




**Interoffice Memorandum**

March 25, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM**

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
Board of County Commissioners

THRU: Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Director   
Community and Family Services Department

FROM: Donna Wyche, MS, CAP, Manager  
Mental Health and Homeless Issues Division  
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SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item – April 7, 2020**  
Approval of a Transportation Plan for Orange County, Florida

Approval of an agreement for a transportation plan with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was initiated on January 2003, renewed in May of 2008 and April of 2013, to allow law enforcement officers in Orange County to bypass the “nearest Baker Act Receiving Facility” to take individuals to the Central Receiving Center (CRC) in Orange County. The CRC is located at 1800 Mercy Drive in Orlando, Florida. The term of the waiver is five years. It is time to execute a new exception plan since the CRC has now been in operation for 17 years.

It is being requested that the Board approve the renewal of the Transportation Plan as allowed in F.S. 394.462 in order to provide improved service delivery/coordination among the mental health and substance abuse assessment services. The Transportation Plan is a deviation from the current statutory language in F.S. 394.463(2)(a), furthermore updated in Senate Bill 12, which requires law enforcement officers after the execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional, to “transport the person to the nearest receiving facility for examination.”

The Transportation Plan, approved previously by the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, allows officers to transport people needing mental health and/or substance abuse evaluations to the Central Receiving Center, bypassing the other designated receiving centers. This will continue to allow the co-location of services providing a more comprehensive and seamless system of care with more efficient use of the scarce community resources, minimizing duplication and fragmentation.

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of Orange County Transportation Plan in accordance with Florida Statute 394, Florida Mental Health Act Florida Statute 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act Five-Year 2020-2025 to allow law enforcement to bypass the nearest Baker Act Receiving Facility and take individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders to the Central Receiving Center at 1800 Mercy Drive, Orlando, Florida with reevaluations of the plan as needed per Florida Statute.

DW/as:jam

Attachment

c: Byron W. Brooks, County Administrator  
Randy Singh, Deputy County Administrator

BCC Mtg. Date: April 7, 2020

**Orange County  
Transportation Plan  
*In accordance with***

***Florida Statute 394, Florida Mental Health Act  
Florida Statute 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug  
Services Act***

**Five-Year  
2020-2025  
*Submitted to:***

**Florida Department of Children and  
Families (DCF) Circuit 9  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program  
Office**

***For approval by:***

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

**Department of Children and Families  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH  
ORANGE COUNTY BAKER ACT  
- TRANSPORTATION PLAN -**

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Exception Plan

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Florida Mental Health Act ("Baker Act")  
Florida Statute 394.462  
Florida Statute 397.6795, commonly referred to as the Marchman Act

Orange County Transportation Plan

2020 Renewal

This Plan serves as a vital component of the comprehensive plan for a Designated Receiving System in Orange County to meet the behavioral health needs of persons in crisis due to mental and/or substance use conditions.

The Transportation Plan describes how the community shall support and facilitate access to the Designated Receiving System. This includes the circumstances to guide selection of the most appropriate transportation method, e.g., law enforcement, medical services, contracted non-emergency provider, or family/friends; how transportation between participating facilities is handled; respect for individual choice of service providers; and funding to sustain a successful system of efficient and humane transportation for crisis intervention and care. Approval of this plan gives DCF and its community partners the authority to continue to provide immediate access to emergency services for persons in need of help for behavioral health disorders, supporting a comprehensive and successful system of acute care.

**BACKGROUND: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & PROBLEM SOLVING**

In July 2001, Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty appointed a blue ribbon panel known as the "Chairman's Jail Oversight Commission" to delve into the many issues facing the Orange County Jail and its various suspected maladies, in hopes of addressing and stabilizing many community concerns. In the fall of 2001, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Sub-Committee of the Commission recognized that the county jail had become the treatment center of last resort. The jail is not always the most appropriate place for individuals with chronic substance use disorders and/or mental health issues. Therefore, the Sub-Committee requested Orange County staff to work on a concept of a central point of access (now referred to as the "Belvin Perry Jr., Central Receiving Center" (CRC).

The principle behind the Central Receiving Center is to lessen the impact to the Central Booking Unit of the jail by diverting individuals charged with minor offenses and who have been identified with a mental health or substance use disorder. It has been the experience of Orange County that transporting persons to the "nearest receiving facility" results in a fragmented system of care whereby unnecessary transports are made by law enforcement. In addition, area hospital emergency rooms are faced with treating persons who can now be seen in a more appropriate setting, such as a specialized behavioral healthcare Central Receiving Center. To alleviate these issues and best serve the individual it is recommended that the whole receiving system in Orange County was redesigned. Since 2003, this initiative was met by forming a partnership between the State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Orange County Government.

The Belvin Perry Jr., Central Receiving Center Governing Board continues to support the key principles of the project and encourages a co-location/integration of services (e.g., medical

screening and triage, substance abuse services, and mental health services, to include Baker Act and Marchman Act evaluations) at one location. Co-locating services maximizes existing resources, reduces and/or eliminates duplication of services, and ensures a seamless system of care for the individual in crisis and their families.

The Central Receiving Center serves as a central point for assessment services for individuals who are presented by law enforcement, and ensures that law enforcement officers have a more appropriate location to take individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders for assessment.

In an effort to improve the coordination and integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment in Orange County, the Central Receiving Center Governing Board continues to actively examine how the system as a whole can better deliver services to persons with dual disorders. The goal is to appropriately assess the person at the “front door” of the system and engage them in treatment appropriate to identify needs. The Central Receiving Center Governing Board has implemented co-occurring services across the county and providers are working together to meet the needs of these individuals.

Additionally, co-location of services lessens the amount of time it takes to get an individual assessed and medically screened, allowing law enforcement officers to return to the road more quickly. There are several “single point” models that can be found in Hillsborough County and Manatee County, Florida, Memphis, Tennessee and others nationally. Waiting for a medical screening can delay law enforcement officers at the Emergency Room for as much as three or four hours at a time. The Central Receiving Center model has proven to return law enforcement officers back to the street in a matter of minutes, increasing public safety.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Improve the centralized system of transportation, intake, comprehensive assessment and provide immediate access to emergency behavioral healthcare services for adult citizens of Orange County.
2. Provide an efficient and effective use of existing resources.
3. Reduce/eliminate duplication of services.
4. Reduce the burden on the Central Booking Unit of the Orange County Jail by diverting individuals charged with minor offenses and who have been identified with substance use and/or mental health disorders.
5. Reduce the over-population crisis in community emergency rooms by diverting individuals with psychiatric conditions from hospital emergency rooms and update medical screening policies as necessary.
6. Provide a range of acute care services that would treat persons in the least restrictive setting in the community.
7. Enhance the system to serve persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

8. Provide specialized services to adult and elderly that are homeless and may have misdemeanor charges.
9. Expedite the assessment and medical screening process to allow law enforcement to return more quickly to the road thereby increasing public safety.
10. Provide a dignified, humane and streamlined method of transportation to and among acute care facilities, and reduce the demand on law enforcement for Baker Act transports.
11. Reduce the liability for law enforcement officers making decisions regarding treatment needs through enhanced and expanded Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. This training ensures that law enforcement officers are able to appropriately handle the large number of persons they encounter with mental health issues and/or substance use disorders and assist them in making appropriate decisions while in the field.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN:**

The Central Receiving Center concept is an integrated system-of-care involving the jail system, court system, law enforcement, hospitals, emergency rooms, and mental health and substance abuse providers that will provide immediate access to emergency behavioral health services and reduce the strain on limited and extremely valuable community resources.

By implementing a Centralized Receiving Center, our community utilizes effective and efficiently very limited but valuable resources. This project, on behalf of adults in need of crisis services has required a significant amount of cooperation, commitment, and collaboration from all parties involved. Besides having the strong support Orange County Government, DCF and multiple providers, the plan has been implemented in a variety of phases and continues to seek innovative and more creative ways to maximize resources in a seamless system of care.

#### **CRC and LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (LEO)**

The Central Receiving Center serves as a central point for assessment services for adult citizens of Orange County who are presented by law enforcement on baker act, marchman act, exparte, and/or voluntary status. The Central Receiving Center is located at 1800 Mercy Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808 under the license and receiving facility designation of **Aspire Health Partners, Inc.** This facility currently has a 56-bed adult psychiatric hospital unit designated as a Private Receiving Facility.

