

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

**DESOTO COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

2026-2029

Originally Approved by:

*Board of County Commission on
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and readopted by

*The Board of County Commissioners on
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DESOTO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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Desoto County Transportation Plan

Introduction

In accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Mental Health Act or the “Baker Act”, Florida Statute Chapter 397, Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of 1993, and Senate Bill 12, a plan has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services. This plan has been developed by community stakeholders listed on page two. This transportation plan requires approval by the Desoto County Board of County Commissioners, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Department of Children and Families. Upon approval, this document will serve as the transportation plan for Desoto County per legislative intent.

Intent

1. An arrangement centralizing and improving the provision of services within a 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 Desoto County Transportation Plan has been successfully implemented. In the continued best interest of persons in need of public mental healthcare in Desoto County it is now agreed that a renewal of the plan will continue the successful established centralized Baker Act/Marchman Act system, known as the Desoto County Transportation Plan. The Plan will ensure 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 Desoto County will continue to meet individual needs.

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

1. Adults on an involuntary Baker Act to the nearest receiving facility at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care.
2. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Baker Act to the nearest receiving at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care.

3. Youth under the age of 18 years on an involuntary Marchman Act to the nearest receiving facility at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care.
4. Adults on an involuntary Marchman Act to the nearest receiving facility at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care.

DeSoto Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)

A community health improvement plan is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems in a community. The plan is based on the results of community health assessment activities, and is part of a community health improvement process. The purpose of the CHIP Partnership is to take into account input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served, including those with special knowledge of or expertise in community health. The CHIP Partnership will provide the implementation strategy to meet identified community health transportation needs and monitor the operations of the Desoto County Transportation Plan.

The Committee meets regularly to discuss grievances, public satisfaction, and assurance of patient rights as related to this plan. The Committee is composed of, but not limited to, representatives of the following agencies: Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health office, Desoto County Community/Neighborhood Services Department, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care and Desoto Memorial Hospital, Lightshare Behavioral Wellness and Recovery, Arcadia Police Department, Desoto County Sheriff Office, City of Arcadia Police Department, School District of DeSoto , Florida Department of Health in Desoto , National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Department of Corrections, and the County Public Safety Department (Fire/EMS).

System Capacity

- A. **Charlotte Behavioral Health Care:** located at 1700 Education Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950 is the designated adult and children's receiving facility. In order to expedite the screening and assessment process, law enforcement agencies in Charlotte County and the Charlotte County-funded transportation provider can call the facility at **941-575-0222**, if possible prior to arrival to provide personal information that includes, if known, name, age, birth date, social security number, apparent medical concerns, and any substance abuse concerns such as level of intoxication.
- B. **Desoto Memorial Hospital:** located at 900 N. Roberts Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266 is not a receiving facility, but is responsible to evaluate, treat and transfer persons in need of mental health and addiction treatment as part of their emergency department. This is in accordance with federal (EMTALA) emergency care rules and the medical treatment

aspect of the plan applies to Desoto Memorial Hospital. The main telephone number for DeSoto Memorial Hospital is **863-494-3535**.

- C. **Cornell Behavioral Health Pavillion- Sarasota Memorial Hospital:** located at 1650 South Osprey Ave., Sarasota, FL 34239 is a designated unit that treats children and adults who are experiencing signs and symptoms of mental illness that meet Baker Act criteria. This service is available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The center serves the Baker Act population age 65 and older in Sarasota County as well as adults meeting Baker Act criteria who choose to be transported to the Bayside Center and all children age 17 and under. The main telephone number for the Bayside Center for Behavioral Health is **941-917-7760**.
- D. **Lightshare Behavioral Wellness and Recovery** located at 1726 18th St., Sarasota, FL 34234 is a 30-bed medically-supervised detoxification unit. With emphasis on good nutrition and vitamins, links to self-help support groups and planning for continuing care. Lightshare guides individuals through the physical and emotional crisis of withdrawal. During the average stay of three to 10 days, individuals participate in structured, daily activities including educational groups, AA/NA groups and discharge planning. To speak to a Detox admissions counselor, please call **941-953-2519**.

Medical Treatment

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

Choice

Law Enforcement will take into consideration individual choice when making a determination of which Baker Act or Marchman Act receiving facility to transport the individual.

System Oversight

In an effort to resolve complaints, grievances, and disputes which may arise during implementation of the plan, personnel from the Committee will meet regularly and identify and implement necessary actions in response to its ongoing review and any public or Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) or Department of Children and Families review.

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) is responsible for providing oversight to the Transportation Plan. The Department of Children and Families and CFBHN 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 Regional office also has a working relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration if issues arise beyond the department's authority. The Suncoast Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office telephone number in Tampa is **813-337-5700**.

Inter-organizational 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, Desoto Memorial Hospital has engaged in a public planning process which has strengthened the relationships between all parties responsible for implementing the Transportation Plan in Desoto County.

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.