

CONTRACT, LEASE, AGREEMENT CONTROL FORM

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Procurement#: NA

Contract/Lease Type: AGREEMENT

Award To/Lessee: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECEIVING SYSTEM

Owner/Lessor: OKALOOSA COUNTY

Effective Date: 07/01/2023

Expiration Date: 06/30/2026 W/RENEWALS

Description of: OKALOOSA COUNTY BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Department: PS

Department Monitor: MADDOX

Monitor's Telephone #: 850-651-7180

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Closed:

Cc: BCC RECORDS

Okaloosa County Transportation Plan

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Background / Purpose:

In accordance with Section 394.462, Florida Statutes (2016) (a portion of The Florida Mental Health Act or commonly referred to as “The Baker Act”), Okaloosa County, Florida hereby submits this Okaloosa County Transportation Plan (“Plan”). This Plan serves as a vital component of the comprehensive plan for a Coordinated Receiving System in Okaloosa County, Florida to meet the behavioral health needs of persons in crisis due to mental and/or substance use conditions. (* For purposes of clarity in utilizing this Plan, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment “1” are definitions.)

The Plan, along with an accurate inventory of designated receiving facilities and related public resources to provide care for persons in need of behavioral health acute care services, shall be maintained and available to law enforcement and to first responders, per Section 394.4573(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

This Plan takes effect on July 1, 2023 and the County, Managing Entity and community partners shall review and update the designated receiving system plan as necessary and at least once every 3 years. (When this plan goes into effect, all previous transportation plans and MOUs regarding transportation will be null and void.)

This Twelve (12) page Memorandum of Agreement is not a binding contract. It is an expression of cooperation for the purpose of providing services to clients and coordinating activities to the extent possible and as allowed by law. No contract rights attach to this MOA for any of the parties or for any third party beneficiaries. This Memorandum of Agreement is effective upon signing and shall end two years from date of final signature unless extended in writing by the parties. A party may terminate their involvement in the memorandum without cause upon written notice to the remaining parties.

Objectives for the plan are to:

- a. Support the designated receiving system for acute care to provide screening and triage, comprehensive assessments and immediate access to services for Okaloosa County.
- b. Support diversion from inpatient acute care through outpatient crisis intervention, referral, linkage, and recovery support.
- c. Provide a dignified, humane, and efficient method of transportation to and among acute care and medical facilities, including for persons from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or other residential settings.
- d. Divert admissions from hospital emergency rooms, and maintain updated policies on medical clearance.
- e. Provide an appropriate alternative to jails and criminal justice system involvement for persons with behavioral health disorders.

- f. Provide a range of acute care services to treat persons in the least restrictive setting in the community, avoiding state psychiatric civil or forensic hospital admissions

Guidance:

- a. Florida Statute 394, Florida Mental Health Act
- b. Florida Statute 397, Hal S Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act.
- c. Florida Statute 394.4573 Coordinated System of Care
- d. Florida Statute 394.463 Involuntary Examination
- e. Florida Statute 394.462. Transportation
- f. Florida Statute 1003.573 Seclusion and restrain of students with disabilities in public schools
- g. Florida Statute 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights. Notification of involuntary examinations

Okaloosa County's Designated Receiving System (DRS)

Section 394.4573, Florida Statutes requires counties to plan a designated receiving system using a process that includes the Managing Entity, service providers, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders; and to document the designated receiving system plan. Section 394.4573(2)(b), Florida Statutes outlines three (3) possible organizational structures that a county or counties may adopt to fulfill the functions of a no-wrong-door model that responds to individual needs and integrates services among various providers. Those models include:

- a. A central receiving system that consists of a central receiving facility that serves as a single entry point for persons with mental health or substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders. The central receiving facility shall be capable of assessment, evaluation, and triage or treatment or stabilization of persons with mental health or substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.
- b. A coordinated receiving system that consists of multiple entry points that are linked by shared data systems, formal referral agreements, and cooperative arrangements for care coordination and case management. Each entry point shall be a designated receiving facility and shall, within existing resources, provide or arrange for necessary services following an initial assessment and evaluation.
- c. A tiered receiving system that consists of multiple entry points, some of which offer only specialized or limited services. Each service provider shall be classified according to its capabilities as either a designated receiving facility or another type of service provider, such as a triage center, a licensed detoxification facility, or an access center. All participating service providers shall, within existing resources, be linked by methods to share data, formal referral agreements, and cooperative arrangements for care coordination and case management.

The designated receiving system for Okaloosa County is best described as a “coordinated receiving system”. While there are currently no formal agreements or electronic data sharing between providers, but the providers operate under cooperative agreements and exchange information as necessary to ensure appropriate coordination of care.

Community Need and Support:

The following are organizations that support the Okaloosa County Transportation Plan and agree to implement the coordinated system and continue to collaborate to ensure a receiving system that functions as a “no wrong door” model for acute care encompassing screening, triage and assessment and supports a recovery-oriented system of care that addresses the needs of persons with behavioral health disorders through comprehensive, integrated services.

Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety,
Okaloosa County Jail
City of Crestview Police Department
City of Niceville Police Department
City of Fort Walton Beach Police Department
City of Valparaiso Police Department
Town of Shalimar Police Department
North Okaloosa Medical Center
Bridgeway Center
Lakeview Center (A division of Lifeview Group)
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
HCA Fort Walton-Destin
Okaloosa County Court Administration
Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Northwest Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office
NWF Health Network, NW Region Managing Entity

Accessing the Designated Receiving System

Sections 394.4625, 394.463, 397.601, and 397.675, Florida Statutes outline the different ways persons may access acute care services through the designated receiving system. Involuntary assessment and stabilization may be initiated by the following means:

- a. Ex parte order issued by a circuit or county court. In those cases, law enforcement shall take the person into custody and deliver him or her to the appropriate facility within the designated receiving system.
- b. A physician, clinical psychologist, physician's assistant, psychiatric nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, licensed mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, or, for substance abuse services only, a master's level certified addictions professional, may execute a professional certificate. Professionals who initiate a certificate for emergency admission under F.S. § 397.679

must indicate whether the person requires transportation assistance for delivery for emergency admission and specify the type of assistance necessary.

- c. Protective custody: A law enforcement officer may take a person who appears to meet criteria for involuntary examination or assessment into custody and transport him or her to the appropriate facility within the designated receiving system, executing a written report of the circumstances. (When the criteria involve substance use, F.S. § 397.6772(1)(b) allows law enforcement to detain adults in jail for their own protection, which is not considered an arrest. Such detention is not to be considered an arrest for any purpose, and no entry or other record may be made to indicate that the person has been detained or charged with any crime. The officer in charge of the detention facility must notify the nearest appropriate licensed service provider within the first 8 hours after detention that the person has been detained. It is the duty of the detention facility to arrange, as necessary, for transportation of the person to an appropriate licensed service provider with an available bed. Persons taken into protective custody must be assessed by the attending physician within the 72-hour period and without unnecessary delay, to determine the need for further services.)

Designated Law Enforcement Entities

The following are the designated law enforcement entities to implement the requirements of this Plan and shall serve the jurisdictional areas listed below:

Okaloosa County Department of Corrections: All of incorporated and unincorporated Okaloosa County, FL

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office: All of incorporated and unincorporated Okaloosa County, FL

Crestview Police Department: All areas incorporated into City of Crestview, FL

City of Niceville Police Department: All areas incorporated into City of Niceville, FL

City of Valparaiso Police Department: All areas incorporated into City of Valparaiso, FL

Town of Shalimar Police Department: All areas incorporated into City of Shalimar, FL

City of Fort Walton Beach Police Department: All areas incorporated into City of Fort Walton Beach, FL

Facilities

- a. Receiving Facilities: The receiving facility for Okaloosa County is HCA Fort-Walton / Destin. **This facility accepts any youth or adult who has been placed under Baker Act or Marchman Act for involuntary examination.**
- b. Emergency Rooms: Emergency Rooms accept those individuals under **Marchman Act**
 - 1. North Okaloosa Medical Center: 151 E Redstone Ave, Crestview
 - 2. Twin Cities Hospital: 2190 Hwy 85 N Niceville,
 - 3. Destin Emergency Care Center: 200 Tequesta Dr. Destin

Transportation to a facility (Receiving Facility or Emergency Room):

Florida Statute 394.462 states: "Each county shall designate a single law enforcement agency within the county or portions thereof to take a person into custody upon the entry of an ex parte

order or the execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional and to transport that person to the appropriate facility within the designated receiving system pursuant to a transportation plan.

