

# Podcast Series: Courageous and Candid Conversations on the Relentless Challenges of Behavioral Health: From Crisis to Recovery

## The Current Status of Behavioral Health in Florida: Psychiatry in Times of Crisis – What Next?

*April 12, 2021, 1:00pm EST*

The Florida Center for Behavioral Health Improvements and Solutions is pleased to announce the launch of the first in a series of several in-depth conversations exploring the current status and uncertain future of behavioral health in Florida from the perspective of many stakeholders. These interviews will tell the stories affecting behavioral health in our state.

In this first interview the Center's Director, Marie McPherson, will discuss the evolving role of the psychiatrist in the delivery of behavioral health services in the managed care environment with WellCare Health Plans' Medical Director of Behavioral Health Florida, Nicholas Abid, DO, MBA, FACN.

Please visit the Program website, <http://floridabhcenter.org/>, to view the recording of this interview. We welcome your comments.

### **Guest: Nicholas Abid, DO, MBA, FACN**

*Dr. Nick Abid has been a psychiatrist now for 40 years. He spent close to 30 years in patient care practicing community psychiatry in large hospitals and community mental health centers. Prior to beginning his career in mental health, he graduated from Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following medical school, he completed his psychiatric residency training at the University of Washington in Seattle.*

*For the past 14 years, Dr. Abid has been a Pharmacy and Behavioral Health Medical Director at Sunshine/Staywell Health Plans; working first with the Pharmacy division and more recently with the Florida market and its BH Care Managers internally, and behavioral health providers, CMHC's and Inpatient BH facilities as well as other stakeholders, externally, to insure mental health services for over 2,000,000 members in the Medicaid, Medicare and Public markets.*

*Dr. Abid is married to his beautiful wife, Beth, and has 3 grown children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 dogs. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors. He loves swimming, biking, reading, and walking on the beach.*



**<http://floridabhcenter.org/>**

If you have any questions, comments, or participant suggestions, please e-mail [sabrinasingh@usf.edu](mailto:sabrinasingh@usf.edu).



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