

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to substance abuse and mental health  
3 care; amending s. 394.4573, F.S.; expanding mental  
4 health crisis services to include the 988 suicide and  
5 crisis lifeline call center; amending s. 394.67, F.S.;  
6 revising the definition of "crisis services" to  
7 include a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call center  
8 and defining the term "988 suicide and crisis lifeline  
9 call center"; creating s. 394.9088, F.S.; requiring  
10 the Department of Children and Families to authorize  
11 and provide oversight of the 988 suicide and crisis  
12 lifeline call centers and adopt specified rules;  
13 amending s. 397.427, F.S.; removing requirements  
14 relating to providers of medication-assisted treatment  
15 services for opiate addiction; amending s. 916.111,  
16 F.S.; revising training requirements for mental health  
17 professionals; amending s. 916.115, F.S.; requiring  
18 court appointed experts to have completed specified  
19 training and continued education; amending s. 916.12,  
20 F.S.; providing requirements for an expert to  
21 determine acceptable treatments available in a  
22 community; amending ss. 394.674 and 394.74, F.S.;  
23 conforming cross-references; providing an effective  
24 date.  
25

26 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28 |       **Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section**  
 29 | **394.4573, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

30 |       394.4573 Coordinated system of care; annual assessment;  
 31 | essential elements; measures of performance; system improvement  
 32 | grants; reports.—On or before December 1 of each year, the  
 33 | department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the  
 34 | Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an  
 35 | assessment of the behavioral health services in this state. The  
 36 | assessment shall consider, at a minimum, the extent to which  
 37 | designated receiving systems function as no-wrong-door models,  
 38 | the availability of treatment and recovery services that use  
 39 | recovery-oriented and peer-involved approaches, the availability  
 40 | of less-restrictive services, and the use of evidence-informed  
 41 | practices. The assessment shall also consider the availability  
 42 | of and access to coordinated specialty care programs and  
 43 | identify any gaps in the availability of and access to such  
 44 | programs in the state. The department's assessment shall  
 45 | consider, at a minimum, the needs assessments conducted by the  
 46 | managing entities pursuant to s. 394.9082(5). The department  
 47 | shall compile and include in the report all plans submitted by  
 48 | managing entities pursuant to s. 394.9082(8) and the  
 49 | department's evaluation of each plan.

50 |       (2) The essential elements of a coordinated system of care

51 include:

52 (d) Crisis services, including the 988 suicide and crisis  
53 lifeline call center, mobile response teams, crisis  
54 stabilization units, addiction receiving facilities, and  
55 detoxification facilities.

56 **Section 2. Subsections (1) through (25) of section 394.67,**  
57 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2) through**  
58 **(26), respectively, subsection (4) is amended, and a new**  
59 **subsection (1) is added to that section, to read:**

60 394.67 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

61 (1) "988 suicide and crisis lifeline call center" means a  
62 call center meeting national accreditation and recognized by the  
63 department to receive 988 calls, texts, or other forms of  
64 communication in this state.

65 (4) "Crisis services" means short-term evaluation,  
66 stabilization, and brief intervention services provided to a  
67 person who is experiencing an acute mental or emotional crisis,  
68 as defined in subsection (19) ~~(18)~~, or an acute substance abuse  
69 crisis, as defined in subsection (20) ~~(19)~~, to prevent further  
70 deterioration of the person's mental health. Crisis services are  
71 provided in settings such as a crisis stabilization unit, an  
72 inpatient unit, a short-term residential treatment program, a  
73 detoxification facility, or an addictions receiving facility; at  
74 the site of the crisis by a mobile crisis response team; or at a  
75 hospital on an outpatient basis; or telephonically by a 988

76 suicide and crisis lifeline call center.

77 **Section 3. Section 394.9088, Florida Statutes, is created**  
78 **to read:**

79 394.9088 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call center.—

80 (1) The department shall authorize and provide oversight  
81 to 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call centers. Unless  
82 authorized by the department, call centers are not permitted to  
83 conduct 988 suicide and crisis lifeline services. The department  
84 may implement a corrective action plan, suspension or revocation  
85 of authorization for failure to comply with this section and  
86 rules adopted under this section.

87 (2) The department shall adopt rules relating to:

88 (a) The process for authorization of 988 suicide and  
89 crisis lifeline call centers.

90 (b) Minimum standards for 988 suicide and crisis lifeline  
91 call centers to be authorized, including but not limited to,  
92 service delivery, quality of care, and performance outcomes.

93 (c) The adequacy and consistency of 988 suicide and crisis  
94 lifeline call centers' personnel certifications, accreditations,  
95 quality assurance standards, and minimum training standards.

96 (d) Implementation of a cohesive statewide plan for 988  
97 suicide and crisis lifeline call centers to achieve statewide  
98 interoperability with the 911 system and to provide individuals  
99 with rapid and direct access to the appropriate care.