The committee responsible for developing the plan for Okaloosa County has determined:

Baker Act / Marchman Act Transportation:

Population /	Type	Transporting Agency	Destination
Adult Baker Act / Community	Ex Parte, Prof. certificate (i.e. MRT/doctor) Protective Custody outside of city limits	Okaloosa Sheriff's Office (OCSO)	Nearest Receiving Facility (HCA Fort Walton / Destin)
Adult Baker Act / Community	Protective custody within city limits	PD from City (Ft. Walton, Niceville, Crestview, Shalimar, Valparaiso)	Nearest Receiving Facility (HCA Fort Walton / Destin)
Youth Baker Act / Community	Ex Parte, Prof. Certificate Protective custody outside of city limits	Okaloosa Sheriff's Office (OCSO)	Nearest Receiving Facility (HCA Fort Walton / Destin, Emerald Coast)
Youth Baker Act / Community	Protective custody within city limits	PD from City (Ft. Walton, Niceville, Crestview, Shalimar, Valparaiso)	Nearest Receiving Facility (HCA Fort Walton / Destin)
Marchman Act / Adult	Ex Parte, Prof. Certificate Protective custody outside of city limits	Okaloosa Sheriff's Office (OCSO)	Nearest Facility-ER (Twin Cities, Destin Em. Care Center, North Okaloosa Medical Center)or Receiving Facility (HCA Ft Walton / Destin, Emerald Coast)
Marchman Act / Youth	Protective custody within city limits	PD from City (Ft. Walton, Niceville, Crestview, Shalimar, Valparaiso)	Nearest Facility-ER (Twin Cities, Destin Em. Care Center, North Okaloosa Medical Center)or Receiving Facility (HCA Ft Walton / Destin, Emerald Coast)

*Community: Any non-medical setting in the community: home, school, doctor's office, etc.

Baker Act Transportation:

Law enforcement agencies in Okaloosa County will remain the responsible parties to transport those individuals in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to the appropriate receiving facilities.

If an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, Okaloosa Emergency Medical Services is required to transport the individual being detained under a Baker Act order to the nearest appropriate emergency care center for medical stabilization, including Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville, Destin Emergency Care Center in Destin, North Okaloosa Medical Center in Crestview, and Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast. When the individual has been stabilized, the emergency care center may arrange transportation for Okaloosa County EMS to transport to the appropriate destination.

Law enforcement will transport individuals who meet the criteria for involuntary examination under the Baker Act directly to the Okaloosa County Jail if charged with a felony crime. Once the individual has completed the booking process, the Okaloosa County Jail shall be responsible for promptly arranging for the examination of the individual by the appropriate receiving facility.

Individuals who meet the criteria for involuntary examination and who are in custody under the Baker Act for misdemeanor or non-felony criminal traffic offenses shall be transported to the appropriate receiving facility prior to being booked on the criminal charges. Law enforcement will inform the personnel at the receiving facility of any pending criminal charges of a patient taken into custody under the Baker Act.

For youth at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or committed to a DJJ facility, Okaloosa County Detention Center or DJJ Facility personnel will be responsible for transportation. The individual should remain under DJJ supervision with the exception of a court order and the agreement by an inpatient setting that they are able to manage any safety factors.

Once an individual is in a facility, there will be occasions when that individual needs to be transferred from one facility to another. Transportation between facilities will be coordinated by the transferring facility. Okaloosa County EMS or other County-funded transportation provider may provide this service if approved by the County. Upon completion of treatment for individuals who are designated a Baker Act and have pending misdemeanor or non-felony criminal traffic offenses, the receiving facility will be required to contact the law enforcement agency that brought the patient to the receiving facility prior to their release.

Marchman Act Transportation:

If an individual is detained under the Marchman Act, and has no medical issue or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, law enforcement is required to transport the individual to the nearest hospital emergency department, including Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville, Destin Emergency Care Center in Destin, North Okaloosa Medical Center, and Sacred Heart hospital on the Emerald Coast, or receiving facility for involuntary assessment.

If an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, Emergency Medical Services is required to transport the individual being detained under a Marchman Act order to the nearest appropriate hospital emergency department or receiving facility.

