

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Space Coast Region
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program

**Brevard County Behavioral Health
Transportation Plan**

In accordance with

Florida Mental Health Act
(Baker Act)
Florida Statute 394.462 (4)
2022-2027

**SPACE COAST REGION SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
BREVARD COUNTY BAKER ACT
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part I, Florida Mental Health Act, or the “Baker Act”, Brevard County developed a Transportation Plan (“TP”) to organize a centralized system for acute care services. The Plan was developed by members of the Brevard County Fire Rescue Department with input from the Brevard County-funded transportation provider, local emergency departments, Brevard County Sheriff’s Office, and local Police Chiefs. The Plan does not address the transport of non-acute interfacility transfers between Behavioral Health hospitals, to include outside Brevard County.

The intent of requesting this plan was congruent with Fla. Stat. § 394.462 and to ensure that all system participants understand the following process:

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within a district, which may include an exception to the requirement for transportation to the nearest appropriate receiving facility.
2. An arrangement by which a facility may provide, in addition to required psychiatric 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 minors.
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.
4. A system designed for consistency in service delivery and coordination to clearly align the roles and responsibilities between service providers.

HISTORY/PURPOSE

October 1, 2020 the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners renewed the agreement with the Brevard County-funded transport exclusive provider, Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Inc. (CHSB). This contract was entered and has continued to be renewed every 5 years since the initial contract in 1988. This contract was requested by the Brevard County Fire and Rescue Department in order to transport mental health patients from hospitals and appropriate medical facilities in Brevard County to hospitals and mental health facilities in and out of Brevard County. Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Inc. is the only licensed transport service within Brevard County that can handle these types of transport services.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are expected to be met by establishing a TP in Brevard County:

- Implement a coordinated system of transportation and access to psychiatric services for children and adults under a Baker Act order and substance abuse services for adults under a Marchman Act order in Brevard County.
- Provide specialized services to children.
- Provide a dignified, humane, and streamlined method of transportation to and among acute care facilities, and for individuals in need of acute psychiatric care from nursing homes, assisted living facilities or other residential settings.
- Assist law enforcement and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider in the efficient transport of individuals in need of services to the most appropriate facility when transporting from the pre-hospital setting.

- Assist the Brevard County-funded transportation provider or a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility.
- Enhance the ability to fully utilize the capacity of acute care services in the county and reduce the unnecessary delay of transfers between facilities.
- Ensure continuity and coordination of care among providers.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the Brevard County Behavioral Health TP requires that law enforcement agencies in Brevard County or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider transport individuals in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to the receiving facility directed by this TP rather than the “nearest receiving facility.” This plan does not address patients who are seeking mental health or substance abuse services on a voluntary basis. However, if a transport is required, the same shall apply as it pertains to the use of the Brevard County-funded transportation provider.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

Transportation Plan Population

Children and Adolescents Who Are Under the Age of 18

The TP addresses the needs of children and adolescents. Law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider will transport individuals under the age of 18 to the designated children’s receiving facility:

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Circles of Care	400 E. Sheridan Road, Melbourne	321-722-5222

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Palm Point Behavioral Health	2355 Truman Scarborough Way, Titusville	321-603-6550

To expedite the screening and assessment process, law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider can call the facility prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, birth date, social security number, apparent medical/mental concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

The transportation for individuals under the age of 18 suffering from substance abuse or mental health issues may also be transported by a law enforcement agency or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider to the most appropriate designated receiving facility.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

Adults Who Are Age 18-64

The TP addresses the needs of adults that are age 18 - 64. Law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider will transport individuals that are age 18-64 as follows:

NORTH of SR 520 LEO Baker Act Transports

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Palm Point Behavioral Health	2355 Truman Scarborough Way, Titusville	321-603-6550

SOUTH of SR 520 LEO Baker Act Transports

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Circles of Care	880 Dr. Martin Luther King, Blvd, Melbourne	321-914-0640
	400 E. Sheridan Road, Melbourne	321-722-5222

Non-LEO driven Baker Acts will be transported to the designated facility on the Baker Act Form 52.

