

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 15-175**  
**(Addendum to Executive Order 15-134)**

**WHEREAS**, On July 9, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-134, which highlighted mental health reforms needed across Florida. Executive Order 15-134 charged the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to develop and implement best management practices to positively impact mental health services in Florida, including creating a pilot program in Broward County. This Executive Order is an addendum to Executive Order 15-134; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding for mental healthcare is too fragmented. It is critical that our state's social service agencies work together, along with local entities, to better coordinate care to ensure we are properly investing taxpayer funds so patients can get the care they need in their own communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's pilot program in Broward County is currently conducting a countywide inventory of all programs available across agencies that address mental health needs. The state is working to find the best ways to support individuals with mental health needs before they are committed to the custody or supervision of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, this Executive Order updates the scope of agencies and now includes the Department of Health (DOH) and Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), which both play a critical role with respect to mental health care services in Florida. This addendum also expands the pilot program to include Alachua and Pinellas counties, in addition to Broward County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, of the Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. In the interest of improving the coordination and effectiveness of mental health services in Florida, I hereby direct the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families to lead the respective state social services agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of local, state, and federally funded behavioral health services and to conduct an analysis of how those services are delivered and how well they are integrated with other similar and/or interdependent services within a community. The goal of this review shall be the development of a statewide model for a coordinated system of behavioral health care services and a streamlined budgeting process that integrates and tracks behavioral health care spending across multiple funding streams. Specifically:

- A. The Broward County pilot will be expanded to include Pinellas and Alachua counties to determine the feasibility of establishing a single client identifier system for recipients of behavioral health treatment services to allow for the effective coordination of behavioral health care across multiple agencies.
- B. The pilots shall examine the availability and effectiveness of institutional care and outline reforms to ensure patients can receive effective care in their communities. The pilots shall also examine the effectiveness of services designed to divert individuals with a behavioral health diagnosis from state mental health treatment facilities or the criminal justice system.
- C. With the goal of developing a long term strategic plan for the state's mental

health treatment facilities, DCF shall conduct an audit of those facilities, examining such factors as patient care and well-being, safety and security, technology, productivity, staffing levels and functions, institutional organization, and training.

Section 2. Based on the findings of the pilot programs, I hereby direct the Secretary of DCF to provide me with recommendations on how best to meet the behavioral health care needs of Florida's citizens through an integrated system of coordinated care that optimizes resources to achieve optimal outcomes for those individuals who are seriously mentally ill, youth who are emotionally disturbed or mentally ill, and those persons who are involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, the child welfare system, and those in state treatment facilities and their families.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 9th day of September, 2015.



  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**FILED**  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA