

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Holly Howat, Ph.D.

*Interim Assistant Secretary -
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MISSION & ROLE



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Recovery Month Celebration at the Capitol

**HELP AND
HOPE ARE
HERE**

*Our commitment to
ensuring everyone in
Louisiana has access to
quality behavioral health.*

MISSION & ROLE

The Office of Behavioral Health creates **pathways to treatment** for Louisianans facing:

- Mental illness;
- Substance use; and
- Addictive disorders.

Our work **saves lives and fosters**:

- Healthier families;
- Safer neighborhoods; and
- More resilient communities.



Louisiana 988 team members at an outreach event

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2025 PERFORMANCE



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Louisiana Crisis Response System

- A comprehensive continuum of services that include call lines, mobile response units, and crisis care centers

2025 Outcomes

- Provided treatment, supports, and education to over 50,000 people in crisis
- Launched the Louisiana Crisis Hub line



Louisiana 988 social media post

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RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Help and Hope for Joe

- **Problem:** Joe had made multiple suicide attempts and was planning another one.
- **Response:** After a Crisis Hub call, a mobile unit responded to Joe's home.
- **Result:** Joe was connected to a licensed mental health professional for help and ongoing support.



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2025 PERFORMANCE

Louisiana State Opioid Response

- Implementing Louisiana's action plan to address the **opioid epidemic**

2025 Outcomes

- Louisiana moved **from 3rd to 5th** in opioid overdose deaths in the nation
- **25,000 opioid overdose reversals** by naloxone saved lives
- **31% decrease** in drug overdose deaths (1,130 to 770)



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RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Help and Hope for Mike

- **Problem:** Mike was a chronic drug user who had overdosed several times.
- **Response:** Mike was connected to a provider who prescribed medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD).
- **Result:** Mike found hope and sobriety and gives back to his community.



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2025 PERFORMANCE

Louisiana Coordinated System of Care

- Specialized program serving the **most intense at-risk children and youth** to prevent hospitalization or foster care

2025 Outcomes

- **95% (5,080)** at-risk youth were able to remain in home and community-based settings
- **93% (4,974)** of all youth were not placed in inpatient hospitals



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RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Help and Hope for Anna and Her Family

- **Problem:** Anna struggled with suicide and had run away previously.
- **Response:** A comprehensive assessment was completed and an intervention plan was activated.
- **Result:** Anna and her family forged deeper connections that led to academic and athletic success.



