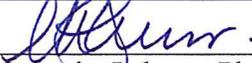


## APPENDIX C – COVER PAGE FOR GRANT APPLICATION

## Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant

PROPOSAL INFORMATION		
Type of Grant:	Planning Grant <input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation and Expansion Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project Title:	CJMSAG Reinvestment Grant	
County(ies):	Alachua and Bradford	
Preferred Project Start Date:	04/01/2020	
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Type of Applicant	County Government <input type="checkbox"/> Consortium of County Governments <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Entity <input type="checkbox"/> NFP Community Provider <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement Agency <input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicant Organization Name:	Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.	
Contact Name & Title:	Dr. Margarita Labarta, President/CEO	
Street Address	4300 SW 13th St.	
City, State and Zip Code:	Gainesville, FL 32608	
Email:	maggie_labarta@mbhci.org	
Phone:	(352) 374-5600, ext. 8220	
ADDITIONAL CONTACT		
Participating Organization Name:	N/A	
Contact Name & Title:		
Street Address		
City, State and Zip Code:		
Email:		
Phone:		
FUNDING REQUEST AND MATCHING FUNDS		
	Total Amount of Grant Funds Requested	Total Matching Funds:
Program Year 1	500,000	621,490
Program Year 2	500,000	621,490
Program Year 3	500,000	621,490
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,864,470</b>
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL		
Certifying Official's Signature:		
Certifying Official's Name (printed):	Margarita Labarta, Ph.D.	
Title:	President/CEO	
Date:	1/30/19	



# Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

---

Charles S. Chestnut IV, *Chair*  
Robert Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*  
Mike Byerly  
Ken Cornell  
Marihelen Wheeler

**Administration**  
Michele L. Lieberman  
*County Manager*

January 23, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta, President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

Dear Dr. Labarta:

I am writing concerning the grant application being prepared by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. for submission to the Department of Children and Families under its Request for Applications for the new Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (Grant RFA112818HSET1).

I confirm that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners acted on January 22, 2019 to approve a motion which authorizes Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. to act specifically in the capacity of applicant agency on behalf of Alachua County under the identified CJMHSAG Request for Applications prepared by the Department of Children and Families.

The action taken by the Board of County Commissioners follows a motion approved by the current Alachua County CJMHSAG Reinvestment Grant Planning Committee on January 17, 2019. This motion recommended to the Board that Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. be so designated as applicant authority for Grant RFA112818HSET1. The Planning Committee was established under Florida Statute 394.657 to act as the planning committee for the CJMHSAG Reinvestment Grant Program for Alachua County.

We recognize that Meridian is a well-established community provider agency with extensive experience in the grant application and grant administrative processes required under the CJMHSAG Reinvestment Grant Program. This has been evident through the organization's delivery of such services to the County during the previous four CJMHSAG Reinvestment Grants received by the County, and the Board fully endorses providing this capacity to Meridian.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Charles S. Chestnut IV".

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair  
Alachua County Commission  
Chr19.035

cc: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager  
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney

2

**RESOLUTION # 19-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
TO DESIGNATE MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE,  
INC. TO ACT AS THE APPLICANT AGENCY FOR THE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM (RFA 112818HSET1)  
FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate a not-for-profit agency to serve as the applicant agency for the submission of the application for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program Request for Applications for the Florida Department of Children and Families; and,

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Planning Committee for Alachua County, the Advisory Board to Alachua County for the Reinvestment Grant Planning Program, has approved the designation of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. as the applicant agency for the purpose of submission of a specific request for this Department of Children and Families' Request for Applications. The Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Planning Committee for Alachua County is established by Florida Statute 394.656 for oversight and monitoring of the local Reinvestment Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of County Commissioners considered the authorization of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. as the applicant agency for this Department of Children and Families' Request for Applications at its January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting and approved said authorization;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. The authorization of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. as applicant agency for the Florida Department of Children and Families' Request for Applications (GRANT # RFA 112818HSET1) is hereby approved.

2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this 22<sup>ND</sup> day of January, A.D., 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Charles S. Chestnut, IV

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. Irby

J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq. Clerk

(Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Sylvia Torres

Sylvia Torres, County Attorney



J. K. "Jess" Irby, Circuit and County Court Clerk, Alachua County, Florida, certifies this is a true copy of the document of record in this office, which may have been redacted as required by law. Witness my hand and seal on 1-23-19.

J. K. "Jess" Irby, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: Deanne Williams  
Deputy Clerk



# Bradford County Board of County Commissioners

District I  
Ross Chandler

District II  
Kenny Thompson

District III  
Chris Dougherty  
Vice-Chairman

District IV  
Danny Riddick

District V  
Frank Durrance  
Chairman

January 17, 2019

Michele Staffieri  
Procurement Manager  
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg. 6, Room 231  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700

RE: Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA #112818HSET1) Certification Letter

Dear Ms. Staffieri:

This letter documents Bradford County's intent to participate as a partner in the above grant program contingent on funding. We understand that Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. will serve as the applicant and lead agency for the grant program. The program, known locally as CJMHSAG, provides outreach, pre- and post-booking screening and assessment, treatment, intensive case management and recovery support services for justice involved individuals or those at risk. The program's primary goals are to reduce criminal justice costs, increase public safety and reduce recidivism by diverting adult individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders from local jails.

This letter also indicates the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners' agreement to participate in the current Alachua County CJMHSAG Planning Committee, which acts as a consortium committee serving both Bradford and Alachua counties. The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will designate a representative to serve on the consortium Planning Committee to further the goals of CJMHSAG in our area.

Sincerely,

Frank Durrance

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## APPENDIX D – STATEMENT OF MANDATORY ASSURANCES

		Initial
A.	<b>Infrastructure:</b> The Applicant shall possess equipment and Internet access necessary to participate fully in this solicitation.	ml
B.	<b>Site Visits:</b> The Applicant will cooperate fully with the Department in coordinating site visits, if desired by the Department.	ml
C.	<b>Non-discrimination:</b> The Applicant agrees that no person will, on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed or religion be excluded from participation in, be refused the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination pursuant to the Act governing these funds or any project, program, activity or sub-grant supported by the requirements of, (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended which prohibits discrimination in employment or any program or activity that receives or benefits from federal financial assistance on the basis of handicaps; (d) Age Discrimination Act 1975, as amended which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, (e) Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEO) must meet the requirements of 28 CFR 42.301.	ml
D.	<b>Lobbying:</b> The Applicant is prohibited by Title 31, USC, Section 1352, entitled "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," from using Federal funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative Branches of the federal government in connection with a specific grant or cooperative agreement. Section 1352 also requires that each person who requests or receives a Federal grant or cooperative agreement must disclose lobbying undertaken with non-Federal funds if grants and/or cooperative agreements exceed \$100,000 in total costs (45 CFR Part 93).	ml
E.	<b>Drug-Free Workplace Requirements:</b> The Applicant agrees that it will, or will continue to, provide a drug-free workplace in accordance with 45 CFR Part 76.	ml
F.	<b>Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements:</b> Public Law 103-227, Part C-Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994 (Act), requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for the provision of health, day care, education, or library projects to children under the age of 18, if the projects are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's projects provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for Inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.	ml
G.	<b>Compliance and Performance:</b> The Applicant understands that grant funds in Years 2 and 3 are contingent upon compliance with the requirements of this grant program and demonstration of performance towards completing the grant key activities and meeting the grant objectives, as well as availability of funds.	ml
H.	<b>Certification of Non-supplanting:</b> The Applicant certifies that funds awarded under this solicitation will not be used for programs currently being paid for by other funds or programs where the funding has been committed.	ml
I.	<b>Submission of Data:</b> The Applicant agrees to provide data and other information requested by the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center at the Florida Mental Health Institute to enable the Center to perform the statutory duties established in the authorizing legislation.	ml
J.	<b>Submission of Reports:</b> The Applicant agrees to submit quarterly progress reports and quarterly fiscal reports, signed by the County Administrator, to the Department.	ml

**Appendix I - MATCH SUMMARY**  
**(for the entire grant period)**

Date - 01/30/2018

County - Alachua-Bradford Consortium

Type of Grant - Implementation and Expansion

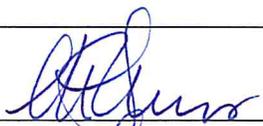
Match Requirement Percentage - 100%

Total Match Required for the Grant \$ \$1,500,000

**Match Committed:**

Cash	\$ <u>1,170,000</u>
In-Kind	\$ <u>694,470</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,864,470</u>

Comments: These counties show their commitment to the project by providing more  
than the required match for the grant.

Prepared By 

Approved By 

**APPENDIX H – COMMITMENT OF MATCH DONATION FORMS  
(FOR THE ENTIRE GRANT PERIOD)**

TO: (name of county) Alachua-Bradford Consortium  
 FROM: (donor name) Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc  
 ADDRESS: 1565 SW Williston Rd  
Gainesville, FL 32601

The following x space, \_\_\_ equipment, \_\_\_ goods or supplies, and \_\_\_ services, are donated to the County \_\_\_\_\_ permanently (title passes to the County) x temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period 4/1/2020 to 3/31/2023.

**Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
(1) <u>80 square feet of office space x \$18.97 sq. ft. X 36 months</u>	<u>\$ 61,464</u>
(2) <u>Clerical support for grant: annual salary \$24,960 x .40 = \$9,984</u> <u>x 36 months</u>	<u>\$ 29,952</u>
(3) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
(4) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
<b>TOTAL VALUE <u>\$91,416</u></b>	

The above donation is not currently included as a cost (either direct or matching) of any state or federal contract or grant, nor has it been previously purchased from or used as match for any state or federal contract.

 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-18-2019 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Donor-Signature) (Date) (County Designee Signature) (Date)

**Appendix H (cont.)  
BASIS OF VALUATION**

**Building/Space**

1. Donor retains title:
  - a. Fair commercial rental value - Substantiated in provider's records by written confirmation(s) of fair commercial rental value by qualified individuals, e.g., Realtors, property managers, etc.
  - b. (1) Established monthly rental of space \$ 1,707,33  
 (2) Number of months donated during the contract 36  
 Value to the project [b.(1) X b.(2)] \$ 61,464

2. Title passes to the County:

**Depreciation**

- a. Cost of Fair Market Value (FMV) at acquisition (excluding land) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Estimated useful life at date of acquisition \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
- c. Annual depreciation (a./b.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Total square footage \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- e. Number of square feet to be used on the grant program \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- f. Percentage of time during contract period the project will occupy the building or space \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 Value to project (e./d. X f. X c.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Use Allowance**

- a. To be used in the absence of depreciation schedule (i.e., when the item is not normally depreciated in the County's accounting records).
- b. May include an allowance for space as well as the normal cost of upkeep, such as repairs and maintenance, insurance, etc.

**Equipment**

1. Donor retains title: Fair Rental Value
2. Title passes to County:
  - a. FMV at time of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or
  - b. Annual value to project (not to exceed 6 2/3% X a.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Goods or Supplies**

FMV at time of donation

**Personnel Services**

1. Staff of another agency or organization:  
 Annual Salary \$24,960 Number of hours 2080 X .40 to be provided = 9,984 \$ 29,952/3 yrs.
2. Volunteer -- Comparable annual salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Annual Salary Number of hours 2080 X to be provided = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX H – COMMITMENT OF MATCH DONATION FORMS  
(FOR THE ENTIRE GRANT PERIOD)

TO: (name of county) Alachua  
FROM: (donor name) Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
ADDRESS: 12 SE 1st Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

The following \_\_\_ space, \_\_\_ equipment, \_\_\_ goods or supplies, and \_\_\_ services, are donated to the County \_\_\_\_\_ permanently (title passes to the County) \_\_\_\_\_ temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)

Description	Value
(1) <u>Cash match from General Fund of \$370,000 per year for 3 years</u>	<u>\$ 1,110,000.00</u>
(2) <u>Personnel Services for 3 years</u>	<u>\$ 240,000.00</u>
(3) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
(4) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
TOTAL VALUE <u>\$1,350,000</u>	

The above donation is not currently included as a cost (either direct or matching) of any state or federal contract or grant, nor has it been previously purchased from or used as match for any state or federal contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Donor Signature)                      \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)                      Chad Christensen 1/22/19  
(County Designee Signature)                      (Date)

ATTEST: Jess Irby

J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq.  
Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM

[Signature]  
ALACHUA COUNTY ATTORNEY

**Appendix H (cont.)  
BASIS OF VALUATION**

**Building/Space**

1. Donor retains title:
  - a. Fair commercial rental value - Substantiated in provider's records by written confirmation(s) of fair commercial rental value by qualified individuals, e.g., Realtors, property managers, etc.
  - b. (1) Established monthly rental of space \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) Number of months donated during the contract \_\_\_\_\_  
 Value to the project [b.(1) X b.(2)] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Title passes to the County:

**Depreciation**

- a. Cost of Fair Market Value (FMV) at acquisition (excluding land) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Estimated useful life at date of acquisition \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
- c. Annual depreciation (a./b.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Total square footage \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- e. Number of square feet to be used on the grant program \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- f. Percentage of time during contract period the project will occupy the building or space \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 Value to project (e./d. X f. X c.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Use Allowance**

- a. To be used in the absence of depreciation schedule (i.e., when the item is not normally depreciated in the County's accounting records).
- b. May include an allowance for space as well as the normal cost of upkeep, such as repairs and maintenance, insurance, etc.

**Equipment**

1. Donor retains title: Fair Rental Value
2. Title passes to County:
  - a. FMV at time of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or
  - b. Annual value to project (not to exceed 6 2/3% X a.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Goods or Supplies**

FMV at time of donation

**Personnel Services**

1. Staff of another agency or organization:
 

Annual Salary	Number of hours 2080	X	to be provided =	\$ 180,000/3 yrs. Benefits Coordinator
---------------	----------------------	---	------------------	--
2. Volunteer – Comparable annual salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_
 

Annual Salary	Number of hours 2080	X	.2881 to be provided =	\$ 60,000/3 yrs. Criminal Justice Liaison
---------------	----------------------	---	------------------------	---
- Annual Salary      Number of hours 2080      X to be provided      =      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX H – COMMITMENT OF MATCH DONATION FORMS  
(FOR THE ENTIRE GRANT PERIOD)**

TO: (name of county) Alachua-Bradford Consortium  
 FROM: (donor name) Alachua County Sheriff's Office  
 ADDRESS: 3333 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32609

The following X space,    equipment,    goods or supplies, and X services, are donated to the County    permanently (title passes to the County) X temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period 4/1/20 to 3/31/23.

**Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
(1) <u>Make available personnel time and related operating expenses funded from the Alachua County General Fund to provide grant oversight, screening, supervision and treatment services to the CJMHSAG grant funded target population. (\$32,269/year; \$96,813/3 years)</u>	<u>\$96,807</u>
(2) <u>Make available office space for the Forensic Diversion Screener (\$18,204/year; \$54,612/3 years)</u>	<u>\$ 54,612</u>
..(3) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
..(4) _____	<u>\$ _____</u>

TOTAL VALUE \$151,419

The above donation is not currently included as a cost (either direct or matching) of any state or federal contract or grant, nor has it been previously purchased from or used as match for any state or federal contract.

Sadie Darnell                      2/11/19                      \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Donor Signature)                      (Date)                      (County Designee Signature)      (Date)

Sadie Darnell  
 Sheriff, Alachua County

**Appendix H (cont.)  
BASIS OF VALUATION**

**Building/Space**

1. Donor retains title:
  - a. Fair commercial rental value - Substantiated in provider's records by written confirmation(s) of fair commercial rental value by qualified individuals, e.g., Realtors, property managers, etc.
  - b. (1) Established monthly rental of space \$ 1,517.00  
 (2) Number of months donated during the contract 36  
 Value to the project [b.(1) X b.(2)] \$ 54,612

2. Title passes to the County:

**Depreciation**

- a. Cost of Fair Market Value (FMV) at acquisition (excluding land) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Estimated useful life at date of acquisition \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
- c. Annual depreciation (a./b.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Total square footage \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- e. Number of square feet to be used on the grant program \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- f. Percentage of time during contract period the project will occupy the building or space \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 Value to project (e./d. X f. X c.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Use Allowance**

- a. To be used in the absence of depreciation schedule (i.e., when the item is not normally depreciated in the County's accounting records).
- b. May include an allowance for space as well as the normal cost of upkeep, such as repairs and maintenance, insurance, etc.

**Equipment**

1. Donor retains title: Fair Rental Value
2. Title passes to County:
  - a. FMV at time of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or
  - b. Annual value to project (not to exceed 6 2/3% X a.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Goods or Supplies**

FMV at time of donation

**Personnel Services**

1. Staff of another agency or organization:
 

Number of hours  
 29.55 X 21 hours/wk = \$32,269 X 3 years = \$96,807

2. Volunteer -- Comparable annual salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Annual Salary      Number of hours 2080      X to be provided      =      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX H – COMMITMENT OF MATCH DONATION FORMS  
(FOR THE ENTIRE GRANT PERIOD)

TO: (name of county) Bradford County/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare  
FROM: (donor name) Bradford County  
ADDRESS: 945 Temple Drive  
Starke, FL 32901

The following \_\_\_ space, \_\_\_ equipment, \_\_\_ goods or supplies, and \_\_\_ services, are donated to the County \_\_\_\_\_ permanently (title passes to the County) \_\_\_\_\_ temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
(1) <u>Cash match from General Fund of \$20,000 per year for 3 years</u>	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
(2) _____	\$ _____
(3) _____	\$ _____
(4) _____	\$ _____
TOTAL VALUE \$ <u>60,000</u>	

The above donation is not currently included as a cost (either direct or matching) of any state or federal contract or grant, nor has it been previously purchased from or used as match for any state or federal contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Donor Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

  
(County Designee Signature)

1-17-19  
(Date)

**APPENDIX H – COMMITMENT OF MATCH DONATION FORMS  
(FOR THE ENTIRE GRANT PERIOD)**

TO: (name of county) Bradford County/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare  
 FROM: (donor name) Bradford County  
 ADDRESS: 945 Temple Drive  
Starke, FL 32901

The following  x  space,  x  equipment,   goods or supplies, and  x  services, are donated to the County   permanently (title passes to the County)  x  temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period  4/1/2020  to  3/31/23 .

**Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>		<u>Value</u>
(1) <u>Phone/Internet service @ \$80 per month X 36 months</u>	<u>\$ 2,880</u>	(5) Lieutenant providing service oversight/coord.	\$ 59,280
(2) <u>Laptop and software</u>	<u>\$ 4,500</u>	(6) Clerical assistance as needed	\$ 24,960
(3) <u>Desktop Computer/printer, etc.</u>	<u>\$ 3,750</u>		
(4) <u>Office space-80 square feet of office space X \$18.97 sq. feet X 36 months</u>	<u>\$54,633</u>		
	<u>TOTAL VALUE \$ 150,003</u>		

The above donation is not currently included as a cost (either direct or matching) of any state or federal contract or grant, nor has it been previously purchased from or used as match for any state or federal contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Donor Signature)                      \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date)                        
 (County Designee Signature)                      1-17-19  
 (Date)

**Appendix H (cont.)  
BASIS OF VALUATION**

**Building/Space**

1. Donor retains title:

- a. Fair commercial rental value - Substantiated in provider's records by written confirmation(s) of fair commercial rental value by qualified individuals, e.g., Realtors, property managers, etc.
- b. (1) Established monthly rental of space \$ 1,518
- (2) Number of months donated during the contract 36
- Value to the project [b.(1) X b.(2)] \$ 54,633

2. Title passes to the County:

Depreciation

- a. Cost of Fair Market Value (FMV) at acquisition (excluding land) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Estimated useful life at date of acquisition \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
- c. Annual depreciation (a./b.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Total square footage \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- e. Number of square feet to be used on the grant program \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- f. Percentage of time during contract period the project will occupy the building or space \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Value to project (e./d. X f. X c.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use Allowance

- a. To be used in the absence of depreciation schedule (i.e., when the item is not normally depreciated in the County's accounting records).
- b. May include an allowance for space as well as the normal cost of upkeep, such as repairs and maintenance, insurance, etc.

**Equipment**

1. Donor retains title: Fair Rental Value

2. Title passes to County:

- a. FMV at time of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- or
- b. Annual value to project (not to exceed 6 2/3% X a.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Goods or Supplies**

FMV at time of donation

**Personnel Services**

1. Staff of another agency or organization:

Annual Salary \$39,520 Number of hours 2080 X .50 to be provided \$ 59,280 (3 years)  
 Annual Salary \$24,960 Number of hours 2080 X .334 to be provided

2. Volunteer -- Comparable annual salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Salary            Number of hours 2080    X to be provided    =    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<b>TAB 5: STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM</b>
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**5.1 EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The proposed program, scheduled to begin in the 2020-21 grant cycle, aims to implement and expand Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant services for adult individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Services will be provided in Alachua and Bradford counties within Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Program expansion will focus on increasing successful reentry and recovery outcomes for individuals transitioning from jail to the community. The program, known locally as CJMHSAG, is an initiative of the existing Alachua and Bradford consortium. Both counties within the consortium have certified Meridian Behavioral Healthcare to serve as the CJMHSAG program's applicant and lead agency (see Tab 1) and Alachua County as the lead county for the consortium.

**Under this new grant cycle, the program will include expansion initiatives at the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Intercepts 4 (Reentry) and 5 (Community Supervision and Support).** CJMHSAG will also continue to implement an integrated service array across all Intercept levels, including outreach, screening/assessment, case management, treatment, recovery support services, peer services and aftercare. These integrated diversion services will include a care coordinated, team-based approach with the objective of helping high need, high risk individuals navigate complex service systems in the community.

The proposed program expansion will include the following components:

- 1. Post-booking clinical assessment and treatment services for inmates transitioning to the community from the Alachua and Bradford County jails:*** In response to a stakeholder identified need, this expansion will reallocate and expand clinical resources to allow biopsychosocial assessment and initial treatment services to begin in the jail. The population CJMHSAG serves often experience extended jail stays before release as they wait for the court process and other factors. As a result, access to timely treatment may be delayed for these individuals, placing them more at risk for mental health decompensation and/or substance use relapse after reentry. Research widely supports that the days and weeks following reentry into the community are the most vulnerable, especially for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.<sup>1</sup> The objectives of expanding jail-based clinical services are to increase client stability before reentry, promote early engagement in treatment, and decrease the time between the first clinical appointment. This initiative will also promote further communication between the jails and the CJMHSAG team. The expanded services will be provided in addition to the established case management services Meridian currently provides in the jails. (These transition services are further described in Tab 6, Section 6.2.3.)

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<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison: Implementation Guide. (SMA)-16-4998. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017, 4.

**2. *Transitional housing in the recently opened Meridian Lodge dedicated for CJMHSAG program participants facing housing barriers upon reentry:***

Although the program aims to take a Housing First approach to helping each client in need find permanent housing, lack of housing in the consortium area has been identified as one of the most serious social determinants of recidivism for program participants. In addition to the area's local housing shortage, reentering ex-offenders in general, and those facing substance abuse and mental health issues in particular, face discriminatory and access barriers to permanent housing.<sup>2</sup> The most recent SIM for Alachua County has cited access to housing as a significant service gap under Intercept 5.<sup>3</sup> The expanded housing resources proposed will reduce the need to temporarily place clients in motels until permanent housing is secured. In addition, Lodge housing will offer a safer, supervised environment on the Meridian campus; provide a stable environment for individuals to work on obtaining their benefits or securing employment/education; and decrease transportation and other access barriers. Treatment and recovery support services on Meridian's campus are within easy walking distance of the Lodge, as is transportation assistance through Meridian to other services in the community. This transitional housing will be offered to individuals within both consortium counties based on level of need.

Spearheaded by the Alachua County Planning Committee in 2008, the CJMHSAG program has played a leading role in furthering the county's commitment to stop the cycle of incarceration for adult individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. In 2016 the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, passed a resolution forming the consortium with Bradford County. Implementing the consortium allowed the CJMHSAG program to share diversion resources and experience with a neighboring rural, fiscally-constrained county. The recent efforts of the CJHMSAG consortium have resulted in new diversion initiatives for Bradford County, such as their first Mental Health Court and first countywide SIM analysis. The efficacy of CJHMSAG's overall efforts is evidenced in positive performance outcomes, such as an 78% reduction in new charges for CJMHSAG participants and a 59% reduction in jail days two years pre- and post-admission (2015-2016 admissions). CMHSAG expansion funding will enable both counties and the region to further this progress and continue to move forward in realizing long-term, comprehensive systems change for our clients and community.

**5.1.1 Geographic environment and socioeconomic factors:** In keeping with its Strategic Plan vision, the CJMHSAG consortium aims to mitigate the geographic and socioeconomic barriers that may impact access to treatment for the target population. For the consortium area, this may include factors such as high poverty, a lack of resources, and the challenges of a rural environment.

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<sup>2</sup> Osher, F. Steadman, H.J. & Barr H. (2002). A best practice approach to community re-entry from jails for inmates with co-occurring disorders: the APIC model: Delmar, NY: The National GAINS Center, 9.

<sup>3</sup> Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center at Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop, May 26, 2016, 10-11.

**Alachua County** is comprised of an 875 square mile land area with an estimated 2018 population of 266,944. The population is 70.1% White, 20.6% Black, 6.1% Asian, .3% American Indian or Alaska Native, .1% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and 2.8% two or more races. 9.8% are Hispanic or Latino of any race. The county seat is the city of Gainesville with an estimated population of 132,249, nearly half the total county population (U.S. Census). While Gainesville offers many of the resources of an urban community, **the remainder of the county is predominantly rural and experiences the challenges of providing services within rural communities.**



According to the U.S. Census, 89.35% of Alachua County's land area and 21.19% of its population is designated rural.

**Poverty has a significant socioeconomic impact in the county.** Poverty levels in Alachua County have consistently been well above state levels with a 2017 estimate of 21.2% of persons living at or below poverty level, versus 14.0% statewide. In the city of Gainesville, 33.6% of the population is at or below poverty level (U.S. Census).

According to the 2018 Point-In-Time count, there were 641 homeless people in Alachua County. Although this represents an overall decrease from Point-In-Time counts in previous years, there was a gradual increase in the number of homeless people in jail, from 62 counted in 2016 to 71 in 2017 and 84 in 2018.<sup>4</sup> Research has shown that homelessness and incarceration are mutual risk factors and that homelessness plays a key role in individuals cycling in and out of jail.

In spite of the extended healthcare resources within the city of Gainesville, the county has federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations for primary care and mental health care, predominately for low income and rural areas.<sup>5</sup> In 2016, 11.9% of adults in Alachua County had poor mental health on 14 or more of the past 30 days, slightly above the 11.4% rate statewide.<sup>6</sup> According to the most current available report (2016-17), there were 2,444 involuntary (Baker Act) examinations of individuals residing in Alachua County, 38.46% initiated by law enforcement.<sup>7</sup> The total number of arrests in Alachua County has declined gradually over the past three years, from 11,976 arrests in 2015, to 10,590 in 2016, and 9,568 in 2017. However, in spite of this decline, the violent crime rate increased between 2016 and 2017 by 11.6%.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Data Source: North Central Florida Alliance for the Hungry and Homeless

<sup>5</sup> WellFlorida Council, accessed January 14, 2019, <http://www.wellflorida.org>.

<sup>6</sup> Florida Department of Health. FLHealthCharts. 2016, accessed January 15, 2017 from <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/Brfss/DataViewer.aspx?bid=0061>.

<sup>7</sup> Christy, A., Rhode, S., Lersch, K., Ringhoff, D., Jenkins, K., & Alitz, P. (June 2018). The Baker Act: Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Annual Report. Tampa: Baker Act Reporting Center, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, Department of Mental Health Law & Policy, University of South Florida, 27.

<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Crime in Florida - County Profiles, accessed January 7, 2019 from [http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/County-Profiles-\(1\)](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/County-Profiles-(1)).

Bordering Alachua County to the Northeast, **Bradford County** is a 100% rural county that has been designated by the state as fiscally constrained (RFA, Appendix F). The County has an estimated 2017 population of 27,038 and a land area of 293.96 square miles. The county seat is the city of Starke, which is also the location of Florida State Prison. Bradford County's population is 77.6% White, 19.2% Black, .6% Asian, .5% American Indian and Alaska Native, .1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 2.1% two or more races. 4.1% are Hispanic or Latino of any race. The percentage of persons living in poverty in Bradford County is 19.1% (U.S. Census).



Bradford is challenged by the serious resource shortages and fragmented service systems common in rural areas. For example, there is a shortage in healthcare providers in the county, including providers of behavioral health treatment. According to data from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the ratio of the population to mental health providers is currently 5,390:1, versus 700:1 statewide.<sup>9</sup> In 2016-17, there were 255 involuntary (Baker Act) examinations of individuals residing in Bradford County, over half of which (54.51%) were initiated by law enforcement.<sup>10</sup> Like Alachua, Bradford County also saw a decline in arrests from 1,586 in 2015 to 1,477 in 2016 and 1,334 in 2017. However, the county saw a 10.1% crime rate increase for property crime (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) between 2016 and 2017.<sup>11</sup>

**5.1.2 Target population and priority as a community concern:** Within Alachua and Bradford counties, the target population will be inclusive of adults (age 18 or older) who have been identified as having a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders and who are in, or at risk of entering/re-entering, the criminal justice system. In keeping with local public safety and cost reduction goals, **the program will prioritize individuals with chronic mental illness and high criminogenic needs, who are at high risk of recidivism.**

In accordance with local needs, the target population will also include, but will not be limited to, the following focus subpopulations:

- *Individuals with chronic mental illness who have been deemed Incompetent to Proceed, but have regained their competency and are being released to the community:* These individuals typically have chronic mental illnesses with the greatest need for services. Many of these individuals released from state hospitalization may remain in jail for several months awaiting reentry.
- *Individuals with chronic mental illness who have been identified as “high utilizers” of*

<sup>9</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation “County Health Rankings and Roadmaps,” accessed January 14, 2019, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

<sup>10</sup> Christy, et al., June 2018, 30.

