



ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

DATE APPROVED:

AR: 1.09

**May 1, 2017
June 1, 2020**

SUBJECT:

DEPARTMENT:

**Wakulla County Designated Receiving System and
Behavioral Health Transportation Plan 2020-2023**

Administration

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
(NORTHWEST REGION)**

**Big Bend Community Based Care,
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entity**

**Wakulla County
Designated Receiving System and
Behavioral Health Transportation Plan**

2020 - 2023

**WAKULLA COUNTY DESIGNATED RECEIVING SYSTEM AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

	Page
Introduction	2
Purpose	2
Wakulla County’s Designated Receiving System (DRS)	3
Transportation	3
Medical Treatment	3
Choice	4
System Oversight	4
Inter-organizational Collaboration	5
Updates	5
Definitions	6

Wakulla County Designated Receiving System and Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Chapter 394, Part I, Florida Statutes (the “Florida Mental Health Act” or the “Baker Act,”) Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, (the “Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of 1993,”) and specifically sections 394.4573 and 394.462, Florida Statutes, this plan has been developed to organize:

- a centralized system for transportation of persons in need of emergency behavioral health services to an authorized centralized receiving facility; and
- a designated central receiving system to ensure the provision of the “No Wrong Door” model provided in Section 394.4573, Florida Statutes.

This plan requires approval by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners and the Big Bend Community Based Care (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entity). Upon approval, this document will serve as the designated receiving system and transportation plan for Wakulla County.

The intent of this plan is:

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services for individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services;
2. An acknowledgement and agreement of Apalachee Center as the designated Central Receiving Facility for the purposes of transporting individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services;
3. A specialized transportation system that provides an efficient and humane method of transporting patients to a Central Receiving Facility, as designated herein.

Purpose

In the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Wakulla County it is agreed that approval and subsequent renewal of this plan will continue the successful established centralized Baker Act/Marchman Act system in partnership with the Apalachee Center as its designated Central Receiving Facility.. This plan will ensure that individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services pursuant (particularly involuntary psychiatric hospitalization) pursuant to either the Baker Act or the Marchman Act will obtain immediate access to acute care services and will provide the following community benefits:

1. Provide for a Central Receiving Facility that is consistent with the “No Wrong Door Model,” which consists of a designated central receiving facility that serves as a single entry point for persons with mental health or substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.
2. Minimize the amount of time Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Services personnel spend on administrative functions when transporting individuals needing involuntary emergency behavioral health services pursuant to the Baker Act or Marchman Act.

3. Provide the opportunity for jail diversion for individuals where it would be more appropriate than incarceration.
4. Community cost-savings by having a streamlined system of care that minimizes wait times and focuses on getting individuals connected to the appropriate service (Crisis Stabilization or Detox) rather than emergency room services for behavioral health needs.

Wakulla County's Designated Receiving System (DRS)

Wakulla County's Designated Receiving System shall operate as a central receiving system. The Central Receiving Facility for Wakulla County has been designated as the Apalachee Center by a grant received through the Department of Children and Families. *This facility is located at: 2634 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee FL 32308.*

The Central Receiving Facility (CRF) will serve as the single point of access within the Central Receiving System (CRS) for all individuals transported under the Baker and Marchman Acts. This single point of entry will support the "No Wrong Door" model as described in s. 394.4573 (2)(b)2 , and will guarantee that individuals with mental illnesses and/or substance abuse issues are brought to the Central Receiving Facility location when they are subject to the Baker or Marchman Act. 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. Through the assessment process at the Central Receiving Facility, all individuals will be linked with the appropriate level of care (inpatient and/or outpatient) and to the appropriate service provider that can meet their identified needs. Partners in the Central Receiving System includes inpatient programs at Apalachee Center, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health, and Capital Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health.

Transportation

Upon the entry of an appropriate order or execution of a certificate for involuntary examination, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") 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 the Central Receiving Facility where WCSO shall promptly transfer custody of the covered individual to the Central Receiving Facility.

Medical Treatment

Individuals needing medical treatment should be handled according to WCSO policy and transported to the closest medical hospital. WCSO personnel may request assistance from Wakulla County Emergency Medical System if such assistance is needed for the safety of the officer or the person in custody.

WCSO shall comply with all applicable state laws and rules to ensure the safety and dignity of all persons in its custody.

The costs of transportation of persons who have been arrested for violations of any state or local laws may be recovered as provided in section 901.35, Florida Statutes.

The person responsible for payment for such transportation shall be the person receiving transportation. The County shall seek reimbursement from the following sources in the following order:

- (1) From a private or public third-party payor;
- (2) From the person receiving transportation;
- (3) From a financial settlement for medical care, treatment, hospitalization, or transportation payable or accruing to an injured party.

