



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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November 28, 2023

Secretary Shevaun Harris  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
2415 N. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Secretary Harris,

On behalf of Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to submit this letter for LSF Health Systems, in support of their response to the Behavioral Health Managing Entity ITN.

We have partnered with LSF Health Systems in the following ways for over seven (7) years.

- As a community partner/stakeholder collaborating on various grants which include the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Planning Grant for Adults, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Planning Grant for Youth, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Act Grant Implementation Grant for Youth, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult Treatment Drug Courts, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Behavioral Health Partnerships for Early Diversion of Adults and Youth; exploring and implementing initiatives which consist of Hernando County Co-Responder Initiative, Hernando County Continuum of School Mental Health Services, and Hernando County's response to the opioid crisis; actively providing input and technical guidance on plans and meetings like Hernando County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan, Hernando County Baker Act and Substance Abuse Meeting, Hernando County Public Safety Coordinating Council, and Hernando County Community Alliance.

We have found LSF Health Systems to be a responsive and collaborative partner, committed to excellence throughout our system of care in Northeast and North Central Florida. LSF Health Systems has been responsible steward of state funds, invested in services that meet the needs of our community and advocated for additional resources to address unmet needs. LSF Health Systems has embraced a philosophy of creativity and collaboration, and has had an impact on our community in the following ways:

- Being actively involved in discussions and meetings and engaging others for guidance and solutions to address gaps in services.
- Identifying funding sources to implement additional programs and services.
- Delivering training opportunities, evidence best practices, and creative approaches to unique situations.
- Increasing effective services being delivered by Community providers.

- Promoting the use of crisis intervention and services in the community.
- Deriving a method of sharing data among community partners and stakeholder.

It takes time and effort to build and sustain the community partnerships that allow for systems to work collaboratively to identify needs, establish common priorities and implement new initiatives. We feel that a change in the Managing Entity that supports our community would result in a loss of momentum and delay progress due to the time to establish new partnerships and educate new partners on efforts and initiatives.

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners has confidence in the leadership of LSF Health Systems and feel that losing LSF Health Systems would be disruptive to the established, well-run system of care in our region. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

John Allocco, Chairman  
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Jeffrey Rogers, County Administrator, [JRogers@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:JRogers@co.hernando.fl.us)  
Veda Ramirez, Health and Human Services Manager, [VRamirez@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:VRamirez@co.hernando.fl.us)

