

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**2017**

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
SOUTHEAST REGION  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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## **Indian River County Transportation Plan**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, Florida Statutes Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act, and Senate Bill 12, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. This plan has been developed by the managing entity and reviewed by the Indian River County Public Safety Coordinating Council. This document will serve as the transportation plan for Indian River County.

The intent of this plan is to establish:

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within the county, which may include an exception to the requirement for transportation to the nearest receiving facility.
2. An arrangement by which a facility may provide, in addition to require psychiatric and addiction services, an environment and services which are uniquely tailored to the needs of an identified group of persons with special needs, such as persons with hearing impairments or visual impairments, or elderly persons with physical frailties; or
3. A specialized transportation system that provides an efficient and humane method of transporting patients to receiving facilities, among receiving facilities, and to treatment facilities.

### **Purpose**

The Indian River County Transportation Plan is in the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Indian River County. The Plan will insure that individuals on an involuntary Baker Act/Marchman Act will obtain immediate 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 Indian River County will continue to meet individual needs.

The Plan calls for all law enforcement agencies in Indian River County to transport:

1. Adults on an involuntary Baker Act to:
  - Indian River Medical Center’s (formally Indian River Memorial Hospital) Behavioral Health Center (BHC)
  - New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee (Midway Road Facility) (NHTC)
2. Adults on an involuntary Marchman Act to:
  - NHTC
3. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Baker Act to the nearest receiving facility, BHC.
4. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Marchman Act to the nearest receiving facility, NHTC.

### **System Capacity :**

#### **Baker Act Receiving Facilities**

- BHC – 46 Beds

- NHTC – 50 Beds (30 for adults and 20 for youth)
- The receiving facilities will notify the Baker Act Task Force of any changes in system capacity. The Baker Act Task Force consists of representatives from all Baker Act receiving facilities in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River counties and is responsible for reviewing and resolving issues between receiving facilities.

### **Substance Abuse Detoxification**

- NHTC – 12 Beds

### **Medical Treatment**

Individuals needing medical treatment should be handled according to law enforcement agency policy and transported to the closest medical hospital.

### **Choice**

Law Enforcement may take into consideration individual choice when making a determination of which Baker Act receiving facility to transport the individual. All persons on an involuntary Marchman Act are to be transported to NHTC.

### **Methods of Transportation**

Law enforcement agencies in Indian River County are the responsible parties to transport those individuals in need of mental health services under the Baker Act to the appropriate receiving facilities. The Indian River County Sheriff's Office shall be the law enforcement agency designated to take a person into custody upon the entry of an ex parte order or the execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional and to transport that person to the appropriate facility within the designated receiving system under this plan.

When an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed or an intoxication level that is medically compromising, law enforcement, or Emergency Medical Services transport the individual being detained under a Baker Act order to the nearest emergency care center for medical stabilization.

When any law enforcement officer has arrested a person for a felony and it appears that the person meets the statutory guidelines for involuntary examination or placement under Florida Statutes, such person shall first be processed in the same manner as any other criminal suspect. The law enforcement agency shall thereafter immediately notify the appropriate receiving facility, which shall be responsible for promptly arranging for the examination and treatment of the person.

When any law enforcement officer has custody of a person based on either noncriminal or minor criminal behavioral that meets the statutory guidelines for involuntary examination under Florida Statutes, the law enforcement officer shall transport the person to the appropriate receiving facility for examination.

Once an individual is in a receiving facility, there are occasions when that individual needs to be discharged from one facility and transferred to another facility. Transportation between facilities is coordinated by the transferring facility. Law enforcement is not responsible to transport individuals from one facility to another unless the individual has criminal charges. In that case, the Indian River County Sheriff's Office shall be noticed prior to transfer and will provide the transportation.

Upon completion of treatment for individuals who are designated “on hold” as a result of being booked prior to treatment, the receiving facility is required to contact the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office to arrange for transportation to the County Jail.

### **MARCHMAN ACT TRANSPORTATION:**

If an individual has a medical issue that needs to be addressed, law enforcement, or Emergency Medical Services, is required to transport the individual being detained under a Marchman Act order to the nearest hospital for medical stabilization. When the individual has been stabilized, the hospital may call the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office or other local law enforcement to transport the individual to NHTC. This is provided a bed is available and the individual still requires residential placement under the Marchman Act. The individual may remain at the hospital if no bed is available.

### **System Oversight**

In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, The Baker Act Task Force will implement necessary actions in response to its ongoing review and any public or Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) or Department of Children and Families review.

The Southeast Region of the Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office (the Department), and SEFBHN in conjunction with Indian River County are responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The County, the Department and SEFBHN 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 also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration if issues arise beyond the Department’s authority.

### **Interorganizational Collaboration**

Implementing an excellent 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. Besides having the strong support of law enforcement and the behavioral health providers, Indian River County hospitals have engaged in a public planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing the Transportation Plan in Indian River County. The community support for this plan is evidenced by the attached letters.

## DEFINITIONS

<u>Baker Act:</u>	The Florida Mental Health Act.
<u>Marchman Act:</u>	The Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act
<u>Receiving Facility:</u>	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.
<u>Private Receiving Facility:</u>	Any hospital or facility operated by a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation or association that provides mental health services and is not a public facility.
<u>Public Receiving Facility:</u>	Any facility that has contracted with the Department of Children and Families to provide mental health services to all persons, regardless of their ability to pay, and is receiving state funds for such purpose.