In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider can call the facility prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, date of birth, social security number, apparent medical/mental concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

Individuals Who Are Age 65 and Older

The TP addresses the needs of individuals who are age 65 and older. Law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider will transport individuals that are age 65 and older as follows:

NORTH of SR 520 LEO Baker Act Transports

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Palm Point Behavioral Health	2355 Truman Scarborough Way, Titusville	321-603-6550

SOUTH of SR 520 LEO Baker Act Transports

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Circles of Care	880 Dr. Martin Luther King, Blvd, Melbourne	321-914-0640
	400 E. Sheridan Road, Melbourne	321-722-5222

Non-LEO driven Baker Acts will be transported to the designated facility on the Baker Act Form 52.

In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider can call the facility prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, date of birth, social security

number, apparent medical/mental concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication. The Brevard County-funded transportation provider may instead elect to transmit a radio report when transporting to Rockledge Regional Medical Center.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

Adults Who Are Currently Incarcerated

The TP addresses the needs of adults who are currently incarcerated. If the Brevard County Jail Complex, through their Behavioral Health Services provider, determines there is a need to have an inmate transported to a receiving facility, arrangements will be made with the Brevard County funded transportation provider to transport the individual to the appropriate receiving facility for further examination and treatment. Adults currently incarcerated in need of Baker Act services will be transported to the following designated receiving facility:

Facility	Address	Phone Number
Circles of Care	880 Dr. Martin Luther King, Blvd, Melbourne	321-914-0640

To expedite the screening and admission process, law enforcement or the Brevard County funded transportation provider can call the facility prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, name, age, date of birth, social security number, apparent mental health concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

Transport for persons with mental illness may also include transportation between the County Detention Center and a designated receiving or treatment facility. However, authorized transportation under this paragraph does not include transportation of an inmate undergoing a psychological evaluation for competency or insanity defense purposes pursuant to Fla. R. Crim. Proc. 3.210-3.219, nor does it include transportation of individuals placed under arrest for any criminal act. The funded transportation provider has the right to refuse a transport request from the Detention Center when the client is under a “hold order” (Client must be returned to the Detention Center).

Customer Choice

When possible, an individual who presents at either Baker Act Receiving Facility, to law enforcement, or an emergency care center should have a choice, or the family should have a choice, of which provider the individual receives services from in Brevard County. The individual's preferred health insurance provider also guides this decision. If deemed to be in a need of inpatient services, the individual is transported to the receiving facility where his/her insurance benefits cover the cost of inpatient care, if requested by the individual or their family, when at all possible. Clinical and public safety circumstances are always assessed in the process.

MOBILE RESPONSE TEAMS

Law enforcement officers responding to a mental health crisis for individuals may request the services of the Mobile Response Team (MRT) by contacting Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Inc. at (321) 213-0315. Mobile response services are available 24/7 by a group of mental health professionals who are trained in crisis intervention skills. Services include evaluation and assessment, development of safety or crisis plans, providing or facilitating stabilization services,

supportive crisis counseling, education, development of coping skills, and linkage to appropriate resources.

BAKER ACT TRANSPORTATION

Law enforcement agencies in Brevard County and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider remain the responsible parties to transport those individuals in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to the appropriate receiving facilities.

When an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, Brevard County Fire Rescue will transport the individual being detained under a Baker Act order, from the scene, to the nearest emergency care center for medical stabilization. *If the individual is stable and not requiring immediate attention for life threatening injuries or illness, the law enforcement officer instituting the Baker Act will ensure that the necessary paperwork is provided to the transport agency before the individual is transported to the hospital.* When the individual has been stabilized, the emergency care center may call the Brevard County-funded transportation provider to transport to the appropriate destination.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

The County's 911 transport provider (Brevard County Fire Rescue) will only transport from a pre-hospital setting if the individual is experiencing an acute medical illness or injury that requires evaluation by an emergency department physician. If the individual is not suffering from an acute medical illness or injury, the law enforcement agency or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider will be responsible for transporting the individual to the appropriate medical facility.

When any law enforcement officer has custody of a person based on either noncriminal or minor criminal behavior that meets the statutory guidelines for involuntary examination pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 394.463, the law enforcement officer or the Brevard County funded transportation provider shall transport the person to the appropriate receiving facility as listed above before transporting the person to the Brevard County Jail Complex if a custodial arrest was made as to the charges.

Upon completion of treatment for individuals who are designated "on hold" as a result of being arrested prior to treatment, the receiving facility is required to contact original arresting officer or agency to arrange for transportation to the Brevard County Jail Complex. Upon completion of treatment for individuals who are designated "on hold" as a result of being booked into the Brevard County Jail Complex prior to treatment, the receiving facility is required to contact the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to arrange for transportation to the Brevard County Jail Complex. If an individual being detained by a Baker Act is combative or uncooperative, that individual may be placed in physical restraints in accordance with Baker Act guidelines or a physician's orders.

