passed legislation approving telecommunications fees to support 9-8-8 operations
 - Nevada, Washington, Colorado, California and Nevada

APPROVED in FLORIDA: more recurring state funding for mobile response teams - 😊



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FLMHAC Activities around 9-8-8

- Drafted legislation in 2021 – SB478 – sponsored by Sen. Jason Brodeur
- Educate legislators and state officials to promote 9-8-8
- Make presentations around the state, virtually and in person (20+ so far)
- Disseminate information by flyers, social media, videos, email blasts
- Participate in 9-8-8 Planning Coalition
- Lead the 9-8-8 State Advocacy Coalition
- Participate in NAMI national 9-8-8 advocacy group



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9-8-8 Florida Advocacy Group led by FLMHAC



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

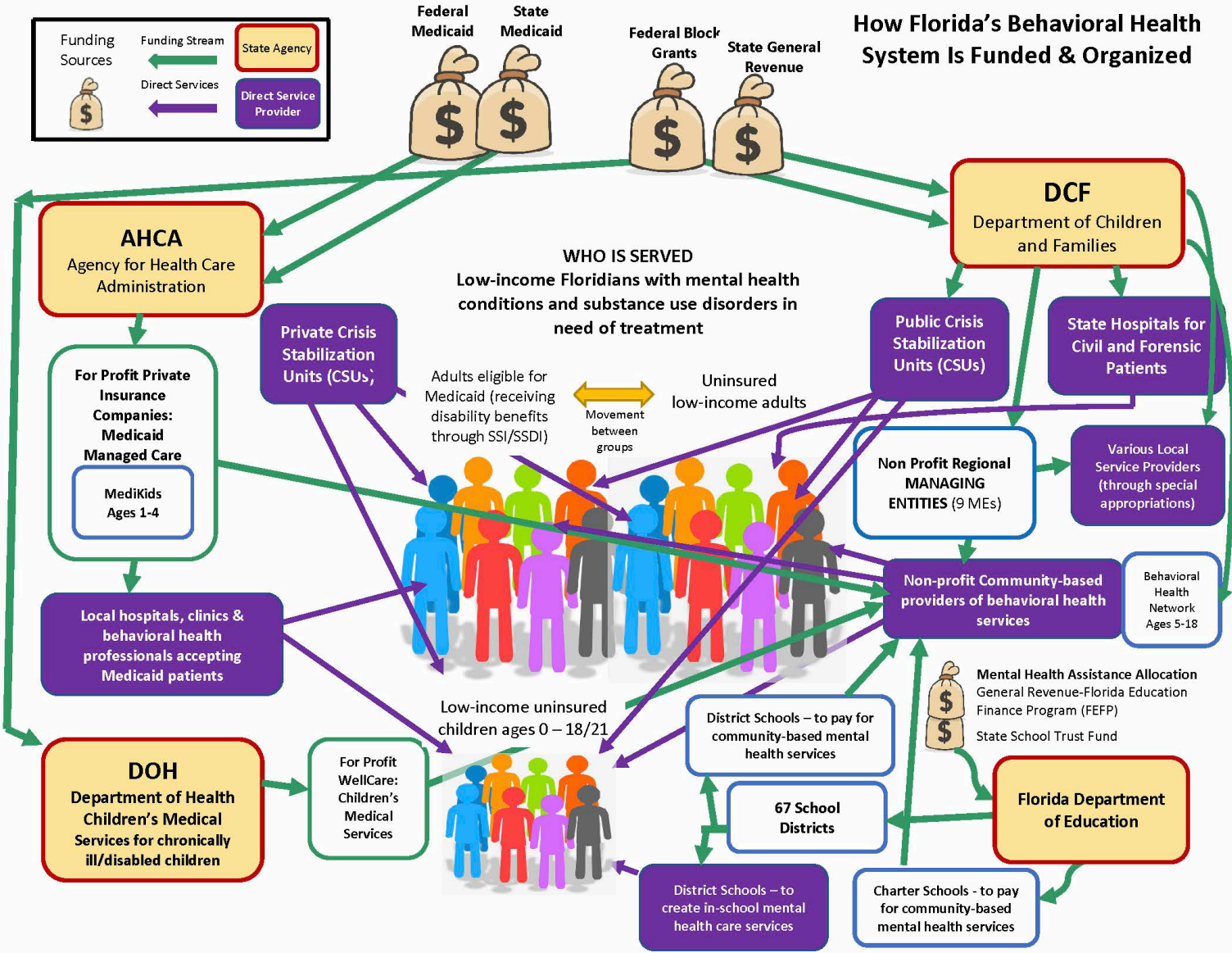
- 19-member Commission formed by state legislature in 2021
- Studying how behavioral health system can be improved
- Make recommendations to Governor, Senate and House
- Working on first report
- Last Commission met in 2001 – result was Managing Entity system
- MAJOR changes will be recommended
- Meetings live-streamed and open to public
- FLMHAC has five members serving on Subcommittees

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/commission/index.shtml>



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How Florida's Behavioral Health System Is Funded & Organized



How Can You Help

- Philanthropic support for behavioral health crisis response services in local communities
- Funding for your local 9-8-8 call center to build infrastructure and capacity
- Participation in community-led behavioral health task forces
- Participation in the 9-8-8 Advocacy Group and other advocacy activities
- Learn about local behavioral health providers

**FLMHAC is here for you as a resource for information
on behavioral health services and legislation!**



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Contact Us for More Information

FLMHAC.org

Sign up for Action Alerts and Updates:
flmhac.org/sign-up-for-action-alerts

Email: **gayle@flmhac.org**
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