

Alachua County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder Teams

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Co-Responder Teams: The Partnership of Mental Health and Law Enforcement

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What is a Co-Responder Program?

The co-responder team model for crisis response pairs trained police officers with mental health professionals to respond to incidents involving individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. The value of this collaborative response lies within the merger of professional expertise to resolve incidents of crisis, including police officers' experience in managing potentially volatile situations and mental health professionals' skills in mental health consultation, evaluation, and care (Shapiro et al., 2015).

Law enforcement and community mental health agencies nationally have modified this model to suit the needs of the community.

Benefits of a Co-Responder Program

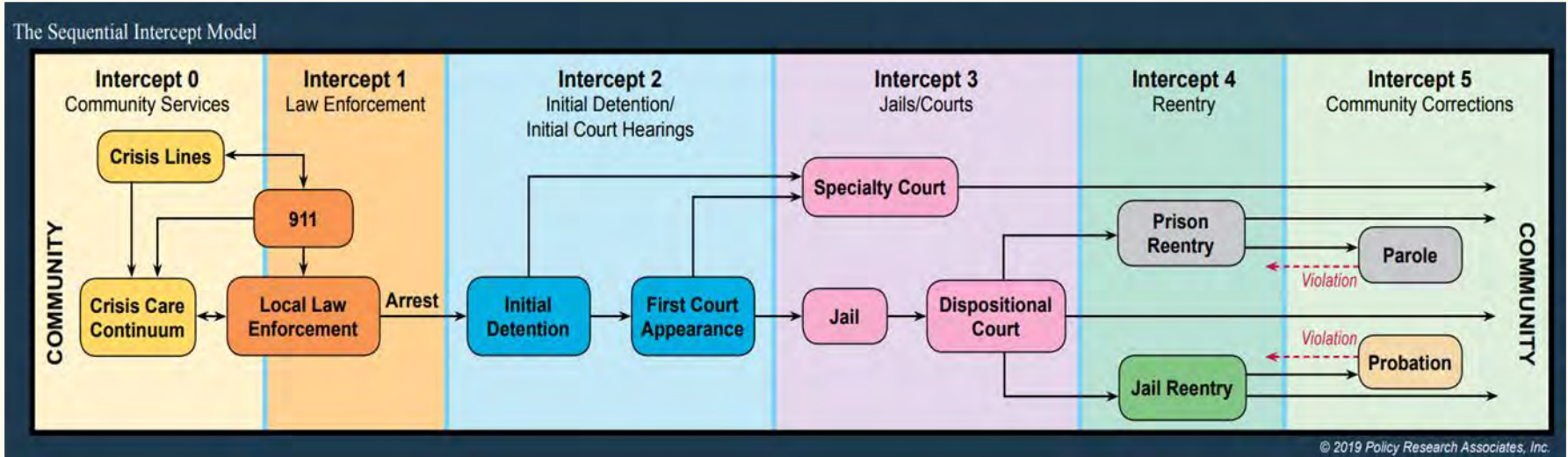
Improved Safety	Increased Access to Behavioral Healthcare	Decreased Repeat Encounters with the Criminal Justice System	Reduced Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fewer uses of Force- Fewer injuries to officers- Fewer injuries to consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased use of crisis services- More referrals to appropriate behavioral health services- Increased continuity of healthcare:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fewer arrests- More jail diversions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fewer repeat calls for service (CFS)- Fewer SWAT call-outs- Reduction in civil lawsuits- Reduction in time spent on mental health calls

Overview

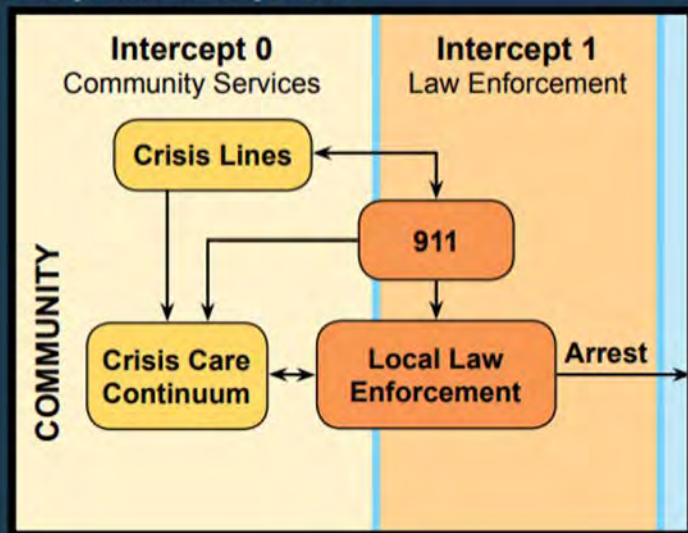
- **Gainesville, FL**
 - Population: 140k as of 2021
 - University of Florida
- **Alachua County, FL**
 - Population: 270k as of 2021
- **Local community mental health agency, Meridian Behavioral Health, partnered with Gainesville Police Department in 2018 and Alachua County Sheriff's Office in 2020 to develop Co-Responder Teams**
- **Each team consists of one LEO + one master's level mental health clinician employed by Meridian**
 - Four GPD teams
 - Two ACSO team



The Sequential Intercept Model



The Sequential Intercept Model



Intercept 0

Mobile crisis outreach teams and co-responders. Behavioral health practitioners who can respond to people experiencing a mental or substance use crisis or co-respond to a police encounter.

Emergency department diversion. Emergency departments (EDs) can provide triage with behavioral health providers, embedded mobile crisis staff, and/or peer specialist staff to provide support to people in crisis.

Police-behavioral health collaborations. Police officers can build partnerships with behavioral health agencies along with the community and learn how to interact with individuals experiencing a crisis.

Intercept 1

Dispatcher training. Dispatchers can identify mental or substance use crisis situations and pass that information along so that Crisis Intervention Team officers can respond to the call.

Specialized police responses. Police officers can learn how to interact with individuals experiencing a crisis in ways that promote engagement in treatment and build partnerships between law enforcement and the community.

Intervening with frequent utilizers and providing follow-up after the crisis. Police officers, crisis services, and hospitals can reduce frequent utilizers of 911 and ED services through specialized responses.

CRT Response

Embedded co-responder model - Clinician rides in the patrol vehicle with LEO during the entire shift

Program goals:

- Respond to individuals within the community who have mental health and substance use concerns at their point of crisis and provide community support and follow-up
- Prevent and divert unnecessary incarceration and hospitalization of mentally ill individuals
 - Facilitated by:
 - Jail diversions
 - Emergency Room diversions
 - Baker Act diversions



CRT Response

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Program goals:

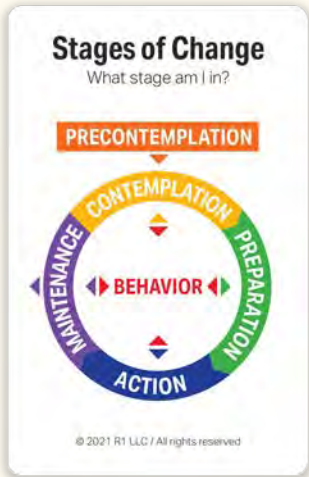
- Provide alternate care in the least restrictive environment through coordination with community mental health and substance abuse resources
- Facilitate the return of law enforcement to their normal duties
- Act as a liaison between first responders and individuals in crisis to provide them with the best possible care and mental health treatment



Training

- Extensive cross-training of LEOs and clinicians

- Facilitating training for other law enforcement officers



Day to Day

- Self-assign to calls
- Types of call that we typically respond to:
 - Baker Act/Marchman Act (Signal 50M)
 - Mental Health Crisis Situation (20)
 - Suicide Attempt (37A)
 - Assist Citizen (50C)
 - Well-being checks fall under this category



