

Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

Applicant Package - Citizen at Large

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Term 18 Oct 2023 - 30 Sep 2026

Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Vail Compton, Leah

Name: Vail Compton, Leah

Address: 5631 NW 53rd Ct, Gainesville, Florida, 32653

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Board Name: Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

Primary Phone:

3522560677

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

Board Member of Florida Rural Health Association

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

Previous- Health Advisory Board

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

I work on state and national rural behavioral health projects

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Do you currently hold any publicly elected office in the State of Florida?:

No

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Have you, as yourself or as an employee, agent or consultant for another person or legal entity, transacted business with the authority within the last 3 years?:

No

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :

Yes

If yes, please list board(s):

Health Advisory Board

Time of Submission: 05/16/24 8:23:54 AM

Attachments

- Leah Vail Compton Resume 2023.pdf

LEAH VAIL COMPTON

5631 NW 53rd Ct.
Gainesville, FL 32653

Phone: 352-256-0677
Email: Leahvailcompton@gmail.com

SERVICE AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL

A knowledgeable and experienced professional in community services specializing in business strategy, policy development, public outreach, grant management, data analysis and program evaluation. 20+ years of career dedication serving individuals with mental and/or substance use challenges in the intercept of mental health/co-occurring substance misuse and criminal/juvenile justice. Demonstrating ethics and values in providing outstanding customer service to both internal and external customers. Accomplished visionary working on programs, projects, initiatives and community culture change. Leader of several top performing forensic Programs in north/central Florida resulting in client recovery as well as financial savings.

Areas of Expertise

Advanced Public Speaking	Project Management	Training and Development
Behavioral Health Disparities	Grant Implementation	Stakeholder Relations
Strategic Planning	Program Implementation	Non-Profit Organization
Mental Health/Substance Use	EBP Training	Business Development
Data Collection and Analysis	Effective Service Delivery	Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration

Public Health Advisor GS 13 (January 2022 to current)

- Serve as a senior public health advisor and provide consultative services to the most difficult programs and projects that have unusually demanding social, economic, cultural, governmental, and political conditions requiring the planning, development, and evaluation of general precedent, extensive controversy, or wide coordination.
- Serve as a project officer managing grants and contracts that support programs for adults with or at risk for the development of mental illness and children with or at risk of the development of emotional disturbance to include the intersection of mental health/co-occurring substance misuse and criminal/juvenile justice.
- Monitors assigned grants to assess their meeting stated goals and objectives, statutory requirements, and related regulations; ensure expenditures are congruent with agency policy, statutes and regulations; serves as a contact point for all inquires from assigned grantees and provides expertise and technical assistance on the grants' related requirements. Work with service providers organizations addressing the intersections of mental health/co-occurring substance misuse and criminal justice/juvenile justice.
- Work to develop public health messages as a subject matter expert and develop messages into appropriate end-products for communicating mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders, or public health information to target audiences including criminal justice/juvenile justice.
- Analyzes existing or proposed systems, strategies, services, and other mental health-related matters including the intercept of mental health/co-occurring substance misuse and criminal/juvenile justice; identify needs for improvement and the methods and resources to accomplish improvements.

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- Conducts grant assessments, compliance reviews, and negotiates and approves corrective actions, as needed. Monitors grant program compliance requirements and recommends approval or disapproval of existing or proposed program activities or expansions.
- Review congressional and legislative actions; assess impact on public health program activities, initiatives, and policy; and initiate action accordingly.
- Draft testimonies, policies, responses to inquiries, and/or financial statements for use in hearings and executive reviews, and to address concerns by grantees, contractors, and other concerned citizens.
- Serves as a representative to professional organizations in order to gain cooperation from these groups.
- Ensure effective and efficient implementation and accomplishment of public health policies, programs, and activities at the national level specifically pertaining to criminal justice diversion and re-entry.

Florida Department of Children and Families Headquarters

Behavioral Health Quality Specialist (September 2021 to January 2022)

- Served as a Behavioral Health Subject Matter expert under the DCF Accountability Act signed into law in 2020.
- Developed and implemented uniform, outcome-based performance metrics to monitor both internal programs and contracted vendors throughout the state.
- Reviewed over 50 open child welfare cases and developed recommendations to enhance child safety in real time.
- Developed and implemented statewide child welfare staff wellness strategy involving Mental Health First Aid training for all employees.