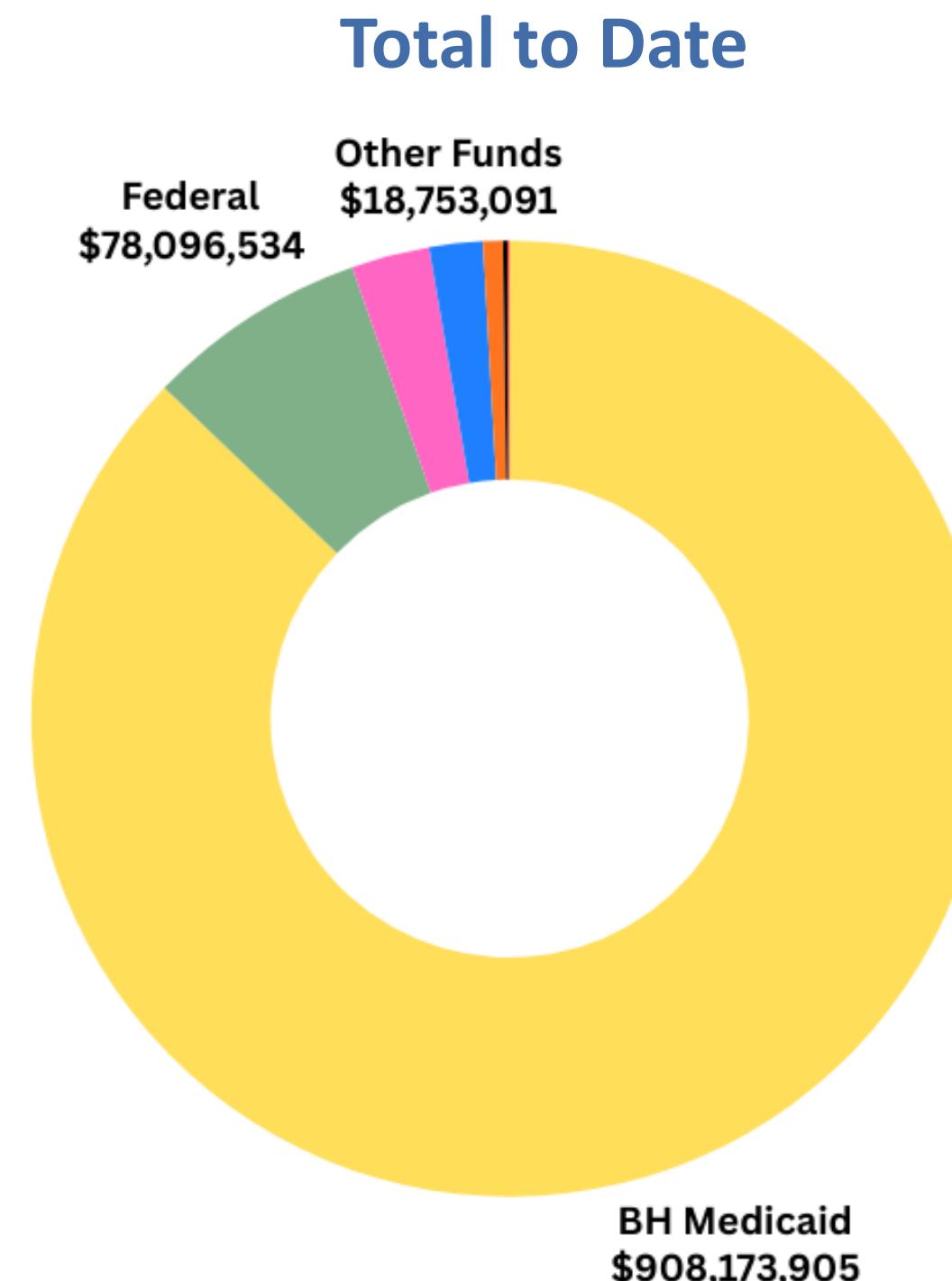
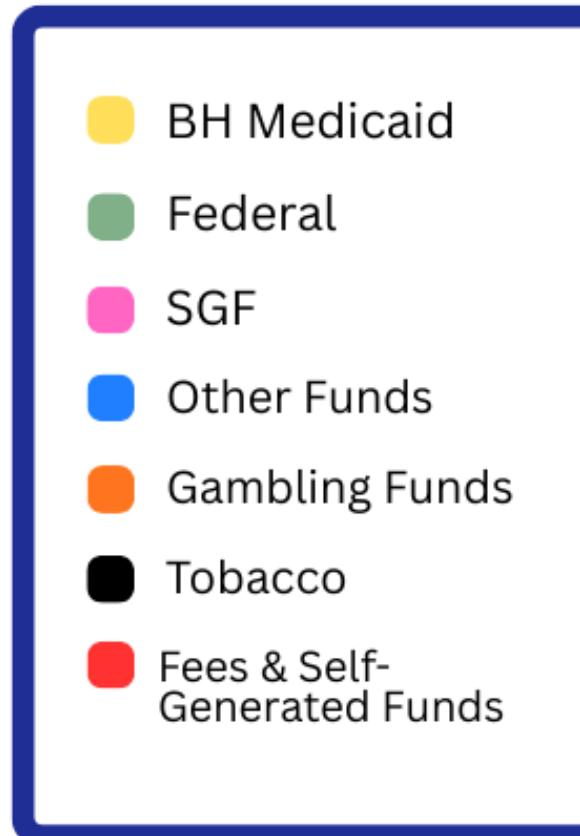
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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



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Estimated OBH FY 2026 Budget



FY 2026 Key Investments

Program Area	Allocations
Crisis Services	\$15,000,000
Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS)	\$9,000,000
Problem Gambling	\$7,000,000

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2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES



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The Office of Behavioral Health creates a healthier Louisiana by fostering an informed public who recognizes the signs and symptoms of mental illness and addiction and knows how to seek help.

Education

- Increase the number of people accessing information through websites by **10%**.
 - **Baseline:** 120,000 clicks annually
 - **2026 Goal:** 132,000 clicks annually



Connection

- Increase the number of people seeking help through crisis call lines by **20%**.
 - **Baseline:** 44,000 calls annually
 - **2026 Goal:** 53,000 calls annually

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2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES

The Office of Behavioral Health creates a healthier Louisiana by enhancing quick and clear pathways to care for effective behavioral health treatment.

Lives Saved

- Reduce opioid related deaths by **20%**.
 - **Baseline:** 770 deaths in 2024
 - **2026 Goal:** 616 deaths in 2026



Behavioral Health Treatment

- Increase the number of people receiving public mental health services by **10%**.
 - **Baseline:** 99,736 people in 2024
 - **2026 Goal:** 109,710 people
- Increase the number of people receiving public substance use services by **20%**.
 - **Baseline:** 7,754 people in 2024
 - **2026 Goal:** 9,305 people

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2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES

The Office of Behavioral Health creates a healthier Louisiana by promoting supportive staff and services across the behavioral health continuum of care.

Crisis Services and Supports

- Increase access to a continuum of crisis care services and supports across Louisiana.
 - **Baseline:** 56% of services are active
 - **2026 Goal:** 100% of services are active



Target Populations

- Increase behavioral health services and supports for children ages 0-5 years old and their families.
 - **Baseline:** Under 200 families helped
 - **2026 Goal:** 2,000 families helped

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2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES

The Office of Behavioral Health creates a healthier Louisiana by developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to address problem gambling.



- **Informed Public:** Create awareness of signs and symptoms of problem gaming and how to access help
- **Pathways to Care:** Ensure quick and clear access to effective treatments to problem gambling
- **Supportive Staff and Services:** Offer supportive resources and staff to foster lifelong recovery

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THANK YOU

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