



THE FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

2024 Legislative Session Summary

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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO MARY C. MAYHEW

The 2024 Legislative Session is one for the record books. With the near-unanimous passage of a major health care package – Live Healthy – Florida is in an even stronger position to lead the nation in modern, sophisticated health care delivery and outcomes. From significant clinical workforce investment to increased Medicaid reimbursement for labor and delivery services, Live Healthy encompasses a range of forward-looking policies to enhance health care in Florida.

Live Healthy is the result of months of discussions and negotiations among FHA, our member hospitals, other provider groups, and the leadership of both the House and Senate, particularly Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senate Health Policy Chair Colleen Burton, House Speaker Paul Renner, and Majority Leader Michael Grant. These hospital champions collaboratively partnered with us to advance the work FHA's member hospitals do every day to provide high-quality, accessible health care in our communities.

In any package as large as Live Healthy, there will be provisions as proposed that are not workable for hospitals. In this case, there were three – one; governing ER diversion, two; governing designated Advanced Birthing Centers, and three; requiring greater hospital pricing transparency. FHA worked with our hospital champions to address hospitals' concerns with all three, and we successfully secured hospital-friendly amendments in the final bill and will be highly engaged in the rulemaking process to protect hospitals. Although we opposed the passage of Advanced Birthing Centers, FHA will propose rigorous safety standards through the rulemaking process to address our remaining concerns.

Accompanying Live Healthy is a hospital-supportive state budget for 2025. Among the positive provisions are appropriations to help rural hospitals with capital improvements, increased graduate medical education funding, and new funding for loans to support innovative models of care or new technologies. The budget also includes additional funding for the Collaborative Care Model for behavioral health care delivery.

We also achieved significant wins in securing legislation for new behavioral health teaching hospitals, increasing reporting for Medicaid managed care plans, and aligning federal and state policy for Hospital at Home programs and Rural Emergency Hospital designations.

Sometimes, our work centers on defeating bills we know will impede hospitals' work and access to care. This was the case with bills requiring sales or conversion of independent hospital districts, use of smoke evacuation systems, expanded liability for hospitals in medical malpractice litigations, and repealing provisions of the state's Motor Vehicle No-Fault Motor Law.

Our work over the last several years to turn the tide against negative hospital sentiment is yielding returns, and I extend my gratitude to our board, councils, members, and the FHA staff for their incredible engagement and dedication to advocacy. This is no time to rest on our laurels, however. Our voices must continue to be heard in Tallahassee, Washington, D.C., and our local communities. Our workforce and our patients depend on all of us to tell the incredible hospital story and speak up for what we know is needed to further our work.

Thank you, and I look forward to continuing our remarkable work together.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary C. Mayhew".

Mary C. Mayhew
President and CEO
Florida Hospital Association

KEY TAKEAWAYS

INVESTMENTS IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH CARE BUDGET



\$134 MILLION

to increase hospital
Medicaid reimbursement
for labor and delivery
services



\$150 MILLION

in new investments
for Graduate Medical
Education



KEY SUPPORT FOR RURAL HOSPITALS

\$10 MILLION

recurring for capital
improvement and passed
SB 644, to preserve access
to care in rural areas

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

GLOBAL

1,957 total bills filed

324 bills passed in both chambers



HOSPITAL DAYS & RURAL HOSPITAL DAYS AT THE FLORIDA CAPITOL

- 139 member hospital leaders attended
- More than 60 legislators attended or spoke across both events