Florida Department of Children and Families Headquarters

State Community Forensic Liaison Supervisor (2018 to 2022)

- Wrote and implemented statewide strategic plan to reduce the number of individuals with mental illnesses from admission to state mental health treatment facilities by revising policies, addressing health disparities and behavioral health equity, promoting Evidenced Based and promising practices, and conducting outreach to internal and external stakeholders. Drove innovation in the forensic system.
- Identified techniques and agreements between DCF and providers to plan, develop, oversee, and evaluate programs and analyze policies impacting the lives of children in the juvenile justice system in Florida.
- Develop plans, goals, and objectives for the implantation and administration of new policies related to children in the Florida juvenile justice system.
- Reviewed, developed and provided training programs on to educate DCF employees, leadership, stakeholders and business partners on mental health/co-occurring substance misuse and criminal/juvenile justice diversion.
- Develop, implement, and report on criminal/juvenile justice equity plans in partnership with organizational partners that included tools from the Stepping Up Initiative.
- Developed proposal and implemented the Regional Community Forensic Liaison Team which was funded by the department. The team consists of one forensic liaison in each region with the goal of reducing commitments to forensic State Mental Health Treatment facilities.
- Ensure effective and efficient implementation and accomplishment of public health policies, programs, and activities at the regional, and local levels.

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- Develop standards to prevent, detect, and respond to child abuse, harassment and issues related to the safety, health, and development of children in the Florida justice system.
- Served as an advisor in planning and determining behavioral health policies, programs, and activities to reduce the number of individuals with mental illnesses booked into the jails. These activities reflected participation from our diverse partnerships including the sheriffs, persons with lived experiences, state hospital administrators, judges, attorneys, and community behavioral health providers.
- Conducted planning groups and developed strategies to resolve operational problems and enhance program design.
- Serve as a liaison to Florida's circuit courts, community mental health and co-occurring substance misuse providers, managing entities and state mental health treatment facilities serving individuals with mental illnesses committed or at risk of being committed pursuant to Chapter 916, Florida Statutes.
- Expand Florida's capacity and ability to serve individuals on conditional release who may have otherwise been traditionally served in a secure forensic facility.
- Provide technical assistance to organization leadership including circuit liaisons, forensic case managers, managing entities and treatment facility staff regarding cross-cultural communication and collaboration.
- Provided strategic leadership in the development of culturally specific and culturally responsive policy and service delivery models regarding persons with lived experience in the criminal justice system. These were guided by voices and needs of those with lived experience and funded through the Transformation Transfer Initiative grants.
- Develop and coordinate presentations and training sessions for Florida's communities.
- Analyzed Florida Statute 916 policies and provided recommendations. Rewrote the statutes for proposed changes.
- Provide training and education to community partners including judges, attorneys and staff of circuit courts, Department of Children and Families region and facility staff, managing entity staff, forensic evaluators, and educators on the complex issues and needs facing individuals involved in the forensic system as well as education about mental illnesses, appropriate community services, supports and recommended interventions.
- Collect, compile, verify and enter statewide data into data systems and run reports.
- Interpret data, develop written reports for leadership and recommend improvement opportunities/strategies.
- Assist with development of standards, policies and procedures regarding community forensic services.
- Develop legislative budget requests, legislative proposals and legislative bill analyses.
- Developed proposal for Florida's participation in the SAMSHA GAIN's Center Learning Collaboration for Competency Restoration which was awarded. Florida's forensic system stakeholders participated in this technical support for 2 years. We developed a statewide strategy as well as achieved goals.
- Developed proposal for Florida's participation in the SAMSHA GAIN's Center Train the Trainer for "How Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses" which was also awarded. This project is projected to take place in 2021.
- Wrote two proposals for the SAMSHA/CMHS/NASMHPD Transformation Transfer Initiative grants that have not been announced. If awarded, these grants will fund statewide positions for individuals with lived experience to work with defendants with mental illnesses.

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- Provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance to assure relevant public health issues are addressed in criminal justice and behavioral health.

MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC., 10 North/Central Florida VICE PRESIDENT, FORENSIC SERVICES (2007 to 2018)

- Implementation and operation of the Forensic Program with a range of 11 to currently 23 professional staff covering a 12 county area. This includes hiring, performance appraisal, discipline, promotion/termination and training.
- Led strategic engagement collaboration on Equity strategic identity and Sequential Intercept Mapping, including identification of key gaps in planning processes.
- Responsible for designing and the implementation of the Comprehensive Offender Reentry Grant and the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Grant and the Lutheran Family Services funded forensic Services.
- Sustainability and success of grant development and report writing. Most recently the Comprehensive Offender Re-entry Program through SAMHSA, the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Grant (Florida's Re-investment grants), the Hagen Family Foundation Grant and the Bureau of Justice Statistics Circuit 8 Re-link Grant.
- Successful use and interpretation of data to demonstrate outcomes that are measurable and sustainable.
- Ensure staff professionalism with evidenced based practices training and evaluation of performance fidelity. These trainings include but not limited to Forensic Social Work, Florida Statute 916 – Competency and Sanity, Risk Assessment Basics, HCR-20 V3, Risk-Need-Responsivity, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Seeking Safety, APIC Model, Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) , Motivational Interviewing, Social Security Access Outreach Recover (SOAR) and GAINS Re-entry checklist.
- Provide community outreach including participation on expert panels, speaking at public events, offer training to criminal justice professionals and actively participate in community initiatives. These trainings include but not limited to Mental Health First Aid, How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses, SOAR, SIM, Motivational Interviewing and Forensic Specialist Training.
- Responsible for the oversight of forensic grant budgets including in-kind match, contingency fund allocation and financial management.
- Assist with our Specialty Court to ensure communication, information exchange, policy review and quality implementation.
- Write business reports and present to the Board of County Commission and other government vested stakeholders. Market forensic programs to ensure stakeholder buy-in for sustainability.
- Provide leadership at a local, state and national level. Facilitate stakeholder collaboration meeting to include strategic planning and implementation.
- Ensure the Forensic Program provides evidenced based recovery oriented services.
- Act as a liaison with community stakeholders including courts, law enforcement, attorneys, jail, families, partnership agencies and all other vested entities.
- Provide State and National presentations.
- Collaborate with local law enforcement to create diversionary alternatives.
- Provide Crisis Intervention Team Training to law enforcement officers as part of the CIT training team at least four times per year. Serve on the CIT Steering Committee.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