<sup>11</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Crime in Florida - County Profiles, accessed January 7, 2019 from [http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/County-Profiles-\(1\)](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/County-Profiles-(1)).

*the jails and/or other acute services:* Typically, these individuals are well known by the criminal justice system, mental health providers and emergency services.

- *Individuals with chronic mental illness who have misdemeanor charges and one or more of the following: 1) have been deemed Incompetent to Proceed; 2) do not meet criteria for mental health court; and/or 3) have high recidivism rates:* The proposed program will provide services to address individuals in the above categories for which there is no other funding available. During the last Alachua County SIM workshop, stakeholders identified a service gap (SIM Intercept 3) for misdemeanant populations with mental health issues that are both competent and incompetent.<sup>12</sup>

## **5.2 ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT JAIL POPULATION**

The total number of beds in the **Alachua County Jail** is 1,148. With a classification factor of 15%, the optimum number of inmates that can be housed at the jail is 975. Tables 1 and 2 show jail bookings and average daily population respectively over the past five years.<sup>13</sup> The steady decrease in bookings over this time period coincides with a period of increased investment by Alachua County and the Sheriff's Office in diversion initiatives, including law enforcement response strategies (SIM Intercept 1), such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for officers.

**Table 1. Alachua County Jail Bookings by Month, 2014-2018**

<b>BOOKINGS</b>					
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
JAN	1079	1039	926	809	692
FEB	987	901	884	733	651
MAR	1059	988	848	893	727
APR	1054	920	915	761	736
MAY	1087	869	832	784	761
JUN	1090	905	905	816	695
JUL	1176	947	830	764	712
AUG	1018	880	747	782	703
SEPT	992	891	838	707	619
OCT	1142	858	759	720	634
NOV	1043	816	713	687	679
DEC	925	808	698	681	598
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12652</b>	<b>10822</b>	<b>9895</b>	<b>9137</b>	<b>8207</b>

<sup>12</sup> Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center at Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop, May 26, 2016, 8.

<sup>13</sup> Data Source: Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO)

**Table 2. Average Daily Population in Alachua County Jail by Month, 2014-2018**

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
JAN	852	767	819	748	738
FEB	845	744	846	781	745
MAR	816	769	833	798	717
APR	828	815	786	781	742
MAY	853	800	778	783	798
JUN	875	774	810	807	807
JUL	881	751	806	808	824
AUG	885	755	758	794	808
SEPT	856	791	786	778	805
OCT	809	790	783	766	767
NOV	837	775	755	748	734
DEC	763	784	714	754	685

Demographics of the general Alachua County jail population booked into the jail from January 1, 2018-January 1, 2019 are 75% Male, 25% female; 42.5% White; 56.7% Black; and less than 1% other race.<sup>14</sup>

The **Bradford County Jail** is a rural facility with a jail capacity of 250. Booking data for the last 6 months of 2018 (June 1, 2018-December 31, 2018) indicate there were 721 bookings with a monthly average of 103 individuals and a high monthly count of 163. For the first three weeks of 2019 (January 1-January 27), there were 123 bookings.

Representative demographics of the jail population are 77% White and 23% Black. Less than 1% are Hispanic (all races). 71% are male, 29% female.<sup>15</sup>

**5.2.1 Screening and assessment used to identify the Target Population:** In Alachua County, the Classification Officer conducts the first screening at booking in for early identification of mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. The Classification Officer will then refer the defendant to the CJMHSAG screener at the jail, who is an employee of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and part of the proposed grant request. The screener will send all referrals to the CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director at Meridian the same day. The CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director will review all referrals to determine if the case meets criteria for admission to the Program. (If the referral does not meet the basic admission criteria, the individual will be referred to another program if appropriate, and recommendations will be made to the referral sources.) Currently, Meridian has free access to begin forensic intensive case management services in the jail for individuals admitted to the program. This includes case management screening tools focused on assessing the assigned client's social, clinical and public safety needs. For example, the Forensic specialist uses the evidence-based **GAINS Reentry Checklist** to assess the individual's needs across

<sup>14</sup> Data Source: ACSO

<sup>15</sup> Data Source: Bradford County Sheriff's Office (BCSO)

major domains (e.g., housing, medication, health care, benefits, income, food) and the **Historical Clinical Risk Management-20, Version 3 (HCR-20 V3)** for the assessment and management of violence risk. Forensic Team members use evidence-based, person-centered **Motivational Interviewing (MI)** to evaluate an individual's readiness for change, determine program placement and promote engagement and retention.

In Bradford County individuals are currently identified as eligible for the CJMHSAG program through referral by the jail nurse, who works collaboratively with the Meridian Forensic Recovery Specialist. The Forensic Recovery Specialist in Bradford County is responsible for all screening for the CJMHSAG program and for monitoring the release status of incarcerated defendants. The Forensic Recovery Specialist sends all referrals to the Program Director, who will then follow the procedures described above. Meridian is currently working actively to inform and collaborate with Bradford County stakeholders on the development of an expanded early screening process, including the use of an evidence-based screening tool at booking-in (e.g., Brief Mental Health Screen). The Public Defender in Bradford County and other County stakeholders had initial concerns about a screening tool and its effect on their clients' cases. As a result of CJMHSAG funding, Bradford County recently had its first Sequential Intercept Model workshop (September 17, 2018), which further explained this screening process. Drawing on the information learned from the SIM workshop and the experience of the Circuit 18 Public Defender's Office and other Planning Committee members, Meridian is working successfully with the Bradford County legal community on in-jail screening development. An expanded screening process is anticipated to be in place prior to the new grant cycle.

For both consortium counties, individuals identified in the jail as eligible for services receive a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment typically after release from the jail. **Biopsychosocial assessments** are conducted using *Essentia*<sup>TM</sup>, Meridian's electronic medical record system. *Essentia*<sup>TM</sup> incorporates comprehensive evidence-based assessment tools and strategies used throughout the agency. One of the primary objectives of the proposed expansion program is to expedite the biopsychosocial assessment in the jail for all individuals whose incarceration is extended, so that the CJMHSAG Forensic Team may begin clinical assessment and treatment prior to community reentry. Comprehensive assessment also includes the **Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) assessment tool**. The RNR helps determine level of risk and the appropriate dosage of services in accordance with that risk, thereby providing assistance with decision support at the client, forensic program and court system level. See Tab 6, Section 6.2.2.5: "Plan to screen potential participants and conduct tailored, validated needs-based assessments" for additional information on the RNR and other screening and assessment tools used in the program.

**5.2.2. Percentage of persons admitted to the jail who have a mental illness, substance use disorder or co-occurring disorders:** Alachua County jail data over the last several years indicates that an average of over 30% of all individuals in the jail are on psychotropic drugs at any given time. During 2017-2018, this equated to an average of over 250 inmates per month taking psychotropic drugs. However, it should be noted that these statistics are not representative of the total number of individuals with mental illness, as many of the chronically mentally ill who come through the jail

have refused or do not have access to medication.

Individuals experiencing serious mental health crisis while in the jail are in part illustrated by the number of emergent referrals (Table 4). These numbers represent referrals/requests to the court to consider inmate release/state hospitalization due to a mental health and/or medical crisis. These numbers represent individuals who can be considered unstable and are also typically on psychotropic medication. The majority of emergent referrals are Baker Act releases; however, a portion are state hospitalizations. Referrals have shown a decline over the five-year period. Existing CJMHSAG efforts have provided an enhanced ability to identify inmates with mental health and co-occurring disorders and follow-up with existing services. One of the objectives of the proposed expansion is to continue to impact the numbers shown below through earlier, in-jail clinical intervention.

**Table 4. Emergent Referrals of Individuals in Alachua County Jail by Month, 2014-2018<sup>16</sup>**

<b>EMERGENT REFERRALS</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
JAN	40	17	11	25	12
FEB	27	19	19	17	16
MAR	27	19	32	22	17
APR	24	32	33	26	9
MAY	25	21	31	23	10
JUN	19	31	31	14	11
JUL	26	25	22	19	18
AUG	20	24	24	11	13
SEPT	30	24	21	3	15
OCT	23	20	20	21	22
NOV	21	14	16	13	26
DEC	27	10	17	25	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>205</b>

Current Bradford County data shows that an average of 19% of the jail bookings in 2017-2018 and 21% of the 2019 bookings to date (January 27, 2019) were for alcohol and drug-related offenses. However, the Bradford County Sheriff's Department reports that as high as 80% of the inmates on their 2017 rosters had substance use issues based on history of use as well as charges, and 30% had mental health issues. The Sheriff's Office reports that without diversion services such as the CJMHSAG Mental Health Court, individuals with chronic mental health issues and less serious charges repeatedly cycle through the jail, significantly impacting already limited resources.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Data Source: ACSO

<sup>17</sup> Data Source: BCSO

**5.2.3 Analysis of observed contributing factors that affect population trends in the jail:** In Alachua County, the city of Gainesville's location as the first major city in the center of Florida attracts area prison and jail releases, as well as other high risk populations from Florida and Georgia. The city has a large homeless tent encampment, Dignity Village, which surrounds a one-stop center for services for those experiencing homelessness, known as Grace Marketplace. Dignity Village attracts a significant number of justice-involved individuals who are re-entering the community from the Department of Corrections and jails and who can live at the tent encampment with few restrictions. Calls from the encampment for assistance from local law enforcement and other first responders can average over three per day.<sup>18</sup> Research has shown that having interaction with a justice involved peer network and with others who are reoffending may have a "spatial contagion" effect on an individual's reentry outcomes and increase the likelihood of recidivism.<sup>19</sup>

One of the major contributing factors in Bradford County is the lack of a pretrial monitoring agency. As a result, defendants often have to remain in jail for longer periods. Additionally, research has indicated that in rural areas like Bradford County geographic and sociocultural factors, such as isolation and/or perceived stigma regarding mental illness, may serve as barriers to seeking timely behavioral health treatment.<sup>20</sup> Because of these barriers, law enforcement is more frequently the point of contact in the event of a behavioral health crisis. Lack of access may also lead to potential long-term negative consequences, such as repeated arrests and incarceration, due to untreated behavioral health disorders.

**5.2.4. Factors that put the target population at-risk of entering or re-entering the criminal justice system:** Many of individuals referred for Alachua County forensic services are those with chronic mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who also have moderate to high criminogenic risk. Without targeted interventions to promote a change in criminal thinking and behavior, this population has a higher risk of entering or re-entering the criminal justice system.

Table 5 shows the level of risk of a sampling of 88 CJMHSAG clients based on their RNR assessments.

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<sup>18</sup> Data Source: Alachua County Community Support Services

<sup>19</sup> Stahler, G. J., Mennis, J., Belenko, S., Welsh, W. N., Hiller, M. L., & Zajac, G. (2013). Predicting Recidivism for Released State Prison Offenders: Examining the Influence of Individual and Neighborhood Characteristics and Spatial Contagion on the Likelihood of Reincarceration. *Criminal justice and behavior*, 40(6), 690-711.

<sup>20</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Preventing Suicide. Rural Health Policy Brief. Accessed December 29, 2018 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ruralhealth/suicide/policybrief.html>.

**Table 5. Level of Risk for a Sample of CJMHSAG Clients, July 2017-January 2018**

<b>Levels of Criminogenic Risk</b>	
<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
Very Low Risk	17%
Low Risk	25%
Moderate Risk	42%
High Risk	13%
Very High Risk	1%

The importance of homelessness as a social determinant of recidivism cannot be over-emphasized. A national study on the correlation of jail incarceration, homelessness and mental health, indicated that recent homelessness was 7.5 to 11.3 times more common among jail inmates than in the general population, that homelessness and jail incarceration seem to be at risk of one another, and that these risks are impacted by substance use and mental illness.<sup>21</sup> A Department of Justice Survey found that jail inmates with a mental health issue were twice as likely to have been homeless in the year prior to their incarceration as inmates without mental health issues (17.2% versus 8.8%, respectively).<sup>22</sup> As stated above, the lack of available housing for individuals being released from jail or discharged from forensic hospitals is a key factor influencing recidivism for ex-offenders in the consortium area. Without housing options and other integrated resources, homelessness, mental illness/substance use disorders and jail recidivism are self-perpetuating and expensive.

### **5.3. ANALYSIS OF THE TARGET POPULATION**

In keeping with the Strategic Plan mission, the purpose of the CJMHSAG program is to divert a primary target population of individuals who have mental illness and/or substance use disorders from the jails. The proposed program will place focus on, but will not be limited to, subpopulations at high risk of poor reentry outcomes and recidivism. See Section 5.1.2 “Target population and priority as a community concern” above for detailed information on these subpopulations.

**The CJMHSAG consortium program anticipates screening 800 individuals and enrolling 330 participants in the full CJMHSAG program annually.** These estimates are based on historical CJMHSAG Forensic program numbers. These numbers are anticipated to increase given the acceptance of jail diversion principles across stakeholders in Alachua County, as well as the increase in understanding of jail diversion concepts and implementation of related best practices in Bradford County.

<sup>21</sup> Greenberg, G. & Rosenheck, R. (2008). Jail incarceration, homelessness, and mental health: A national study. *Psychiatric Services*, 59, 170-177.

<sup>22</sup> Glaze, Lauren E. and Dorris J. James. 2006. *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Washington, D.C., 4.

<b>TAB 6: PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>
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**6.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The CJMHSAG Planning Committee, an advisory board created by and reporting to the County Commission, was appointed in 2007 to provide oversight for the Reinvestment Grant Program. This group grew out of the seminal work of Alachua County's Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC), a leader in addressing mental illness among the inmates at the jail. The Planning Committee has remained highly active and engaged in supporting and furthering the program's goal, and all members play a vital role in monitoring its effectiveness. On June 29, 2016, the CJMHSAG Planning Committee agreed to form a consortium with Bradford County to expand the program's impact. Regional Circuit 8 and local representatives from both counties bring to the table a strong understanding of the unique needs of their communities and populations.

**6.1.1 Composition of the Planning Committee:** The membership of the Planning Committee, includes consortium representation. Membership, which is in compliance with s. 394.637 (2)(a), F.S., is drawn from key agencies and organizations within the criminal justice, treatment and related systems. The membership for the proposed program also includes consumers of mental health and substance abuse services.

**A list of the current members (RFA, Appendix K) is included in Attachment A on the following page (page 29)..**

**6.1.2 Planning council's activities, including the frequency of meeting for the previous 12 months and future scheduling of meetings:** The CJMHSAG Planning Committee meets formally on a quarterly basis (i.e., 4 times) in the previous 12 months, January, April, July and October). **The most recent meeting was held on January 17, 2019.** Meetings are publicly noticed and chaired by the County Commission representative or one of the Judges on the Committee, who serves as co-Chair. Participation in meetings has continued to be at or near 100% of the membership. The Planning Committee will continue this quarterly schedule in the future. Members are responsible for reviewing program progress and ensuring implementation of the Strategic Plan. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, Committee members actively participate in the Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshops facilitated by the University of South Florida (USF), Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), CJMSA Technical Assistance Center, most recently in May 2016 for Alachua County and September 27, 2018 for Bradford County.

Subcommittee meetings are also held on a monthly or as needed basis to work on reports, review outcome data, monitor subcontracts, and develop and ratify MOUs. Special Workgroups are convened to address any identified service gaps or implementation issues.

Attachment 1

RFA112818HSET1

APPENDIX K - CJMHSА REINVESTMENT GRANT PLANNING COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

PLEASE PRINT

Jeanne M. Singer, Chief Asst. State Attorney

STATE ATTORNEY OR DESIGNEE

Honorable Kristine Van Vorst

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

Michael Reeves, Court Administrator

LOCAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR OR  
DESIGNEE

Robert (Hutch) Hutchinson, Alachua Cty. Commission (Chair)  
Brad Carter, Bradford County Manager

COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR

Sadie Darnell, Alachua County Sheriff

Captain Dawn McKinley, Bradford County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF OR DESIGNEE

Barbara Berry

AREA HOMELESS OR SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE  
Forrest Hallam, Acting Super., Alachua Regional  
Juvenile Detention Center

DJJ - DIRECTOR OF DETENTION  
FACILITY OR DESIGNEE

Joy Rhodes

DCF - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND  
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM OFFICE  
REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Maggie Labarta, Ph.D., President/CEO  
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COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH  
AGENCY DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE

Virginia Seacrist

PRIMARY CONSUMER OF  
COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT  
FAMILY MEMBER

Holly Stacy, Assistant Public Defender

PUBLIC DEFENDER OR DESIGNEE

Honorable Denise Ferrero

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Cheryl Kauffman, Circuit 8 Administrator

STATE PROBATION CIRCUIT  
ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE

Christine Curtis

COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION

Chief Tony Jones, Gainesville Police Dept.

POLICE CHIEF OR DESIGNEE

Frances Michelle Hart-Wilhour

CHIEF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Rebecca Rogers, Asst. Chief

DJJ – CHIEF OF PROBATION OFFICER OR  
DESIGNEE

Lloyd Boulet

PRIMARY CONSUMER OF MENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES

Dr. Wandamaria Lopez, Veterans Administration

LOCAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT  
DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE

William Wall

PRIMARY CONSUMER OF SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE SERVICES

## **6.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPANSION DESCRIPTION (RFA Section 3.8.6.3)**

### **6.2.1 Copy of Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan description:**

**A copy of the Strategic Plan is included in Attachment 2 (pages 51-55).**

CJMHSAG Planning Committee members and other stakeholders complete an annual survey regarding community needs and current activities based on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Sequential Intercept model. The results of the survey help to support and address the strengths and weaknesses outlined in the Plan.

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) reports inform and supplement the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan for Alachua County had a major update during August and September, 2016 primarily to reflect the Alachua County Planning Committee's decision to form a consortium with Bradford County. At that time, goals and related objectives for the next three years (2017-2020) were added to expand CJMHSAG services to Bradford County and reflect other issues identified in the last Alachua County SIM (May 2016). **The next revision is anticipated to begin after implementation of the next SIM workshop later in 2019.** The Planning Committee periodically reviews progress and produces a report addressing SIM/Strategic Plan service gaps, objectives and activities. Following is a summary update on the status of several of the key Strategic Plan objectives and activities shown in Attachment 2:

*Bradford County Implementation (Objective 2)* – The goals to begin implementing services within Bradford County have been met during 2017-2018. Bradford County completed its first SIM in September 2018 and began implementation of Mental Health Court on August 28, 2018.

*Expansion of Services at Intercepts 4 and 5 (Objective 4)* – Permanent housing is identified by the Planning Committee as one of the most significant barriers for the target population and is an ongoing service gap. In response, the Planning Committee has continued to work with key housing partners through scheduled housing workgroups and to review innovative housing alternatives for the target population. The expansion initiative proposed in this application aims to help address this Strategic Plan objective by offering transitional housing upon reentry for individuals with significant barriers to permanent housing (Intercept 5), as well as address expansion at Intercept 4 with the addition of in-jail clinical services.

*Public Awareness and Education about Decriminalization of Mental Illness (Objective 5)* – The Strategic Plan continues the Planning Committee's goal to increase public awareness of the importance of decriminalizing mental illness. One of the major strategies addressing this objective is Alachua County's implementation of the Stepping Up initiative, a national initiative aimed at reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in U.S. jails. Alachua County first began its involvement in 2016 when it was chosen as one of two Florida counties to participate in the national Stepping Up Initiative Summit with other counties from across the country. Since that time, the County has moved forward with furthering the initiatives' goals. Most recently, the Board of County Commissioners named May 16, 2018 a National Stepping Up Day of Action, which included presentations from key stakeholders (e.g., Circuit 8 Judge, Alachua

County Sheriff, County Commission) and information on CJMHSAG Forensic diversion efforts. The event also included a Stepping Up Alachua County Town Hall for the public. In 2018, Alachua County was awarded a two-year Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA), which also furthers strategies related to decriminalization and reducing the prevalence of mental illness from within the local jail.

**6.2.2 Description of the project design and implementation:** The CJMHSAG consortium program will provide coordinated care, evidence-based services integrating outreach, screening and assessment, treatment, recovery support services, peer services and aftercare to further the program’s primary goal of diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders from jail. The proposed expansion program will move forward in building a fully-integrated service delivery system by addressing current service gaps and priorities identified by SIM analysis, the Strategic Plan and ongoing stakeholder input, including consumers.

**6.2.2.1 Project goals, strategies, milestones, key activities for meeting the objectives outlined in RFA Section 2.2**

**6.2.2.2 Organizations and stakeholders responsible for key activities necessary to accomplish the objectives:**

Using the following tasks, strategies and activities, the CJMHSAG program partners will meet the objectives designated by the Department, as well as an additional local objective (Objective 3):

***Overarching Project Goals:***

- 1) To increase public safety and reduce criminal justice costs in Alachua and Bradford Counties by diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders from the jails or from forensic hospitalization.*
- 2) To enhance the accessibility to comprehensive, evidence-based treatment and recovery support services for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders who are in, or are at risk of entering, the criminal justice system.*

<b>Objective #1:</b>	Expand diversion initiatives that address the above goals within three months of the final Grant Agreement.			
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
1.1	Establish MOUs with all participating entities to implement and enhance programs and diversion initiatives for the target population	Review and update existing MOU with current partners and add new partners	Program Director (Meridian) Current Planning Committee Members	Signed MOU with all consortium partners by start date of new grant cycle (April 1, 2020)

<b>Objective #1:</b>		Expand diversion initiatives that address the above goals within three months of the final Grant Agreement.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
1.2	Provide directly or by agreement an information system to track persons served during their involvement with the program and for at least one year after discharge	<p>Collaboration with Circuit 8 Court Administrator for collection of arrest and jail days data for Alachua and Bradford counties</p> <p>Access data through LINDAS Clerk of the Court System</p> <p>Track arrest and jail days data for rural Bradford using Florida Comprehensive Case Information System (FLCCIS)</p> <p>Track support services (e.g., benefits, housing, employment) through discharge data in program Databases</p> <p>Implement follow-up by Peer Specialist to re-engage former clients, track services received and identify needs</p>	<p>Executive Program Support Staff (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>Alachua County Court Services</p> <p>Circuit 8 Clerk of Court</p> <p>Executive Program Support Staff (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>Peer Specialists (Meridian)</p>	Data process reviewed and confirmed by start date of the new grant cycle (anticipated April 1, 2020)

<b>Objective #1:</b>		Establish programs and diversion initiatives that address the above goals within three months of the final Grant Agreement.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
1.3	Implement strategies that support the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan for diverting the Target Population from the criminal justice system	<p>Implement specialized responses by law enforcement (CIT, MHFA, Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Responses training)</p> <p>Provide services in the Alachua and Bradford Mental Health Courts and Felony Forensics Specialized courts</p> <p>Provide intensive case management from screening in the jail through transition to the community</p> <p>Facilitate timely access to pre- and post-release evidence-based treatment, psychiatric services and medication management</p>	<p>Program Director Gainesville PD Alachua County Sheriff's Office Bradford Sheriff's Office</p> <p>Court Services Forensic Specialist (Meridian)</p> <p>Forensic Specialist (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian) Forensic Recovery Specialist (Meridian) ARNP (Meridian)</p>	<p>Begin implementing specialized responses within 2 months of start date of new grant cycle (by June 1, 2020).</p> <p>Screen 800 individuals and admit 330 program participants by end of each grant year.</p> <p>Key partnerships already in place at time of application (February 5, 2019).</p>

<b>Objective #2:</b>		Create and encourage collaboration among key stakeholders in implementing and providing ongoing oversight and quality improvement activities of the proposed project.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
2.1	Participate in regular planning committee meetings	Review existing Planning Committee membership in accordance with s. 394.657(2)(a), F.S. and expand/update representation as needed Set up new schedule of quarterly meetings	Planning Committee Program Director (Meridian)	Planning Committee continues with full representation at beginning of new grant cycle (April 1, 2020)
2.2	Assess progress of the project based on established timelines and review attainment of goals	Participation in Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) by all members of the Planning Committee SIM presented to stakeholders annually  Monthly Progress Reports by the Program Director Quarterly Progress Reports reviewed by the Planning Committee Quarterly Status Reports submitted to the Department and the Planning Committee based on DCF timeline	Planning Committee Program Director (Meridian) Other community stakeholders  Executive Program Support Staff (Meridian) Program Director (Meridian)	Completion of SIM annually by the end of each year of the 3-year grant period  Approval of progress reports by the Planning Committee at the end of each quarter of the grant year

<b>Objective #2:</b>		Create and encourage collaboration among key stakeholders in implementing and providing ongoing oversight and quality improvement activities of the proposed project.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
		Submit Final Program Status Report	Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  Bradford County Board of County Commissioners	Approval of the Final Program Status Report by the Boards at the end of the 3-year grant period
2.3	Make necessary adjustments to implementation activities, as needed	Planning Committee Review to address any identified progress issues  Appointment of special Workgroup(s) by Planning Committee to address findings/service gaps	Planning Committee Members  Program Director (Meridian)	Approval of progress reports by the Planning Committee at the end of each quarter of the grant year to include any Workgroup(s) identified gaps

<b>Objective #3:</b>		Adapt existing service capacity and models to better address the unique recovery-oriented needs of the Target Population.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
3.1	Expand post-booking clinical assessment and treatment services for identified inmates transitioning to the community from the Alachua and Bradford County jails	<p>Expand and reallocate CJMHSAG clinical resources to begin early in-jail assessment for inmates with extended stays and/or needing pre-release stabilization</p> <p>Implement biopsychosocial assessment in jail</p> <p>Begin initial treatment through implementing evidence-based treatment models in jail (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)</p>	<p>Masters Level Forensic Recovery Specialist (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian)</p>	<p>Annual training of evidence-based screening/assessment tools</p> <p>Weekly clinical case staffings and quarterly medical record case audits</p>
3.2	Ensure safe housing for individuals facing barriers to permanent housing on reentry	<p>Ensure a minimum of 8 transitional beds in Meridian Lodge dedicated to CJMHSAG clients</p> <p>Review and identify housing models and innovative programs appropriate for the target population</p> <p>Assist clients with managing other self-sufficiency needs (e.g., employment, school/training, basic needs etc.)</p>	<p>Meridian CEO Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>Planning Committee Community Housing Partners</p> <p>Forensic Specialist (Meridian)</p>	<p>Dedicated beds ready for occupancy by start of new grant cycle (April 1, 2020)</p> <p>Convene housing workgroup by end of first quarter of the new grant cycle (June 2020)</p> <p>Review of housing options/progress at quarterly Planning Committee meetings</p>

### **6.2.2.3 Planning Committee involvement on an ongoing basis**

**6.2.2.4 Partner communication throughout the lifetime of the project:** The CJMHSAG Planning Committee will formally meet quarterly to review progress, as well as ensure that the Strategic Plan/SIM goals and objectives are being implemented. Meetings will be publically noted and convened by the Committee Chair. To support the decision-making process, partner items will be added to the meeting agenda at any time during the quarter and voted on provided there is a quorum. Citizen/organizational comments will be considered as part of the decision-making process.

The Criminal Justice Liaison (Alachua County in-kind position) and CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director will serve as liaisons to the Committee. The Criminal Justice Liaison will assist in coordinating the meeting activities and work product associated with the Planning Committee. The CJMSAG Executive Program Support Staff, with oversight of the CJMHSAG Program Director, will be responsible for collecting and reporting performance and outcome data to the Planning Committee. The members of the Planning Committee will also continue to be active participants in the SIM workshops, including the SIM TAC anticipated for 2019. The results of the SIM will be shared with Committee members and other community and regional stakeholders.

Additionally, subcommittee meetings will be held on a monthly or as needed basis to review and work on outcome data, reports, subcontracts and other monitoring and evaluation functions. Special interagency workgroups will also be appointed and meet monthly as needed to address any service gaps and challenges identified by the Committee. Examples of past workgroups include CJMHSAG Housing Strategy, Transportation and more.

The existing CJMHSAG Planning Committee has continued to be very active with participation **at or near 100% of the membership each quarterly meeting during the entire grant cycle**. The consortium committee will bring together local and regional representation to ensure that common goals are met, while recognizing the unique needs of each county.

**6.2.2.5 Plan to screen potential participants and conduct tailored, validated needs-based assessments:** As summarized in Tab 5, the Classification Officer in Alachua County conducts the first screening at booking in to identify mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. The Classification Officer will then refer the defendant to the CJMHSAG screener at the jail, who is an employee of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and a contracted employee of this grant request. The screener will send all referrals to the CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director at Meridian the same day. The Program Director will review all referrals to determine if the case meets criteria for admission to the Program. If the referral does not meet the basic admission criteria, the individual will be referred to another program if appropriate (e.g., Veteran's Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Court Services, residential substance abuse treatment), and recommendations will be made to the referral sources.

The Forensic Program Director will notify the defense attorney if the defendant is eligible to be in the program and monitor the attorney's response. If the participation in the program is a condition of release, the Forensic Specialist will go to the jail and

complete reentry (transition) planning with the inmate. The Forensic Specialist will also complete reentry planning with defendants who are to be released but are not court ordered to the program based on notification by the jail screener.

In Bradford County, the CJMHSAG Forensic Recovery Specialist will be responsible for all screening for mental health and/or substance use for the Forensic program and for monitoring the release status of incarcerated defendants. The Forensic Recovery Specialist will send referrals to the Program Director, who will follow the procedures described above.

CJMHSAG staff will also conduct screenings for the consortium counties at the Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State Attorney, Court Services Office, and at the Courthouses. On-Site screening will be provided for walk-in referrals at Meridian offices in Bradford and Alachua counties.

Forensic Team members use evidence-based, person-centered **Motivational Interviewing (MI)** to engage individuals both pre- and post-release in order to explore ambivalence to change and to promote engagement and program retention. MI encourages clinicians to meet participants where they are in a non-judgmental and non-adversarial style.

Upon assignment of a case, the Forensic Specialist will conduct a complete intake evaluation using Meridian's Forensic Intake process, which incorporates the evidence-based **GAINS Reentry Checklist** and **Historical Clinical Risk Management-20, Version 3 (HCR-20 V3)**. Most typically these are initially completed while the individual is in the jail as part of the transition planning process. The GAINS Reentry Checklist and HCR-20 V3 will be repeated quarterly, at discharge, and at any change in client status. The GAINS checklist assesses for the individual's needs across the major domains (e.g., housing, medication, health care, benefits, income, food), and the HCR-20 V3 is used for the assessment and management of violence risk.

The Forensic Team is also formally trained and experienced in the use of the evidence-based **Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR)** tool. Recommended by SAMHSA, this tool was chosen for its focus on identifying individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disorders who also have medium to high criminogenic risk factors for recidivism. The tool assesses three components:

1. "R" - Risk factors: The RNR helps the Forensic Team identify whether individuals have low, medium or high levels of risk. Major risk factors identified are antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes; pro-criminal associations; temperamental and anti-social personality patterns; a history of antisocial behavior; family criminality; low levels of personal, educational, vocational or financial success; low levels of prosocial activities; and substance abuse.
2. "N" – Need: The RNR helps the forensic staff assess what to target for change in the client, i.e., their needs and issues causing them to become incarcerated, so that the Forensic Team interventions can be focused on these needs. Unlike other assessment tools, the RNR emphasizes two types of needs: criminogenic needs, which are primarily attitudes, peer associations, personality, substance abuse, and non-criminogenic needs, which are primarily mental illness, self-esteem, discipline,

and physical activity.

3. “R” – Responsivity: The RNR helps identify the right cognitive-behavioral interventions based on identified risks and needs.

The RNR increases efficacy and reduces costs by focusing the most intensive interventions on higher risk individuals. Research has shown that low risk individuals may not improve or may get worse with intensive interventions.<sup>23</sup> The RNR is a valuable tool to help the CJMHSAG Team make informed decisions on the appropriate level of services for each individual, as well as identify individuals’ needs and build upon their strengths. It has also been valuable as a management tool during staff supervision to assess whether these services are being provided.

Upon assignment of a client identified for CJMHSAG services, the Forensic Recovery Specialist, who is trained in diagnosing mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorders, will also conduct a Biopsychosocial Evaluation. The biopsychosocial has typically been done post-release. However, data and experience has shown that the population CJMHSAG serves often have extended jail stays before release. Recent Meridian data indicates that up to 30% of the individuals returned from state hospitalization stay multiple months (up to 3) in the jail, with other CJMHSAG eligible individuals staying as many as 6 months. Because of their disorders, many need timely services to remain stable and engaged before reentry. **As a result, the proposed program will expand clinical services to begin the assessment while an individual is in the jail.** The biopsychosocial uses *Essentia*<sup>TM</sup>, Meridian’s electronic medical record system. *Essentia* includes evidence-based assessment tools used throughout Meridian and is trauma focused, client centered, and co-occurring using strength-based approaches. It allows users to document in real time, as well as review historical data in the system. The medical record has the capacity to track inpatient psychiatric admits/discharges, appointment compliance and data for status updates to stakeholders. The GAINS Reentry Checklist and the HCR-20 V3 have also been integrated into the *Essentia* system.

The screening and assessment process will gather information required to develop fully-informed treatment plans, e.g., the individual’s demographics; pre- and post-arrest housing; food, clothing, utilities, phone, transportation; family, children; healthcare, insurance, ability to pay for treatment and services; mental health, substance use; functional skills, literacy, problem solving; income; and legal status, as well as criminogenic risks and needs. Within one week of the Biopsychosocial Evaluation, the Forensic Recovery Specialist, in collaboration with the Forensic Specialist and with active input from the client, will develop a treatment plan. The treatment plan will be updated every three months. The Biopsychosocial will be updated before each treatment plan is developed or upon changes in client status. Depending on the plan

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<sup>23</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Emerging Issues in Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System,” accessed September 11, 2016, <http://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justic/behavioral-health-criminal-justice>.

identified, clients will be referred to treatment/counseling and/or to a Forensic Specialist for case management/support services. **Peer specialists** will augment care through mentoring, advocacy and follow-up. In addition to the clinical assessment, clients may be staffed with the State Attorney and Public Defender for participation in therapeutic courts and other diversion programs that can result in dismissal of charges upon successful completion of treatment.

**6.2.2.6 How the program will coordinate care to increase access to mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring treatment and support services and ancillary social services:**

To facilitate participant access to treatment, recovery support and ancillary social services, the CJMHSAG program will implement a **care coordinated, multidisciplinary team approach**. This approach will promote stabilization of high-need, high-risk participants by coordinating all treatment and related services with the participant rather than simply providing service linkages and having participants navigate separate and complex service systems. Through this approach, the Forensic Team will facilitate transition to individualized and integrated community-based services, which the participant can maintain over a longer period of time. As a result, the participant remains stabilized and recidivism is prevented. Care coordination is supported through frequent communication with all stakeholders in the client's recovery (e.g., the client, family member when available, service providers, the courts, attorneys, peer specialists, etc.), including, but not limited to, weekly multi-disciplinary case staffings.

If screening and assessment indicate a need for outpatient services, then both the Forensic Specialist and Forensic Recovery Specialist will work as a team with other community stakeholders to provide integrated Forensic case management and treatment services on an intensive outpatient level. As stated above, the proposed program will reallocate and expand clinical resources to allow initial treatment to begin for identified individuals while they are still in the jail, particularly those with extended jail stays prior to reentry and/or those who need continuity of services to maintain stability and engagement in outpatient services once they are released.

Evidence-based case management and treatment models will include, but may not be limited to, the APIC (Access, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate) transition planning model, Motivational Interviewing, Moral Reconciliation Therapy®, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Trauma-Informed Therapy. (See Section 6.2.3.1.4 for more information on these models.) As a member of the Forensic Team, the Psychiatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) will assess the need for medication as part of the treatment of the person's mental illness or substance use disorder.

If the screening and assessment indicate that inpatient services are required, the Forensic Specialist will provide a warm hand off to a residential treatment setting. When indicated, the Forensic Team will facilitate admission to Meridian's continuum of programs, such as crisis stabilization, residential treatment, detox, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), psychiatric evaluation or supportive housing. When individuals need crisis stabilization or more intensive interventions, CJMHSAG Forensic staff will work as a team with other clinicians to monitor progress and review treatment plans.

Forensic treatment is a **phased process**, promoting access to individualized, coordinated services as each participant progresses through treatment:

**Phase I (Pre-engagement):** Pre-treatment groups; motivational interviewing; program orientation/education; linkage/referral to community resources/programs

**Phase II (Recovery Services):** Starting treatment services; individual/group therapy; case management; medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs

**Phase III (Stabilization):** Advanced level of self-sufficiency; individual/group therapy; case management; medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs; increased usage of peer support services

**Phase IV (Transition):** Recommended for clients requiring minimal services to maintain stability; individual/group therapy; case management; medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs; increased usage of peer support services

**Phase V (Aftercare):** After graduation from treatment; assigned a peer specialist; case management; medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs; structured curriculum (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)

**Access to ancillary support services will also be promoted through a coordinated team approach.** Cross-system coordination enables the Forensic Team to work closely with the courts, legal aid, housing providers, job training and employment and community based supports that encourage recovery. CJMHSAG participants will receive case management services as identified by the GAINS Reentry Checklist.

Assessing, identifying, planning for and connecting to individualized ancillary support services will begin with transition planning in the jail for incarcerated individuals. CJMHSAG Forensic Specialists use the evidence-based **APIC (Access, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate) model** to guide the comprehensive assessment of the individual's clinical and social needs and public safety risks and to develop a plan for transition from the jail to the community. (See Section 6.2.3.1.3: "Intensified Transition Services While in Jail" for more information on the APIC transition process.) The Forensic Specialist will collaborate with existing service providers to utilize all resources in the consortium counties. Program partners will draw on a broad range of formal and working partnerships and service linkages with the goals of increasing access to and decreasing fragmentation of local services. Examples of ancillary services include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

**Housing Services:** As available and appropriate, housing services will follow evidence-based permanent supportive housing principles that promote integrated, equal, affordable permanent housing based on individual choice, as well as the coordinated supportive services persons require to select and maintain it. The program will emphasize moving persons into permanent housing as quickly as possible without

requiring “housing readiness” preparation prior to being housed.<sup>24</sup>

However, the Planning Committee has recognized the lack of access to permanent housing as a key service gap affecting CJMHSAG client recovery and recidivism outcomes. This gap has been cited during the most recent Alachua County SIM Workshop <sup>25</sup> The lack of accessible housing for CJHMSAG clients upon reentry has necessitated putting some clients in motels until permanent housing can be secured, which is not always conducive to their recovery.

**To help address this key service gap, Meridian will dedicate transitional housing in the Meridian Lodge for CJMHSAG clients who are receiving intensive outpatient services/treatment and who do not have a safe and stable place to live.**

The Lodge is located adjacent to the Meridian main campus in Gainesville. This expansion initiative offers the following:

- A minimum of eight beds dedicated for CJMHSAG clients with the potential of additional beds if needed
- A safe environment with close proximity to treatment, intensive case management, peer support and other recovery support services at Meridian
- Meridian transport to other services and appointments in the community as needed

Additionally, the Planning Committee will continue their active efforts to identify and pursue funding for permanent housing options. Research has shown that barriers to permanent housing for ex-offenders are best solved by collaborative, community-based efforts.<sup>26</sup> In response, the Planning Committee previously developed a housing workgroup dedicated to reviewing and presenting housing models and innovative programs appropriate for the target population. Through their efforts, the Planning Committee coordinates resources with existing and new housing partners, including the Alachua County Neighborhood Stabilization Program; the North Central Florida Alliance for the Homeless and Hungry; the Alachua and Gainesville Housing Authorities; and Meridian’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and HUD properties.

**Benefits Services:** The Forensic Team will work with identified individuals as early as possible to ensure they are enrolled in all available mainstream benefit programs, including, but not limited to, SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, Medicare, SSI and SSDI. Meridian has extensive experience with SAMHSA’s SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) to increase access to benefits for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a medical impairment, mental illness, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Because of this experience, Meridian has been able to expedite benefits for eligible consumers. The Benefits Coordinator and relevant

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<sup>24</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Permanent Supportive Housing: Building Your Program* (Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service: HHS Pub No. SMA-10-4509, 2010), 1-7.

<sup>25</sup> Alachua County SIM, pp. 10-11.

<sup>26</sup> Osher, 2002, p. 9.

Forensic Team staff will be SOAR trained and responsible for screening applicants for benefits, preparation of new and reinstatement applications, and managing benefit applications that are in progress. **The SOAR process will be initiated while participants are in jail and followed up by the CJMHSAG staff when inmates are released.**

**Healthcare:** Data indicates that the target population of individuals with chronic mental illness or co-occurring disorders also experience high rates of comorbid physical disorders, including chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease.<sup>27</sup> The very nature of serious mental illness and substance use disorders also makes self-management of chronic health conditions more challenging for individuals. Because of these challenges, along with lack of access, lack of insurance, trauma and other factors, individuals will often seek healthcare services only when in crisis and then use the costliest resources for care, i.e., hospital emergency rooms. One of the resources Meridian brings to the CJMHSAG program is a **Primary Care Clinic** located on the organization's main campus in Gainesville. Using evidence-based Health Home and coordinated care models, the clinic offers integrated primary healthcare to consumers with mental health and substance use disorders. Based on the participant's choice, the Forensic Specialist will ensure linkage to the clinic, including provision of transportation for those in Bradford County. The Forensic Specialist will also coordinate linkage to another primary care provider in the community depending on participant choice. The Forensic and Primary Care teams will work together with the client to coordinate and assist with the ongoing management of primary healthcare, wellness and any chronic illness.

**Vocational/Employment Services:** Forensic staff will work in partnership with CareerSource North Central Florida for vocational and employment supports, including programs designed for individuals who have been incarcerated. The program will assist CJMHSAG clients with accessing CareerSource training opportunities for meaningful employment; CareerSource scholarships for unemployed or underemployed individuals to take web development, programming, and related courses; and admission into the area's Project YouthBuild, which is open to eligible young adults, ages 18-24. As appropriate, supported employment services based on the evidence-based principles recommended by SAMHSA are available through Meridian.<sup>28</sup>

The CJMHSAG program has received a formal letter of commitment from the Gainesville Opportunity Center (GOC), a person-centered, peer-run program following the International Clubhouse Model. GOC increases opportunities for CJMHSAG

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<sup>27</sup> E. Walker, E. McGee, & B. Druss, "Mortality in Mental Disorder and Global Disease Burden Implications," *JAMA Psychiatry*, 72, no. 4, (2015): 334, doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.2502.

<sup>28</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Supported Employment: Building Your Program* (Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: DHHS Pub. No. SMA-08-4364, 2009), 3-6.

participants by providing a clubhouse environment for individuals with mental illness to seek employment, gain technology and other skills, and build natural supports.

The members of the CJMHSAG Planning Committee will also play an active role in identifying the availability of scholarships for educational assistance, including, but not limited to, GED completion.

**Basic Needs Support:** Basic needs support (e.g., food, emergency financial assistance, clothing, shelter) will be accessed through a network of long-standing community partners, such as Catholic Charities, which provides emergency financial assistance and other basic needs supports; Feed My Sheep and Bread of the Mighty Food Bank for food; Alachua County Community Support Services for various benefit programs; and others.

**Client Activity (Contingency) Funds:** Ancillary services will include participant contingency funds to assist with basic needs (e.g., bus passes, the Lodge and any other community housing, rental assistance for housing, clothing for interviews, hygiene). Services will be consumer-driven with program participants playing an active role in their treatment plan. All services will be coordinated through the CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director to ensure that they are properly documented and that the participants receive the kind of services that will meet their needs. Service coordination will be discussed in Planning Council meetings. In addition, the Program Director will continue to conduct a case-by-case review in individual supervisions (a minimum of monthly) and monthly group supervision settings to ensure coordination with appropriate services.

**6.2.2.7 How law enforcement will assess their current process and how they intend to implement or expand diversion initiatives:** Local law enforcement will continue to have representation and active participation in the Planning Committee, CJMHSAG strategic planning, program evaluation and cost and capacity analysis. Law enforcement will also continue to participate in the Sequential Intercept Mapping process to assess strengths and gaps in their current process at each intercept point. Law enforcement representatives, along with Meridian Forensic Program staff, also participate with the CIT Steering Committee. One of the Steering Committee's objectives is to develop better mechanisms to measure CIT outcomes to evaluate effectiveness and promote sustainability. This is in response to a need identified in the last Alachua County SIM.<sup>29</sup>

Law enforcement within the consortium has had an ongoing interest in implementing diversion initiatives. For example, the Gainesville Police Department and Meridian are implementing a co-responder program to respond to calls involving persons with mental illness or experiencing mental healthcare crisis, as well as those involving emotionally charged situations. The program's focus is on individuals identified as high utilizers of crisis stabilization units, emergency rooms, and the Alachua County Jail. This year Meridian will also partner with local law enforcement throughout the region, including the Sheriff's offices in Alachua and Bradford counties, to implement Mobile Response Teams. These Intercept 0 interventions are further described in Section 6.2.3. below.

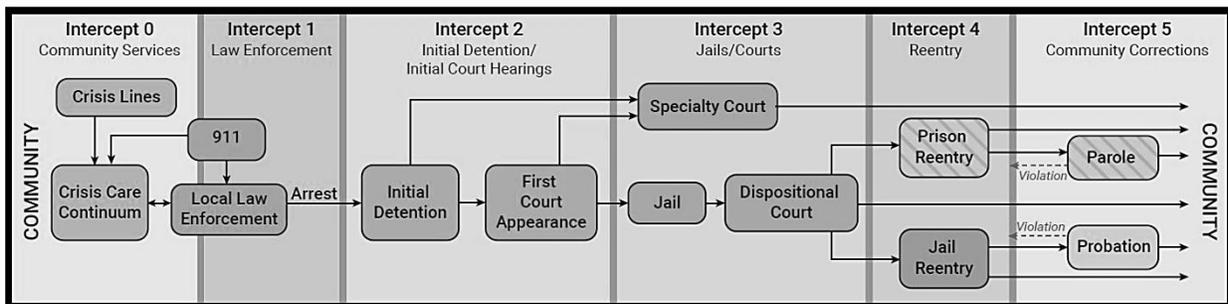
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<sup>29</sup> SIM, 2016, p. 4

**6.2.2.8 Collaboration and the relationship between the partner counties in the consortium:**

Alachua and Bradford are bordering counties in the 8th Judicial Circuit. The Planning Committee has had ongoing Circuit 8 representation. Alachua is the largest county in the Circuit with the only urban area, the city of Gainesville. Bradford County is a state designated fiscally-constrained, 100% rural county, which has had a strong, long-standing collaborative relationship with the CJMHSAG Forensic Program, Meridian, Forensic Department staff and members of the Planning Committee. The Bradford County Sheriff’s Office, courts and attorneys have expressed their commitment to participate in CJMHSAG to better serve individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders in their community. In 2016, the Planning Committee agreed to create the consortium to address Bradford County needs and to consolidate experience, knowledge and resources to address the counties’ shared goals. Bradford County representatives are members of the Planning Committee, and both counties participate in the same collaborative planning, implementation and evaluation process. Alachua County shares their “lessons learned” from years of experience with these services and with the target population. Both Bradford and Alachua share experiences specific to their counties with the intent of problem solving within the consortium.

**6.2.3 Strategies to Serve the Target Population:** The CJMHSAG program will work in collaboration with cross-system stakeholder providers and programs to implement and expand strategies and interventions that benefit CJMHSAG’s target population. These include strategies provided directly through Reinvestment Grant funding, as well as through the shared, coordinated strategies, programs and resources of CJMHSAG’s partner base. This allows the consortium to maximize resources while offering a range of interventions across all Intercept levels.



Source: The Sequential Intercept Model, Policy Research Associates, accessed January 4, 2019, <https://www.prainc.com/sim/>.

**6.2.3.1 CJMHSAG Specialized Diversion Programming (Intercepts 0-5):**

CJMHSAG will divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use from entering or advancing further into the criminal justice system by providing coordinated interventions at all SIM intercept points with the goal of intervening at the earliest intercept possible. CJMHSAG will integrate outreach; evidence-based transition, assessment and treatment services; forensic/case management specialty services (competency restoration, court advocacy/drug and mental health courts, community re-entry); peer support; and aftercare into a coordinated continuum of services.

**Forensic Diversion services are person-centered and recovery oriented.** The Team will use person-centered and recovery oriented interventions and techniques from client admission into the program through discharge and aftercare. Techniques include, but may not be limited to, recovery goal setting and identifying strengths and informal/natural supports (e.g., peer groups/support, family support, clubhouse involvement, and spiritual/faith based support). Formal supports include psychosocial rehabilitation, job coaching, employment training, education, psychiatric services, counseling (e.g., relapse prevention, trauma groups, individual therapy and Moral Reconciliation Therapy). Intervention and treatment plans will be co-developed with the client and treatment team (including family members when available) and plans will contain necessary steps to reach identified recovery goals. Discharge planning and aftercare transition maintain core recovery elements, e.g., becoming free of legal charges/conditions; building of family supports; access to entitlements including the SOAR process; basic needs procurement/sustainment; recidivism reduction/elimination; and involvement in pro social community activities, employment and/or education. Recovery Oriented Services will be enhanced through ongoing staff training, case peer reviews and client engagement.

**Monitoring/supervision** of program participants at the service level will occur through case management visits with a minimum of one home visit or one office visit per month. Frequency of individual therapy is contingent on the individual's stability and risk factors. For individuals receiving groups, monitoring occurs up to five times per week contingent on the client's stage/progress in treatment and transition to the community/self-sufficiency. For participants in treatment, the frequency of contact may gradually decrease as the individual progresses through the treatment phases (pre-engagement through aftercare).

Monitoring also occurs when the Forensic Team coordinates with monitoring agencies, including Court Services (pretrial and misdemeanor probation) and Department of Corrections Probation (felon probation). Often, the Team makes recommendations to the courts for orders that target interventions addressing the participants' high reoffender risks, including criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs.

See the sections immediately following for more information on specific interventions provided.

#### **6.2.3.1 Linkages and Collaboration with Community Services and Specialized Responses by Law Enforcement Agencies (Intercepts 0 and 1):**

These strategies focus on intervention and specialized policing responses with the goal of intervening at the earliest point possible to increase public safety and reduce the number of arrests for the target population:

- **Training:** The CJMHSAG program will include training strategies designed to educate law enforcement and related stakeholders in responding appropriately to individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The CJMHSAG staff will facilitate efforts to expand and implement access to Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for law enforcement, 911 staff and other relevant personnel in the

consortium. The Forensic Team will provide outreach promoting CIT in Bradford County and linking Bradford officers and relevant personnel to classes. In response to gaps identified through SIM analysis, CJMHSAG will also assist in increasing public education on CIT. CJMHSAG staff will work with each Sheriff in the consortium to increase the number of law enforcement officers receiving CIT Training annually. Under the CJMHSAG program, a projected 20 additional officers in the consortium counties will receive CIT Training annually.

Additional trainings offered will include, but may not be limited to, Mental Health First Aid (offered with funding outside of CJMHSAG) and the SAMHSA Gains Center's Trauma-Informed Responses Training, an evidence-based program for law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals to raise awareness about trauma and its effects.

- **Other Community Strategies:** The CJMHSAG target population will also benefit from strategies related to crisis care that are available through collaborative partnerships and resources. The Forensic Team will provide CJMHSAG clients and their family/support persons with information on and linkage to these programs. **Both programs are available through funds outside of Reinvestment Grant funding:**

- **Co-Responder Team:** The Gainesville Police Department (GPD) have implemented a Co-Responder program in Alachua County that is designed to have an impact on the recidivism and recovery outcomes of the target population, as well as other high risk individuals experiencing mental health issues. The Co-Responder Team consists of one GPD officer and one Meridian mental health clinician, who respond to calls for service involving persons with mental illness or mental healthcare crisis. The program's focus is on individuals identified as high utilizers of crisis stabilization units, emergency rooms, and the Alachua County Jail.
- **Mobile Response Teams (MRTs):** Meridian, in conjunction with law enforcement and other partners, will implement MRTs in all Judicial Circuit 8 counties beginning in 2019. The program's primary target population will be individuals under 25 who are experiencing behavioral health crisis, making it available as part of crisis services for CJHMSAG clients 18-25. The program will provide law enforcement with a dedicated line to contact MRT staff directly, and MRT staff will be available to law enforcement from the initial call through the duration of the crisis. MRTs will coordinate in-person services with law enforcement (co-respond) as needed.

#### **6.2.3.1.2 Court Programs (Intercept 3):**

Forensic Specialists will assist the court and attorneys in both Alachua and Bradford counties through information and advocacy, including attending court and/or court staffing meetings. The Forensic Specialist will also provide any assistance to the established specialty courts in Alachua County: Mental Health Courts, Drug Courts, Felony Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court. The CJMHSAG Program Director will serve as a resource for alternatives and provide outreach services for the specialty court cases that do not meet Forensic Program criteria. As added value, the

CJMHSAG Program Director will also assist with facilitation of annual administrative meetings for each of the specialty courts to ensure fidelity of the court’s model. Members of the Forensic Team will attend court staffing’s to promote continuity of care, leading to the best outcomes for participants. The Bradford County Forensic Recovery Specialist will coordinate activities in the county’s Mental Health Court, which was recently established through the Reinvestment Grant consortium. The Forensic Peer specialists will be individually assigned to provide peer services in each of the specialty courts to assist participants during stressful court hearings.

**6.2.3.1.3 Intensified Transition Services While in Jail (Intercept 4):**

CJMHSAG was designed to provide a seamless transition into treatment for the target population starting in the jail. Intensive case management starts from screening in the jail to advocating in court, release to the community and into appropriate treatment with the goal of eliminating “red tape” and long delays for the participant. Through coordination with the program ARNP, psychiatric services and medications are available and monitored as needed. Based on the identified needs of CJMHSAG’s target population, the program’s partners seek to expand the program’s focus on comprehensive transition services by adding jail-based early clinical assessment and treatment to engage individuals in services and ensure continuity of care upon their reentry.

CJMHSAG implements the evidence-based transition planning model **APIC (Access, Plan, Identify, Coordinate)**, which was designed specifically for a jail population with co-occurring disorders. Meridian will continue to train all Forensic Specialists in the APIC model. A critical element of the APIC model is ensuring that the plan for transition considers special needs related to culture, primary language, age, and gender, so that participants are linked with accepting and supportive services and compatible peer groups. Within the model, engaging the participant to assess his or her own needs is also key to developing an effective, person-centered plan and to building trust between the Forensic Specialist and the inmate.<sup>30</sup> In addition, APIC supports collaboration between the jail, Meridian and other stakeholders in developing and monitoring the post-release process.

**Summary of the APIC Model<sup>31</sup> within the CJMHSAG Program**

<p><b>Assess the inmate’s clinical and social needs and public safety risks</b></p>	<p>Assess process within the jail: collect data, use screening tools, conduct in-depth assessments as appropriate, update information regularly, reassess prior to release</p> <p>Gather information required to develop fully-informed transition plan: demographic, historical; housing, pre- and post-arrest; food,</p>
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<sup>30</sup> F. Osher, H.J. Steadman, & H. Barr, *A Best Practice Approach to Community Re-entry from Jails for Inmates with Co-occurring Disorders: the APIC model* (Delmar, NY: The National GAINS Center, 2002), 7.

<sup>31</sup> Osher et al., 6-17.

	clothing, heat, phone, transportation; family, children; healthcare, insurance, ability to pay for treatment and services; mental health, substance abuse; functional skills, literacy, problem solving; income; legal
<b>Plan for the treatment and services required to address the inmate's needs</b>	Based on data gathered, plan for short-term and long-term needs, including the critical period immediately following release (e.g., housing and other basic needs, medication, healthcare)  Learn from inmate what has worked/not worked in past transitions, seek family input as is possible.  Initiate benefits process for eligible inmates
<b>Identify required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services</b>	1) Improve safety by allowing communication and multidisciplinary case management and release planning 2) Enable treatment providers to communicate continuing plan referrals between agencies.
<b>Coordinate the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services</b>	Provide administrative oversight of the assessment and planning process to assure information is routinely collected and translated into practical transition

Implementation of the APIC model is further supported by the program's use of the GAINS Reentry Checklist, which assesses for needs within the principle domains identified by the APIC (e.g., housing, medication, health care, benefits, income, food).

After a biopsychosocial assessment has been completed, enhanced clinical services in the jail will begin for those identified individuals who will remain incarcerated for at least four weeks. The objective of these expanded services will be to begin treatment services while individuals are in the jail so that they will be able to integrate in treatment services post-release. The Meridian Forensic clinical staff will provide clinical and educational services based on the results from the assessment. An individual plan will be developed and services will begin. The clinician will provide these services in phases: Orientation, Treatment and Re-Entry. (Each client may not participate in each phase while incarcerated due to variation in length of incarceration, but the process can be seamlessly continued in sessions post-release). Services will include group and individual sessions at least once weekly for each client until their release. During the Orientation Phase, sessions will be educational and motivational addressing issues related to criminological thinking and discussions related to their mental health and substance use issues. During this phase, the clinician, along with the client, will further develop the individual treatment plan. The Treatment Phase will begin to address issues

related to individual treatment plan goals and objectives. Sessions will be directed towards dealing with trauma and co-occurring issues as identified on the treatment plan. In addition to face-to-face interactions with clients, each person will receive assignments that will be discussed in subsequent sessions. Reentry services will be conducted for those individuals transitioning out of the jail. These reentry services will involve identification of triggers post discharge, strategies to not recidivate, identification of needs for continual treatment, referrals for direct entry into treatment services, benefit coordination and housing. Warm handoffs to other community programs (inpatient care, medical care, etc.) both at Meridian and with other community providers will begin in advance of the individual's reentry when possible as part of ongoing coordinated care.

#### **6.2.3.1.4 Access to Community-based, Evidence-based Treatment (Intercept 5):**

Meridian provides person-centered and solution focused treatment to CJMHSAG participants as determined by assessment. Treatment options include a range of evidence-based interventions (individual and group) that are associated with reduced criminal justice recidivism in the target population, including the following:

- **Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT):** Used in group settings, MRT is a cognitive-behavioral systematic treatment strategy designed to decrease recidivism among criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. MRT targets individuals with the highest criminogenic needs.
- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT):** CBT is an effective community based treatment for addressing a range of criminal behavior, as well as for mental illness and substance use and co-occurring disorders. A meta-analysis of CBT found it to be more effective in reducing further criminal behavior than any other therapeutic intervention.<sup>32</sup>
- **Trauma-Informed Therapy:** Trauma-Informed Therapy recognizes the effects of trauma in order to avoid re-traumatization, decrease recidivism, and promote recovery of justice-involved women and men with serious mental illness. Forensic Team members will receive SAMHSA GAINS Center Trauma-Informed Response training for criminal justice professionals. The CJMHSAG program will also include trauma-specific interventions for the target population, such as Seeking Safety, an evidence-based, cognitive behavioral approach to trauma, validated as appropriate in outpatient, inpatient, and residential settings, including correctional settings.

Other specialized group interventions may include the following:

- Thinking for a Change
- Life Skills
- Relapse Prevention
- Forensic Peer Support
- Communication
- Expressive Therapy
- Strategies for Self-Improvement and Change

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<sup>32</sup> N.A. Landenberger, & M. Lipsey, "The Positive Effects of Cognitive Behavioral Programs for Offenders: A Meta-analysis of Factors Associated with Effective treatment," *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1, no. 4 (2005) :451-476.

## **Attachment 2**

### **Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Grant Planning Committee Strategic Plan to Continue Strengthening the Alachua County Community Sequential Intercept Model (2017-2020)**

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) Planning Committee is to promote a system of identification, assessment, and negotiation to divert effectively those with mental illness, co-occurring substance abuse, homelessness, and involvement in the criminal justice system from the jail to appropriate treatment, recovery services and housing.