If the individual being detained by a Marchman Act order is combative, law enforcement will transport the individual to a facility appropriate for the detainee.

Choice

Law Enforcement and Okaloosa County EMS will transport all individuals requiring behavioral health services to the Receiving Facilities as designated by the Florida Department of Children and Families. From here the Designated Receiving Facilities will collaborate with other crisis stabilization units to appropriately place individuals where needs can be met.

Transportation –General

Upon entry of an appropriate order or execution of a certificate of a certificate for involuntary examination the designated law enforcement agency, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, shall take into custody and transport all covered individuals, which includes adults and youth under the age of 18 subject to either an involuntary Baker Act or Involuntary Marchman Act order, to a Receiving Facility or Hospital Emergency Department (in the case of a Marchman Act) where custody of the covered individual shall be promptly transferred to the Facility. The parties further acknowledge that other law enforcement agencies take patients into custody pursuant to the Baker Act and Marchman Act. The terms of this Agreement shall apply to all law enforcement offices within the geographical area served by FWBMC.

The law enforcement officer, who initiates custody of a person under the Baker Act, and in which case there are no acute medical concerns requiring ambulance transport to the nearest hospital, shall deliver the patient to the nearest receiving facility unless otherwise stipulated by amendment to this plan, or when doing so compromises the health, safety, and welfare of individual in custody, or when doing so compromises the immediate operational integrity of the transporting law enforcement agency.

The law enforcement officer, who initiates custody of a person under the involuntary Marchman Act, and in which case there are no acute medical concerns requiring ambulance transport, shall deliver the patient to the nearest hospital emergency department or receiving facility, unless otherwise stipulated by amendment to this plan, or when doing so compromises the health, safety, and welfare of individual in custody, or when doing so compromises the immediate operational integrity of the transporting law enforcement agency.

Law enforcement will only be called upon for medical facility to medical facility transports in extreme/special circumstances where patients who are extremely violent or pose a risk to the safety of medical staff.

When possible, either the law enforcement officer or dispatch will place a courtesy telephone call to the facility to alert the staff at the nearest receiving facility or hospital emergency department that the officer is in route. The receiving facility or hospital emergency department will neither instruct nor request the law enforcement officer to take the individual to any other facility.

Transportation in need of Medical Treatment- General

When individuals in Okaloosa County need acute medical treatment the designated law enforcement

agency may request the assistance from Okaloosa County EMS which shall handle the individual's medical treatment in accordance with the Okaloosa County EMS Medical Transport Protocols and transported by ambulance to the closest appropriate facility for medical care (either FWBMC, NOMC, TCH, DECC, or SHHEC).

Okaloosa County EMS and designated law enforcement shall comply with all applicable state laws and rules to ensure the safety and dignity of all persons in its custody.

Funding:

Per FS394.362 The entity providing transportation may seek reimbursement for transportation expenses. (The order of seeking reimbursement can be found in the statute)

Transfer of custody:

Custody of a person who is transported along with related documentation, shall be relinquished to a responsible individual at the appropriate receiving or treatment facility. The goal is an efficient process so Law Enforcement and EMS are able to quickly return to their duties in the community.

Community Treatment and Support:

Crisis Intervention Team:

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has implemented a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program involving multiple law enforcement agencies in Okaloosa County. The program is based on the Memphis Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), an innovative police based first responder program that has become nationally known as the "Memphis Model" of pre-arrest jail diversion for those in behavioral health crisis. The program provides law enforcement based crisis intervention training for helping those individuals with behavioral health disorders. CIT works in partnership with those in behavioral health care to provide a system of services that is welcoming to individuals with behavioral health disorders, family members, and the police officers.

The CIT model includes forty (40) hours of training incorporating modules on: (1) The Baker Act; (2) The Marchman Act; (3) the Transportation Plan; (4) signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse impairment; (5) intervening with persons in behavioral health crisis; (6) de-escalation skills; (7) persons to be served and family viewpoints and interaction; and (8) other vital skills.

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MRT):

Lakeview Center's Mobile Response Teams help reduce the impact of mental health emergencies through immediate response to crisis situations at the street-level through the coordination and consultation with local public safety organizations, hospitals and other community groups. Clinicians deliver crisis intervention services at locations (or via telehealth) throughout the community (suicide, homicide, threats, drug abuse, evaluation for psychiatric hospitalization).

