



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Marihelen Wheeler, *Chair*
Anna Prizzia, *Vice Chair*
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Ken Cornell

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

June 12, 2022

poel@cityofgainesville.org

Honorable Mayor Lauren Poe
City of Gainesville Commission
200 East University Ave
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Central Receiving Facility (CRF) Update

Dear Mayor Poe,

At our May 10, 2022, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners meeting, staff updated Commissioners on the Central Receiving Facility (CRF) project. Staff presented three options for the CRF including Co-location with an existing Crisis Stabilization Unit or Hospital, a stand-alone facility, and a virtual model conducted in partnership with law enforcement. A new stand-alone facility will entail significant added capital and operating costs and there is uncertainty over eventual licensure until a facility is actually constructed. A virtual model unfortunately does not provide the full continuum of treatment the citizens of our community need when in crisis.

Accordingly, the Board unanimously adopted the staff recommendation that a "Central Receiving System be implemented as a brick-and-mortar location on the campus of a Public Receiving Facility with a CSU; and award designated construction and operation funds to Meridian." The advantage of this approach identified through our review process is that this option has the greatest potential to secure State funds for operation of the System in the long run.

During the presentation, Commissioners learned that the cost of construction despite using "value engineering" and minimizing the square footage, has risen from the original estimate to \$1,500,000. As part of adopting the staff recommendation regarding location, the commission also agreed to increase its contribution to the capital cost of the CRF from \$250,000 to \$500,000. As part of this action, the Commission also requested that the City of Gainesville be asked to increase its contribution toward the capital cost by the same amount; from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Accordingly, by way of this letter, we ask that the City of Gainesville Commission consider increasing its financial contribution for capital funding from the current commitment of \$250,000 to \$500,000.

I know that my fellow Commissioners join me in recognition of the significant commitment which the City of Gainesville has demonstrated thus far to help achieve the development of this unique innovative system to respond to behavioral health needs of our community. Still, it appears that to fulfill our objective, there is additional funding required.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We look forward to continuing our efforts to work towards improving our local crisis response system for the benefit of citizens living in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County.

Sincerely,

Marihelen Wheeler, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr22.0XX **DRAFT (June 14th agenda item)**

CC. All County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Cynthia Curry, Interim City Manager
Carl Smart, Deputy County Manager of Community & Strategic Initiatives
Claudia Tuck, Director, Community Support Services
Michael Arizmendi, Director, Court Services