#### **Vision Statement**

A community that no longer needs jails and courts to serve as the primary provider of mental health and addictions treatment.

#### **Values**

Collaboration, Innovation, Quality, Efficiency, Accountability

#### **Program Model**

CJMHSAG is a collaborative program providing an evidence-based, integrated service array across all Intercept levels, including outreach, screening/assessment, case management, treatment, recovery support services, peer services and aftercare.

#### **SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis**

CJMHSAG members and other stakeholders completed a survey regarding community needs and current activities of the CJMHSAG Committee related to the implementation of the Sequential Intercept Model. Survey results were reviewed to identify the following strengths and weaknesses addressed through this updated strategic plan.

#### **Strengths**

Post Booking Intercept Point – Coordinated Screening and Assessment, Forensic Specialist Teams, and therapeutic courts.

#### **Weaknesses/Opportunities**

Pre-booking Intercept Point – accessible mental health and substance abuse treatment services, indigent care access.

Post Release Intercept Point – supportive housing, vocational services, partnerships with those who provide these services.

Involvement of the faith community and lack of broader public awareness of the value and opportunities for improving public safety, reducing recidivism and enhancing lives through diversion and treatment.

GOAL #1: Increase jail diversion interventions for individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse.

<b>Objective #1:</b>		Obtain funding to expand services provided through the CJMHSAG		
	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Person/Organization</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>
	Apply for Implementation and Expansion funding through CJMHSAG.	CJMHSAG application developed and submitted	Program Director (Meridian)	2016, 2019
	Explore other possible funding sources to sustain program efforts, including but not limited to, collaboration with other partner counties, Department of Justice, SAMHSA, and/or expansion of partnerships with other local organizations: Housing Authority, COC.	CJMHSAG Committee members or other stakeholders apply for 2 grants annually for related initiatives.	Current Planning Committee Members	A minimum of 2 grants applied for by end of each year of grant cycle

<b>Objective #2:</b>		Expand CJMHSAG Services to Bradford County		
	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Person/Organization</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>
	Collaborate with Bradford County to expand services.	Complete commitment documentation and designate Bradford representatives at CJMHSAG Committee	Program Director (Meridian) Bradford BOCC Bradford County Sheriff	Partnership commitment by start of 2017 grant cycle (April 1, 2017)
	Identify gaps in the Bradford County Sequential Intercept Model	Provide SIM presentation for Bradford County Stakeholders  Develop draft of SIM for Bradford County	Program Director (Meridian) Bradford BOCC Bradford County Sheriff Bradford County Stakeholders	Initial SIM Workshop by 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018-2019

<b>Objective #3</b>		Continue to strengthen the Alachua County/Bradford County community response strategy around Intercept 1(Pre-Booking)		
	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Person/Organization</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>
	Provide training for law enforcement personnel.	Officer Mental Health First Aid Training for law enforcement completed	Program Director or designated MHFA Trainer (Meridian)	Quarterly MHFA training in Alachua and bi-annual in Bradford
		Initial (40 hour) Crisis Intervention Team Training and Refresher for law enforcement and jail personnel completed	Program Director (Meridian) Alachua CIT Training Team Local law enforcement agencies	Quarterly CIT Training to law enforcement
		Crisis Intervention Team Training (16 hour) to 911 Communicators completed		Quarterly CIT training to 911 Communicators
	Collect data on the effectiveness of CIT Training	Data collection strategies developed and plan implemented	Program Director (Meridian) Alachua CIT Training Team CIT Steering Committee Law Enforcement Agencies	Within first quarter 2017-2018 initiate strategies with LEO to collect data; ongoing data collection

<b>Objective #4</b>	Strengthen the Alachua and Bradford County community response around Intercepts 4 and 5 (Post Booking) by enhancing reentry treatment, housing, vocational, employment and other supports for those served.			
	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Person/ Organization</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>
	<p>Design CJMHSAG Workgroup to review current housing situation</p> <p>Design CJMHSAG Workgroup to review and present housing models and innovative programs</p> <p>Secure grant funding in support of developing suitable housing and employment related initiatives</p> <p>Explore the availability of scholarships through local educational service institution for educational assistance, including, but not limited to, GED completion</p> <p>Develop continuum of in-jail services for inmates transitioning to community (Intercept 4 reentry)</p>	<p>Number of partnerships formed with housing agencies including Alachua County Neighborhood Stabilization Program, COC, Alachua and Gainesville Housing Authority</p> <p>Partnership formed with Career Source to seek grant funding to enhance vocational services</p> <p>New housing opportunities identified</p> <p>Expanded services developed</p> <p>Number of in-jail services provided/persons served</p>	<p>Program Director and Forensic Team (Meridian) Housing stakeholders</p> <p>CJMHSAG Committee Workgroup</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian) Alachua County Jail Bradford County Jail</p>	<p>Initial Partnerships formed 2017-2018 and confirmed annually</p> <p>2 grants applied for annually (2017-2020) for housing, vocational, or employment related initiatives</p> <p>Expanded services developed by March 2019; implementation ongoing</p>

GOAL #2: Enhance public awareness of the importance of de-criminalizing mental illness

<b>Objective #1</b>	Demonstrate the effectiveness and safety of diversion efforts by the CJMHSAG and other initiatives.			
	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
	<p>Continue commitment with the Alachua County Stepping Up Initiative</p> <p>Develop Strategies to provide educational presentations, awareness trainings, workshops, public activities including the use of media outlets and personal appearances</p> <p>Enhance awareness of the services, needs, and issues of those served by the CJMHSAG in Bradford County including the effectiveness and safety of diversion efforts</p>	<p>Calendar of events of presentations and other public presentations to include those responsible</p> <p>Number of presentations/events</p>	<p>CJMHSAG Planning Committee</p> <p>Stepping Up Committee (NAMI, ASCO, Meridian, BOCC, Court Services) Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>CJMHSAG designated Bradford Planning Committee members Program Director (Meridian)</p>	<p>Begin 2017-2018 and ongoing</p>

## **6.3 PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**6.3.1 Description of the process for collection of performance measurement data and any other state or local outcome data to measure project effectiveness:** Data collection for the program will continue to be a collaborative effort among Meridian, the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Court Services, the Jails and the other key program partners for information such as arrest and number of jail days. These partners have had procedures in place to capture data for their forensics programs for over 10 years. Data in support of performance measures and program progress will be reported to the CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director. The CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director and Executive Program Support Staff person will have the responsibility of consolidating from these sources and preparing monthly, quarterly and final reports, which will be reviewed and approved by the Planning Committee. Planning Committee subcommittees may be formed to assist with data collection and reporting.

The Meridian Electronic Medical Record (EMR), *Essentia*<sup>™</sup>, captures all client level data, including demographics, assessments, treatment and service plans, medical history, social supports, payor source, income, education, criminal history, and forensic hospital and acute services history (CSU, detox). The EMR has been augmented to track clients participating in the CJMHSAG grant program, including the ability to track appointment compliance and data for status updates to the court system and access to other services received by CJMHSAG participants. The EMR also assists with discharge planning and tracks individuals for follow-up. The GAINS Reentry Checklist and the HCR-20 V3 are also integrated into the EMR. Because the Forensics Team members have access to each record, participant records can be updated quickly. The trained Executive Program Support Staff person, with the oversight of the Forensic Program Director, will be able to run reports on EMR data at any interval.

Data collection will be done in a confidential manner as specified in established policies and procedures. Meridian and the members of the consortium are committed to ensuring the confidentiality of protected health information and will provide appropriate measures to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of that information against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to its security integrity, unauthorized use and disclosure. All new and existing Meridian staff, interns and volunteers receive mandatory training related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other relevant issues and Federal and state standards related to protecting the privacy and security of consumer data. All information obtained will be kept confidential as guided by Federal and State standards and law. All data will be stored in a password protected file on a password protected computer with adequate firewalls and security as defined by standards and regulations. Workstations will be positioned away from public view or screen protected to ensure confidentiality. Information collected for reports will not contain identifiable information on program participants.

The specific data collection methodology for each performance measure is further detailed in the tables that follow.

**6.3.2 Proposed targets and methodologies to address the measures specified in**

**RFA Section 2.4.2:** The table below shows the data collection and tracking methodology and benchmark targets for the required performance measures.

<b>Required Program Performance Measures</b>		
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Methodology to Report</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
1. Percent who are arrested or rearrested while receiving services	Data compiled using LINDAS system through Clerk of the Circuit Court and the FLCCIS; new arrests/re-arrests are recorded in Meridian database	65% of Program participants were not arrested or re-arrested while receiving services
2. Percent who are arrested or rearrested within one year following their ending date for Program services	Data compiled using LINDAS system through Clerk of the Circuit Court and the FLCCIS; new arrests/re-arrests are recorded in Meridian database	60% reduction in the total number of arrests among Program participants in the one year period following their ending date compared to the one year period prior to their start date
3. Percent who do not reside in a stable housing environment on their start date who reside in a stable housing environment within 90 days of their start date	Housing status recorded in Meridian EMR on admission; self-report for historical data; monitoring of treatment plan while in program; tracked in Meridian Forensic database	A minimum of 65% of those participants not residing in a stable housing environment on their start date will report living in a stable housing environment within 90 days of their start date.
4. Percent of Program participants who reside in a stable housing environment one year following their Program end date	Housing status recorded in Meridian EMR on admission; self-report for historical data; monitoring of treatment plan while in program; tracked in Meridian's Forensic database	65% of those participants not residing in stable housing at their Program start date will report living in a stable housing environment one year after their Program end date.

<b>Required Program Performance Measures</b>		
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Methodology to Report</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
	Quarterly follow-up after discharge by Peer Specialist to include current housing status; recorded in Meridian's Forensic database	
5. Percent not employed at their Program start date who are employed full or part time within 180 days of their Program start date	Self-report for historical data; monitoring of treatment plan while in program; tracked in Meridian Forensic database	A minimum of 50% of those participants not employed at their Program start date and who are not receiving disability or have a disability case pending will be employed full or part time within 180 days of their Program start date.
6. Percent employed full or part time one year following their Program end date	Self-report for historical data; monitoring of treatment plan while in program; tracked in Meridian Forensic database  Quarterly follow-up after discharge by Peer Specialist to include participant's current employment status; recorded in Meridian's Forensic database	A minimum of 50% of those participants not employed at their Program start date and who are not receiving disability or have a disability case pending will be employed full or part time one year following their Program end date.
7. Percent assisted by the Applicant in applying for social security or other benefits for which they may be eligible but were not receiving at their Program start date	Benefits Coordinator (Alachua) or Recovery Specialist (Bradford) tracks 1) number of applications/re-certifications prepared 2) benefits received by applicants; recorded in internal database	65% of those Program participants determined to be eligible for social security or other benefits have received SSI/SSDI through the SOAR process.

<b>Required Program Performance Measures</b>		
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Methodology to Report</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
8. Percent diverted from a State Mental Health Treatment Facility	Clinical records in Meridian EMR; recorded in Meridian Forensic database	45% of total eligible participants will be diverted from Forensics hospital admissions.

**6.3.3 Additional proposed performance measures unique to the tasks outlined in the application, including proposed targets and methodologies:** The table below lists the additional performance measures proposed by the consortium and the related methodology and benchmark targets.

<b>Proposed Performance Measures</b>		
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Methodology to Report</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
9. Percent of Program participants receiving increased access to comprehensive community-based behavioral health services	Clinical records in Meridian EMR, and internal Meridian database measured one year after their Program start date compared to one year before their Program start date	50% of Program participants reporting having received increased access to comprehensive community based behavioral services one year past their Program start date
10. Percent of decrease in the number of jail bed days for target population demonstrating reduced spending in criminal justice	Monthly report based on LINDAS and FLCCIS data pre- and post-admission	60% reduction in jail days 1 year past Program start date

## **6.4 CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE**

### **6.4.1 Capability and experience of the Applicant and other participating organizations, including law enforcement agencies, to meet the objectives detailed in the RFA:**

**Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.** is a private not-for-profit corporation that has provided quality and affordable behavioral health care for the past 47 years. Serving predominantly an 11-county area in North Central Florida, Meridian's services are community-based, person-focused, and designed to be congruent with the demographics and cultural and linguistic needs of those served. Meridian is licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Drug Enforcement Agency to provide a full range of co-

occurring enhanced services, including crisis stabilization and detox; psychiatric treatment and medication management; and in-patient, residential, and outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. In Alachua County, Meridian also provides a primary care clinic focused on integrated care for those with co-occurring physical disorders and mental illness. Additionally, Meridian provides supportive services for specialty populations through veterans' programs, supportive housing, family services and supported employment. Meridian works collaboratively with Lutheran Services Florida, the Managing Entity, to ensure that services are integrated within the area's coordinated system of care and that licensure and other requirements are in place. Meridian's programs, including the criminal justice diversion component of outpatient services, are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Meridian participates in over 90 local coalitions, faith-based organizations, local government advisory boards, and civic groups within North Central Florida. This participation allows the organization to adapt quickly to changes in community culture and environment. As the certified lead agency for this project, Meridian has broad expertise in forensics programming and a successful history working with Alachua, Bradford and surrounding counties to further forensics initiatives. The Meridian Forensic Program employs an experienced, professional staff, which provides outreach, intervention, case management/care coordination, peer specialists, recovery support services and treatment for justice involved individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. The Forensic Program also includes specialized services, such as Court Advocacy. Additionally, the Forensic Program works collaboratively across 11 North Central Florida counties to provide services for individuals with mental illnesses who have been deemed Incompetent to Proceed or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity by the criminal court. The Meridian Forensic Team has been a primary partner in the Alachua County's CJMSA Reinvestment Grant program since it was first implemented in 2008 and in its subsequent expansions. The organization has extensive experience and the clinical and administrative capacity to manage complex state, federal and county grants and contracts. Meridian's Finance and Accounting Department has the ability to work with and oversee expenditure-based, grant, capitated, and fee-for service contracts. Meridian's administrative departments routinely manage performance based contracts with funding entities and subcontractors, and have the experience and capacity to submit invoices, report services and outcomes and monitor subcontracts.

**Alachua County** has consistently demonstrated collaborative approaches to addressing the needs of those with mental illnesses or substance use disorders, including justice involved individuals. Since 1998, the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) has been addressing jail overcrowding and exploring alternatives to incarceration, quickly identifying the need to divert those with mental illnesses and substance use disorders. In 2005, it created the Mental Illness Work Group (MIWg), with key stakeholders to bring forward a comprehensive plan to address that need. Using MIWg as a platform for further program planning, in 2007 the County Commission established the CJMHSAG Planning Committee to promote the development of services and serve as the committee for the CJMHSAG program. Working in close partnership with NAMI and Lutheran Services Florida, the County has provided funding and other support to assist in promoting awareness and increasing services for those with mental

illness, including training and certification of peer specialists. The County's Crisis Center coordinates and provides training for local law enforcement, the jail, and central dispatch staff in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training.