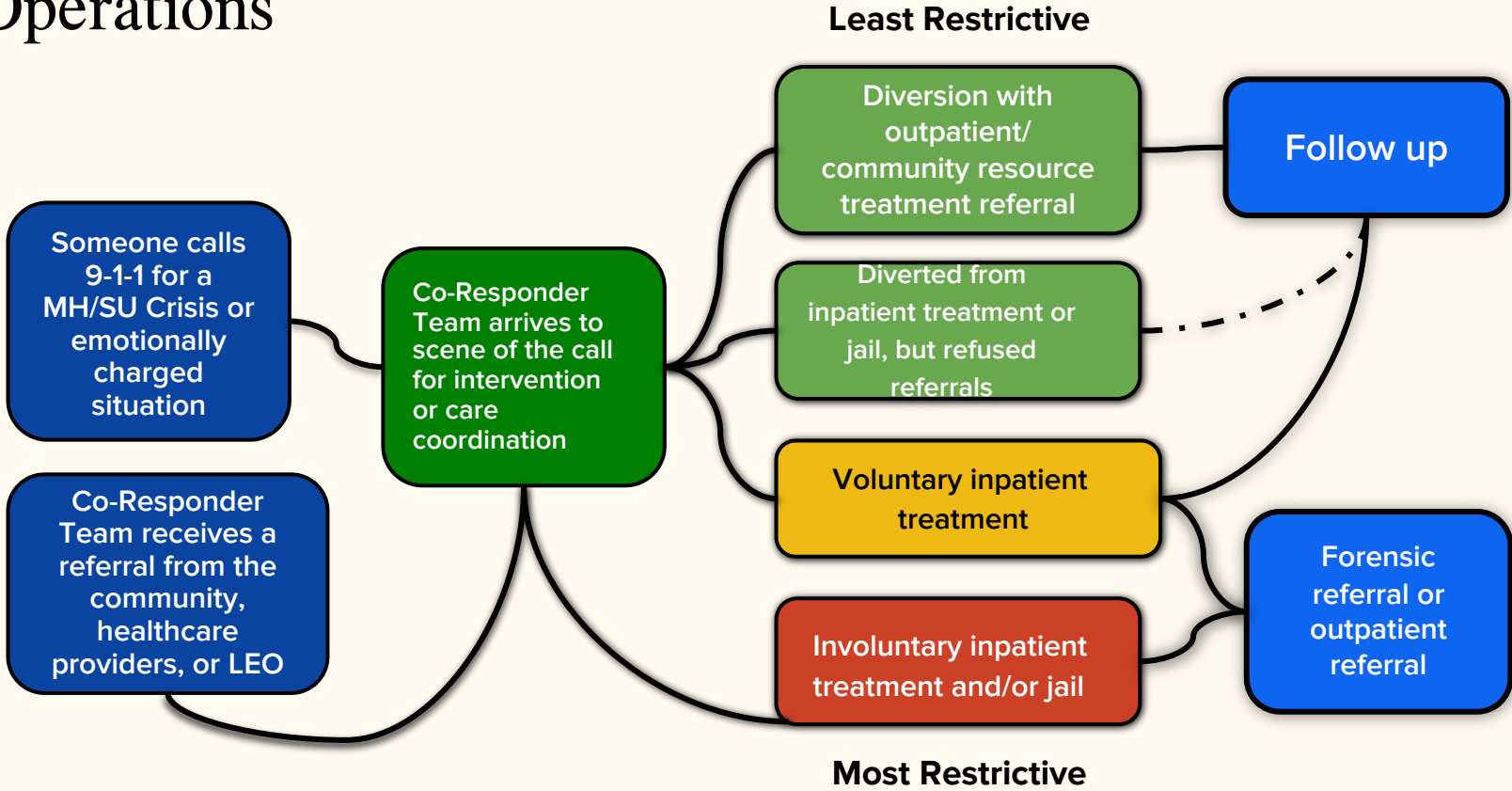
Day to Day

- **Primary focus is individuals in crisis, such as:**
 - **Suicidal Ideation**
 - **Under the influence of alcohol/drugs**
 - **Displaying symptoms of mental illness (e.g. bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, PTSD)**
 - **Neurocognitive Disorders (e.g. dementia)**
 - **Neurodevelopmental Disorders (e.g. autism)**
- **Individuals involved in emotionally-charged situations**

Day to Day

- **Other types of calls that we may be able to assist with:**
 - **Trespass (Signal 22T)**
 - **Suspicious Activity (13)**
 - **Domestic Disturbance (22D)**
 - **Death Investigation (7)**
 - **Missing Person (8)**
 - **Juvenile Problem (44)**

Operations



Referrals

- Utilizing Community Partners
- *“People are always going to call 911”*



Data

- Purpose of data collection (story-telling)
 - Example: National conference, conveying the picture of FL
 - Qualitative/Quantitative Data
 - Evidence-based practice vs. practice-based evidence



Data

- Bare bones (Spreadsheet and EMR)
 - Essentia - clinical notes, referrals, client interactions
 - Spreadsheet - data collection based on Pre-OS, OS, Post-OS information from Calls

