



An Overview of a Central Receiving Facility for Alachua County

**Court Services
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The Central Receiving Facility

- Provides a single point of entry into the behavioral health system for assessment & appropriate placement for adults experiencing a mental health and/or substance abuse crisis (as identified under the Baker or Marchman Acts)
- Services include immediate short term assessment, evaluation, stabilization and intervention, to help prevent further deterioration

Benefits Offered by CRF

- Greater coordination of care for persons (many indigent) using multiple systems, including follow up and referrals
- Single entry point means reduced time for LE officers. Average drop-off time can be 5 to 10 minutes
- Alternatives to hospitalization met, including inappropriate use of scarce & expensive ER visits
- Acts as a pre-arrest diversion opportunity, minimizing use of the criminal justice system

Benefits, Continued

- Assessments are accomplished within 23 hours. Orlando's CRF averages 8 to 10 hours. This means faster, more efficient path to develop appropriate placement plans for persons, families
- Services are available on a 24 hour/7 day basis of those needing help
- Data assembled by CRF helps local BH system to achieve better understanding of needs for future program planning & current care

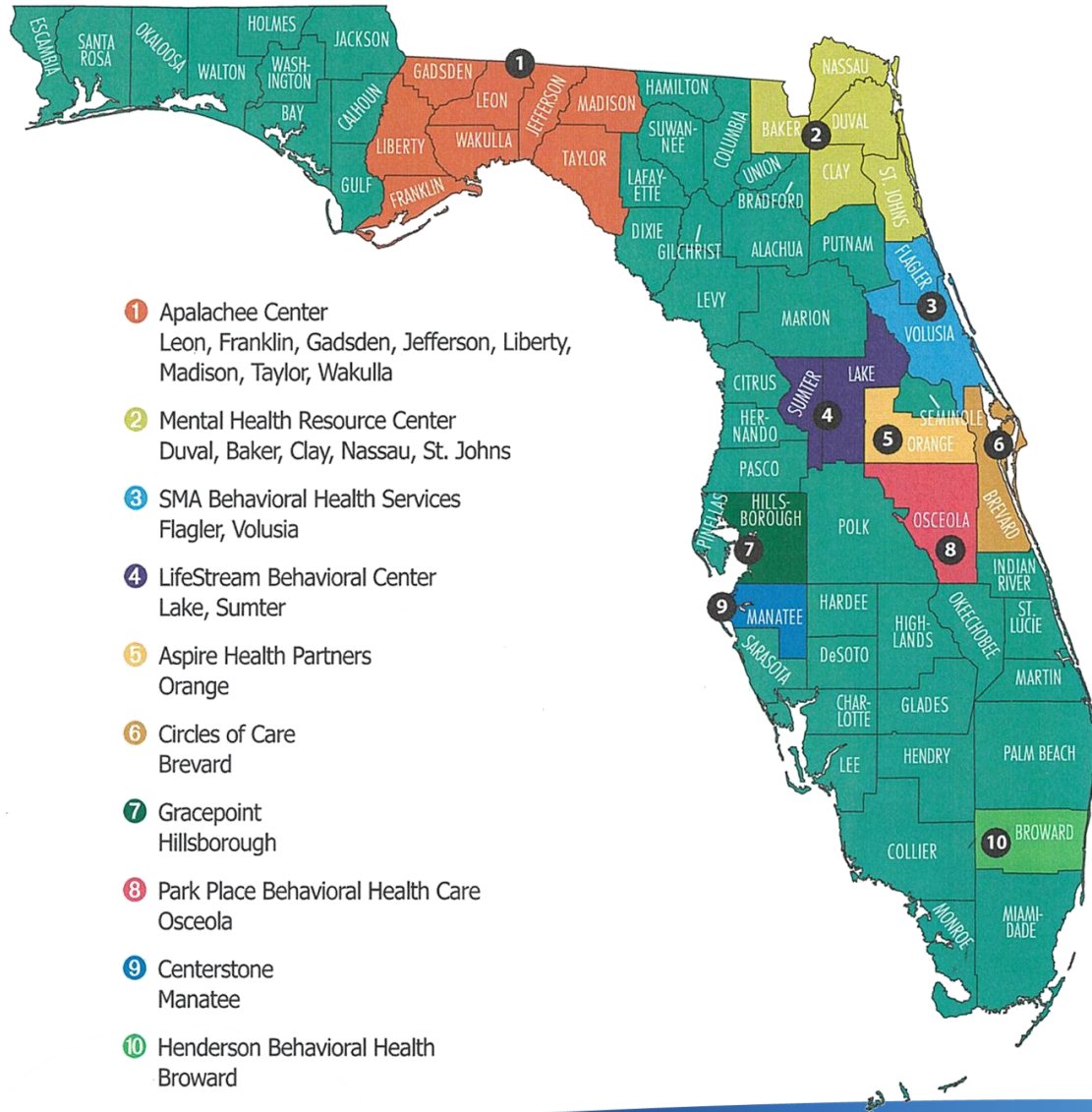
CRF's in Florida

- 10 CRF's currently operate in 23 of Florida's 67 counties
- In FY 19-20, these combined facilities:
 - ♦served 43,298 unduplicated persons
 - ♦diverted over 8,000 from hospitals, achieving a \$51 million cost avoidance from saved emergency department expenses
 - ♦assisted law enforcement to drop off persons under the Baker Act in an average of less than 6 minutes
- Source: Florida Behavioral Health Association (3/26/2021)



Central Receiving Systems in Florida

- 1** Apalachee Center
Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
- 2** Mental Health Resource Center
Duval, Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns
- 3** SMA Behavioral Health Services
Flagler, Volusia
- 4** LifeStream Behavioral Center
Lake, Sumter
- 5** Aspire Health Partners
Orange
- 6** Circles of Care
Brevard
- 7** Gracepoint
Hillsborough
- 8** Park Place Behavioral Health Care
Osceola
- 9** Centerstone
Manatee
- 10** Henderson Behavioral Health
Broward