FHA

269 bills tracked

112 in-person legislative meetings during session

39 committee appearances and bill testimonies



PUBLIC RELATIONS



44 articles published



14 press releases



7 published op-eds by President and CEO Mary C. Mayhew



300 media mentions



535M overall media reach



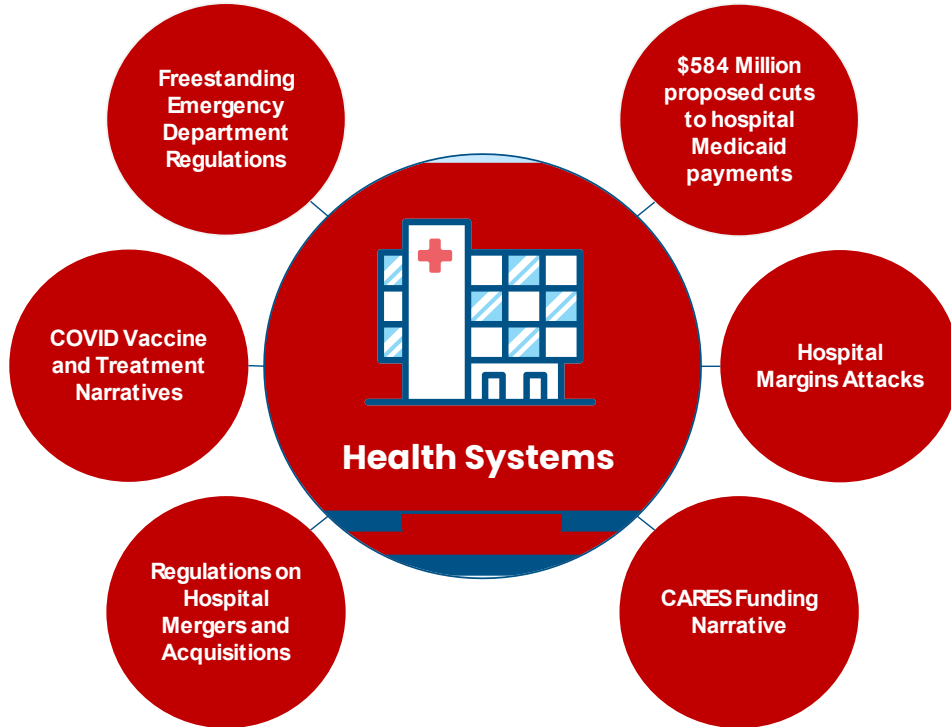
346K paid advertisement reach

2024 Legislative Session:
Setting The Agenda

SETTING THE AGENDA

Shifting the Narrative

2021



2024



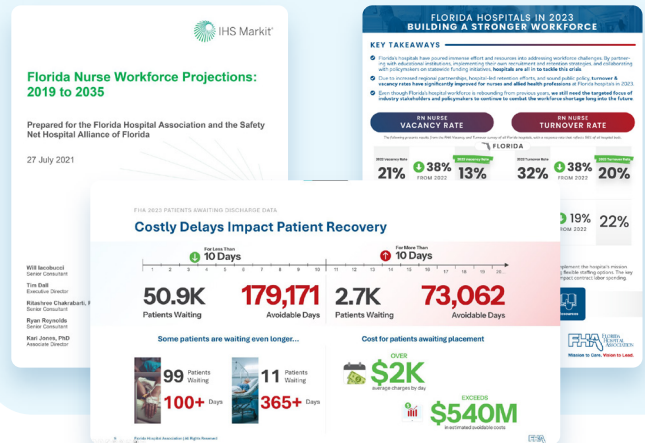
SETTING THE AGENDA

Building a Positive Narrative Through **Issues & Data**

FHA is leading through a principled approach to key issues

- ✔ Preserving Health Care Funding
- ✔ Holding Payers Accountable
- ✔ Growing the Health Care Workforce
- ✔ Creating Access to Behavioral Health
- ✔ Reducing Regulatory Red Tape

Industry-leading research, reporting, and surveys



Developing Hospital Champions



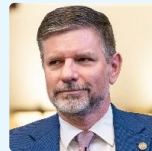
**Senate President
Kathleen Passidomo**

- ✔ Developed and passed the largest piece of pro-provider legislation in many years
- ✔ Championed FHA priorities in Medicaid, workforce, innovation, and behavioral health
- ✔ Outgoing Senate President



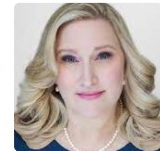
**Senator
Colleen Burton**

- ✔ Sponsored and coordinated industry input on the Live Healthy Act
- ✔ Stalled numerous anti-hospital bills through her Committee
- ✔ Health Policy Chair



**Representative
Sam Garrison**

- ✔ Oversaw huge improvements in hospital positioning in house appropriations issues
- ✔ Championed rural hospital capital improvement
- ✔ Future House Speaker



**Representative
Kim Berfield**

- ✔ Attended FHA roundtable during her campaign and last summer
- ✔ Championed health insurance issues - sponsoring 2 FHA priorities
- ✔ Vice Chair of Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee

SETTING THE AGENDA

Building a Positive Narrative Through Relationships

FHA fosters strong relationships with lawmakers through regional and statewide engagement.



SETTING THE AGENDA

FHA knew 2024 would be a key health care session, so we began engaging with Senate President Passidomo early in the process to help her shape the Live Healthy bills.

WRITING THE PLAY:

FHA's Influence on the 2024 Legislative Session



FHA 2022-2023 Board of Trustees pictures with Senate President Passidomo Senator Mayfield, and Senator Burton.

SETTING THE AGENDA

FHA Values Being Proactive

Playing offense, not defense, to achieve the desired outcome when things are moving at a rapid pace.

FHA developed 4 key bills and identified 7 champions to carry these proactive policy initiatives in 2024

Rural Emergency Hospitals (HB 309 / SB 644)

Passed

FHA-led legislation to give rural hospitals an option to convert to a new provider type



Rep. Jason Shoaf
(R- Port St. Joe)



Sen. Cory Simon
(R- North Florida)

Payer Accountability (HB 1475 / SB 1574)

Stalled

Comprehensive legislation in both chambers to address prior authorization, prompt pay, and downcoding for ALL PAYERS



Sen. Shevrin D.
Jones
(D- Miami Dade)



Rep. Kim Berfield
(R- Clearwater)

Managed Care Plan Transparency (HB 783 / SB 794)

Amended to State Budget & Passed

Create transparent, real-time reporting that gives lawmakers the information they need to make policy decisions for the Medicaid program



Sen. Gayle Harrell
(R- Stuart)



Rep. Kim Berfield
(R- Clearwater)

340b Provider Protections (SB 1608)

Stalled

FHA championed legislation protecting 340b providers from harmful, discriminatory pricing and regulatory arrangements



Rep. Jason Brodeur
(R- Orlando)

