

**Marion County Behavioral Health
Transportation Plan**

**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**



Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

In accordance with Florida Statutes 394 and 397

Revised 7/2026 - 2029

Marion County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

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Marion County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, Florida Statute Chapter 397, Florida Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act “Marchman Act”, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. This Transportation Plan has been developed by community stakeholders listed on page three. This Transportation Plan requires approval by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Health Systems and the Department of Children and Families. Upon approval this document will serve as the Transportation Plan for Marion County per legislative requirement. The intent of this plan is:

- To describe methods of transportation to a facility within the designated receiving system for individuals subject to involuntary examination under F.S. 394 or involuntary admission under F.S. 397.
- To identify responsibility for other transportation to a participating facility when necessary and agreed to by the facility.
- Identify any exceptions to the plan that will allow for centralizing and improving the provision of services within Marion County, which may include said exception to the requirements for transportation to the appropriate or nearest receiving facility and that will assure compliance with F.S. 394.462.

Purpose

The Marion County Transportation Plan has been successfully implemented in the continued best interest of persons in need of behavioral healthcare in Marion County and will continue the successful centralization of the Baker Act and Marchman Act system. The Transportation Plan will ensure that individuals on a Baker Act or Marchman Act will obtain timely access to acute care services and will reduce the need for inter-hospital transfers for psychiatric and addiction services. Coordination of services among providers in Marion County will continue to meet individual needs.

Transportation

Except in the event of an emergency medical condition or where F.S. 394.462 or F.S. 397.6795 indicate otherwise, the Transportation Plan calls for all law enforcement agencies, or designee, in Marion County to transport:

Involuntary Admissions

- Adults on a Baker Act to an appropriate, or the nearest, Baker Act receiving facility as designated in this Transportation Plan.
- Adults on a Marchman Act to an addictions receiving facility or licensed detoxification facility.
- Minors between the ages of 12-17 years on a Baker Act to an appropriate, or the nearest, Baker Act receiving facility as designated in this Transportation Plan
- Minors under the age of 12 years on a Baker Act SMA Healthcare (Marion County).
- Minors under the age of 18 years on a Marchman Act to a juvenile addictions receiving facility or licensed detoxification facility accepting juveniles (under 18 years of age).

Voluntary Admissions

- Adults requesting voluntary assessment under the Baker Act to an appropriate, or the nearest Baker Act receiving facility as designated in this Transportation Plan or the individual's preferred facility.
- Minors between the ages of 12-17 requesting voluntary assessment under the Baker Act to an appropriate, or the nearest, Baker Act receiving facility as designated in this Transportation Plan.
- Minors under the age of 12 years requesting voluntary assessment under the Baker Act to SMA Healthcare (Marion County).

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- Adults requesting voluntary assessment under the Marchman Act to the nearest addictions receiving facility or licensed detoxification facility.
Minors requesting voluntary assessment under the Marchman Act to the nearest juvenile addictions receiving facility or licensed detoxification facility accepting juveniles (under 18 years of age).

Mandatory Acceptance by Licensed Baker Act Receiving Facilities

Under F.S. 394.462(1)(k), receiving facilities must accept persons brought by law enforcement officers for involuntary examination pursuant to the Baker Act

Secondary Transfer

The transportation of persons delivered to an appropriate facility pursuant to the Baker Act or Marchman Act [e.g. persons brought to hospitals pursuant to F.S. 394.462(1)(i)] who require transportation to a secondary facility, shall be arranged by the facility to which the person was initially delivered.

Ex Parte and Involuntary Examinations Initiated by Authorized Professional

The Marion County Sheriff's Office is the designated law enforcement agency to take a person into custody upon the entry of an ex parte order under the Baker Act or the execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional and to transport that person to the appropriate or nearest receiving facility. (F.S. 394.462(1)(a).

Persons ordered to be taken into custody and delivered to an addictions receiving facility, a licensed detox facility, or a licensed provider pursuant to an ex parte order (Court involved) under the Marchman Act or pursuant to the execution of a professional's certificate for emergency admission for substance abuse services:

1. Shall be delivered to and assessed by the licensed service provider specified in the court order, or, if none is specified, then to The Vines Hospital, Park Place Detox at Beacon Point, or SMA Healthcare (Marion County) provided that they have the capacity to accept the person.
2. If they do not have the capacity to accept the person, then the person shall be delivered to and assessed by either LifeStream Behavioral or Meridian Behavioral, with each facility receiving as near to an equal number of commitments as practicable.
3. If neither LifeStream Behavioral nor Meridian Behavioral has the capacity to accept the committed person, the facility to which the person was initially delivered shall arrange for secondary transfer to an Addictions Receiving Facility, or other licensed service provider, as defined in F.S. 397.311(26)(a)(1) and as identified herein.

