

**Pasco County
Behavioral Health Receiving System Plan**

In accordance with

Florida Statute 394, Florida Mental Health Act

Florida Statute 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug
Services Act

2026-2029

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I. Background/ Purpose:

In accordance with the changes promulgated by Senate Bill 12¹ to Florida Statute 394 (Florida Mental Health Act, commonly referred to as the “Baker Act”), and Florida Statute 397 (commonly referred to as the Marchman Act), Pasco County in collaboration with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (the Managing Entity) have completed this Behavioral Health Receiving System(BHRS) Plan. Implementation of this plan assures the coordinated provision of emergency services for people in need of help for behavioral health disorders and supports a comprehensive behavioral system of care.

This BHRS Plan describes how the community shall ensure the provision of the “No Wrong Door Model” defined in FS 394.4573. This description includes the organization of the BHRS and how it responds to individual needs and integrates services among various providers.

The Behavioral Health Receiving System may be organized in any manner which functions as a no-wrong-door model. Such models include, but are not limited to:

A **central receiving system** is identified as 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. 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.

A **coordinated receiving system** as a 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.

A **tiered receiving system** 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.

¹ SB12 (2016) was a bill during the 2016 legislative session. A final version of that bill became law, amending multiple Florida Statutes, including, in pertinent part, section 394.461, Florida Statutes and other relevant provisions contained in Chapter 394 of the Florida Statutes.

OR

The BHRS may be organized in **any manner that functions as a No-Wrong-Door Model that responds to individual needs and integrates the services of various providers.**

The County and the Managing Entity shall review and update, as necessary, the Behavioral Health Receiving System at least once every 3 years. An accurate inventory of the participating service providers shall be always maintained and made available to all first responders in the service area.

II. Children's Mental Health – House Bill 945 (HB945)²

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to identify children, adolescents, and young adults age 25 and under who are the highest users of crisis stabilization services. The bill also requires DCF to collaboratively take action to meet the behavioral health needs of such children. The bill directs these agencies to jointly submit a quarterly report to the Legislature during Fiscal Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 on the actions taken by both agencies to better serve these individuals.

The bill requires the behavioral health managing entities (MEs) to create plans that promote the development and implementation of a coordinated system of care for children, adolescents, and young adults to integrate behavioral health services provided through state-funded child serving systems and to facilitate access to mental health and substance abuse treatment and services. The bill requires DCF to contract with the MEs for crisis response services provided through mobile response teams (MRTs) to provide immediate, onsite behavioral health services 24 hours per day, seven days per week within available resources.

When contracting for an MRT, MEs must collaborate with local sheriff's offices and public schools in the selection process. The bill also requires that the MRT establish response protocols with local law enforcement agencies, community-based care lead agencies, the child welfare system, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, and requires that the MRT provide access to psychiatrists or psychiatric nurse practitioners. The bill requires MRTs to refer children, adolescents, or young adults and their families to an array of crisis response services that address their individual needs.

² HB945 was a bill during the 2020 Florida legislative session. A final version of that bill became law, effective July 1, 2020, and amended section 394.493, Florida Statutes. This section addresses the requirements contained in section 394.493, Florida Statutes that were added by the final version of HB945.

The bill requires MEs to promote the use of available crisis intervention services. The bill requires contracted providers to give parents and caregivers of children who receive behavioral health services information on how to contact an MRT.

The bill amends foster parent preservice training requirements to include local MRT contact information and requires community-based care lead agencies to provide MRT contact information to all individuals that provide care for dependent children.

The County and the Managing Entity shall review and update, as necessary, the Children's Mental Health – House Bill 945 (HB945) at least once every 3 years.

III. Pasco County's Behavioral Health Receiving System (BHRS):

Pasco County's Behavioral Health Receiving System is best described as a tiered receiving system.

The following community partners who, by their participation in the Pasco County Acute Care Committee, assisted in developing this plan, and whose input is crucial to the success of the plan, include the following organizations:

- Agency for Community Treatment Services
- AdventHealth|West Florida Division
- Area Agency On Aging Of Pasco-Pinellas.Inc.
- BayCare Behavioral Health, Inc.
- Catholic Charities
- Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County
- Crisis Center of Tampa Bay/TransCare
- Chrysalis Health
- Dade City Police Department
- Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Suncoast Region
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services
- Florida Department of Health in Pasco County
- Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Metropolitan Ministries
- NAMI Pasco
- New Port Richey Police Department
- North Tampa Behavioral Health Center (Acadia)*
- Operation PAR
- Pasco ASAP
- Pasco County Government
- Pasco County Schools

- Pasco Sheriff's Office
- Port Richey Police Department
- Public Defender's Office
- SEDNET Region 5 - Pinellas and Pasco County
- Sunrise of Pasco County
- St. Vincent De Paul Society
- University of South Florida CARD
- Vincent House Pasco
- Youth and Family Alternatives Inc.