2024 Legislative Session:
Outcomes & Analysis

FLY-IN EVENTS



FHA FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

HOSPITAL DAYS AT THE FLORIDA CAPITOL



FHA Hospital Days at the Florida Capitol

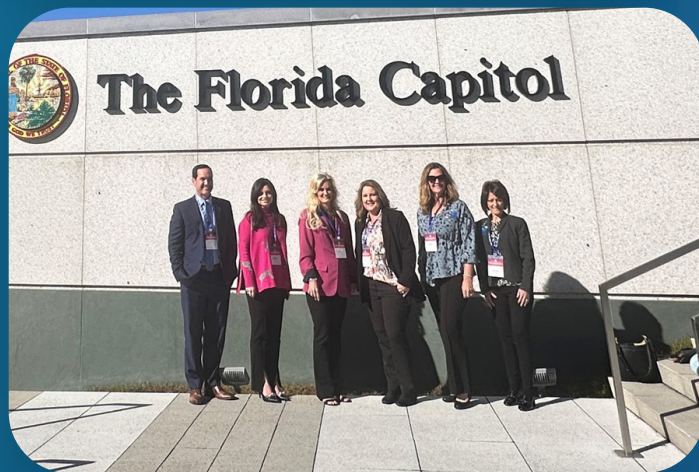
- The Florida Hospital Association Board of Trustees kicked off Hospital Days with an in-person meeting at the FHA office in Tallahassee.
- FHA hosted a reception in support of Florida's hospitals and health systems. The reception was attended by numerous lawmakers including AHCA Secretary Jason Weida, Senators Brodeur, Harrell, Rodriguez, and Representatives Canady, Baker, Botana, Chamberlin, Cross, Grant, Maney, Tant, and many more.
- Following the legislative reception, hospital CEOs joined FHA President & CEO Mary C. Mayhew for a private dinner with special guest President-designate Ben Albritton. Senator Albritton is the current Senate Majority Leader and will become the Senate President this November.
- FHA hosted a legislative briefing with guest speakers House Speaker Paul Renner, Speaker-designate Danny Perez, Representative Hillary Cassel, Representative Sam Garrison, and Senator Colleen Burton.
- Finally, Hospital Days was concluded with a day of meetings at the Florida Capitol, including private briefings with legislators and attending committees and floor sessions.



FLY-IN EVENTS



FHA FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RURAL HOSPITAL DAY AT THE FLORIDA CAPITOL



FHA Rural Hospital Day

- FHA's inaugural Rural Hospital Day was a huge success! Hospital leaders from Florida's rural counties gathered in Tallahassee to participate in FHA's inaugural Rural Hospital Day and spotlight rural hospital issues throughout the state. The event included nine leaders representing five rural hospitals from around the state.
- Rural hospital leaders met with Representatives Alex Andrade, Kaylee Tuck, Patt Maney, Jason Shoaf, and Allison Tant, as well as Senators Corey Simon and Jay Trumbull. Attendees also met with the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Health Care to brief her on policy and budget issues, such as the rural emergency hospital licensure bill and the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant Program.



HOSPITAL VICTORIES

\$134 million to enhance hospital Medicaid reimbursement rates to support moms and babies during labor and delivery.

KEY ACTIONS

- Development of FHA's equitable model (1.4 adjuster across all severity levels)
- Early submission to the Governor's Office, Senate President, and House Speaker

Outcome

Passed and approved by Governor

Policy & Funding to Support Rural Hospitals

- Passed \$10 million recurring for capital improvement
- Passed SB 644

KEY ACTIONS

- Developed strong relationships with rural champions Senator Cory Simon (R-Tallahassee) and Rep. Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe)
- Surveyed all rural hospitals to show an increasing need for capital projects and facility improvements.
- Laid the groundwork for REH legislation by working with AHCA and legislative leadership to approve the issue.

\$150 million for Increased Graduate Medical Education Funding

KEY ACTIONS

- FHA's IHS Markit report on the upcoming physician shortage continues to inform policymaking in Tallahassee.
- Repetitively shared the disproportionate funding Florida receives through Medicare.
- Supported equitable approach to increasing Slots for Doctors, standard slots, and startup bonuses.

Hospital at Home in Medicaid

KEY ACTIONS

- When the Senate President informed us of her plans for Live Healthy, FHA worked to have this included as an early concept.
- Demonstrated information about FHA members who operate hospital at home programs, the outcomes and increased patient satisfaction that result, and the need for Florida to lead in innovation.

Outcome

Passed and approved by Governor

HOSPITAL VICTORIES

Health Care Innovation Revolving Loan Program - \$50 million per year

KEY ACTIONS

- Conveyed early with the Senate President about the importance of innovation and technology – focused on innovation in the Medicaid program and the need for the state to provide incentives in this space.
- FHA held a briefing with members and Senator Harrell to preview the legislation before it was released.

Outcome
Passed and approved by Governor

Managed Care Plan Transparency

KEY ACTIONS

- Three years laying the groundwork, introducing legislation, and proposing language in the state budget
- Developed dashboard language and introduced FHA-backed bills in both chambers.
- Supported the reporting language in the state budget based on FHA's ask.

Outcome
Passed

Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals and The Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce

KEY ACTIONS

- Expressed to many legislators that Florida lags behind the country in patient-to-provider ratio.
- Worked with the Senate President to examine opportunities for expanded loan reimbursement, training, and scope of practice issues.

Outcome
Passed and approved by Governor

Behavioral Health Collaborative Care

KEY ACTIONS

- Supported Medicaid reimbursement for this model to increase its availability and usage between primary care and behavioral health providers.
- Met with lawmakers to help them understand the importance of integrated physical and behavioral health care.
- Worked with Secretary Weida and the Governor's Office to garner early support for this issue.

Outcome
Passed

LIVE HEALTHY SUMMARY

“Live Healthy” is the groundbreaking legislative package championed by Senate President Passidomo leading into the 2024 legislative session. Since well before the formal beginning of session, FHA was directly advocating and discussing provisions of the bill with the Senate President and her staff. The legislation is forward-thinking in its policy and funding priorities to better prepare Florida and its health care delivery system to meet increasing health care needs as the population grows. The Live Healthy proposal envisions a modern, sophisticated health care delivery system that continues to innovate, produces the highest quality results, and improves health status.

