



**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**

**DATE APPROVED:**

**AR: 1.09**

**May 1, 2017  
June 1, 2020  
June 19, 2023**

**SUBJECT:**

**DEPARTMENT:**

**Wakulla County Designated Receiving System and  
Behavioral Health Transportation Plan 2023-2026**

**Administration**

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH  
(NORTHWEST REGION)**

**NWF Health Network,  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entity**

**Wakulla County  
Designated Receiving System and  
Behavioral Health Transportation Plan**

**2023 - 2026**

**WAKULLA COUNTY DESIGNATED RECEIVING SYSTEM AND  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

	Page
<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>Purpose</b> .....	2
<b>Wakulla County’s Designated Receiving System (DRS)</b> .....	3
<b>Transportation</b> .....	3
<b>Medical Treatment</b> .....	3
<b>Choice</b> .....	4
<b>System Oversight</b> .....	4
<b>Chart</b> .....	5
<b>Inter-organizational Collaboration</b> .....	5
<b>Updates</b> .....	6
<b>Definitions</b> .....	7

# **Wakulla County Designated Receiving System and Behavioral Health Transportation Plan**

## **Introduction**

In accordance with Chapter 394, Part 1, and Florida Statutes (the “Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”) Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, (the “Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of 1993,”) and specifically sections 394.4573 and 394.462, Florida Statutes, this plan has been developed to organize:

- a centralized system for transportation of persons in need of emergency behavioral health services to an authorized centralized receiving facility; and
- a designated central receiving system to ensure the provision of the ‘No Wrong Door’ model provided in Section 394.4573, Florida Statutes.

This plan requires approval by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners and NWF Health Network (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entity). Upon approval, this document will service as the designated receiving system and transportation plan for Wakulla County.

The intent of this plan is:

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services for individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services;
2. An acknowledgement and agreement of Apalachee Center as the designated Central Receiving Facility for the purposes of transporting individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services;
3. A specialized transportation system that provides an efficient and humane method of transporting patients to the Central Receiving Facility, as designated herein.

## **Purpose**

In the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Wakulla County it is agreed that approval and subsequent renewal of this plan will continue the successful established centralized Baker Act/Marchman Act system, in partnership with the Apalachee Center as it is designated Central Receiving Facility. This plan will ensure that individuals accessing emergency behavioral health services pursuant (particularly involuntary psychiatric hospitalization) pursuant to either the Baker Act or the Marchman Act will obtain immediate access to acute services and will provide the following community benefits:

1. Provide for a Central Receiving Facility that is consistent with the ‘No Wrong Door Model’ 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.
2. Minimize the amount of time Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Services personnel spend on administrative functions when transporting individuals needing involuntary emergency behavioral health services pursuant to the Baker Act or Marchman Act.

3. Provide the opportunity for jail diversion for individuals where it would be more appropriate than incarceration.
4. Community cost-savings by having a streamlined system of care that minimizes wait times and focuses on getting individuals connected to the appropriate service (Crisis Stabilization or Detox) rather than emergency room services for behavioral health needs.

### **Wakulla County's Designated Receiving (DRS)**

Wakulla County's Designated Receiving System shall operate as a central receiving system. The Central Receiving Facility for Wakulla County has been designated as the Apalachee Center by a grant received through the Department of Children and Families. *This facility is located at: 2634 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee, FL 32308.*

The Central Receiving Facility (CRF) will serve as the single point of access within the Central Receiving System (CRS) for all individuals transported under the Baker and Marchman Acts. This single point of entry will support the "No Wrong Door" model as described in s. 394.4573 (2)(b)2, and will guarantee that individuals with mental illnesses and/or substance abuse issues are brought to the Central Receiving Facility location when they are subject to the Baker or Marchman Act. 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. Through the assessment process at the Central Receiving Facility, all individuals will be linked with the appropriate level of care (inpatient and/or outpatient) and to the appropriate service provider that can meet their identified needs. Partners in the Central Receiving System includes inpatient programs at Apalachee Center, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health, and HCA Florida Capital Hospital Behavioral Health.

### **Transportation**

Upon the entry of an appropriate order or execution of a certificate for involuntary examination, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") shall take into custody and transport all covered individuals, which includes adults and youth under the age of 18 subject to either an involuntary Baker Act or involuntary Marchman Act order, to the Central Receiving Facility where WCSO shall promptly transfer custody of the covered individual to the Central Receiving Facility.

### **Medical Treatment**

Individuals needing medical treatment should be handled according to WCSO policy and transported to the closest medical hospital. WCSO personnel may request assistance from Wakulla County Emergency Medical System if such assistance is needed for the safety of the officer or the person in custody.

WCSO shall comply with all applicable state laws and rules to ensure the safety and dignity of all persons in its custody.

The costs of transportation of persons who have been arrested for violations of any state or local laws may be recovered as provided in section 901.35, Florida Statutes.

The person responsible for payment for such transportation shall be the person receiving transportation. The County shall seek reimbursement from the following sources in the following order:

- (1) From a private or public third-party payor;
- (2) From the person receiving transportation;
- (3) From a financial settlement for medical care, treatment, hospitalization, or transportation payable or accruing to an injured party.

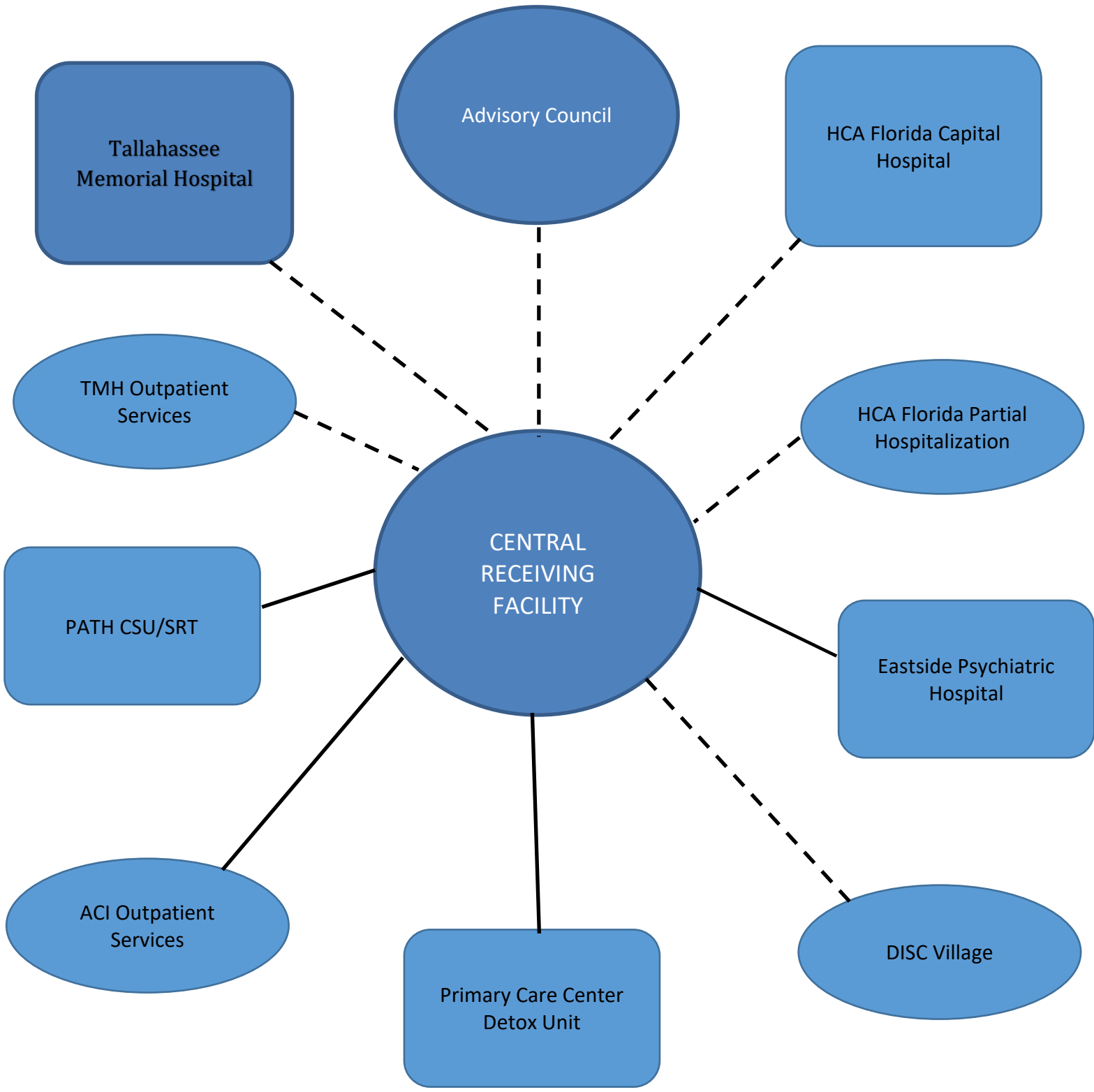
**Choice**

With Apalachee Center’s designation through a grant award from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Law Enforcement will transport all individuals requiring behavioral health services to a Central Receiving Facility at Apalachee Center. From here, Apalachee Center will collaborate with other crisis stabilization units to appropriately place individuals where needs can be met.

**System Oversight**

The following chart identifies the relationships between the Central Receiving Facility and the inpatient facilities or partner agencies that are participating in the Central Receiving System. The chart includes the Advisory Council which will provide oversight and guidance to the project. The Advisory Council will include representatives from all three receiving facilities (Apalachee Center, HCA Florida Capital Hospital, and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare), law enforcement agencies, NWF Health Network Managing Entity, A Peer Specialist, NAMI, and a Circuit 2 Judiciary representative.

The solid black line indicates an Apalachee Program and the dotted black line indicates a partner agency or council.



## **Inter-organizational Collaboration**

Implementing a Designated Receiving System and Transportation Plan for covered persons in need of behavioral health services requires a significant amount of cooperation, commitment and collaboration from all parties involved. Besides having the strong support of law enforcement and the behavioral providers, local hospitals have engaged in a public planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing the Central Receiving Facility, streamlining efforts for persons in need of emergency behavioral health services. The community support for this plan from Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, HCA Florida Capital Hospital, DISC Village, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, and National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County, TCC Police, the Counseling Center at TCC, and the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund.

This plan shall be reviewed by the County and NWF Health Network at least once every (3) years and undated as necessary.

## DEFINITIONS

Baker Act

The Florida Mental Health Act, Part 1 of Chapter 394, Florida Statutes.

Marchman Act:

The Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act.

Central Receiving Facility:

Receiving facility designated by the Department of Children and Families to accept and hold involuntary patients under emergency conditions or for psychiatric evaluation and to provide short-term treatment. 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. The Apalachee Center is the current Central Receiving Facility.

Central Receiving System:

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.

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