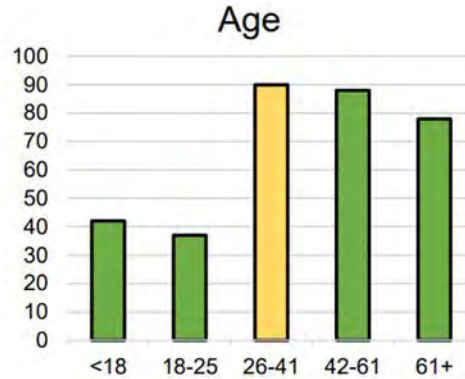
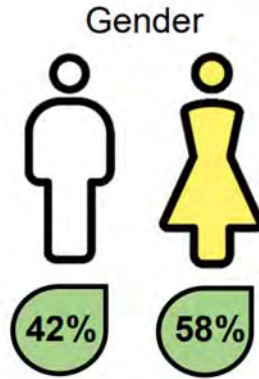
What do we learn?

Race	Gender	Law Enforcement Zone	Area of City/County	City	Veteran (Y/N)	Homeless (Y/N)	College Student (Y/N)	Clinical Impression	Clinical Impression	Co-Occurring (Y/N)	Currently in Treatment (Y/N)	Organization	Initial Call Type	MH Provider / Agency Initiated Call (Y/N)	Agency	Vehicle Mileage # (Start)	Lights and Sirens (Y/N)	L	Disp
W	M	GPD - ASO - C	NW	Gaines	N	Y	N	Schizophrenia Spectrum & O	Substance Use	Y	Y		Armed Disturbance I	N					10
O	M	ASO - A	NW	Alachu	Y	Y	Y	Anxiety Disorders		Y	Y		Armed Disturbance I	Y	MBH	57892.7	N		3
O	F	ASO - H	NW	Gaines	N	N	N	Neurodevelopmental Disord		N	Y	Suburban	Medical Emergency	N	N/A	5000	N		1
W	F	ASO - B	NE	Monte	N	N	N	Substance Use		Unknown	Unknown		Suspicious Activity/F	N	N/A	57959	N		4
W	F	ASO - H	SW	Gaines	N	N	N	Neurocognitive Disorders		N	N		Assist Citizen (Initial)	N	N/A	57987	N		0
W	F	ASO - H	SW	Gaines	N	N	N	Unspecified		N	N		Assist Citizen (Initial)	N	N/A	57987	N		0
H	M	ASO - J	NW	Gaines	Unkno	Unknov	Unkno	Substance Use		Unknown	Unknown		Suicide Attempt (Init	N	N/A	58154	N		2
W	F	ASO - I	SW	Archer	N	N	N	Unspecified		N	N	N/A	Follow Up Investigat	N	N/A	58169	N		0
W	M	ASO - G	NW	Gaines	Y	N	N	Substance Use		Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Assist Citizen (Initial)	N	N/A	58225	N		0
B	F	ASO - M	SW	Gaines	N	N	N	Schizophrenia Spectrum & O	Substance Use	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Assist Citizen (Initial)	N	N/A	58416	N		0
H	M	ASO - F	NW	Gaines	N	N	N	Bipolar and Related Disorder	Substance Use	Y	Y	Unknown	Assist Other Agency	Y	MCSO	58483	N		0
H	M	ASO - F	NW	Newbe	N	N	N	Bipolar and Related Disorder	Substance Use	N	Y	Unknown	Suicide Attempt (Init	Y	Office of Disabilities	58529.2	N		2
W	F	ASO - J	SW	Gaines	N	N	N	Neurodevelopmental Disord	Depressive Disorders	N	Y	priv	Domestic (Initial)	N	N/A	58635	N		1
W	F	ASO - J	SW	Gaines	N	N	N	Unspecified		N	Y	PRIV	Domestic (Initial)	N	N/A	58635	N		1

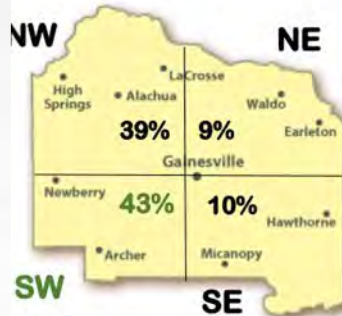
ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

