

Florida
HEALTH



Florida Health Care Innovation Council Annual Report

December 2024

Ron DeSantis

Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD

State Surgeon General

Introduction

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's Live Healthy legislative package that included Senate Bill 7018, s. 381.4015, Florida Statutes, to develop solutions to improve the delivery and quality of health care in the state and develop a revolving loan program to support implementation of innovative health care solutions.

The new law created a Health Care Innovation Council (Council), whose chair is the Lieutenant Governor with other members appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Council comprises voting and nonvoting members who bring expertise from various fields, including health care, technology, finance, and patient advocacy.

The Council is designed to leverage the expertise of health care professionals, industry experts, and public representatives to foster innovation and improve health care delivery throughout the state. Its comprehensive responsibilities and varied membership will ensure a holistic approach to addressing health care challenges and implementing effective solutions.

The Council's key duties and functions include:

- Facilitating public engagement
- Developing best practices
- Reviewing and approving loan applications
- Submitting an annual report
- Recognizing health care innovations

This report fulfills the requirements for the health care innovation annual report.

Council Members

Ex Officio Nonvoting Members

- Jason Weida, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Shevaun Harris, Secretary, Department of Children and Families
- Taylor Hatch, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Dr. Joseph A. Ladapo, State Surgeon General, Department of Health
- Michelle Branham, Secretary, Department of Elder Affairs

Voting Members

- Dr. Deborah German, Dean, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida
- John D. Couris, President and CEO, Tampa General Hospital
- Richard Caplin, Founder and Chairman, Caplin Ventures
- Dr. Roberto Diaz, Moffitt Cancer Center
- Dr. Amit Rastogi, President and CEO, Jupiter Medical Center
- Dr. Rylan Douthett, Clinical Assistant Professor, Florida State University
- Thomas Sabatino, Former EVP and General Counsel, Rite Aid
- Geoffrey Fraser, Founding Partner, Clear Choice Health Care

Key Focus Areas

The Council is tasked with identifying, discussing, and promoting innovative technologies, workforce pathways, and service delivery models that improve health care quality, reduce costs, and increase accessibility across the state. The four priority areas the Council will focus on, with examples, are listed below.

1. Health Care Workforce

Workforce Pathways:

- Cultivating interest in health care careers and expanding the workforce pipeline.

Workforce Efficiency:

- Using technology and training to reduce burdens on health care professionals.

2. Patient Care Innovations

Advanced Technologies:

- Integrating telehealth, remote monitoring, and early detection tools to improve patient outcomes.

Setting-Appropriate Care:

- Shifting care delivery to the most appropriate settings, reducing unnecessary emergency room visits

3. Cost Reduction Strategies

Improving Efficiency:

- Focusing on innovations that reduce administrative burdens and improve service delivery efficiency.

Lowering Costs for Consumers:

- Solutions that provide cost savings while maintaining or improving care quality.

4. Technology Integration

Interoperability of Health Systems:

- Addressing challenges with the integration of electronic health records and other technologies.

Cybersecurity:

- Ensuring the safety and security of health data as innovations are implemented.

Moving Forward

As the Health Care Innovation initiative progresses, the Council will focus on identifying innovative solutions to drive improvement in Florida's health care system. Leveraging the expertise of its membership, the Council will explore priority areas to improve workforce sustainability and efficiency, patient care delivery and innovations, cost efficiency, and technology integration.

Engagement with Stakeholders

The Council will actively engage stakeholders from across the health care ecosystem to gain insights into these priority areas. These engagements will take the form of public meetings, collaboration forums, and focused discussions with sector leaders. The Council aims to use these engagements to develop actionable solutions tailored to Florida's unique health care challenges.

- **State Health Care Agency Perspectives:** The ex officio members representing state health care agencies will contribute a statewide perspective on gaps in service delivery, workforce strain, and access barriers. These insights will help identify systemic inefficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- **Business, Academic, and Health Care Perspectives:** Voting members from the private sector, academic institutions, and health care, will provide critical insights into operational challenges, barriers to technology adoption, and workforce needs including training, from their respective fields. This knowledge and experience will inform targeted strategies to address gaps in service and workforce support.

Collaborative Problem-Solving

Together, the Council will integrate varied perspectives to:

- **Identify Gaps in Service** and evaluate current deficiencies in care delivery, workforce capacity, and access, emphasizing underserved and rural communities.
- **Explore Solutions** to develop innovative approaches that leverage technology, training, and new service delivery models to address identified gaps.
- **Prioritize Initiatives** and create a roadmap to implement solutions that align with the Council's priorities and that have the potential to deliver measurable return on investment.

Building a Roadmap for 2025

Moving into 2025, the Council's activities will center on the following actionable steps to address the priority focus areas, including:

- 1. Data Collection and Analysis**, which entails gathering input from stakeholders and analyzing state and sector-specific data to inform Council decision-making.
- 2. Best Practice Development** through the establishment and dissemination of best practices to stakeholders and citizens of the state based on the Council's findings.
- 3. Program Implementation** that includes supporting the implementation of innovative solutions sponsored by the Revolving Loan Program and other mechanisms.
- 4. Ensuring a Continuous Feedback Loop** where ongoing dialogue with stakeholders is used to refine initiatives and ensure responsiveness to Florida's evolving health care needs.

By fostering collaboration and leveraging the expertise of its members, the Council is well-positioned to drive transformative change in Florida's health care system. Going forward, the Council will address critical challenges and create innovative change.