IV. Social Service Coordination

The Pasco Sheriff's Office and BayCare members have cooperative co-responder teams to assist patrol with mental health related calls for service and to conduct follow-up contacts as time permits. This cooperation combines the expertise of mental health case managers with law enforcement professionals to provide referrals, intervention and/or placement in mental health and/or substance use facilities for individuals needing acute intervention. Co-responder teams may assist by providing rapid response to individuals in crisis and using de-escalation skills to mitigate the impact of mental health symptoms in an effort to reduce incarceration and involuntary examinations. This model will decrease time on scenes for uniformed patrol and decrease the likelihood of criminalizing a mental health crisis. This approach is designed to increase overall safety of all individuals on scene, through timely and thorough intervention while fostering a positive cooperative spirit between law enforcement and the mental health field.

V. 988

First Contact is the 988 primary provider for Pinellas County. 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), and is now active across the United States.

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen with empathy, assess for immediate and future safety, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

The Lifeline's network of over 200 crisis centers has been in operation since 2005, and has been proven to be effective. It's the counselors at these local crisis centers who answer the contacts the Lifeline receives every day. Numerous studies have shown that callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed and more hopeful after speaking with a Lifeline counselor.

VI. Behavioral Health Urgent Care

BayCare's Behavioral Health Urgent Care services adults, ages 18 and up, who need urgent mental health or substance use services. The Behavioral Health Urgent Care provides immediate access to outpatient services and care. Services available include screening/triage, clinical evaluation, immediate short-term intervention, care coordination and referrals, medication-assisted treatment consultation and initiation. Services are available in person on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday 8am to 7pm.

VII. Mobile Crisis Response Teams:

Pasco County Emergency Communications in partnership with BayCare established a crisis response specialist to co-locate with emergency communications to assist with de-escalating calls for emergency services. The crisis specialist can speak directly with the caller to de-escalate the caller, assess their need and provide resources and follow-up care. This reduces the need for law enforcement officers to respond to a person who is in need of behavioral health services. BayCare will follow up with the caller to ensure connection to care.

BayCare's Mobile Response 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. 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.

BayCare and the Pasco Sheriff's Office fashioned cooperative co-responder teams to assist patrol with mental health related calls for service and to conduct follow-up contacts as time permits. This cooperation combines the expertise of mental health case managers with law enforcement professionals to provide referrals, intervention and/or placement in mental health and/or substance use facilities for individuals needing acute intervention. Co-responder teams may assist by providing rapid response to individuals in crisis and using de-escalation skills to mitigate the impact of mental health symptoms in an effort to

reduce incarceration and involuntary examinations. This model will decrease time on scenes for uniformed patrol, decrease the likelihood of criminalizing a mental health crisis. This approach is designed to increase overall safety of all individuals on scene through timely and thorough intervention while fostering a positive cooperative spirit between law enforcement and the mental health field.

VIII. Inventory of Participating Service Providers

Voluntary Assessment and Evaluation Facilities			
Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Does the facility have agreements to accept BHRS Patients?	Substance Use Disorders/Mental Health Disorders/Co-Occurring?
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at 29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds 26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds	Yes	Yes
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit does not treat children.	Yes	Yes

Involuntary Assessment and Evaluation Facilities			
Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Does the facility have agreements to accept BHRS Patients?	Substance Use Disorders/Mental Health Disorders/Co-Occurring?
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at 29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds 26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds	Yes	Yes
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit, does not treat children	Yes	Yes
Triage Centers for Mental Health			
Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Does the facility have	Substance Use Disorders/Mental

		agreements to accept BHRS Patients?	Health Disorders/Co-Occurring?
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at 29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds 26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds	Yes	Yes
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit, does not treat children	Yes	Yes
Triage Centers for Substance Use Disorders			
Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Does the facility have agreements to accept BHRS Patients?	Substance Use Disorders/Mental Health Disorders/Co-Occurring?

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at 29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds 26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds	Yes	Yes
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit, does not treat children	Yes	Yes
Involuntary Treatment for Mental Health Disorders			
Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Yes	Yes
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds	Yes	Yes

29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults 24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds		
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit, does not treat children	Yes	Yes

Involuntary Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

Facility	Capabilities/Limitations	Does the facility have agreements to accept BHRS Patients?	Substance Use Disorders/Mental Health Disorders/Co- Occurring?
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center located at 21808 State Road 54 Lutz, FL 33549	Licensed Capabilities: 47 Adult Baker Act beds and 25 Child Baker Act Beds Limitations: Lack of Marchman Act capabilities.	Yes	Yes
North Tampa Behavioral Health located at 29910 State Road 56 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Licensed Capabilities: 74 Adult Baker Act beds 26 Adult Marchman Act beds for Adults	Yes	Yes

	24 Adolescents (ages 13 to 17 years old) Baker Act beds		
BayCare ISU located at 8002 King Helie Boulevard New Port Richey, FL 34653	Capabilities: Currently a 30-bed adult unit dual licensed facility. Limitations: Adult (18 and up) unit, does not treat children	Yes	Yes

IX. Behavioral Health Receiving System (BHRS) Agreements

Informal agreements are in place with each designated receiving facility, local law enforcement agencies, and local hospital emergency departments. Utilization of multiagency signed releases of information allows for shared data and care coordination.

Memorandums of Understanding are not currently in place within the Behavioral Health Receiving System for Pasco County.

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network may choose to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center, North Tampa Behavioral Health, and BayCare ISU in order to coordinate and provide services to consumers of the Behavioral Health Receiving System.