- Calls for Service: 832
- Contacts: 350
- Patrol Assist Calls: 194
- Baker Acts: 38
- Marchman Act: 1
- Voluntary Transports: 8
- Secondary Transports: 15

- Homeless: 2%
- Veterans: 5%
- College Students: 0%
- Violence on Calls: 5%



Location of Incidents



Reported Clinical Impressions of Annual Contacts

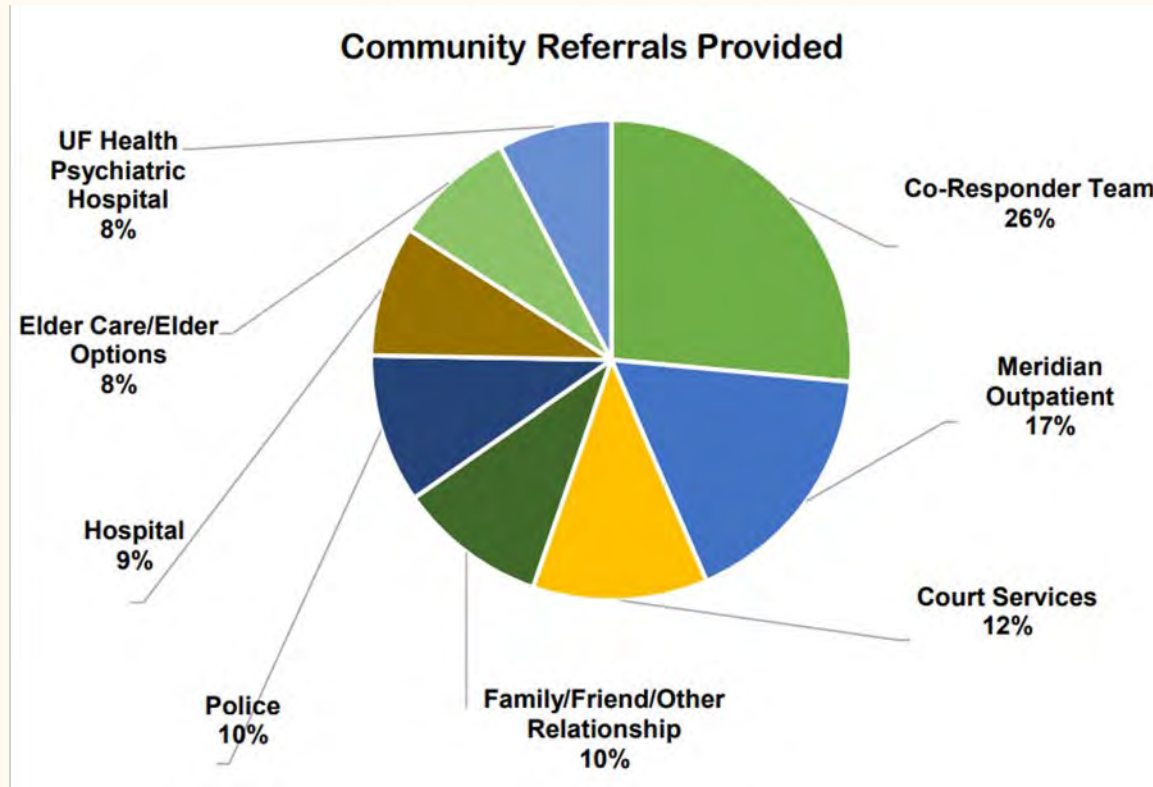
Substance Use Disorders	23%
Trauma Disorders	23%
Bipolar and Related Disorders	23%
Depressive Disorders	19%
Neurodevelopmental Disorders	16%
Co-Occurring	8%

- 20** Jail Diversions
- 91** Baker Act Diversions
- 38** Emergency Room Diversions

45% of individuals that called for service were in treatment at the time of initial contact.

Of the calls for service received, **57%** had a **current** mental health and/or substance use diagnosis.

ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data



ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

Diversion Overview

Baker Act/Marchman Act Diversions:

73% Diverted to Outpatient Services or Voluntary Inpatient Treatment

Jail Diversions:

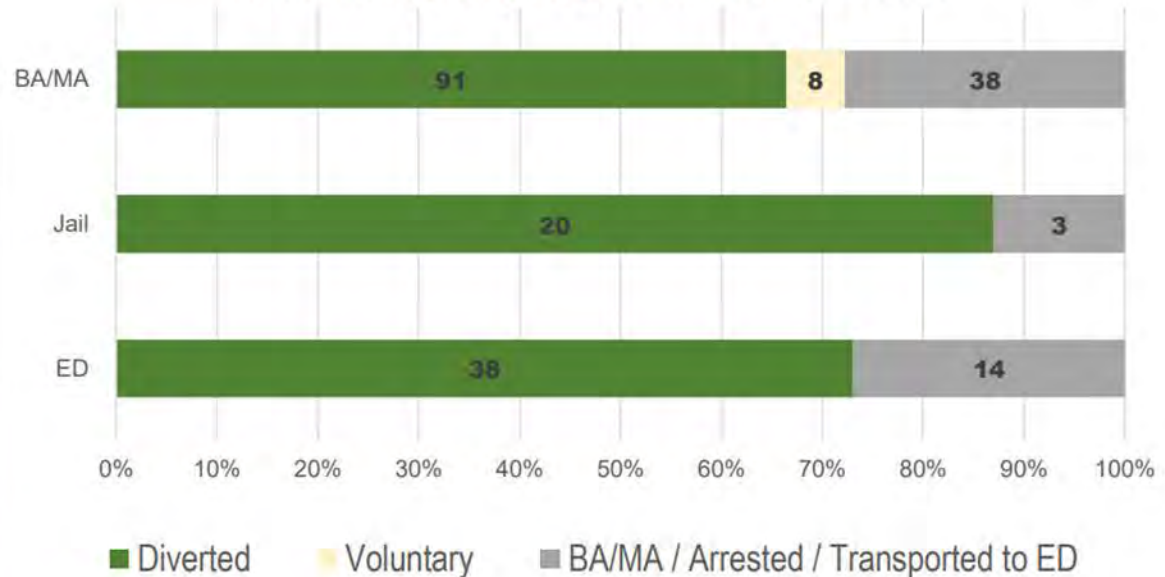
86% of Individuals who could have been arrested were diverted.

Emergency

Department Diversions:

73% Diverted to outpatient services or community resources

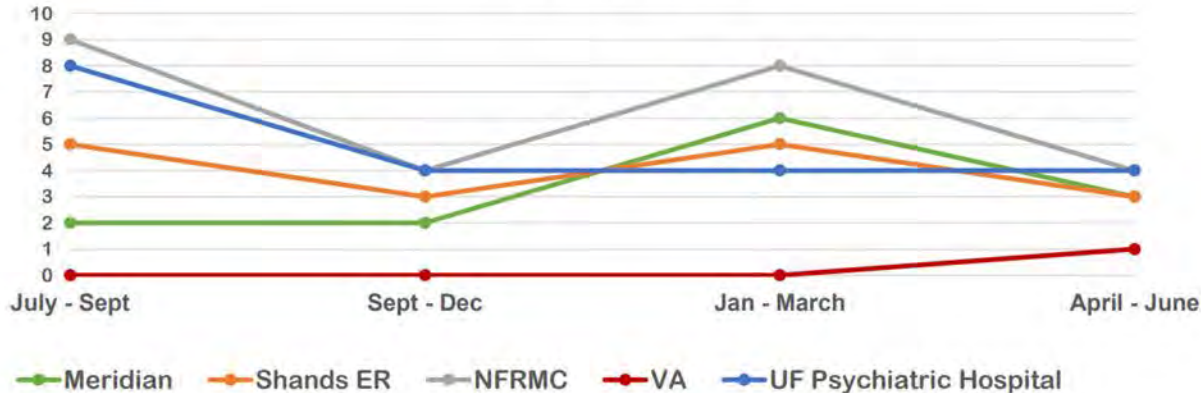
Baker Act/Marchman Act, Jail, and Emergency Department Diversions



ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

	Baker Act/Marchman Act Diversions	Jail Diversions	Emergency Department Diversions
<i>Total Diversions</i>	91	20	38
<i>Estimated Cost Savings</i>	\$236,250	\$706,225	\$57,000
<i>Calculation Information of Estimated Costs Saved</i>	Cost calculation based on average daily cost and length of stay for Meridian CSU (est \$750/day with an average of 3.5 days for an adult bed stay)	Cost calculation based on data from Miami - Dade County's average daily psychiatric inmate cost (est \$265/day) with an average of 205 days for a psychiatric inmate bed stay (per CJMASAG annual reports)	Cost calculation based on average daily cost and length of stay for Shands' ER (est \$1500/day with an average of 1 day for an adult bed stay)

2022 - 2023 Inpatient Hospitalization Receiving Facilities



Additional Data Findings

14% of CRT Calls for Service are initiated by a mental health provider.