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- Director over a successful data driven and recovery outcome Forensic Diversion Team. Currently we were awarded our forth three year grants with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Grant.
- Developed a forensic training for forensic social workers that has been adapted by the Department of Children and Families as a required training for Forensic Specialist who serve individuals that are Incompetent to Proceed or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity.
- The Forensic Program was recognized by Smart Justice at Florida Tax Watch as a top performer, saving tax payers money.
- Awarded SAMHSA grant as a result of writing a grant for the Comprehensive Offender Re-entry Grant.
- Recognized by SAMHSA for training over 1400 law enforcement and stakeholders, How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses.
- Presented workshops at local, state and national level conferences and training forums. Each year averaging two national, two state and countless local events.
- Presented workshops at the Crisis Intervention Team Training International Conference in 2014 and 2016.
- Awarded Hagen Family Foundation to fund bicycles for our clients in 2015.
- Awarded Administrator/Supervisor of the Year in Florida 2015 by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health
- Awarded national leadership in criminal justice and behavioral health in 2016. Attended the Academy for Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Leadership in D.C.
- Awarded one of the top counties (Alachua) for de-criminalization of mental illness and attended the Stepping Up Initiative as a member of the Alachua County Stepping Up Initiative in 2016. Continue working on community efforts.
- Presented a research poster on the Forensic Program and served on a specialty court panel at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting.
- Awarded the Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management by the National Council for Behavioral Health for the Forensic Program in 2017.
- Graduated with a Master's degree in Business Administration with a 3.9 GPA in 2017. Throughout the program I have focused most of the projects and papers on subjects in community behavioral healthcare.

MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC.

FORENSIC SPECIALIST (2005 – 2007)

- Assess individuals with mental illness at risk for commitment to the Department of Children and Families under Florida Statute.
- Advise the court stakeholders of treatment placement alternatives.
- Coordinate diversion and re-entry efforts by developing release plans.
- Ensure all service requirements are implemented, monitored and reported to the court.
- Provide individuals with competency training, individuals and groups.
- Provide forensic case management for a caseload of 40 to 50 clients.
- Provide evidenced based practices training to internal and external professionals.
- Supervise interns.

THE HARBOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE (Currently BAYCARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

FORENSIC SPECIALIST (1998 – 2005)

- Same duties as Forensic Specialist position above.

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EDUCATIONAL and CERTIFICATES

Master's Degree – Business Administration, Saint Leo University

Master's Degree – Psychology, National Louis University

Bachelor's Degree – Psychology, minor Social Gerontology, New Mexico State University

Certifications: First Aid, Mental Health First Aid Trainer, Social Security Access Outreach Recovery (SOAR) Trainer, “How Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses” Trainer, CPR, First Aid, Moral Recognition Therapy, “Helping Men Recover” – Male Specific Trauma treatment

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Florida Rural Health Association – Chairperson

Alachua County Health Care Advisory Board - member

Alachua County CIT Steering Committee – member

National Alliance for Mental Illness - member

CIT International – member

Alachua County Stepping Up Committee – member

Alachua County Mental Health Coalition – member

AWARDS

State of Florida Davis Productivity Award – 2006

Innovation Award Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – 2007

Leadership Award Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – 2013

Administrator/Supervisor of the Year by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health – 2015

Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Leadership Academy – 2016

Stepping Up National Summit – 2016

Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management by The National Council for Behavioral Health - 2017

PRESENTATIONS

- From 2007 to current, present minimum of 50 local presentations annually.
- From 2013 to current, present a minimum of 5 state, national and/or international conferences with an average of two workshops/presentation per conference. These conferences include Crisis Intervention Team Training International Conference, Partners in Crisis Conference, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Alcohol Anonymous Annual Conference, Florida Smart Justice, FADAA/FCCMH Annual Conference, American Probation and Parole Training Institute. Florida Community Corrections Association Annual Training Institute, National Council for Behavioral Health, American Psychology Association, American Jail Association and Veterans Administration Mental Health Summit.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCIES

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Word/ Excel (decision support, project management, lineal graphing, data management and analysis, calculations, statistical comparisons)/ Power Point/ Prezi/ Internet Research/research