



# **Mayor's Orange County Jail Oversight Commission**

## **Medical, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Subcommittee**

**Chair: Mike Griffin**

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**June 23, 2025**



# **Mayor's Orange County Jail Oversight Commission Medical, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Subcommittee**

**Chair: Mike Griffin, Vice President of Advocacy and Public Policy,  
AdventHealth**

## **Members:**

**Martha Are, CEO, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida**

**Maria Bledsoe, CEO, Central Florida Cares Health System**

**Honorable Alicia L. Latimore, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit**

**George Ralls, M.D., Sr. Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Orlando  
Health**

**Marni Stahlman, President, The Mental Health Association of Central Florida**

**Donna Wyche, Retired, Orange County Government**



# **Mayor's Orange County Jail Oversight Commission Medical, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Subcommittee**

- **Medical, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Subcommittee met on June 12 to review the draft recommendations presented at the May Jail Oversight Commission meeting**
- **Eight recommendations were approved by the subcommittee**
- **Recommended changing the Subcommittee title to Medical, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder**
  - **Substance Use Disorder combines substance abuse and substance dependence into one single category (DSM-5)**



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### **Medical Recommendations**

- 13) Change the current cart medication dispensing method to a fixed site where appropriate. Introduce additional fixed medication dispensing sites ("pill windows") to reduce the time nurses spend transporting medication carts though the jail multiple times a day. (JOC 2002: MD-ME03-45) (Fiscal Impact)**
  
- 14) Create and approve a formal communication process with the State Attorney and the Public Defender to identify medically high-risk nonviolent inmates and recommend early release when appropriate. (JOC 2002: MD-ME08-62) (Interagency Collaboration)**



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## **Medical Recommendations**

- 15) Work with the Orange County Legislative delegation, Florida Association of Counties and Florida Sheriffs Association to advocate for a change in the Florida Statute 409.9025, which would allow counties to bill Medicaid for inmates enrolled in Medicaid who are hospitalized for 24 hours or more. This change will save Orange County approximately \$1.3M annually in outside medical care. (Interagency Collaboration & Fiscal Impact)**



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### **Mental Health Recommendations**

- 16) Encourage the expansion of BRU deployment, or Mobile Crisis Units or similar community response programs across all 11 municipalities, where financially feasible. (Interagency Collaboration)**
- 17) The County will convene an appropriate group of stakeholders to establish a plan to eliminate barriers to the effective treatment of inmates experiencing severe mental illnesses, taking into account Florida Statute § 394.4598. (Interagency Collaboration)**

### **Substance Use Disorder Recommendations**

- 18) Diversify substance abuse treatment options available for inmates and make an effort to expand the number of community providers employed by the County that offer these services. (Interagency Collaboration & Fiscal Impact)**



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### **Substance Use Disorder Recommendations**

- 19) Work with the court system to review and revise procedures to ensure patients enrolled in substance use disorder programs, mental health programs and/or experiencing homelessness are released during daylight hours (8am-5pm). (Interagency Collaboration)**
- 20) Review of county contracted substance abuse treatment facilities' exclusion criteria. (Interagency Collaboration)**