Early on, President Passidomo indicated that the primary focus of the legislation would be to address the growing demand for health care professionals in the State. The bill proposes regulatory changes to several specialties and license types to support the development of these professionals and make it easier for the existing workforce to meet the healthcare demands of the state. Innovation, behavioral health, and reduced administrative burden were key additional themes throughout the bills. Below please find a summary of the major provisions passed in the historic legislation.

Provisions Passed in “Live Healthy”

- **\$134.6 million** to enhance hospital Medicaid reimbursement rates to support moms and babies during labor and delivery.
- Approval for Medicaid reimbursement towards Hospital at Home services, enabling more patients to receive quality care in the comfort of their own homes.
- **\$50 million** (\$500 million over 10 years) for an Innovation Fund, a revolving loan fund to foster health care innovation and technological advancements.
- **\$30 million** to increase award amounts through the FRAME student loan program
- Creates a no-cost health care screening grant program.
- Expands the availability and options for clinical training sites (TEACH program).
- **\$5 million** (increasing funding to \$30 million) for the LINE program to strengthen health care workforce development.
- **\$100 million** for Graduate Medical Education (GME) in statutory teaching hospitals.
- **\$50 million** for Graduate Medical Education to expand Slots for Doctors, creating 500 new residency slots to address workforce shortages.
- **\$11.5 million** to support integrated, community-based behavioral health care through mobile response teams.
- Creates Behavioral Health teaching hospitals and the FL Center for BH Workforce.
- Allows psychiatric nurses to practice at the top of their license.
- Promotes interstate mobility, licensure of foreign-trained physicians, and creates temporary licenses for critical areas of need.

LIVE HEALTHY SUMMARY (CONTINUED)



CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Senate Live Healthy Package Overview

SB 7016 Primary bill – labor & delivery rates + other rate increases, workforce, behavioral health, ER Diversion, Advanced Birthing Centers	SB 7018 \$750 million revolving loan program for health care innovation	SB 330 Creates Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals	SB 1640 Hospital Price Transparency
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Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples)



SB 7016 Sponsor: Senator Colleen Burton (R-Lakeland)



SB 7018 Sponsor: Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart)



SB 330 Sponsor: Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton)



SB 1640 Sponsor: Senator Jay Collins (R-Tampa)

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Setting the Agenda	Writing the Play	Engagement & Execution	Legislative Victories	Defeating Unnecessary Regulation
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Navigating concerns in a major health care legislative package

Advanced Birthing Centers

FHA strongly and outwardly opposed this provision among legislators and leaders.

Drafted an amendment that would apply rigorous safety and quality standards to make these locations safer for patients – ultimately will inform our efforts in rulemaking.

The Senate dug in passing this provision late in session.

FHA secured an amendment to allow for AHCA rulemaking – there is a positive outlook for FHA's coordination with AHCA and DOH.

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Price Transparency

FHA began session prepared to contend with duplicative, unnecessary state proposals to implement hospital price transparency regulations.

FHA strongly advocated for this bill to be dismissed and shared a document with legislative leadership demonstrating how it duplicates other federal laws.

FHA amendments to improve hospitals position in the final product:

- Allows for hospitals to use a price estimator tool
- Delays hospitals requirements to provide a good faith estimate until further guidance

ED Diversion

FHA had early and frequent conversations with the Senate – understanding that the President was looking into this issue.

FHA amendments to improve this section before final passage:

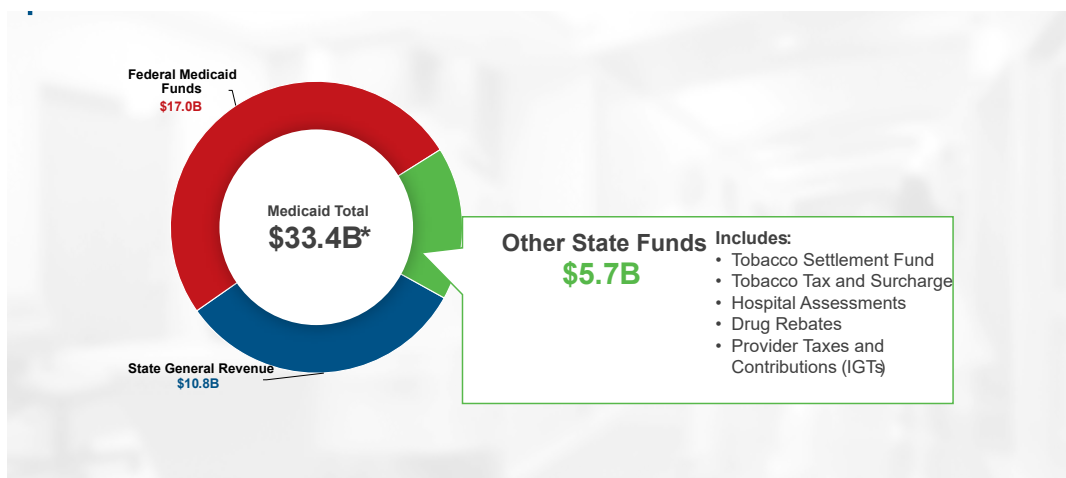
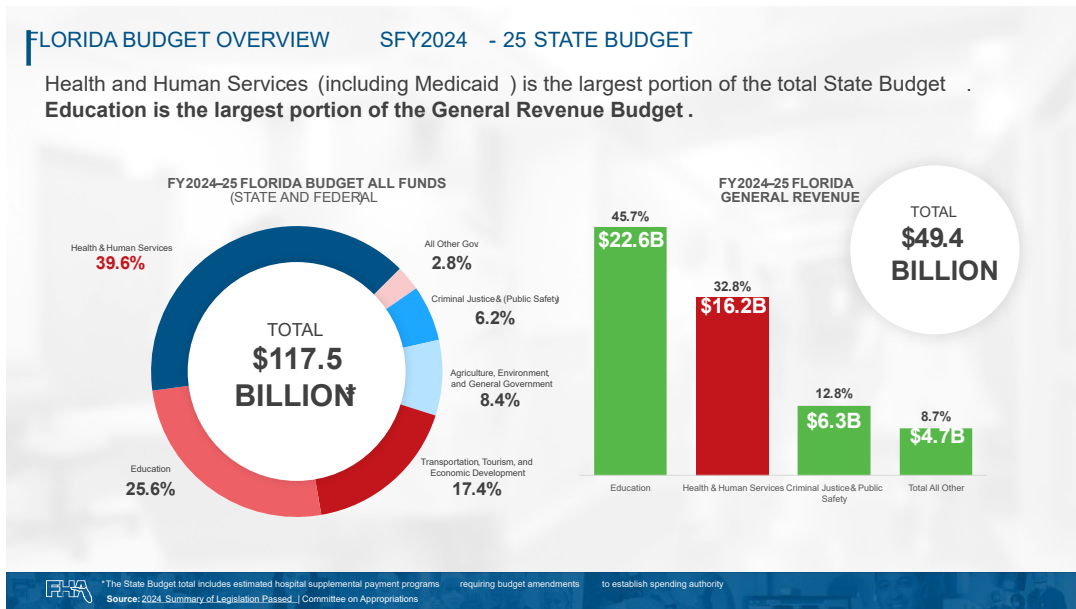
- Strong acknowledgement of hospitals obligations under EMTALA – this provision is misunderstood and must be protected.
- Changed requirement for hospitals to have a “partnership” with another care setting to a “collaboration.”
- Reduced hospitals' obligation to provide information about follow up care – placed more impetus on managed care plans.
- Altered reporting requirements on hospitals.



STATE BUDGET

The final budget approved by lawmakers and to be presented to the Governor totals \$117.5 B, of which \$49.4 B is general revenue. Please note that the Low-Income Pool, the Directed Payment Program, and other hospital supplemental payment programs authorized through budget amendments are not reflected in this total. Medicaid has been allocated \$33.4 B including \$10.9 B in general revenue. Health and Human Services represent 39.6% of all spending but only 32.8% of general revenue spending. The Education budget, by comparison, totals \$30.1 B including \$22.6 B in general revenue, making up 25.6% of all spending and a major 45.7% of general revenue spending. Across the entire state budget – Medicaid payments to hospitals make up approximately 10% of all spending and only 3% of general revenue spending.

The budget passed by the Legislature and subject to the Governor’s approval provides hospitals with critical resources to treat Florida’s nearly 23 million residents. These strategic appropriations support rural hospitals, increase Medicaid rates for labor and delivery services for moms and babies, expand the state’s health care workforce, and bolster integrated behavioral health care services. We are extremely proud of the strong relationships with lawmakers that have led to these outstanding investments.



STATE BUDGET

“Florida hospitals are the lifeline of our communities. The Florida Legislature’s health care investments today will empower Florida hospitals to preserve high-quality and accessible health care for Floridians in the immediate future and for decades to come,” said Mary C. Mayhew, President and CEO of FHA. “Thank you, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senate Appropriations Chair Doug Broxson, House Speaker Paul Renner, and House Appropriations Chair Tom Leek, for your dedication to investing in the evolving health care needs of the Sunshine State’s growing population.”

Budget Highlights

Hospital Highlights

- **\$134 million** labor & delivery rate increase
- Continuation of hospital supplemental payments – LIP, DSH, DPP, IME
- **\$10 million** recurring for Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant Program
- **\$40 million** increase for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund

Behavioral Health

- **\$8.3 million** increase for Medicaid reimbursement for integrated services provided under the collaborative care model
- **\$7.6 million** to increase payment rates for the Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)
- **\$83.9 million** increase for Opioid treatment, prevention, and recovery services
- **\$21.5 million** increase for statewide behavioral health community-based services

State Reserves

\$10.0 billion Total Reserves (not including trust fund balances)

- **\$5.1 billion** General Revenue Unallocated
- **\$4.4 billion** Budget Stabilization Fund (\$300 million added)
- **\$500 million** added to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund

Other Health Care Sectors

- **\$247.9 million** for a nursing homes rate increase
- **\$195.8 million** for iBudget provider rate increase
- **\$43.1 million** rate increase for pediatric physicians
- **\$35 million** to increase preventative Dental Care Services
- **\$29 million** for private duty nursing services
- **\$34.2 million** for occupational, physical, and speech therapy services
- **\$23.4 million** to expand the Telehealth Minority Maternity Care Program
- **\$29.7 million** to expand the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly

Education/Workforce Development

- **\$24.6 million** workload increase for workforce development (\$451 million total)
- Nursing Education
 - **\$59 million** for state colleges
 - **\$46 million** for the State University System
 - **\$20 million** through school districts

WORKFORCE SUMMARY

Hospitals are committed to working with Florida’s government to address critical workforce shortages through creative funding programs, incentives for private-sector partnerships, and sound policy that allows professionals to receive high quality training and education more easily. Through significant provisions included in individual legislation, the “Live Healthy” Act, and the state budget, Florida’s lawmakers remain supportive of a vibrant health care workforce in our state.

Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program

Addresses the shortage of faculty, preceptors, and clinical space shortages for medical, dental, and nursing.

- Increases the availability of clinical opportunities, improves the quality of the training sites, and promotes the clinical training that prepares students to work as qualified and experienced health care professionals.
- Supports expansion of training sites in community-based clinics.
- Designed to offset lost revenue while clinical preceptors are mentoring medical, dental, nursing, and behavioral health students.

Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME)

Created in 2022 and expanded in 2024, this program is designed to encourage healthcare professionals to work in underserved areas of the state. This includes physicians with primary care specialties; PAs; Autonomous Practice APRNs with primary care specialties, RNs, LPNS, and APRNs.

- Makes payment to offset loans in nursing or medical programs.
- Includes a \$30 million increase to enhance award amounts and reach more students.
- Expands the list of eligible practitioners to include mental health professionals, such as licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed psychologists.

Licensure for foreign-trained physicians

- One of the barriers for Florida medical school students getting into a Florida-based residency is competition from offshore schools paying for clinicals.
- Live Healthy prioritizes clinical spots at Florida hospitals for Florida students, while maximizing opportunities for experienced, foreign-trained physicians to become licensed in Florida.
- Creates a new pathway for experienced foreign-trained physicians to be exempted from the current residency requirement if they completed a substantially similar post-graduate training program that meets U.S. and Florida standards.

Temporary certificates for PAs and APRNs to practice in areas of critical need

- Authorizes the Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Board of Nursing to issue temporary certificates to PAs and APRNs to practice in areas of critical need, as is currently allowed for physicians.

Reduces barriers to psychologists/psychiatric nurses practicing in Baker Act facilities

- Current law requires psychologists and psychiatric nurses to have two additional years of experience, which restricts their ability to be hired in Baker Act facilities (hospitals and community mental health centers) immediately after licensure.
- Authorizes clinical psychologists and psychiatric nurses to practice to the fullest extent of their education by repealing and reducing experience requirements.
- Provides a three-year clinical experience requirement for more advanced acts performed by a clinical psychologist and requires a psychiatric nurse to practice within an established protocol.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

As the 2024 legislative session has concluded, we are pleased to share a comprehensive synopsis of the behavioral health legislation and funding that was addressed. Throughout this session, the legislative leadership focused on advancing critical issues related to involuntary commitment, workforce development, and continuum of care within the behavioral health system. This was demonstrated through various pieces of legislation and key investments in integrated care models and behavioral health services and programs.

Involuntary Commitment

PASSED

HB 7021 Mental Health & Substance Abuse made significant revisions to the Baker and Marchman Acts, which haven't been modified since their enactment. The bill expands the scope of practice for psychiatric nurses and clinical psychologists, removing the 30-bed cap for CSUs and revising provisions to streamline involuntary admissions and treatment.

PASSED

HB 7009 Mental Health Treatment & Services extended confidentiality protections for mental health treatment records and court orders by removing their scheduled repeal of an exemption from public records requirements for petitions for voluntary and involuntary admissions.

Workforce

PASSED

SB 330 Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals (Live Healthy) aims to address the critical gaps in care within the behavioral health system by creating a designation for behavioral health teaching hospitals, requiring a comprehensive study of the workforce and inpatient treatment capacity, and appropriate funding for behavioral health residency programs.

FAILED

HB 827 Mental Health Professionals proposed the revision of the classification of registered interns and student interns, eliminating the requirement of a fully licensed mental health professional to be on site when clinical services are being provided by the "registered interns".

Continuum of Care

PASSED

HB 1065 Substance Abuse Treatment established changes to the regulations and certification of substance abuse treatment providers and recovery residences. The bill modified the levels of care provided at certified residences, removing the requirement of a separate license for each provided service and providing DCF flexibilities in issuing licenses.

FAILED

SB 1394 Community Mobile Support Teams would require DCF to contract with managing entities to implement community mobile response teams that would place crisis counselors within local law enforcement agencies to aid individuals committed under the Baker Act.

State Budget

During this legislative session, over \$779 million was allocated to behavioral health services and programs through the state budget and various bills. This significant investment highlights the state's renewed commitment to enhance, expand, and ensure that every Floridian experiencing a mental health crisis or substance use disorder receives prompt and efficient care.

DEFEATING UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

Protection from Surgical Smoke

■ This legislation would have required hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to adopt and implement policies that require the use of smoke evacuation systems by January 1, 2025.

- ✓ Even though this bill seemed to gain traction at first, FHA worked diligently with member hospitals and legislators to defeat this legislation.
- ✓ This legislation could have increased specific duties for hospitals and increased litigation.
- ✓ The language was overly specific and required the use of specific types of devices. FHA will work to have this language broadened should the bill return next session.

Mandatory Hospital Staffing Ratios

■ Unnecessary legislation to set minimum staffing standards for multiple hospital units creates a “one size fits all” approach.

- ✓ Hospital staffing ratios fail to recognize ever-changing, multi-disciplinary health care delivery.
- ✓ FHA believes the best approach to hospital staffing is that it should be decided at the bedside based on a patient’s condition, the experience of the nurses in the unit, the technology available at the hospital, and the availability of other care team members.