Children and Adolescents will continue to be routed to the nearest receiving facility, as this site will not have separate services and treatment areas for minors, and will require further transport to an appropriate treatment area. This exception will also be contained in the Transportation Plan. Future plans may allow adolescents to be routed to a specialized assessment unit.

If there is a medical condition requiring immediate medical care, individuals are transported directly to the nearest hospital emergency room where the person will be treated and assessed for further disposition. Although the plan is designed for enhanced medical triage and evaluation, this facility will not replace treatment of emergency rooms or be licensed as a general hospital.

A staff of trained clinicians in the mental health and substance abuse field conduct all assessments on an integrated SAMH Assessment Tool at the Central Receiving Center. These professionals play an essential role in coordinating services and make appropriate referrals to the proper treatment facility that is capable of serving the needs of the individual. The Central Receiving Center staff take into consideration individual choice when making a determination of which facility to refer.

## **WALK INS AND PHONE TRIAGE**

As a Designated Receiving Facility, walk-ins, are accepted at the Access Center which is co-located adjacent to the Central Receiving Center. However, the Central Receiving Center is open strictly for the use of law enforcement. The establishment of the Central Receiving Center has impacted the overall volume of Baker Act and Marchman Act clients as Law Enforcement uses this option in lieu of arrests.

Individuals in crisis can continue to be seen at other Orange County Baker Act Receiving Facilities: **Aspire Health Partners, Inc.**, at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, Florida. Advent Health at 601 Rollins Drive, Orlando, Florida, and the Orange County Addiction Receiving Facility Aspire Health Partners, Inc. 434 W Kennedy Blvd, Orlando, Florida, for substance abuse.

## **ADDITIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE BEDS**

**Aspire Health Partners, Inc.** currently has 56 private psychiatric hospital beds licensed under Chapter 395 at its Princeton location.

## **ANCILLARY SERVICES**

Outpatient and aftercare services are available to work with individuals with substance use disorders, mental health disorders, as well as co-occurring disorders. The co-location of these ancillary services at the Central Receiving Center serves to further expand the continuum of care. A program that addresses the various disorders and integrates the system of care has been a proven model with this population.

Targeted and Intensive Case Management can positively impact recurrence of decompensation and return to jail or inpatient care.

Psychotropic Medication Management is a component that has been enhanced at this location. There is a need to ensure medication clinics are available to encourage compliance with medication and reduce recidivism to jail and/or to other more intensive high-end treatment, such as hospitalization and crisis stabilization.

These services are currently located at this location, operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc.



Supportive and affordable housing is another component that is very important to the recovery phase of the disorders being treated. The homeless population represents a large percentage of the indigent population struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders. Transitional Housing is available for this population.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The ultimate accountability lies statutorily with the **State of Florida Department of Children and Families Circuit 9 Program office as the State “Substance Abuse and Mental Health Authority.” The State of Florida Mental Health and Substance Abuse System is a community-based system and most direct services are contracted with providers through a managing entity, Central Florida Cares Health System (CFCHS). The DCF/SAMH Office is responsible for:**

- Continuing system oversight and contract management
- Monitoring the Transportation Plan in accordance with the Baker Act
- Safeguarding that individuals’ rights are protected under contract
- Recommending and Monitoring of the Designation of Public & Private Baker Act Receiving Facilities
- **DCF/SAMH** Annual Evaluation of the quality of services through contract review
- Participate in the Governing Board of the Central Receiving Center
- Coordinate with Orange County Government:
  - Resolving issues related to operation of the facility
  - Assist with resolving disputes and grievances

## **OVERSIGHT:**

Orange County Government contracts with Aspire Health Partners for operation of the CRC. The contract in place holds Aspire Health Partners accountable to the mission and Florida State Statutes regarding Baker Act Receiving Facility procedures.

Orange County Government along with the Central Receiving Center Board will ensure measurable and meaningful outcomes to verify the efficiency of the Central Receiving Center.

The County has appointed a Governing Board with representation from the following groups: Orange County Commission; State Legislature; State Attorney; Public Defender; Clerk of Court; Advent Health; Orlando Health; Mental Health Association; mental health providers; substance abuse providers; county/city law enforcement; Probation and Parole; Orange County Public Schools; Homeless Services Network; Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Children and Families and community representatives.