When any law enforcement officer has arrested a person for a felony, a violent misdemeanor, or an offense for which the arrestee should be held without bond before initial appearance, and it appears that the person meets the statutory guidelines for involuntary examination or placement under Fla. Stat. Ch. 394, the law enforcement officer will transport the person for processing at the Brevard County Jail Complex in the same manner as any other criminal suspect. The law enforcement officer shall thereafter immediately notify the appropriate receiving facility that will be responsible for promptly arranging (within 24 hours) for the examination and treatment of the person. The initial evaluation may be made remotely through the Brevard County Jail Complex communications provider or in person as preferred by the receiving facility. If the receiving facility determines that treatment is required and that the receiving facility is able to provide adequate security, the Brevard County funded transportation provider shall transport the inmate to the appropriate receiving facility for further examination and treatment. If the receiving facility

determines that it is unable to provide adequate security, the receiving facility shall provide examination and treatment to the person where he or she is held.

Once an individual is in a facility, there are occasions when that individual needs to be discharged from one facility and transferred to another facility. Transportation between facilities is coordinated by the transferring facility. The Brevard County-funded transportation will facilitate the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility and shall be the only authorized agents responsible for providing these services regardless of the county the patient is being transferred to as long as the patient originates from Brevard County. Law enforcement is not responsible to transport individuals from one facility to another unless the individual has criminal charges. In that case, law enforcement shall be notified prior to transfer and will provide the transportation.

MARCHMAN ACT TRANSPORTATION

The TP also addresses and clarifies Marchman Act transportation by law enforcement and the Brevard County-funded transportation provider to the appropriate designated receiving facility.

If an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider is required to transport the individual being detained under a Marchman Act order to the nearest hospital for medical stabilization. If the individual is being transported from a pre-hospital setting by Emergency Medical Services and *the individual is stable and not requiring immediate attention for life threatening injuries or illness, the law enforcement officer instituting the Marchman Act will ensure that the necessary paperwork is provided to the transport agency before the individual is transported to the hospital.* When the individual has been stabilized, the hospital will call the Brevard County-funded transportation provider or law enforcement agency instituting the Marchman Act to transport the individual to the appropriate designated receiving facility.

If the individual being detained by a Marchman Act order is combative or uncooperative, law enforcement transports the individual directly to the Brevard County Jail.

- *When the funded transportation provider is not able to facilitate the transport a non-emergency licensed agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility may be requested by the hospital facility.*

The County's 911 transport provider (Brevard County Fire Rescue) will only transport from a pre-hospital setting if the individual is experiencing an acute medical illness or injury that requires evaluation by an emergency department physician. If the individual is not suffering from an acute medical illness or injury, the law enforcement agency or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider will be responsible for transporting the individual to the appropriate medical facility.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the Brevard County Behavioral Health TP requires that law enforcement agencies in Brevard County or the Brevard County-funded transportation provider transport individuals in need of mental health services under the Marchman Act to the receiving facility directed by this TP rather than the "nearest receiving facility." This plan does not address patients who are seeking mental health or substance abuse services on a voluntary basis. However, if a transport is required, the same shall apply as it pertains to the use of the Brevard County-funded transportation provider.

MEDICAL STABILIZATION

The Brevard County Baker Act Transportation Plan (TP) Advisory Committee maintains and revises the medical exclusionary guidelines that are used to assist in determining the most appropriate inpatient setting for psychiatric patients requiring hospitalization. These guidelines are used among all the community partners to ensure that individuals who are assessed to need

medical care are treated in a hospital. Once the individual is medically stabilized, the medical facility determines the appropriate Baker Act receiving Facility. Transportation from one facility to another is coordinated by the transferring facility. The Brevard County-funded transportation provider will facilitate the the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility and shall be the only authorized agents within Brevard County and will provide this service. Law enforcement is not responsible to transport from one facility to another.

If a jail-hold patient is currently under a Baker Act and at the receiving facility and is in need of medical attention, the facility will coordinate with law enforcement for transportation to the hospital of the Sheriff's Office choice.

