



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 20-780A, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Renewal of the Behavioral Health Transportation Plan to support and facilitate access to the Designated Receiving System.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of the Behavioral Health Transportation Plan (BHTP) Three-Year Renewal for involuntary behavioral health transports to and between facilities within the Designated Receiving System.

- The current plan is set to expire on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- The BHTP Three Year Renewal renews the existing plan through 2023. It was reviewed and authored by the Pinellas County Acute Care Committee led by Central Florida Behavioral Health, and provided for Board of County Commission approval prior to submission to Florida Department of Children and Families.
- The BHTP remains fluid at this time as key stakeholders continue to meet, and projects are underway that may necessitate an update to this plan prior to the new expiration of 2023.
- In accordance with Florida Statute 394.462, a transportation plan shall be developed by each county in collaboration with the managing entity.
- The BHTP provides guidance on how the community shall support and facilitate access to the Designated Receiving System.
- There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of this plan renewal and is consistent with the development of the FY20 budget.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.2 Be a facilitator, convener, and purchaser of services for this in need

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

### **Summary:**

The BHTP Three Year Renewal renews the existing plan through 2023. Board of County Commissioners (Board) approval of the plan is required by statute.

- The BHTP describes how the community shall support and facilitate access to the Designated Receiving System. This includes the circumstances to guide selection of the most appropriate transportation method (e.g., law enforcement or emergency medical services); how transportation between participating facilities is handled; and respect for individual choice of service providers. The current BHTP is due for renewal on or before June 20, 2020.
- The BHTP remains fluid as key stakeholders continue to meet, and projects are underway that may necessitate an update to this plan prior to the new expiration of 2023.

**Background/Explanation:**

The BHTP describes how the community shall support and facilitate access to the Designated Receiving System.

Specifically, the BHTP:

1. Describes arrangements for safe and dignified transportation that supports the designated receiving system.
2. Describes methods of transportation to a facility within the designated receiving system for individuals subject to involuntary examination.
3. Specifies how transportation for persons shall be provided to, from, or between participating facilities.
4. Complies with the transportation provisions of s. 394.462 and ss. 397.6772, 397.6795, and 397.697.
5. Designates a single law enforcement agency within the county, or portions thereof, to take a person into protective custody upon the entry of an ex parte order or the execution of a certificate for involuntary examination by an authorized professional and to provide transportation for that person to the appropriate facility within the designated receiving system for examination.

In Pinellas County, the Acute Care Committee for behavioral health services led by Central Florida Behavioral Health Network reviews and updates the plan for submission to the Board. Board approval of the plan is required for compliance.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of this plan renewal and is consistent with the development of the FY20 budget.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Daisy Rodriguez, Director, Human Services

**Partners:**

Florida Department of Children and Families  
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Pinellas County Acute Care Committee

**Attachments:**

Pinellas County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan 2020 to 2023  
Pinellas County Acute Care Committee Membership