

**RESOLUTION**  
*of the*  
**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
*regarding*  
**THE ORANGE COUNTY SYSTEM OF CARE COMMISSION**

**Resolution No. 2025- M-35**

WHEREAS, in 2002, the former Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty established the “**Jail Oversight Commission**” to address the overrepresentation of people with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders in the Orange County Jail and local hospital emergency departments; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2002, the Jail Oversight Commission recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (“**Board**”) establish a central point of access facility as a pre-booking, single point of access in Orange County for law enforcement to bring people with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders (now known as the “**Central Receiving Center**” or “**CRC**”); and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the “**CRC Governing Board**” was established and chaired by the former Chief Judge Belvin Perry with the ultimate purpose of overseeing the CRC’s operations; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2002, the Board approved two agreements with Lakeside Alternatives, Inc. (currently known as Aspire Health Partners, Inc.): (1) a lease agreement for the CRC facility located at 1800 Mercy Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808, and (2) a clinical agreement to fund the system of care and inpatient and outpatient services; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2003, the Board approved the Orange County Transportation Exception Plan authorizing law enforcement to use the CRC for people with mental health and/or substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2003, the CRC opened, and law enforcement began bringing people with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders to the CRC; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, the Board approved a contract with the Heart of Florida United Way, Inc. (“**United Way**”) to analyze and identify an implementable plan to improve the coordination of, and fill existing gaps within, the Orange County system of care; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2022, United Way presented the Orange County Mental & Behavioral Health System of Care Community Analysis (“**Gaps Analysis**”) to the Board with recommendations including an identified need for an additional \$49 million in mental health and substance use services as well as the establishment of an implementation team to advance the recommendations of the Gaps Analysis; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings formed a team responsible for implementing the recommendations from the Gaps Analysis (“**Gaps Implementation Team**”); and

WHEREAS, during the 2022-2023 budget approval process, the Board approved an additional \$10 million for the implementation of the Gaps Analysis’ recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2023, the Gaps Implementation Team formed five subcommittees to focus on long-term recommendations and provide recommendations to the County’s Mental Health and Homelessness Division (“**Division**”); and

WHEREAS, the Division has identified a duplication of efforts between the CRC Governing Board and the Gaps Implementation Team regarding membership, discussions, planning, and coordinating activities; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Division recommends dissolving the CRC Governing Board and the Gaps Implementation Team and creating a new, single board to be called the Orange County System of Care Commission (“**System of Care Commission**” or “**Commission**”) to lead cross-sector coordination and alignment, drive continuous quality improvement, and implement a shared strategic framework to actively reduce challenges related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness (as supported by the Division and other system members) and make recommendations to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to adopt this Resolution to create the Orange County System of Care Commission and establish the Commission’s membership and duties and responsibilities.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

*Section 1. Recitals.* The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this Resolution.

*Section 2. Orange County System of Care Commission.* In accordance with Section 20-56 of the Orange County Code, the Board hereby creates an Orange County System of Care Commission. The Commission, which is, by necessity, composed of system leaders from sectors affected by mental health, substance use, and homelessness, as well as professionals whose roles require their ongoing participation, shall not be an advisory board within the meaning of Section 2-201 of the Orange County Code and members shall not be subject to Membership Mission and

Review Board approval. The Commission shall comply with Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine and Public Records Laws and shall adopt rules and procedures for the conduct of its meetings. The Division shall provide staff support and resources necessary for the operation of the Commission including, but not necessarily limited to, organizing meetings, publishing notices, recording minutes, and providing updates to the Board.

**Section 3. Membership.** The Commission's membership shall consist of the following twenty (20) voting members who shall serve as ex-officio members (where applicable):

1. The Chief Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida who shall also serve as one of the Commission's two Co-Chairs;
2. A current Orange County Commissioner, as designated or appointed by the Orange County Mayor, who shall also serve as one of the Commission's two Co-Chairs;
3. The Orange County Sheriff;
4. The Chief of Police for the City of Orlando's Police Department;
5. The State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida;
6. The Public Defender for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida;
7. The Clerk of Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida;
8. A local representative from the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families ("DCF"), as designated or appointed by DCF;
9. A local representative from the State of Florida, Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ"), as designated or appointed by DJJ;
10. The Chief of the Orange County Corrections Department;
11. A representative of the City of Orlando, as designated or appointed by the Mayor of Orlando;

12. The Superintendent for the School Board of Orange County (“**OCPS**”);
13. The Executive Director of the agency designated by DCF as the “**Managing Entity**” for the State’s Central Region;
14. The Executive Director of the agency designated by DCF as the “**Lead Child Welfare Agency**” for the State’s Central Region;
15. A local representative of Adventist Health System/Sunbelt, Inc., (“**AdventHealth**”), as designated or appointed by AdventHealth;
16. A local representative of The Nemours Foundation d/b/a Nemours Children’s Hospital (“**Nemours**”), as designated or appointed by Nemours;
17. A local representative of Orlando Health, Inc. (“**Orlando Health**”), as designated or appointed by Orlando Health;
18. The Executive Director of NAMI Greater Orlando, Inc. (“**NAMI**”);
19. The Executive Director of The Mental Health Association of Central Florida, Inc. (“**Mental Health Association**”); and
20. The Executive Director of the Federation of Families of Central Florida Inc. (“**Federation of Families**”).

***Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities.*** The Commission is charged with the primary function of providing strategic oversight (including assessment, planning, coordination, evaluation, and ongoing quality improvement) of systems that address mental health, substance use, and homelessness among Orange County residents of all ages. The Commission’s duties and responsibilities include analyzing data trends, identifying system gaps, evaluating potential solutions, and making recommendations to the Division and the Board. The Commission shall hold meetings at least quarterly and may meet more frequently at the Commission’s discretion.

*Section 5. Standing Committees and By-laws.* The Board recognizes that the areas of responsibility assigned to the Commission require expertise and knowledge of mental health, substance use, and/or homelessness and the factors impacting these areas. Accordingly, the Commission is granted the authority to establish the Commission's own by-laws and operating procedures including reasonable by-laws for determining a quorum. The Commission may establish ad-hoc committees as necessary to respond to identified areas of need.

*Section 6. Effective Date.* This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of adoption.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF **AUG 26 2025**, 2025.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Jerry L. Demings*  
Jerry L. Demings  
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: *Jennifer Lam-Klimetz*  
Deputy Clerk

