

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
SUNCOAST Region
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program
Hendry County Behavioral Health Transportation
Plan

In accordance with

Florida Mental Health Act
(Baker Act)
Sec. 394.462, Florida
Statutes 2023-2026

Approved by:

Hendry County Board of County Commissioners on July 25, 2023

Hendry County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part I, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, and Florida Statute Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act, a plan has been developed for transport of individuals subject to involuntary examination under Florida Statute 394.463 or involuntary admission under Florida Statutes 397.6772, 397.679, 397.6798 or 397.6811. This document serves as the transportation plan for Hendry County.

The intent is to have a plan that provides an efficient and humane method of transporting patients to receiving facilities, among receiving facilities and to treatment facilities.

Definitions

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

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

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.

Mobile Crisis Response Teams

Mobile Crisis Responses Teams (MRTs) improve behavioral health services by providing on-demand crisis intervention services in any setting in which a behavioral health crisis is occurring, including homes, schools, and emergency departments. MRTs are available 24/7 to provide on-site crisis intervention within 60 minutes, ensure timely access to supports and services, and resolve crises. 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. *The Center for Progress and Excellence Mobile Crisis Unit number is 844-395-4432.*

A primary goal of MRTs is to prevent unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations. MRTs can also serve as a mechanism of jail diversion in reducing arrest of criminal offenders who have a mental health disorder, are experiencing serious emotional distress, and/or threatening self-harm.

MRT intervention during a developing mental health crisis can reduce over-reliance on law enforcement responses to less-urgent, non-life-threatening emergencies. MRTs are comprised of clinicians who have the formal training and know-how to effectively resolve mental health crises and potentially reduce use of the Baker or Marchman Act and law enforcement transport

when an individual is experiencing a psychiatric crisis.

A judge prior to entering an ex parte order concerning a person, a law enforcement officer prior to taking a person into custody, or an authorized professional prior to issuing a certificate with respect to a person, shall first consider MRT intervention.

Transports

When an involuntary examination is initiated in accordance with the requirements of Florida Statute 394.463(2) or involuntary admission under Florida Statutes 397.6772, 397.679, 397.6798 or 397.6811, the initiating party shall contact the *Hendry County Sheriff's Office at (863) 674-5600* to request a transport in accordance with the provisions of this plan.

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office shall transport persons subject to involuntary examination under the Baker Act or involuntary admission under the Marchman Act as follows:

Children and Adolescents Who Are Age 17 and Under

Transport the person to *Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit, 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966*. In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, the Sheriff's Office shall call the facility at 239-275-4242, if possible, prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, birth date, social security number, apparent medical concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

Adults Who Are Age 18-64

Transport the person to *Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit at SalusCare, 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966*. In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, the Sheriff's Office shall call the facility at 239-275-4242, if possible, prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, birth date, social security number, apparent medical concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

Individuals Who Are Age 65 and Older

Transport the person to *Park Royal Hospital, 9241 Park Royal Drive, Fort Myers 33908*. In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, the Sheriff's Office shall call the facility at 239-984-9859, if possible, prior to arrival to provide personal information that should include, if known, name, age, birth date, social security number, apparent medical concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.

Marchman Act Transportation

Transport juveniles to *SalusCare Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility, 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966*.

Transport adults to *SalusCare Detoxification Services Facility, 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966*.

Transportation to a Treatment Facility

When transportation to a treatment facility is required, the initiating party shall contact the

Hendry County Sheriff's Office at (863) 674-5600 to request a transport. The Sheriff's Office shall transport the person to the appropriate facility as recommended by the discharging facility. The discharging facility shall make arrangements with the treatment facility for acceptance of the person.

System Capacity

- SalusCare, at 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33966, is a public receiving facility licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to operate 30 Crisis Stabilization Unit beds for adults.
- SalusCare, at 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966, operates an AHCA licensed 16 bed Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit/Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility (JARF). The Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility offers voluntary and involuntary substance abuse services to children and teens.
- SalusCare, at 10140 Deer Run Farms Road, Fort Myers 33966, operates an inpatient 29-bed Detoxification Services Facility under the direction of a physician, and serves adults undergoing acute withdrawal from alcohol and/or drugs.

Medical Treatment

Individuals needing medical treatment should be handled according to law enforcement agency policy and transported to the closest medical hospital. Hendry Regional Medical Center is a 25-bed critical access hospital. It is located at 524 W Sagamore Ave., Clewiston FL, 33440. This is the closest and only hospital in Hendry/Glades Counties. Lehigh Acres Medical Center is located at 1500 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936. Lehigh Regional Medical Center is an 88-bed community hospital located in Lee County but is used by Hendry County Emergency Medical Services.

System Oversight

The Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) and Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) are responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The Hendry County Administrator will resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan.