On August 3, 2022, the State of Florida will unveil two historic steps to fight overdose and addiction, and disrupt the opioid epidemic:

- New innovative statewide addiction care pilot program
- New Statewide Director of Opioid Recovery

In 2021, there were over 8,000 reported overdose deaths in Florida. Since 2015, fentanyl-related overdose deaths have increased by 790%. The current, nationwide model of overdose is unsustainable, unreliable, and has deadly consequences.

Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) is the first of its kind in the United States and places Florida as a leader in sustainable addiction and opioid recovery.

The Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Agency for Health Care Administration are partnering to implement a network of addiction care in up to 12 counties in Florida.
Standard treatment programs have had limited success in creating long-term recoveries for this lifelong illness. This innovative program is the first of its kind in the country, expanding a state-supported coordinated system of addiction care for individuals suffering from substance use disorder.

This comprehensive approach expands every aspect of overdose response and treats all primary and secondary impacts of substance use disorder. From care and peer navigators directly within an Emergency Department, to sustainable overall health care, this structure disrupts the revolving door of addiction and overdose.

The network does not solely depend on emergency response for overdoses and substance use disorder, ensuring patients are also stabilized and treated for coexisting medical and mental health conditions. Patients will need dental care, primary care, psychiatric evaluation, maternal care, and social support services. Social support services can address career training, housing, or food insecurity.

NEW STATEWIDE DIRECTOR OF OPIOID RECOVERY

Dr. Courtney Phillips will serve as an expert to provide consultative support for the behavioral health system of care by offering clinical consultation for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services and help develop better policy and practice approaches. Dr. Phillips currently serves as the Director of Behavioral Health for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Dr. Phillips is board certified in adult psychiatry.