100 **Section 4. Subsections (3) through (9) of section 397.427,**

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101 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2) through (8),**  
102 **respectively, and present subsections (2) and (5) are amended,**  
103 **to read:**

104 397.427 Medication-assisted treatment service providers;  
105 rehabilitation program; needs assessment and provision of  
106 services; persons authorized to issue takeout medication;  
107 unlawful operation; penalty.—

108 ~~(2) The department shall determine the need for~~  
109 ~~establishing providers of medication-assisted treatment services~~  
110 ~~for opiate addiction.~~

111 ~~(a) Providers of medication-assisted treatment services~~  
112 ~~for opiate addiction may be established only in response to the~~  
113 ~~department's determination and publication of need for~~  
114 ~~additional medication treatment services.~~

115 ~~(b) If needs assessment is required, the department shall~~  
116 ~~annually conduct the assessment and publish a statement of~~  
117 ~~findings which identifies each substate entity's need.~~

118 ~~(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the license~~  
119 ~~for medication-assisted treatment programs for opiate addiction~~  
120 ~~licensed before October 1, 1990, may not be revoked solely~~  
121 ~~because of the department's determination concerning the need~~  
122 ~~for medication-assisted treatment services for opiate addiction.~~

123 (4) ~~(5)~~ The department shall also determine the need for  
124 establishing medication-assisted treatment for substance use  
125 disorders other than opiate dependence. Service providers within

126 | the publicly funded system shall be funded for provision of  
 127 | these services based on the availability of funds.

128 | **Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section**  
 129 | **916.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

130 | 916.111 Training of mental health experts.—The evaluation  
 131 | of defendants for competency to proceed or for sanity at the  
 132 | time of the commission of the offense shall be conducted in such  
 133 | a way as to ensure uniform application of the criteria  
 134 | enumerated in Rules 3.210 and 3.216, Florida Rules of Criminal  
 135 | Procedure. The department shall develop, and may contract with  
 136 | accredited institutions:

137 | (1) To provide:

138 | (c) Training for mental health professionals in the  
 139 | application of these protocols and procedures in performing  
 140 | forensic evaluations and providing reports to the courts.  
 141 | Training must include, but is not limited to, information on  
 142 | statutes and rules related to competency restoration, evidence-  
 143 | based practices, least restrictive treatment alternatives and  
 144 | placement options as described in s. 916.12(4)(c); and

145 | **Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 916.115, Florida**  
 146 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

147 | 916.115 Appointment of experts.—

148 | (1) The court shall appoint no more than three experts to  
 149 | determine the mental condition of a defendant in a criminal  
 150 | case, including competency to proceed, insanity, involuntary

151 placement, and treatment. The experts may evaluate the defendant  
152 in jail or in another appropriate local facility or in a  
153 facility of the Department of Corrections.

154 (a) The court ~~To the extent possible,~~ The appointed  
155 experts shall:

156 1. have completed forensic evaluator training approved by  
157 ~~the department, and each shall~~ Be a psychiatrist, licensed  
158 psychologist, or physician.

159 2. Have completed initial and ongoing forensic evaluator  
160 training, provided by the department.

161 3. If performing juvenile evaluations, complete annually,  
162 juvenile forensic competency evaluation training approved by the  
163 department.

164 (b) Existing evaluators shall complete department-provided  
165 continuing education training by July 1, 2026, to remain active  
166 on the list.

167 (c) ~~(b)~~ The department shall maintain and annually provide  
168 the courts with a list of available mental health professionals  
169 who have completed the initial and annual approved training as  
170 experts.

171 **Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section**  
172 **916.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

173 916.12 Mental competence to proceed.—

174 (4) If an expert finds that the defendant is incompetent  
175 to proceed, the expert shall report on any recommended treatment

176 for the defendant to attain competence to proceed. In  
177 considering the issues relating to treatment, the examining  
178 expert shall specifically report on:

179 (d) The availability of acceptable treatment and, if  
180 treatment is available in the community, the expert shall so  
181 state in the report. In determining what acceptable treatments  
182 are available in the community, the expert shall, at a minimum,  
183 use current information or resources on less restrictive  
184 treatment alternatives, as described in paragraph (c) and those  
185 obtained from training and continuing education approved by the  
186 department.

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188 The examining expert's report to the court shall include a full  
189 and detailed explanation regarding why the alternative treatment  
190 options referenced in the evaluation are insufficient to meet  
191 the needs of the defendant.

192 **Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
193 **394.674, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

194 394.674 Eligibility for publicly funded substance abuse  
195 and mental health services; fee collection requirements.—

196 (1) To be eligible to receive substance abuse and mental  
197 health services funded by the department, an individual must be  
198 a member of at least one of the department's priority  
199 populations approved by the Legislature. The priority  
200 populations include:



- 201 (a) For adult mental health services:
- 202 1. Adults who have severe and persistent mental illness,
- 203 as designated by the department using criteria that include
- 204 severity of diagnosis, duration of the mental illness, ability
- 205 to independently perform activities of daily living, and receipt
- 206 of disability income for a psychiatric condition. Included
- 207 within this group are:
- 208 a. Older adults in crisis.
- 209 b. Older adults who are at risk of being placed in a more
- 210 restrictive environment because of their mental illness.
- 211 c. Persons deemed incompetent to proceed or not guilty by
- 212 reason of insanity under chapter 916.
- 213 d. Other persons involved in the criminal justice system.
- 214 e. Persons diagnosed as having co-occurring mental illness
- 215 and substance abuse disorders.
- 216 2. Persons who are experiencing an acute mental or
- 217 emotional crisis as defined in s. 394.67 ~~s. 394.67(18)~~.

218 **Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section**

219 **394.74, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

220 394.74 Contracts for provision of local substance abuse

221 and mental health programs.—

- 222 (3) Contracts shall include, but are not limited to:
- 223 (a) A provision that, within the limits of available
- 224 resources, substance abuse and mental health crisis services, as
- 225 defined in s. 394.67 ~~s. 394.67(4)~~, shall be available to any

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226 individual residing or employed within the service area,  
227 regardless of ability to pay for such services, current or past  
228 health condition, or any other factor;

229 **Section 10.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.