

MARTIN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Revised 2019

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SOUTHEAST REGION
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**MARTIN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN
REVISED 2019**

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Martin County Transportation Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, and Florida Statutes Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. This revised plan has been developed by Martin County and reviewed by the Martin County Public Safety Coordinating Council, in its advisory capacity. This document will serve as the transportation plan for Martin County.

The intent of this plan is to establish:

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within the county.
2. An arrangement by which a facility may provide, in addition to required 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 Martin County Transportation Plan is in the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Martin County. The Plan will ensure 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 Martin County will continue to meet individual needs.

The Plan calls for all law enforcement agencies in Martin County to transport:

1. Adults on an involuntary Baker Act to:
 - Coral Shores Behavioral Health (CSBH)
5995 Community Drive
Stuart, FL 34997
 - or
 - New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee (NHTC)
4500 Midway Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
2. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Baker Act to CSBH or NHTC:
3. Adults on an involuntary Marchman Act to NHTC.
4. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Marchman Act to NHTC.

HISTORY/PURPOSE

January 1, 2002 the Martin County Board of County Commissioners entered an agreement with a Martin County-funded transportation provider. This contract has continued to be renewed each year since the initial contract. This contract was requested by the Martin County Sheriff's Office in order to transport mental health patients to Martin County's nearest or most appropriate Baker Act/Marchman Act receiving facilities. Martin County Sheriff's Office is requesting a continuation of the provision of this service.

System Capacity:

Baker Act Receiving Facilities

- CSBH – 56 Beds Adult
- CSBH- 24 Beds Youth
- NHTC – 30 Beds Adult
- NHTC - 20 Beds Youth

The receiving facilities will notify the Baker Act Task Force of any changes in system capacity. The Treasure Coast Baker Act Task Force consists of representatives from all Baker Act receiving facilities in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties and is responsible for reviewing and resolving issues between receiving facilities.

Substance Abuse Detoxification

- NHTC – 12 Beds

Medical Treatment

Individuals needing medical treatment should be handled according to law enforcement agency policy and transported to the closest medical hospital.

Choice

Law Enforcement may take into consideration the individual's choice when making a determination of which Baker Act receiving facility to transport the individual. All persons on an involuntary Marchman Act are to be transported to NHTC.

Methods of Transportation

Law enforcement agencies or the approved transportation provider in Martin County are the responsible parties to transport those individuals in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to the nearest or most appropriate receiving facilities.

When an individual has a medical issue which requires care, law enforcement, or Emergency Medical Services shall transport the individual being detained under a Baker Act order to the nearest emergency care center for medical stabilization.

When any law enforcement officer has arrested a person for a felony and it appears that the person meets the statutory guidelines for involuntary examination or placement under Florida Statutes, such person shall first be processed in the same manner as any other criminal suspect. The law enforcement agency shall thereafter immediately notify the appropriate receiving facility, which shall be responsible for promptly arranging for the examination and treatment of the person.

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 under Florida Statutes, the law enforcement officer shall transport the person to the appropriate receiving facility for examination.

Once an individual is in a receiving 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. Law enforcement is not responsible to transport individuals from one facility to another unless the individual has criminal charges. In that case, the Martin County Sheriff's Office shall be noticed prior to transfer and will provide the transportation.

MARCHMAN ACT TRANSPORTATION:

If an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed, law enforcement or Emergency Medical Services, is required to transport the individual being detained under a Marchman Act order to the nearest hospital for medical stabilization. When the individual has been stabilized, the hospital may call the Martin County Sheriff's Office or other local law enforcement to transport the individual to NHTC. This is provided a bed is available and the individual still requires residential placement under the Marchman Act. The individual may remain at the hospital if no bed is available.

System Oversight

In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, The Treasure Coast Baker Act Task Force will implement necessary actions in response to its ongoing review and any public or Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) or Department of Children and Families review.

The Southeast Region of the Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office (the Department), and SEFBHN in conjunction with Martin County are responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The County, the Department and SEFBHN 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 Department also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration if issues arise beyond the Department's authority.

Interorganizational Collaboration

Implementing an appropriate, comprehensive 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. In addition to having the strong support of law enforcement and the behavioral health providers, Martin County Health Care and Behavioral Health Care providers have engaged in a public planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing this Plan in Martin 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.