## **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT:**

The publicly funded Baker Act system is targeted towards the indigent persons who are in need of emergency care and ongoing treatment. Choices of where persons are served are limited, but available through several providers. With the closure of many of the Private Psychiatric Receiving Facilities in the Orange County area, the advent of managed care and other commercial insurance plans, persons with insurance also have fewer choices in selecting their hospitals or Baker Act Receiving Facility. This is especially true when a person indigent or not, is manifesting behaviors that are a danger to themselves or others.

If a person presents himself/herself to the Central Receiving Center or is brought by law enforcement, and it is clear that a particular hospital or facility is the client's preferred health insurance provider, then the person will be referred to that facility for treatment.

Persons who are eligible for Medicaid and/or Medicare are considered funded clients when they present for Baker Act services, and will generally be referred to a Private Receiving Facility for continued care. This will be done to ensure that Medicaid recipients are not utilizing limited bed capacity if the system is under heavy demand for indigent care services. However, as specified under Florida Administrative Code and in Florida State Contract with the Public Receiving Facility, Medicaid recipients [as an indigent client] may use publicly funded beds in order to ensure timely access to treatment and ensure quality care.

#### **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: CENTRALIZED SYSTEM.**

The Orange County Transportation Plan specifically requests authority to transport persons in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to a centralized assessment location rather than the "nearest receiving facility". In the case of Orange County it will be one of four receiving facilities, three of which are hospitals. This Central Receiving Center is located at 1800 Mercy Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808. The actual location is easily accessible by law enforcement, emergency medical transportation services and the public.

Therefore, the way the system works is that most involuntary referrals and admissions under the Baker Act to the Central Receiving Center are transported directly to the facility rather than to a hospital emergency room or other Baker Act receiving facility. This reduces the time law enforcement personnel have to spend to get someone to appropriate mental health care and enables police to be back on street patrol. This central assessment process eliminates the need for a second transfer if the person went to the wrong hospital for psychiatric treatment in the first place. It should be noted that although there is a central intake unit, there are multiple "points of entry" into the system, such as outpatient and provider based settings.

#### **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:**

Central Receiving Center has transportation services readily available pursuant to Florida State Statute F.S. 394.463(2)(a) Orange County Government contracts with Aspire Health Partners, Inc. (the Community Mental Health Center for Orange County and publicly funded Receiving Facility). Aspire Health Partners provides transportation services from the Central Receiving Center to the treatment facility as they have the means and ability to provide dignified and safe transportation to persons experiencing a crisis in their lives; that may be a "danger to themselves or others" or are "self-neglectful".

Law enforcement will remain responsible for all involuntary transports to the Central Receiving Center; however, upon arrival at the Central Receiving Center, Aspire Health Partners Inc. transportation will provide further transfer for continued care needs.

Aspire Health Partners. will transport from the Central Receiving Center to the treatment facility designated by the Central Receiving Center for continued care, and may transport to the nearest area hospital when there is evidence that medical care is necessary. Ambulances should still be used for urgent or emergent care, as necessary. Aspire Health Partners provides Medicaid transportation and privately contracts with LYNX.

### **MEDICAL CLEARANCE:**

There are "Community Standards for Medical Clearance." These community guidelines are used among psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and emergency room physicians. It is an essential part of the day-to-day operations in the Baker Act system to ensure that persons who are assessed to need medical care are treated for high-risk physical health care conditions either at an emergency department or health care facility. Once a person is "medically cleared" it is understood and acknowledged that the person will be transferred to an intake unit or appropriate public or private receiving facility. In the event a person arrives at an emergency room, it is still the expectation that the hospital will abide by Federal Medicare Guidelines Section 1867, (COBRA) Examination and Treatment for Emergency Medical Conditions (and women in labor-EMTALA) to screen, examine, stabilize, treat and transfer individuals appropriately. In turn the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) or other private receiving facility works with the emergency room to coordinate the ongoing care of the individual, whether it is an outpatient discharge, referral or inpatient treatment. This system has worked well and a significant amount of trust between mental health providers and hospitals has been built in order to provide access to care for persons in need of crisis stabilization or health related symptom reduction.