BAKER ACT TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Brevard County Baker Act Transportation Plan (TP) Advisory Committee is to discuss the operation of the TP. The committee meets regularly to review grievances and assurance of patient rights as related to the TP.

The Baker Act TP Advisory Committee is comprised of, but not limited to, representatives of the following agencies:

- Brevard County Fire/EMS
- Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Inc.
- Circles of Care
- Law Enforcement
- Health First, Inc.
- Rockledge Regional Medical Center
- Parish Medical Center
- Palm Point Behavioral Health

BAKER ACT RECEIVING FACILITIES AND BOUNDARIES

- **Circles of Care:** located at 880 Airport Rd., Melbourne, FL 32901 is a receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- **Circles of Care:** located at 400 East Sheridan Rd. Melbourne, FL 32901 is a receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- **Palm Point Behavioral Health:** located at 2355 Truman Scarborough Way, Titusville, FL is a receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

When a Baker Act patient is transferred from a law enforcement officer to the Brevard County-funded transportation provider, the following boundaries will be used in determining Baker Act facility transport destination:

- **North of King's Highway** (State Road 520) to the county-line (North) Baker Act patients will be transported to Palm Point Behavioral Health.
- **South of King's Highway** (State Road 520) to the county line (South) Baker Act patients will be transported to Circles of Care.

As it pertains to transporting a patient to the in-county juvenile receiving facilities:

- **North of King's Highway** (State Road 520) will be transported to Palm Point Behavioral Health.
- **South of King's Highway** (State Road 520) will be transported to Circles of Care.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

If there is an obvious major medical condition presented to law enforcement, individuals will be transported by EMS directly to the nearest emergency room in Brevard County to be treated and assessed for further disposition. The current emergency hospital/medical centers are:

- Palm Bay Community Hospital
1425 Malabar Road, Northeast Palm Bay, FL 32907
- Holmes Regional Medical Center
1350 Hickory Street, Melbourne, FL 32901
- Melbourne Regional Medical Center
250 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32935
- Viera Hospital
8745 N. Wickham Road, Viera, FL 32940
- Rockledge Regional Medical Center
110 Longwood Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955
- Cape Canaveral Hospital
701 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
- Parrish Medical Center
951 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville, FL 32796

SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

Complaints and grievances would be reviewed by the Brevard County Baker Act Transportation Plan (TP) Advisory Committee in collaboration with state/county/local officials, and resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant whenever possible. The Advisory Committee implements necessary actions in response to its ongoing reviews and any public or Department of Children and Families reviews. The Advisory Committee will review this document on annual basis. Any updates will be approved by the County Commissioners and updated with the Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office.

The Space Coast Region Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office (the Department) is responsible for providing oversight to the Baker Act System in Brevard County. The Department monitors this TP annually. The Department has the authority to resolve issues concerning the Baker Act. The Department also receives client grievances or complaints directly from clients. The Department is available to mediate interagency problems as well as coordinate other services needed for clients beyond acute care services. The Department also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration.

INTERORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION

The previously mentioned community partners have shown a commitment to improve the access of Brevard County residents to the acute care services system. The success of this plan has been possible with the long-term commitment of all community partners. There is continuous oversight by the Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Region office to ensure that all services outlined here by the Public Baker Act Receiving Facilities meet the standards as outlined by Florida Statute. The benefit of a coordinated system of care is less fragmentation of services and a more efficient and cost-effective methods of providing care. The provisions outlined in this plan have decreased unnecessary transports of individuals by law enforcement or the Brevard County-funded or approved transportation provider to an incorrect facility, reduces the number of transfers between facilities, and reduces the need for area hospitals to treat those individuals who need to be in a more appropriate setting.

For questions or concerns related to this plan, please contact the Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Region office attention:

Mary Harmon, MPA
Florida Department of Children and Families - SAMH
Substance Abuse Licensing and Designation Supervisor
400 West Robinson Street, Suite S-1106
Orlando, Florida 32801
Office: 407-317-7066
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DEFINITIONS

Baker Act:

The Florida Mental Health Act. Florida Statute 394.

Marchman Act:

The Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act. Florida Statute 397.

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 [s. 394.455(26) F.S.]

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.

Non-Emergency Transport Provider:

A non-emergency ambulatory transport agency capable of meeting the client's transport needs between the discharging hospital and a mental health receiving facility. The following transport agencies shall only be used to transport clients that have been discharged from a hospital facility and do not require medical assistance or monitoring throughout transport between facilities.