

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
NORTHEAST REGION SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

LEVY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

2023

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Levy County Behavioral Health Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Statutes, the Florida Mental Health Act or the Baker Act, Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, the Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act, and Section 394.462, Florida Statutes, the Levy County Behavioral Health Plan (sometimes herein the “Transportation Plan” or “Plan”) has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services for Levy County, Florida (“County”). This Plan has been developed by community stakeholders listed on page two. This Plan requires approval by the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, LSF Health Systems (the region’s managing entity) and the Department of Children and Families. Upon approval, this document will serve as the transportation plan for Levy County per legislative intent. The intent of this Plan is: 1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within the County, which may include an exception to the requirement for transportation to the nearest receiving facility; 2. An arrangement by which a facility may provide, in addition to require psychiatric and addiction services, an environment and services which are uniquely tailored to the needs of an identified group of persons with special needs, such as persons with hearing impairments or visual impairments, or elderly persons with physical frailties; or 3. A specialized transportation system that provides an efficient and humane method of transporting patients to receiving facilities, among receiving facilities, and to treatment facilities.

Purpose/Plan

The Levy County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan has been successfully implemented. In the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Levy County, it is now agreed that a renewal of the Plan will continue the successful, established, centralized Baker Act/Marchman Act system, known as the Levy County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan. The Plan will insure that individuals on an involuntary Baker Act/Marchman Act will obtain immediate access to acute care services and will reduce the need for inter-hospital transfers for psychiatric and addiction services. The Levy County Sheriff is the designated law enforcement agency within the County to provide transport to persons in custody on the entry of an ex parte order or execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional; however, coordination of services among providers in Levy County will continue to meet individual needs.

The Plan calls for all law enforcement agencies in Levy County to transport:

1. Adults on an involuntary Baker Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**, unless the patient specifically indicates a preferred receiving facility.
2. Adults on an involuntary Marchman Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**.
3. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Baker Act **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**, unless the patient specifically indicates a preferred receiving facility.
4. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Marchman Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**.

All transports subject to Section 394.462(1), Florida Statutes, shall be made or declined in accordance with the provisions of such statute. All transports of any type will be made in a safe and dignified manner, following all applicable rules and regulations to maintain the dignity and safety of those individuals being transported.

System Capacity

- **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.:** located at 4300 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608, is a receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (“AHCA”)
- **UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital:** located at 4101 NW 89th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32606, is a receiving facility licensed by AHCA
- **Behavioral Health Center of North Florida Regional Healthcare:** located at 6500 W Newberry Road, Gainesville, FL 32605, is a receiving facility licensed by AHCA
- **Malcom Randall VA Medical Center:** located at 1601 SW Archer Road Gainesville, FL 32608-1197, is a receiving facility licensed by AHCA

Choice

Law enforcement will take into consideration individual choice when making a determination of which Baker Act receiving facility to transport an individual. All persons on an involuntary Marchman Act are to be transported to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**, **UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital**, **Behavioral Health Center of North Florida Regional Healthcare**, and **Malcom Randall VA Medical Center** are not Marchman providers.

System Oversight

In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the Plan, personnel from the County, County Department of Public Safety

(EMS), County Sheriff's office, and LSF Health Systems will regularly meet. The Department of Children and Families, Northeast Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office and LSF Health Systems are responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The Department of Children and Families and LSF Health Systems have the authority to resolve issues concerning the Transportation Plan, approve interagency agreements, as well as coordinate other services needed for individuals beyond acute care services. The Department of Children and Families Northeast Regional office also has a working relationship with AHCA if issues arise beyond the Department's authority. The Department of Children and Families, Northeast Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office telephone number in Jacksonville is 904-723-2000.

Interorganizational Collaboration

Implementing an excellent transportation plan on behalf of persons in need of behavioral health services requires a significant amount of cooperation, commitment and collaboration from all parties involved. Besides having the strong support of law enforcement and the behavioral health providers, the County has engaged in a planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing the Transportation Plan in Levy County.

DEFINITIONS

Baker Act: Chapter 394, Part I, Florida Statutes, the Florida Mental Health Act.

Marchman Act: Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, the Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act.

Receiving facility: Any public or private facility designated by the Department of Children and Families to receive and hold involuntary patients under emergency conditions or for psychiatric evaluation and to provide short-term treatment.

Private receiving facility: Any hospital or facility operated by a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation or association that provides mental health services and is not a public facility.

Public receiving facility: Any facility that has contracted with the Department of Children and Families to provide mental health services to all persons, regardless of their ability to pay, and is receiving state funds for such purpose.