### **INDIVIDUAL AND/OR FAMILY CHOICE:**

The publicly funded Baker Act system is targeted towards persons who are in need of emergency care and ongoing treatment. Choices of where persons are served are limited, but available through several providers. The advent of managed care and other commercial insurance plans, persons with insurance also have fewer choices in selecting their hospitals or Baker Act receiving facilities. This is especially true when a person, indigent or not, is manifesting behaviors that are a danger to themselves or others.

Despite these obstacles, mental health professionals in Orange County are sensitive to individual or family provider choices. If a person presents himself or herself to the Central Receiving Center, or law enforcement and it is clear that a particular hospital or facility is the clients' preferred health insurance provider, the person may be transported directly to that facility under this plan. Obviously, clinical and public safety circumstances must be assessed in the process. It is not the intent of the publicly funded system to take all persons with commercial health insurance to the Central Receiving Center. The Baker Act also allows for transfers to and from receiving facilities to occur.

It has been Orange County's experience that most persons with insurance plans who are voluntary and request services, or have been referred by their private physicians, therapists and psychiatrists, access the receiving facility of their choice. In fact, after a person is assessed at the Central Receiving Center and deemed to be in need of inpatient psychiatric care, he or she is usually transported directly to the private receiving facility where their insurance benefits will cover the cost of care and transportation if they need that level of inpatient care.

The Central Receiving Center personnel will interface with the all Orange County law enforcement agencies in the coordination of assessments and transportation to the Central Receiving Center, Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, and Florida Highway Patrol. These relationships are also an important element of natural disaster preparedness and crisis planning.

#### **MEDICAID/MEDICARE RECIPIENTS:**

Persons who are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare are considered funded clients when they present themselves for Baker Act Services. With the exception of Medicaid recipients who have both Medicaid and Medicare, most eligible Medicaid recipients receive their mental health benefits on a fee for service basis from a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Per Baker Act statute, an accepting provider is responsible for transportation if the client has a funding source.

#### **CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT):**

The Central Receiving Center Team in collaboration with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Orlando Police Department, Community Partners, persons, and families receiving services has implemented a Crisis Intervention Team involving multiple law enforcement agencies in Orange County. Besides advanced training on the Baker Act and how to intervene with persons with mental illness, law enforcement personnel receive continuing education on the Transportation Exception Plan.

#### **CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS: MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE RELATED DISORDERS:**

In an effort to improve, the coordination and integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment in Orange County several committees are examining how the system as a whole can better deliver services to persons with dual disorders. Professional judgments are used everyday on whether these persons fall under the Baker Act (Mental Health) or the Marchman Act (Substance Abuse). The goal is to appropriately assess the person at the "front door" of the system and engage them in treatment. Providers work together to meet the needs of these individuals. The community has achieved consensus to implement co-occurring services across the county. Crisis stabilization services and publicly funded detoxification services play essential roles in coordinating and ensuring that persons are transported to an appropriate facility that is capable of serving persons with co-occurring disorders.

#### **DOMAINS OF PERFORMANCE AFFECTED:**

The Jail Oversight Commission, in its effort to continually improve the system, identified several areas of performance that are applicable to delivering acute care services in Orange County. The goal of “taking the system to a new level” is directly related to improving the quality of care for those persons served. The following domains of performance are driving factors and community standards in achieving excellence.

- Immediate access and availability for psychiatric acute care services
- Improvement of clinical assessments at the “front door”
- Linking and providing timely aftercare services (case management)
- Monitoring appropriate lengths of stay relative to the needs of clients
- Reviewing Medical Clearance Policies with emergency rooms and hospitals
- Assessing the need for current and future treatment capacity
- Development of pre/post booking jail diversions
- Contractual accountability with state and county government
- Demonstrated cost savings to the community, hospitals and law enforcement
- Enhancing community partnerships

#### **SYSTEM CAPACITY:**

The Central Receiving Center System of Care is designed to include a full array of acute care services that are flexible enough to change with new statutes, rules, financing options and, most importantly, individual needs and rights. As planned, the Central Receiving Center is a combination of crisis services for adult individuals who meet the Baker Act and Marchman Act, Public and Private Baker Act Receiving Facilities (beds), medical screening and triage services, behavioral assessment and evaluation, continuing behavioral health care services, and transportation. The following resources are available to this system of care:

Central Receiving Center – These are non-residential acute care services available 24 hours a day and seven days a week to intervene in a crisis or provide emergency care, assessment, and referral.

