#### Making Florida the Healthiest State in America

Our workforce is Florida's greatest asset. As a leader in health strategies, groundbreaking research, and best-practice tools, the Florida Chamber Health Council, part of the Florida Chamber Leadership Cabinet on Safety, Health, and Sustainability, is dedicated to advancing workplace wellness. Our first-of-its-kind, business-led statewide mental health

research report, launched in 2024, sets us apart as a national model for workplace health. Recognizing that mental health and well-being are essential to maintaining a safe and productive workplace, we identify, share, and promote outcome-driven strategies to support Florida workers and their families. Join us today!

#### Promoting Health

Protecting the health of Florida's workforce is the Florida Chamber Health Council's priority, which creates a culture where businesses and their employees can flourish.

#### Advocating Research

Addressing systemic issues through data and education on opioid addiction, marijuana use and mental health leads to prevention strategies and wellness initiatives.

## Providing Tools

Implementing health-focused strategies, employee-based awareness, and behavioral change helps to drive an organization's day-to-day culture of health.

#### Nation's First Business-Led Statewide Mental Health Research

Our latest **2024 Mental Health Research Report** was developed with the invaluable support of our **Research Roundtable Partners**, making it the first business-led statewide initiative of its kind. This report focuses on creating actionable strategies tailored for Florida's workforce and businesses. It serves as a comprehensive resource for employers, providing the tools needed to foster a culture of health and well-being in the workplace.



#### Why This Matters

"According to the US Census Bureau, the Household Pulse Survey conducted in 2023 revealed that a majority (59%) of Floridians are feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge and more than half (51%) are not able to stop or control worrying. The results are troublesome and indicate a high prevalence of anxiety-related symptoms among Floridians. Mental health issues affect both the well-being of employees and overall productivity in the workplace. The time for comprehensive statewide mental health initiatives to address this crisis is now."

- Jeffrey Kuhlman, MD, MPH, CPPS, Chief Quality & Safety Officer, AdventHealth; Chair, Florida Chamber Health Committee

#### Elevating Florida to a Top Five State for Overall Well-Being

The Florida Chamber Health Council (FCHC) is one part of the three pillars established by the Florida Chamber Leadership Cabinet essential to workplace success. The Leadership Cabinet has adopted the *Florida 2030 Blueprint* goal of making Florida a top five state for overall well-being by 2030, and according to **TheFloridaScorecard.org**, Florida is currently ranked #20 in the nation.

To help achieve this important goal, a three-year approach has been created by the FCHC:

- **1) Assess (2024)** Solicit input across Florida's 67 counties by listening to the concerns of Florida business leaders and residents. We will then share best practices and encourage more collaboration among nonprofits to improve siloed and inefficient efforts.
- **2) Unite (2025)** Collaborate with Florida businesses and mental health leaders, utilizing events like the **Leadership Conference on Safety, Health + Sustainability** on May 15-16, 2025, to provide tools, awareness, and metrics for achieving our goals and promoting the importance of mental health. Register here: **flchm.co/leadconfshs**
- 3) Champion (2026) Be the voice of the business community in working with Florida's legislators.



#### Join the Movement to Improve the State of Mental Health in Florida

We are currently seeking forward-thinking business leaders and mental health professionals to serve on our Florida Chamber Health Committee. Your invaluable expertise will play a pivotal role in shaping the endeavors of the Florida Chamber Health Council (FCHC), as we strive to make Florida the epitome of health and well-being in America. If you are a Florida Chamber Board of Governors level member and are interested in joining our committee, we invite you to contact Matt Curran, Director of Membership Development at 850.521.1233 or mcurran@flchamber.com.

# Advancing Mental Health Through Research & Resources

To prioritize the mental well-being of your employees, the Florida Chamber Health Council is partnering with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to conduct research and offer tools that will help your organization build an internal mental health support structure. Through seven key strategic priorities, our aim is to foster a workplace culture in Florida that educates employees about common mental health and well-being issues, reduces stigma, and provides accessible support for employees facing mental health challenges. We invite any organizations interested in partnering with our research initiative, or in need of resources, to contact us!

### Florida's Mental Health Ranking Is 49<sup>th</sup> Out of 50 States

The Miami-Dade County jail is Florida's largest psychiatric institution, with almost half the number of beds for inmates with mental illnesses compared to all state civil and forensic mental health treatment facilities combined. Source: MiamiToday (flchm.co/461us34)

#### **Key Strategic Priorities**

- 1. Enhancing state and federal policies
- 2. Strengthening local behavioral health systems
- 3. Developing university leadership capacity
- 4. Implementing best practices for funders of care
- 5. Promoting public awareness for better access to care
- Scaling outcome-driven strategies for specific groups
- 7. Advancing health equity to reduce disparities