Care Coordination:

Care Coordination is a time-limited service that assists individuals with behavioral health conditions who are not effectively engaged with case management or other behavioral health services and supports.

Care Coordination is intended for individuals who demonstrate high utilization of acute care services, including crisis stabilization, inpatient, and inpatient detoxification services. However, Care Coordination is also intended to avert high utilization of such services. Therefore, Care Coordination can be uniquely tailored to serve a broad spectrum of individuals from both a system level and provider level. Both adult and youth care coordination services are provided by Bridgeway Center.

Inpatient Psychiatric

Facility	Capacity	Address
HCA Fort Walton / Destin	Inpatient Psychiatric 53 Adult Beds	1000 Mar Walt Dr Fort Walton, FL 850-862-1111
Baptist Hospital/ Behavioral Medicine	Inpatient Psychiatric 60 Adult Beds 26 Pediatric Beds	1000 W Moreno St Pensacola, FL 850-434-4011
Baptist Hospital (after move)	Inpatient Psychiatric (Total capacity is 72) 36 adults 10 Senior 26 pediatric (All beds are private and 6 adult beds can easily be shifted to accommodate pediatric need.)	123 Baptist Way, Pensacola FL
Emerald Coast Behavioral	86 adult beds 18 Pediatric Beds	850-785-0017 1940 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, FL
HCA Florida West / Pavilion	Inpatient Psychiatric 56 Adult beds	8383 N Davis Hwy, Pensacola, FL 850-494-5001

System Oversight:

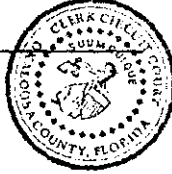
In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, personnel from the Okaloosa County Department of Safety, Okaloosa County hospitals, and Okaloosa County law enforcement agencies will regularly meet. The Department of Children and Families, and the Okaloosa County stakeholders listed above have the authority to resolve issues concerning the Plan, approve interagency agreements, as well as coordinate other services needed for individuals beyond acute care services.

NWF Health Network/Managing Entity:


Christa Pate, Circuit 1 Administrator

ATTEST:

By: 
For J.D. Peacock II, Clerk



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert A. "Trey" Goodwin III, Chairman

Date: JUN 06 2023



Attachment 1

Definitions

Designated receiving facility means a facility approved by the department which may be a public or private hospital, crisis stabilization unit, or addictions receiving facility; which provides, at a minimum, emergency screening, evaluation, and short-term stabilization for mental health or substance abuse disorders; and which may have an agreement with a corresponding facility for transportation and services.

Detoxification facility means a facility licensed to provide detoxification services under chapter 397.

Facility means any hospital, community facility, public or private facility, or receiving or treatment facility providing for the evaluation, diagnosis, care, treatment, training, or hospitalization of persons who appear to have or who have been diagnosed as having a mental illness or substance abuse impairment. The term does not include a program or an entity licensed under chapter 400 or chapter 429.

Involuntary examination means an examination performed under s. 394.463, s. 397.6772, s. 397.679, s. 397.6798, or s. 397.6811 to determine whether a person qualifies for involuntary services.

Mental illness means an impairment of the mental or emotional processes that exercise conscious control of one's actions or of the ability to perceive or understand reality, which impairment substantially interferes with the person's ability to meet the ordinary demands of living. For the purposes of this part, the term does not include a developmental disability as defined in chapter 393, intoxication, or conditions manifested only by dementia, traumatic brain injury, antisocial behavior, or substance abuse.

Mobile crisis response service means a nonresidential crisis service available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week which provides immediate intensive assessments and interventions, including screening for admission into a mental health receiving facility, an addictions receiving facility, or a detoxification facility, for the purpose of identifying appropriate treatment services.

Patient means any person, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, who is held or accepted for mental health treatment.

Private facility means a hospital or facility operated by a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation or association which provides mental health or substance abuse services and is not a public facility.

Public facility means a facility that has contracted with the department to provide mental health services to all persons, regardless of ability to pay, and is receiving state funds for such purpose.

Receiving facility means a public or private facility or hospital designated by the department to receive and hold or refer, as appropriate, involuntary patients under emergency conditions for mental health or substance abuse evaluation and to provide treatment or transportation to the appropriate service provider. The term does not include a county jail.