



March 24, 2022

Honorable Judge Denise R. Ferrer, Chair
Alachua County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Dear Honorable Judge Ferrero,

As a member of the JMHCP Oversight Committee, I fully support the committee's recommendation to move forward with a Central Receiving System that will be located and operated by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. Meridian is one of our premier Provider organizations that serve individuals who live with mental health and substance use disorders who are indigent, uninsured or underinsured. Meridian consistently provides best-practice programs and are excellent stewards of the state funding we offer for the most vulnerable individuals in the counties they serve.

LSF Health Systems, your Managing Entity, will commit \$500,000 for FY 22-23 to assist with the operational expenses for the Central Receiving System. We are looking forward to enhancing the behavioral health system of care with this much needed resource.

I appreciate the work and dedication that you and the members of the Council and Committee have provided to move this effort forward. It is a pleasure to contribute to the Central Receiving System implementation.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Christine Cauffield'.

Dr. Christine Cauffield, CEO

cc: Marihelen Wheeler, Chair, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
cc: Lauren Poe, Mayor, Gainesville, Florida
cc: Don Savoie, President and CEO, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.