Adult Psychiatric Hospital and Private Designated Receiving Facility operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc. at 1800 Mercy Drive, Orlando, FL.

Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc. at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, FL: A state licensed, publicly funded, designated receiving facility providing secure residential acute care 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week to provide brief, intensive mental health stabilization services. These services meet the needs of individuals, 18 years-of-age and above, who are experiencing an acute crisis and who, in the absence of a suitable alternative would require hospitalization.

Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit II (CSU II) operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc. at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, FL: A state licensed, publicly funded, designated receiving facility providing secure residential acute care 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week to provide brief, intensive mental health stabilization services. These services meet the needs of individuals, 18 years-of-age and above, who are experiencing an acute crisis and who, in the absence of a suitable alternative would require hospitalization.

Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit III (CSU III) operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, FL: A state licensed, publicly funded, \*(nine beds by Department of Corrections) designated receiving facility providing secure residential acute care 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week to provide brief, intensive mental health stabilization services. These services meet the needs of individuals, 18 years-of-age and above, who are experiencing an acute crisis and who, in the absence of a suitable alternative would require hospitalization.

Adult Short Term Residential Treatment Facility Unit (SRT I) operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc. at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, FL: This is a publicly funded licensed Level One residential facility and designated receiving facility providing 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week, brief, intensive mental health stabilization and therapeutic services. These services meet the needs of individuals, 18 years-of-age and above, who are experiencing an acute crisis and in the absence of a suitable alternative, would require hospitalization.

Adult Detoxification Unit and Marchman Act Receiving Facility operated by Aspire Health Partners, Inc. at 434 W Kennedy Blvd. Orlando, FL: A residential treatment facility providing emergency screening, evaluation, short term stabilization and treatment in a secure environment and detoxification program utilizing medical and clinical procedures to assist adults with substance abuse problems in their effort to withdraw from the physiological and psychological effects of substance use or abuse. Although substance abuse services are part of the Marchman Act (FS Statute 397), they are an important part of the larger Baker Act system that addresses persons with co-occurring disorders and coordination of care for persons who need detoxification and aftercare for substance use or abuse.

Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CCSU) operated by, Aspire Health Partners Inc. at 434 West Kennedy Boulevard, Orlando, FL: A state licensed, publicly funded, designated receiving facility providing secure residential acute care 24 hours-a-day and seven-days-a-week to provide brief, intensive mental health stabilization services. These services meet the needs of individuals, 17 years-of-age and below, who are experiencing an acute crisis and who, in the absence of a suitable alternative, would require hospitalization.

Inpatient psychiatric programs are designed to provide short-term treatment to persons exhibiting violent behavior, suicidal behavior or other severe disturbances and, provide a secure setting to persons who may be a danger to themselves or others under the Baker Act. These inpatient hospitals may also admit private, voluntary clients and serve persons with Medicare and/or Medicaid and/or substance abuse disorders.

## **SUMMARY:**

The Central Receiving Center **offers our county** a seamless system of care, for individuals who come in contact with law enforcement that could better be served in a treatment milieu rather than jail. In one location, services needed can be offered to these individuals with substance use disorders and mental health disorders. In a community that has struggled with the Orange County Jail becoming the de facto mental health hospital, a challenge was set forth to change the system of care to one more inclusive. **The partners of the State Department of Children and Families, Circuit Nine,** Orange County Government, Aspire Health Partners, Inc., Advent Health, Orlando Health, Homeless Services Network, Law Enforcement, and many other partners have come together to make the planning for the Central Receiving Center a reality. In the end, the Central Receiving Center has proven to save the Orange County Jail

costs for these individuals rotating through their system, easier decision making for Law Enforcement, less defensive medicine practiced in the emergency departments of local hospitals, easing the costs of medical care for these individuals, and more continuity of care in the community. Other phases have been accomplished and future phases include legislative change for blended funding, an integrated crisis stabilization unit for co-occurring disorders, and a specialized adolescent unit for law enforcement to divert youth from arrest who exhibit substance use or mental health disorders.