Directed Payment Program Proposal

■ This legislation would have required hospitals’ receipt of LIP and IME funding to be contingent upon participation in the DPP program.

- ✓ FHA held private discussions with House and Senate leadership to dissuade them from this issue and were successful in defeating the proposal during the budget conference process.
- ✓ FHA communicated vigorously with legislators that this legislation could create broader issues to the DPP program which helps hospitals recoup the cost of treating Florida’s most vulnerable patients.

Physician Non-Competes

■ The Senate bill was revised in 2023 and was the key focus of this legislative issue, as it would prohibit non-compete agreements for physicians earning less than \$250,000 per year.

- ✓ FHA strongly opposed the House version and worked with members to understand the impact of the \$250,000 threshold in the Senate bill.
- ✓ Many other industries utilize non-compete clauses, and hospitals should be able to recognize the extensive investment to train and educate their physicians.
- ✓ **FHA Action:** This issue is likely to return in the 2025 session. FHA will work with members and Senator Brodeur during the offseason to prepare for this discussion.

DEFEATING UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

PIP Repeal

Repeals Florida’s no-fault motor vehicle incident law and PIP coverage.

- ✓ PIP repeal would cause unintended cost shifts to Medicaid and charity care that would be unmet without affirmative opt-out coverage.
- ✓ **FHA Action:** Although this bill was not heard, FHA was prepared with amendments to require opt-out bodily injury coverage.

Pediatric Care in Hospital EDs

Legislation to create a framework and requirements for hospital care of pediatric patients in Emergency Departments

- ✓ Hospitals are subject to rigorous standards at the state and federal level that protect children during emergency care.
- ✓ **FHA Action:** FHA worked behind the scenes to have the bill dismissed.

Wrongful Death / “Free Kill”

Allows new classes including adult children and parents to sue in medical negligence actions

- ✓ FHA worked on a compromise to insert medical malpractice caps on noneconomic damages.
- ✓ Ultimately, the caps amendment failed and FHA worked to defeat the underlying bill.

Independent Hospital Districts

Required each district to evaluate sale or conversion by December 31

- ✓ FHA participated in panels and meetings on this issue throughout the session.
- ✓ **FHA Action:** Defeated the bill in the Senate

2023 - 2024 FHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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**RURAL HOSPITAL
 REPRESENTATIVE**
 Brooke G. Donaldson
 CEO
 Jackson Hospital



AT LARGE
 Scott Wester
 President and CEO
 Memorial Healthcare System



AT LARGE
 Carlos A. Migoya
 President and CEO
 Jackson Health System



AT LARGE
 Don King
 President and CEO
 Ascension, Florida

FHA COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

The Florida Hospital Association is governed by a Board of Trustees and officers elected by the member institutions. We have several important committees and councils, led by hospital member CEOs who drive our advocacy efforts. All of our hospital and health system members are encouraged to get involved with FHA committees and councils.

Executive/Governance Committee of the Board—Authority to exercise all powers of the board on matters that require action prior to the next meeting of the board, but all actions of the Executive/Governance Committee shall be subject to the authorization and ratification of the board at its next regular meeting. FHA staff lead is President and CEO Mary C. Mayhew.

Bylaws Committee— Ensures the bylaws are consistent with the direction of the board and adhere to applicable laws and best practices. The main function of the committee is to work with counsel to draft amendments to be presented to the membership for final approval. FHA staff lead is Michael Williams.

Finance Committee— Responsible for budgeting, financial reporting, contingency planning, investment policy and reserve policy. The financial transactions of the Association shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant designated by the board. FHA staff lead is Kyle Bagget.

Nominating Committee—Consists of the three most immediate Past Chairs of the Association who are voting representatives of Institutional Members, the Chair Elect-Vice Chair, and one member appointed by the current Association Chair. FHA staff lead is Danielle Scoggins.

Policy Committee—Responsible for evaluating federal and state legislative issues, policies of the Association, and health care and related policy issues, and making recommendations of support or opposition to the Board of Trustees. FHA staff lead is David Mica Jr.

Quality and Patient Safety Committee—Oversees the FHA Quality Strategy, including advising the association on key patient safety priorities, partnerships with state agencies and other groups and recommendations to the FHA Board of Trustees. Additionally, the committee reviews legislative and regulatory proposals to help formulate FHA's positions and strategies, identify patient safety/quality improvement and education/training opportunities for FHA member hospitals, and monitor Florida's progress on reducing patient harm by reviewing publicly available or hospital submitted data. FHA staff lead is Kim Streit.

Workforce Committee—Advises the FHA board on health care workforce issues and makes recommendations that promote policies and strategies that are sustainable and reasonable in supporting and building a qualified health care workforce with the infrastructure needed for hospitals to recruit and retain health care staff. FHA staff lead is Cheryl Love.

GET INVOLVED

TRUSTED PARTNERS IN HEALTH CARE

With all the ways to influence health care, join FHA by engaging in any of committees or councils where you can provide critical insight and perspective.