Education on CRF's

- The PSCC Oversight Sub-Committee on Justice and MH Collaboration (since 7/20) purpose has been to advance the concept
- Its forums have combined stakeholders in the BH and CJ systems to leverage greater clarity about CRF models in Florida
- Presentations by 3 model CRF's has helped achieve greater awareness sharing information about CRF's: how they are funded, organized, array of services, etc.
- Fact-finding trip to Apalachee Center in Tallahassee on 8/4

CRF Governance

- Existing CRF's are often governed by a regional collaboration of stakeholders from the criminal justice and behavioral health systems, inclusive of hospitals/health care institutions, and County and City governmental agencies as well as other agencies
- Meridian's proposal pending suggests a regional structure, which includes 5 counties in addition to Alachua

MBHC's Regional Response, Funding Needs

- Capital costs (one-time) necessary to rehab a 1,000 sq.ft. screening facility on site at Meridian = \$500,000
- Alachua County \$250,000
- City of Gainesville \$250,000
- Operating costs required to support staffing, administrative, and related expenses necessary to operate a 24 hr/7 day/wk facility on an annual basis = \$1.1 Million*
- Revenue available from Medicaid etc. slated to lower annual costs to \$923,000

Availability of Funds for Operations

- Potential for use of American Rescue Plan funds provided via the Federal Government has been discussed by the BoCC
- Specific fund target expressed has been \$1.5 million to support initial start-up and operating costs
- Support from the City of Gainesville toward such costs is not yet identified, the City continues to examine opportunities for use of ARP funds, including in the area of health and health care

Challenges for Funding

- State funding for initiation & expansion of CRF facilities is not forthcoming
- A potential strategy for securing ongoing operating funds has been identified by MBHC
- The State's Low Income Pool (LIP), used by hospitals providing uncompensated care to uninsured or underinsured, or Medicaid, may provide a funding mechanism to support such costs
- 2 collaborations in Brevard & Polk/Hardy Counties have gained approval to apply to the LIP. Such examples may indicate if access by Alachua and others without CRF's could be gained similarly

Thank You!

- We are happy to answer any questions you may have.