Persons ordered to be taken into custody and delivered to a hospital pursuant to an ex parte order under the Marchman Act or pursuant to the execution of a professional's certificate for emergency admission for substance abuse services shall be delivered and admitted to the Advent Health Ocala, Ocala Regional Medical Center, West Marion Community Hospital, or The Vines Hospital, except that if a medical emergency exists, the person shall not be delivered to The Vines Hospital.

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Designated Receiving System – Baker Acts

- SMA Healthcare (Marion County): The Acute Care Services Emergency Services Facility located at 5664 SW 60th Avenue, Bldg. #4, Ocala, FL 34474, in which there is a designated Baker Act receiving facility as well as a licensed detoxification facility; both licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- The Vines Hospital: located at 3130 SW 27th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, in which there is a designated Baker Act receiving facility, as well as a licensed adult detoxification facility; both licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

Designated Receiving System – Marchman Acts

Addictions Receiving Facilities:

- LifeStream Behavioral: located at 2020 Tally Road, Leesburg, Florida, in which there is a designated addictions receiving facility, licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- Meridian Behavioral: located at 1541 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida, in which there is a designated addictions receiving facility, licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

Licensed Detoxification Facilities:

- Beacon Point (Marion County Hospital District): located at 717 SW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Ocala, Florida, at which there is a licensed detoxification facility.

SMA Healthcare (Marion County): The Acute Care Services Emergency Services Facility located at 5664 SW 60th Avenue, Bldg. #4, Ocala, FL 34474, in which there is a designated Baker Act receiving facility, as well as a licensed detoxification facility, both licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- The Vines Hospital: located at 3130 SW 27th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, in which there is a designated Baker Act receiving facility, as well as a licensed detoxification facility; both licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

Hospitals:

- AdventHealth Ocala, located at 1500 SW 1st Avenue, Ocala, Florida, a licensed hospital.
- AdventHealth TimberRidge, located at 9521 Southwest Highway 200, Ocala, Florida, a licensed hospital.
- Ocala Regional Medical Center, located at 1431 SW 1st Avenue, Ocala, Florida, a licensed hospital.
- West Marion Community Hospital, located at 4600 SW 46th Court, Ocala, Florida, a licensed hospital.

The Vines Hospital, located at 3130 SW 2nd Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, in which there is a designated Baker Act receiving facility, as well as a licensed detoxification facility; both licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

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System Oversight

In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, personnel from agencies within the Marion County Baker Act Task Force will meet regularly. The Department of Children and Families (the Department), and LSF Health Systems (the Managing Entity) are responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The Department of Children and Families and LSF Health Systems have the authority to resolve issues concerning the Transportation Plan, approve interagency agreements, as well as coordinate other services needed for individuals beyond acute care services. The Department of Children and Families also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration if issues arise beyond the Department's authority.

The Central Region of The Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health office in Orlando may be contacted at (407) 317-7000 and/or via e-mail at cnr.samh.centralfloridaregion@myflfamilies.com.

LSF Health Systems may be contacted at samh@lsfnet.org.

Inter-organizational Collaboration

Implementing a Transportation Plan on behalf of persons in need of behavioral health services requires a significant amount of cooperation, commitment and collaboration from all parties involved. The following agencies are participants in the Marion County Baker Act Task Force and provide input and support to this Transportation Plan.

- AdventHealth Ocala
- AdventHealth Timber Ridge
- Bravera Health Seven Rivers
- Belleview Police Department
- Citrus County Sheriff's Office
- Department of Children and Families
- Dunnellon Police Department
- LifeStream Behavioral Center
- Lutheran Services Florida
- Marion County – Marion County Fire Rescue
- Marion County – Marion County Jail (including Heart of Florida Health Center)
- Marion County – Public Safety Communications
- Marion County – Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Marion County – Marion County Public Schools
- Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
- Ocala – Ocala Fire Rescue
- Ocala – Ocala Police Department
- Ocala Health – West Marion Community Hospital
- Ocala Health – Ocala Regional Medical Center
- Ocala Health – Summerfield Emergency Department
- SMA Healthcare (Marion County)
- The Fifth Judicial Circuit – Court Administration
- The Vines Hospital

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Definitions

Baker Act	Chapter 394 F.S. - The Florida Mental Health Act.
Marchman Act	Chapter 397 F.S. - The Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act.
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.

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners approves this Transportation Plan in accordance with Florida Statutes.

ATTEST:

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

Carl Zalak III, Chairman