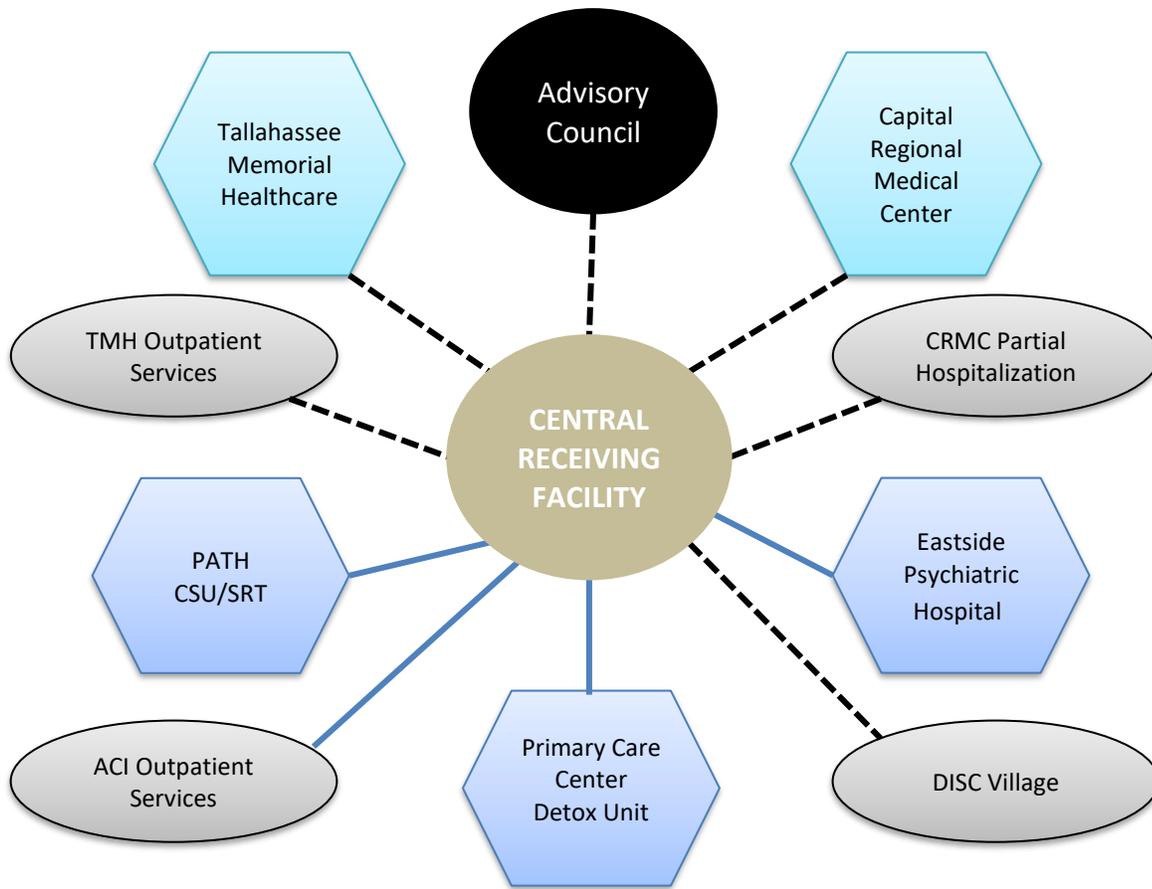
Choice

With Apalachee Center’s designation through a grant award from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Law Enforcement will transport all individuals requiring behavioral health services to a Central Receiving Facility at Apalachee Center. From here Apalachee Center will collaborate with other crisis stabilization units to appropriately place individuals where needs can be met.

System Oversight

The following chart identifies the relationships between the Central Receiving Facility and the inpatient facilities or partner agencies that are participating in the Central Receiving System. The chart includes the Advisory Council which will provide oversight and guidance to the project. The Advisory Council will include representatives from all three receiving facilities (Apalachee Center, Capital Regional Medical Center, and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare), law enforcement agencies, Big Bend Community Based Care Managing Entity, a Peer Specialist, NAMI, and a Circuit 2 Judiciary representative.

The solid blue line indicates an Apalachee Program and the dotted black line indicates a partner agency or council.



Inter-organizational Collaboration

Implementing a Designated Receiving System and Transportation Plan for covered persons in need of emergency behavioral health services requires a significant amount of cooperation, commitment and collaboration from all parties involved. Besides having the strong support of law enforcement and the behavioral health providers, local hospitals have engaged in a public planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties participating in the Central Receiving Facility, streamlining efforts for persons in need of emergency behavioral health services. The community support for this plan was evidenced by the letters of support from Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Capital Regional Medical Center, Leon County, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Disc Village, Refuge House, the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, the Madison County Sheriff’s Office, Jefferson County, TCC Police, the Counseling Center at TCC, and the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund.

Updates

This plan shall be reviewed by the County and Big Bend Community Based Care at least once every three (3) years and updated as necessary.

DEFINITIONS

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

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

Central Receiving Facility: Receiving facility designated by the Department of Children and Families to accept and hold involuntary patients under emergency conditions or for psychiatric evaluation and to provide short-term treatment. 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. The Apalachee Center is the current Central Receiving Facility.

Central Receiving System: A system that consists of a designated central receiving facility that serves as a single entry point for persons with mental health or substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Mike Stewart, Chairman

ATTEST:

BIG BEND COMMUNITY BASED CARE

BRENT X. THURMOND
CLERK TO THE BOARD

BY: _____

DATE: _____