



## COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. The first meeting of every month is at 9:30AM while the second meeting of every month takes place at 5:30PM. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 3/6/2023 Meeting Date: 3/23/2023

Name: Ellen Snyder Department: BCC Administration

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ellen Snyder", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

### 1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the "Baker Act", Florida Statute Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of 1993, and Senate Bill 12, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. Every 3 years, the County reviews, updates and submits the Behavioral Health Transportation Plan. The Sheriff Office and the Fire and Rescue Department have recommended changes to the plan to strike Lake Shore Hospital and reflect actual practices.

### 2. Recommended Motion/Action:

Approve 2023 Columbia County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

### 3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

2020

COLUMBIA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
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## **Columbia County Behavioral Health**

### **Plan Introduction**

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, Florida Statute Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of 1993, and Senate Bill 12, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. This plan has been developed by community stakeholders listed on page four. This transportation plan requires approval by the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, LSF Health Systems and the Department of Children and Families. Upon approval this document will serve as the transportation plan for Columbia County per legislative intent. The intent of this plan is: 1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within a 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**

The Columbia County Transportation Plan has been successfully implemented. In the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Columbia 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 Columbia County 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. Coordination of services among providers in Columbia County will continue to meet individual needs. The Plan calls for all law enforcement agencies in Columbia County to transport:

1. Adults on an involuntary Baker Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Lake City**
2. Adults on an involuntary Marchman Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Lake City**
3. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Baker Act **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Lake City**

4. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Marchman Act to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare Lake City**

**System Capacity**

- **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.:** located at 439 Michigan Ave. Lake City, FL 32025 is a receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

**Choice**

Meridian will take into consideration individual choice when making a determination of which Baker Act receiving facility can best serve the individual. Veterans may be transported at the discretion of Law Enforcement to the Gainesville VA. All persons on an involuntary Marchman Act are to be transported to **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Lake City**.

**System Oversight**

~~In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, personnel from the County, County EMS, Sheriff's office, Lake City Police Department, Meridian and LSF (the region's managing entity) will regularly meet.~~

The area's hospitals, Lake City Medical and ~~Shands Lake Shore~~ Center shall also be members of this group as community stakeholders. The Northeast Region Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office and LSF Health Systems is 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 Regional office also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration if issues arise beyond the department's authority. The 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 provider, The County has engaged in a planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing the Transportation Plan in Columbia County.

## DEFINITIONS

Baker Act: The Florida Mental Health Act.

Marchman Act: 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.