CRT was able to de-escalate and transport **95%** of individuals without restraints.

ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

Call Type	Initial Call Type	Final Call Type
Assist Citizen	122	179
Assist Other Agency	15	14
Baker Act/Marchman Act	43	61
Battery/Assault	1	1
Disturbance	2	6
Domestic	11	3
Follow Up Investigation	25	19
Other	12	7
Referral	3	1
Suicide Attempt	74	27
Suspicious Activity/Person	27	11

Resource Utilization	
EMS/FIRE On-Scene	33 Calls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alachua County Fire Rescue (31) - Melrose Fire Rescue (2) - High Springs Fire Rescue (1) - Lacrosse Fire Rescue (1)
Other LEO Agencies (Non-ASO)	10 Calls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gainesville Police Department (5) - High Springs Police Department (2) - Union County Sheriff's Office (1) - Putnam County Sheriff's Office (1) - Veteran Administration Police (1)

ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

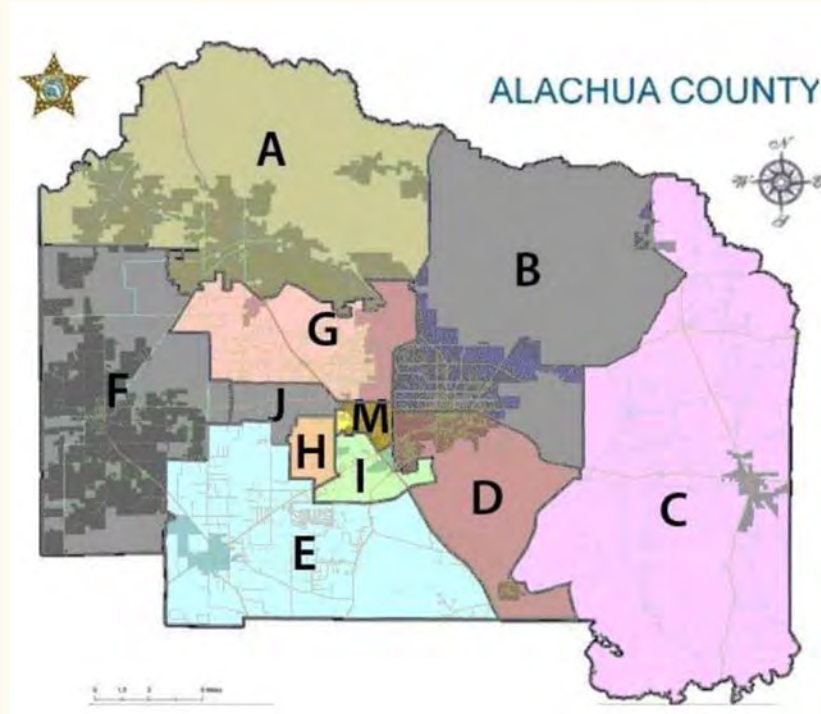
Total Units Returned to Available Status (RTAS)	254
Total Distance Driven in Miles	4465.72
Average Drive Time to Call	0:19
Average Duration of Call	0:49
Total Response Time	396:27:00
Average Response Time	1:07

Total Units Returned to Available Status (RTAS) is calculated by subtracting the total number of units assigned to an initial call by total number of units on scene at call conclusion.

Total Response Time is the sum of total drive time and duration of call

ASO T2 FY 2022-2023 Annual Data

City	Number of Calls
Gainesville	204
Newberry	33
High Springs	23
Waldo	19
Unincorporated Alachua County	16
Lacrosse	14
Hawthorne	13
Alachua	11
Micanopy	8
Archer	6



Zone	Number of Calls
ASO – A	57
ASO – M	54
ASO – I	46
ASO – G	40
ASO – F	31
ASO – D	27
ASO – C	25
ASO – B	21
ASO – J	17
ASO – E	17
ASO – H	13

Question & Answer

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In Conclusion...

“People don’t **care** how much you know unless they know how much you **care.**”

- *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops* (2019) documentary

Contact Information

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