

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Lauren Green, West End Strategy Team

lgreen@westendstrategyteam.com

Ashley Tait-Dinger, Florida Alliance Team

ashley@flhealthvalue.org

The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value Joins Nation's Mental Health Organizations to Call for the System-Wide Prioritization of Equitable Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care

Today, The Bowman Family Foundation released [*Equitable Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care: An Urgent Need*](#), an important report for the healthcare industry. The report highlights many of the challenges people face trying to obtain high quality behavioral health care. The Bowman Family Foundation report reinforces many of the troubling trends that continue to hamper widespread access to affordable and high-quality mental health and substance use care. Among the findings of note:

- Nearly 60% of respondents stated they sought behavioral health care but were unable to obtain any care in at least one case. Unfortunately, Florida adults fair worse than the national average. According to [Mental Health America](#) in 2022, 63.5% of Florida adult respondents were unable to obtain needed care.
- The newly released report adds that of individuals in employer-sponsored plans who used at least one out-of-network behavioral health specialist, 80% saw out-of-network behavioral health specialists "all of the time", and about 50% of respondents received 3 or more denials from their carrier for behavioral health services. Of particular concern discussed in the report is accessing care, of which Florida ranks 49th in the nation as of 2022 according to [Mental Health America](#).
- The report highlights the need to address provider networks, address coverage denial rates, the integration of behavioral health and primary health care, and other relevant documents that support the need for meaningful behavioral health benefit redesign and implementation.

From Karen van Caulil, Ph.D. President and CEO of the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value:

“The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value strongly supports each of the recommendations outlined in the Bowman Family Foundation Report. As a Regional Employer Stakeholder Engagement Team for the Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Florida Alliance is a key player in advocating for and advancing these recommended solutions to behavioral health services for Florida’s employers and their covered members on multiple fronts. The Florida Alliance has been actively engaged with our members in an employer learning collaborative (ELC) since August 2022 focusing on redesigning behavioral health benefit plans, policies, and networks to address ongoing issues in mental health and substance use treatment in addition to adhering to the requirements for mental health parity under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.”

To learn more about the Bowman Family Foundation Report and the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value’s efforts to improve access to high quality behavioral health care, contact Karen van Caulil, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, at karen@flhealthvalue.org.

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About Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value

The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value represents 80 public and private sector employer/healthcare purchasers with lives in Florida, across the United States, and abroad. Our organizational strategy relies on committed community partnerships to drive quality improvement while reducing the cost of health care. For more information, please visit <https://flhealthvalue.org/>, or find the organization on Facebook or LinkedIn.