CONTACT

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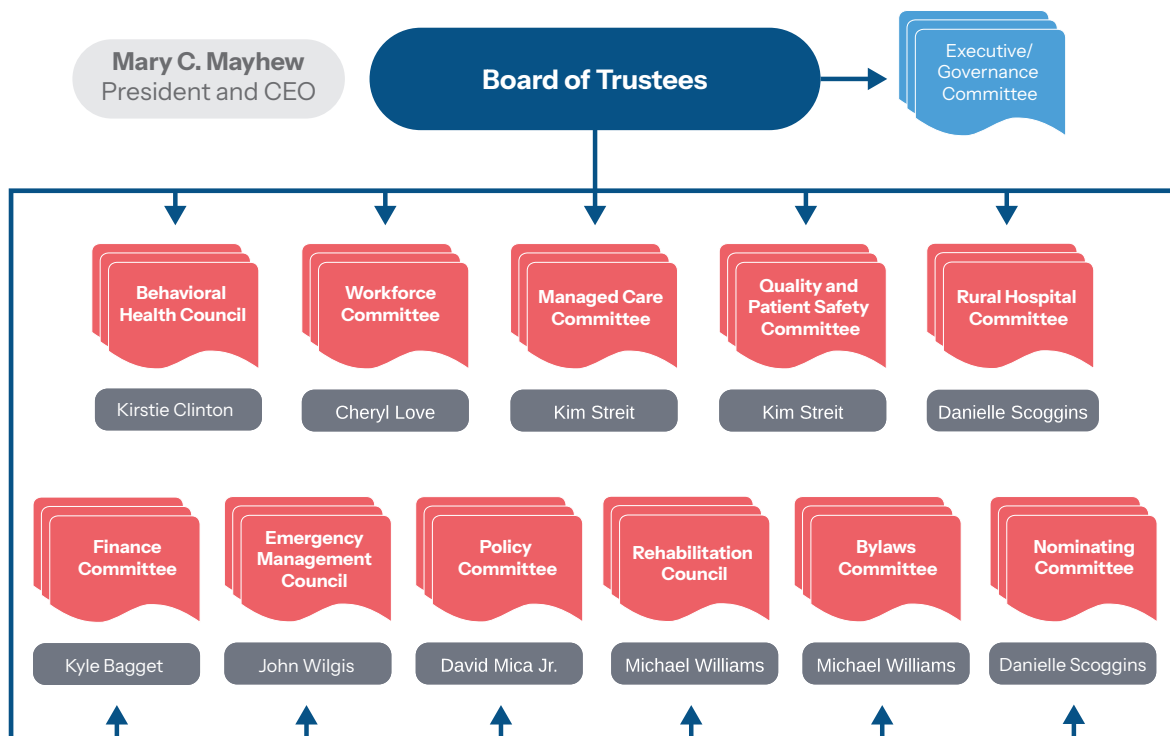
Behavioral Health Council— Serves as the premier industry voice for behavioral health care providers and will focus on enhancing industry and public awareness of the importance and role of behavioral health services, support the improvement of data gathering and analysis to better describe and target behavioral health needs, and advocate for optimal funding and regulatory support for behavioral health. FHA staff lead is Kirstie Clinton.

Rural Hospital Committee— responsible for developing rural health policies and advocacy initiatives for consideration by the FHA Board of Trustees. Additionally, the committee reviews legislative and regulatory proposals to identify education/training opportunities for FHA member hospitals and monitors Florida’s progress on the rural hospital capital improvement grant program. FHA staff lead is Danielle Scoggins.

Rehabilitation Council—Provides an opportunity for FHA member rehab executives to come together to learn, network, share best practices, and give feedback to FHA on the issues most impacting rehabilitation hospitals. FHA staff lead is Michael Williams.

Emergency Management Council—Focuses on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, while also advocating for better information sharing, community support, and integration of Florida’s health system providers, along with local, state, and federal partner initiatives and activities. FHA staff lead is John Wilgis.

Managed Care Committee—Discusses and identifies key health plan issues impacting hospitals, explores state and federal legislative and regulatory solutions, and makes recommendations on FHA initiatives related to health plan accountability to the FHA Board of Trustees. Committee members include managed care, revenue cycle management, and financial services executives. FHA staff lead is Kim Streit.



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Visit **FHA.org** to view our collateral materials.

COSTLY DELAYS IMPACT PATIENT RECOVERY

Delays in discharging patients from hospitals and have major implications for patient care. Discharge delays continue to be a problem for many hospitals. Many patients no longer need such physical therapy, pain management, dressing changes, or other services. The sooner they are discharged, the better for them.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Waiting for placement substantially increases hospital costs. This shows over \$100 million in estimated avoidable costs to the hospitals with patients awaiting placement.

2022 DATA

Category	Value
Patients Waiting	34.6K
Patients with an average stay of less than 10 days after being medically ready for discharge, remained in the hospital for an average of 3.5 days	50.9K
Patients with an average stay of more than 10 days after being medically ready for discharge, remained in the hospital for an average of 27 days	73,062

HOW HAS THE WORKFORCE CHANGED?

HOW HAVE LABOR COSTS CHANGED?

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

FHA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- WORKFORCE:** Recruit, train, and retain the next generation of health care workers
- STATE BUDGET:** Cover the cost of the delivering services through fair and equitable reimbursement
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** Facilitate improvements to Florida's behavioral health continuum of care
- HEALTH PLAN ACCOUNTABILITY:** Reduce health plan practices that create financial and administrative challenges
- REGULATIONS:** Reduce administrative burden through regulatory red tape which detracts from patient care

Clinician-Administered Drugs

PROTECT HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES FROM VIOLENCE

RURAL HOSPITAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

ADDRESSING THE SHORTFALL IN MEDICAID PAYMENT TO HOSPITAL

Costly Delays Impact Patient Recovery

Patients Experiencing Avoidable Hospital Days

These types of delays impact patient recovery!



VISIT [FHA.ORG](https://www.fha.org)