

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to behavioral health managing  
3           entities; amending s. 394.9082, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Department of Children and Families to contract for  
5           specified functions; requiring the department to  
6           recommend certain transparency improvements; requiring  
7           the department to prepare and present to the Governor  
8           and Legislature a specified final report by a date  
9           certain; requiring managing entities to report  
10          required information to the department in a  
11          standardized electronic format; providing requirements  
12          for the such format; requiring managing entities to  
13          submit documents to the department electronically in a  
14          specified format and with specified metadata;  
15          requiring managing entities to report certain specific  
16          measures to the department; providing an effective  
17          date.

18  
19   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21           **Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 394.9082, Florida**  
22           **Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (n) is added to subsection**  
23           **(3) and paragraphs (v) and (w) are added to subsection (5) of**  
24           **that section, to read:**

25           394.9082 Behavioral health managing entities.—

26 |           (3) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:  
 27 |           (n)1. Contract for all of the following:  
 28 |           a. Operational and financial audits of each managing  
 29 | entity to include all of the following:  
 30 |           (I) A review of business practices, personnel, financial  
 31 | records, related parties, compensation, and other areas as  
 32 | determined by the department.  
 33 |           (II) The services administered, the method of provider  
 34 | payment, expenditures, outcomes, and other information as  
 35 | determined by the department.  
 36 |           (III) Referral patterns, including managing entity  
 37 | referral volume; provider referral assignments; services  
 38 | referred; length of time to obtain services; and key referral  
 39 | performance measures.  
 40 |           (IV) Provider network adequacy and provider network  
 41 | participation in the department's available bed platform, the  
 42 | Opioid Data Management System, the Agency for Health Care  
 43 | Administration Event Notification Service, and other department  
 44 | required provider data submissions.  
 45 |           b. Audits of each managing entity's expenditures and  
 46 | claims, in which such audit must do both of the following:  
 47 |           (I) Compare services administered through each managing  
 48 | entity, the outcomes of each managing entity's expenditures,  
 49 | each managing entity's Medicaid expenditures for behavioral  
 50 | health services, and any other information as determined by the

51 department.

52 (II) Analyze the claims paid by each managing entity for  
53 Medicaid recipients.

54 c. Recommendations to improve transparency of system  
55 performance including the metrics and criteria used to measure  
56 performance and outcomes in behavioral health systems and the  
57 format and method used to collect and report data and  
58 information.

59 2. Prepare a report of the information gathered in  
60 subparagraph 1. and present the final report on or before  
61 December 1, 2025, to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
62 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

63 (5) MANAGING ENTITY DUTIES.—A managing entity shall:

64 (v) Report all required information to the department in a  
65 standardized electronic format to ensure interoperability and to  
66 facilitate data analysis. The submission format must meet all of  
67 the following criteria:

68 1. Provider payments must be reported using a standardized  
69 format for electronic data interchange that is used for health  
70 care claims processing.

71 2. Information must be organized into discrete, machine-  
72 readable data elements that allow for efficient processing and  
73 integration with other datasets.

74 3. All data fields must comply with established protocols  
75 as specified by the department.

76        4. The standardized format must be compatible with  
77 automated systems to enable the downloading, parsing, and  
78 combining of data with other sources for analysis.

79        5. Submissions must pass validation checks to confirm  
80 adherence to the required data structure and format before the  
81 submission is accepted.

82        (w) Submit all documents to the department in a format  
83 that allows for accurate text recognition and data extraction,  
84 such as in Portable Document Format or machine-readable text  
85 files. Documents must be submitted electronically and  
86 accompanied by metadata containing key information to ensure  
87 proper organization, processing, and integration into the  
88 department's systems. The required metadata must include, but is  
89 not limited to, all of the following elements:

90        1. A descriptive and unique name for the document,  
91 following any naming conventions prescribed by the department.

92        2. The date the document is uploaded.

93        3. A predefined classification indicating the nature or  
94 category of the document.

95        4. Any relevant identifiers, such as application numbers,  
96 case numbers, or tracking codes, as specified by the department.

97        5. The name, contact information, and any other required  
98 identification number, such as a license or registration number,  
99 of the person or organization submitting the document.

100       6. Any other metadata fields as prescribed by the

101 department to facilitate accurate processing and analysis.

102 (7) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

103 (a) Managing entities shall collect and submit data to the  
104 department regarding persons served, outcomes of persons served,  
105 costs of services provided through the department's contract,  
106 and other data as required by the department. The department  
107 shall evaluate managing entity performance and the overall  
108 progress made by the managing entity, together with other  
109 systems, in meeting the community's behavioral health needs,  
110 based on consumer-centered outcome measures that reflect  
111 national standards, if possible, that can be accurately  
112 measured. The department shall work with managing entities to  
113 establish performance standards, including, but not limited to:

114 1.(a) The extent to which individuals in the community  
115 receive services, including, but not limited to, parents or  
116 caregivers involved in the child welfare system who need  
117 behavioral health services.

118 2.(b) The improvement in the overall behavioral health of  
119 a community.

120 3.(e) The improvement in functioning or progress in the  
121 recovery of individuals served by the managing entity, as  
122 determined using person-centered measures tailored to the  
123 population.

124 4.(d) The success of strategies to:

125 a.1. Divert admissions from acute levels of care, jails,

126 | prisons, and forensic facilities as measured by, at a minimum,  
127 | the total number and percentage of clients who, during a  
128 | specified period, experience multiple admissions to acute levels  
129 | of care, jails, prisons, or forensic facilities;

130 |     ~~b.2.~~ Integrate behavioral health services with the child  
131 | welfare system; and

132 |     ~~c.3.~~ Address the housing needs of individuals being  
133 | released from public receiving facilities who are homeless.

134 |     ~~5.(e)~~ Consumer and family satisfaction.

135 |     ~~6.(f)~~ The level of engagement of key community  
136 | constituencies, such as law enforcement agencies, community-  
137 | based care lead agencies, juvenile justice agencies, the courts,  
138 | school districts, local government entities, hospitals, and  
139 | other organizations, as appropriate, for the geographical  
140 | service area of the managing entity.

141 |     (b) Managing entities must submit all of the following  
142 | specific measures to the department:

143 |         1. The number and percentage of high utilizers.

144 |         2. The number and percentage of individuals who receive  
145 | outpatient services within 7 days after a hospitalization for  
146 | behavioral health-related issues.

147 |         3. The average wait time for initial appointments for  
148 | behavioral health services.

149 |         4. The number and percentage of individuals who are able  
150 | to schedule an urgent behavioral health appointment within 24

151 hours.

152 5. The number and percentage of emergency room visits per  
153 capita for behavioral health-related issues, and whether such  
154 number and percentage are a decrease from the last report.

155 6. The incidence of medication errors in behavioral health  
156 treatment plans.

157 7. The number and percentage of adverse incidents, such as  
158 self-harm, in inpatient and outpatient settings.

159 8. The number and percentage of individuals with co-  
160 occurring conditions who receive integrated care.

161 9. The number and percentage of individuals successfully  
162 transitioned from acute care to community-based services.

163 10. The rate of behavioral health readmissions within 30  
164 days after discharge.

165 11. The average length of stay for inpatient behavioral  
166 health services.

167 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.