

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-81

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 394.457(1), Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the designated Mental Health Authority of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 394.457(2)(a), Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families is responsible for the coordination of efforts with other departments and divisions of the state government, county and municipal governments, and private agencies concerned with and providing mental health services, as part of Florida's coordinated system of care; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 394.4573(2)(f), Florida Statutes, the essential elements of a coordinated system of care include coordination with other local systems and entities, public and private, which are involved with the individual, such as primary care, child welfare, behavioral health care, and criminal and juvenile justice organizations; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2018, the State of Florida was devastated by the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the tragic deaths of 14 students and 3 school personnel; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that tragedy, I immediately convened three roundtable meetings composed of educators, behavioral health, and law enforcement stakeholders to recommend a course of action that would address the identified contributing factors to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, and recommend steps to prevent future tragedies; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2018, I announced a Major Action Plan to keep Florida students safe; and

WHEREAS, within two weeks of this announcement, the Florida Legislature enacted the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act to implement and provide funding for the recommendations in my Major Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families is the executive agency charged with the oversight and administration of programs to address substance abuse and mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, the sheriffs and police chiefs throughout Florida are charged with the protection of Florida citizens and the enforcement of its laws; and

WHEREAS, additional state agencies including the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Agency for Health Care Administration play a vital role in the provision of mental health care in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida must continue to make every effort to ensure the safety of our citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a), Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

In the interest of improving the safety and welfare of the citizens of Florida, I hereby direct the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families to convene meetings in each of the Department's six geographic regions, which shall include each of the sheriffs and police chiefs in that geographic area, Behavioral Health Managing Entities, representatives of local school districts, community behavioral providers, Department of Juvenile Justice and other stakeholders at the discretion of the Secretary.

A. The objective of these meetings is to improve communication, collaboration of participating agencies, and the coordination of services and the care of individuals identified as most in need by the participants. These meetings shall be held at least quarterly.

B. In the interest of improved collaboration and integration of critical behavioral health services, the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, and sheriffs shall seek opportunities for cost sharing to improve efficiencies and integration of funding.

C. The Department shall include the Sheriffs and local law enforcement agencies as eligible recipients for the Department's criminal justice reinvestment grants to improve services for persons with a mental illness or substance use disorder.

D. The Department and Behavioral Health Managing Entities will ensure that each Managing Entity has a Sheriff designee as a member of its Board of Directors. The Department and the Behavioral Health Managing Entities will include representatives of Sheriff Offices in planning, procurement, and selection of providers of mobile crisis services authorized by the Legislature in their respective communities.

E. The Department, through the Behavioral Health Managing Entities and their respective Sheriffs, will collaborate and ensure access to mental health and substance use treatment services for persons released from county jails.

F. The Department will include representatives of the Sheriffs in planning, implementation and evaluation of a "no-wrong-door" system of care, pursuant to section 394.4573, Florida Statutes, in each judicial circuit and DCF circuit.

G. The Department will involve Sheriffs and local law enforcement agencies in the implementation and evaluation of the "central receiving system" authorized by chapter 394, Florida Statutes.

## Section 2.

I hereby direct the Secretary of DCF to identify resources required to implement the provisions of this Executive Order, including resources to assess and evaluate the efforts of the activities outlined above.

Section 3.

I hereby authorize the Secretary of DCF to use his discretion in meeting the objectives of this Executive Order including, if required, the establishment of a Steering Committee to provide oversight, support, and direction to the regional planning efforts, and to submit a report by January 1, 2019 that summarizes the findings of the regional efforts and provides recommendations on how best to meet the behavioral health care needs and the public safety needs of Florida's citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

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RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY OF STATE

2018 MAR 26 PM 1:25  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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