In 2016, Alachua County was one of two Florida counties, along with Miami-Dade, to be chosen to participate in the Stepping Up Initiative, an unprecedented national collaboration designed to generate action in communities nationwide toward the common goal of reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in U.S. jails. In April 2016, the National Stepping Up Summit convened jail administrators, law enforcement officials, elected officials, psychiatrists, and other stakeholders from 50 jurisdictions across 37 states, to develop a system-level plan to address that goal. Alachua County was represented by the County Commission and CJMHSAG Planning Committee Chair; Director of the Jail for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office; Director of the Alachua County Department of Court Services; Meridian CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director; and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Gainesville Chapter President. Alachua County has continued to further Stepping Up Initiative strategies. This includes the implementation of a recently awarded planning grant from the BJA aimed at identifying strategies for reducing the prevalence of mental illness from within the local jail.

The **Alachua County Sheriff's Office** (ACSO) provides law enforcement services in Alachua County's nine municipalities. ACSO has 235 sworn and 118 civilian personnel. ACSO has been an integral part of efforts to divert people with mental illness from the jail and the court systems. Sherriff Sadie Darnell is a member of the PSPC, and her deputies actively participate in CIT Training. ACSO has been an active participant in CJMHSAG and the Planning Committee.

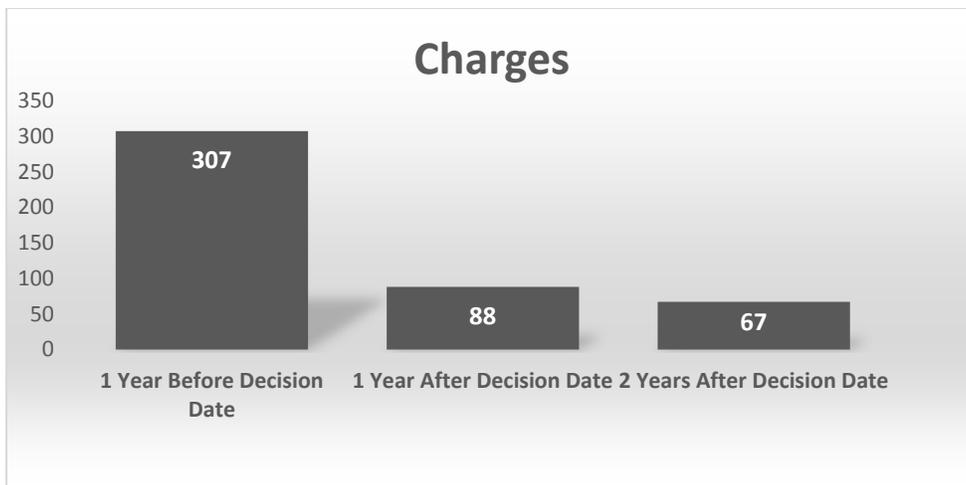
The **Gainesville Police Department** (GPD) is a community oriented law enforcement agency serving the largest city in the project's focus area with approximately 300 sworn officers and 70 support personnel. GPD operates a number of community services such as the Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction (B.O.L.D.) Program, which provides a range of assistance to young men who have been involved in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. In 2018 Meridian and the GPD began a **co-responder pilot program**, which pairs a licensed Meridian clinician with a GPD officer to respond to calls involving persons with mental illnesses, mental healthcare crises, and related situations. Gainesville Police Chief Tony Jones has been active in strategic planning and implementation of the CJMHSAG. GPD officers regularly participate in CIT Training.

**Bradford County** and the **Bradford County Sheriff's Office** (BCSO) have had an ongoing interest in implementing and expanding jail diversion services for the target population. Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith and BCSO have worked collaboratively with Meridian on a number of initiatives for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders, and have had representation, along with Bradford County, on the CJMHSAG Planning Committee since 2017. Meridian maintains an office adjacent to the County offices, and Meridian's Forensic Department maintains strong collaborative relationships with the county jail, the court and attorneys.

### Partnership Accomplishments

As a result of Reinvestment Grant funding, the Alachua County CJMHSAG program partners have worked collaboratively to develop a Forensic Diversion Team; create a seamless, blended continuum of forensic services; and coordinate those services through multi-directional communication between the jail, the courts, treatment providers, homeless service providers and other community partners. With the forming of the CJMHSAG consortium between partners in Alachua and Bradford counties, rural Bradford County has begun a Mental Health Court and completed their first SIM analysis by the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at USF/FMHI.

Through the combined capability, experience and commitment of its partners, the CJMHSAG program continues to have a measurable, positive impact on recidivism, reduced costs and public safety. For example, the figures below show reductions in criminal justice involvement for 111 clients who had some form of contact with the criminal justice system in Alachua County. Contact with the criminal justice system was significantly reduced in the 12- and 24-month periods following their admission into the program. The graphs below portray the number of charges, incarcerations and jail days in the time periods one year before, one year after, and two years after admission.





**6.4.2 Availability of resources for the proposed project:** CJMHSAG is a highly valued program by law enforcement and other area stakeholders who are willing to invest personnel and other resources for the project. The proposed project will benefit from the consortium's investment in services and personnel through both in-kind (\$694,470) and cash match (\$1,170,000).

Meridian's value-added services, such as Crisis Stabilization, Detoxification, Opioid Treatment Program, Partial Hospitalization Program, Psychiatric Services, Medication Management and integrated Primary Care are available for CJMHSAG Forensic clients by referral as needed. Program resources also include existing evidence-based assessment and treatment tools. Meridian has existing in-house trainers to train Forensic staff in evidence-based practices (e.g., SOAR, MRT) and brings to the program expertise in these chosen models and their use with the focus population.

The program will draw upon existing recovery support service providers to utilize all resources in the counties. This includes coordinating a broad range of formal and working partnerships with the goal of eliminating service delivery barriers, increasing access and decreasing fragmentation of services. Examples include, but are not limited to, Catholic Charities for basic needs, emergency financial assistance and budgeting; Feed My Sheep and Bread of the Mighty Food Bank for food; CareerSource North Central Florida for employment and employability skills development; Alachua County Community Support Services for various benefit services; the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center for healthcare for veterans; and Shands Hospital, Mobile Outreach Clinic, Shands Eastside Clinic, Palms Medical, Helping Hands Clinic, and County Health Departments for primary healthcare. The program SOAR specialists will work collaboratively with Three Rivers Legal Services, which assists individuals in the consortium counties with navigating the SSI/SSDI denial process when necessary. Examples of housing resources include the North Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry for housing assistance to individuals in the consortium counties; Alachua County Housing Authority; and HUD housing programs. The program also has formal commitments to collaborate with NAMI and the Gainesville Opportunity Center for participant education and support, as well as referrals.

**6.4.3 Anticipated role of advocates, family members, and responsible partners:**

The CJMHSAG Planning Committee includes a family member, a primary consumer of mental health services and a primary consumer of substance abuse services. These

individuals are active in the Committee, are dedicated to its mission, and play a key role in proposing and approving CJMHSAG strategies, including the implementation and expansion initiatives in this application. Family members and consumers have and will continue to participate in scheduled SIM workshops. Family members/partners will continue to play significant planning and evaluation roles for the proposed program.

**Recovery Oriented Services** are a priority for the CJMHSAG Program. A recovery oriented approach recognizes the importance of informal/natural supports in an individual's recovery, including peer supports, family/partner supports, clubhouse involvement, spiritual/faith based supports and culture and cultural backgrounds as determined by the person being served. As such, these supports will be promoted through recovery goal-setting, in discharge planning, and in aftercare transition. Intervention and treatment plans will be co-developed with the participant and the treatment team, which will include family members when available. Evidence-based interventions, such as APIC, incorporate family/partner supports and input.

The proposed CJMHSAG program will include Peer Recovery Specialists supporting participants and family members/partners in both Alachua and Bradford counties. Among their responsibilities, Peer Specialists will engage participants and their family/partner support persons both during treatment and during follow-up/aftercare. Peer Specialists will assist participants and their support persons in resolving any concerns or questions they may have.

The CJMHSAG Forensic Team will continue to be active with the local NAMI Chapter. They will refer family members and others to NAMI and their community functions, as well as to other community supports. The Forensic Specialist in Bradford County will work to reduce barriers for consumers and family members who may not have easy access to a variety of supports within the rural county.

**6.4.4 Proposed staff, including Project Director, key personnel, and subcontractors who will participate in the project:** Meridian will staff the following positions except where noted. The proposed project will use existing staff members for the majority of positions. Meridian has the employment resources and procedures in place to hire and train any vacant positions prior to the program start date. The subcontractors are already in place. As a result, the Forensic Team and program partners will be ready to implement services by the anticipated program start date. The proposed CJMHSAG staff are as follows:

**Program Director (75% effort):** The Program Director, Leslie Gray, Vice President of Forensics Programs at Meridian, has a Master's degree in counseling psychology and over 16 years of experience in forensics management, training, counseling, and supervision. The Program Director will provide oversight and leadership of the program; supervise and monitor program operation, implementation, grant compliance and reporting; serve as a program advocate in the community and a liaison to the Planning Committee, law enforcement and other key stakeholders; and provide specialized evidence-based training to program staff, law enforcement, first responders and community stakeholders. Ms. Gray will also provide clinical services to CHMHSAG clients both pre- and post-release as needed.

**Forensic Specialists (3 @ 100% effort):** Forensic Specialists will be responsible for providing screening, assessment, and intensive case management and referral services. They will use evidence-based, trauma informed screening and assessment tools and intervention models. The Forensic Specialist will coordinate with the Courts, Court Services, the jails and community. They will provide services within the mental health courts and the jails. The Forensic Specialist must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, psychology, sociology, public health or a related field with at least one year of experience in case management and experience in a forensic discipline preferred. Forensic Specialists are supervised at least monthly by individuals credentialed to conduct clinical supervision.

**Forensic Recovery Specialists (3 @ 100% effort):** The Forensic Recovery Specialists will provide evidence-based, trauma-informed individual and group treatment for participants with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The Forensic Recovery Specialist will provide direct clinical services, intensive case management and follow-up. Work will be done in the jails to provide assessment and engagement to assist the inmate with transition from jail to treatment for successful reintegration to the community. The Forensic Recovery Specialist must have a minimum of a Master's degree in criminal justice, social work, psychology, sociology or public health and at least one year of experience providing services that meet the needs of the target population. Master's Level Forensic Recovery Specialists are supervised by a licensed individual who conducts at least monthly clinical supervision.

One Master's level individual will be dedicated to Bradford County. This individual will serve as Forensic Specialist/Recovery Specialist to provide the full range of Forensic Specialist assessment, intensive case management and coordination services, as well as any treatment services and related supports to referred Bradford County clients. This individual will coordinate activities for the Mental Health Court in this area.

**Forensic Peer Specialists (3 @ .50% effort):** Peer Specialists offer participants mentoring, recovery, advocacy and follow-up services after discharge to re-engage former clients, track services received and identify needs. The Forensic Peer Specialist is a consumer who has at least 3 years of experience in mental health and/or substance use disorder recovery with a Bachelor's Degree in a related profession. Experience and skills may substitute for the degree.

**Benefits Coordinator (100% effort):** The Benefits Coordinator will be SOAR trained and responsible for screening applicants for benefits, preparation of new and reinstatement applications, and managing benefit applications that are in progress. Alachua County will staff this position as an in-kind to the project.

**Psychiatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) (20% effort):** The ARNP will provide services that assist referred clients with their psychiatric and substance use disorder needs. This position is supervised by Meridian's Medical Director, a Board Certified psychiatrist. The ARNP will have access to Meridian's sample medication and pharmaceutical assistance programs to ensure access to critical medication.

**Admission Coordinator/Jail Screener (100% effort):** This individual will complete release plans for incarcerated defendants meeting the criteria for this project and assist the Program Director with placement into the correct services. This position works closely with the Courts, Public Defender's Office and Program Director. The Admission Coordinator/Screener is a contracted employee of the Alachua County Jail and is based at the jail. This individual has experience in screening and referring inmates.

**Criminal Justice Liaison (.288% effort):** The Criminal Justice Liaison, Stuart Wegener, will monitor financial activities related to the CJMHSAG program. Duties will include oversight of monthly invoices submitted to Alachua County for payment associated with the County cash match and in-kind expenses for the grant. The Liaison will also be engaged in coordinating the meeting activities and work product associated with the CJMHSAG Planning Committee, including monitoring progress related to Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) and the Strategic Plan. Mr. Wegener is a veteran (six year) employee of the Alachua County Court Services Department with a myriad of roles, including grant management/writing and supervisory responsibilities within the Administrative Support Staff Division of the Department. Mr. Wegener has provided oversight, monitoring and coordination of CJMHSAG, including staffing of the CJMHSAG Planning Committee, and serves on behalf of Alachua County as the liaison to the Department of Children and Families for all grant reporting activities. Alachua County will staff this position as an in-kind to the project.

**Executive Program Support Staff (100% effort):** This staff member will be responsible for the collection of data and program reporting, as well as other administrative duties with the oversight of the Program Director. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree and two years of related experience in a similar position. An Associate degree and four years of related experience may substitute for a Bachelor's degree.

**Senior Vice President (10% effort):** The Vice President supervises the Program Director and serves as a program liaison with Executive Management.

**Lieutenant, Bradford Sheriff's Office (.50% effort):** The Bradford County Sheriff's Lieutenant will be responsible for working with the Forensic Recovery Specialist to coordinate and implement services in the jail, including screening, assessment and referral. This position will also assist with the collection of identified CJMHSAG population data. Bradford County will staff this position as an in-kind to the project.

**Clerical Assistant Bradford County (.334% effort):** The Clerical Assistant in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will provide as needed support to CJHMSAG staff and assist with program reporting.

**Inmate Support Bureau Chief/Classification Worker/Program Manager (.51% effort):** The Inmate Support staff provides oversight for jail services that supports the CJHMSAG program. They will also provide some grant oversight and supervision. They will assist with inmate selection and facilitate inmate involvement in the screening and assessment process.

All CJMHSAG staff members will receive ongoing training, including training in evidence-base models as is relevant to their jobs (e.g., HCR-20 V3, GAINS Re-entry

Checklist, APIC, Mental Health First Aid, SOAR, Trauma-Informed Responses and Sequential Intercept Model).

Meridian's executive, fiscal and quality improvement teams will contribute to program management, administration and coordination. Jail and Court Services staff will contribute by providing referrals, status monitoring, coordination of services and release planning.

## **6.5 EVALUATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**6.5.1 Evaluation:** The program will collect data using a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods. All data will be analyzed and reported in various monthly and quarterly reports. These reports will be used to identify trends and will assist in ongoing program planning and implementation. The grant incorporates support staff to assist the CJMHSAG Program Director with collecting and reporting data for decision making by the Planning Committee, the lead agency and other stakeholders. Quarterly and final reports will also be submitted to and reviewed by the Department in accordance to the Department's timeline.

See Section 6.3 "Performance Measures" for detailed information on the data collection process and the specific methodology for each measure. In summary, the process for collecting performance measure data will be as follows:

*Public Safety and Recidivism Measures:* 1) Data on the percent of arrests/rearrests among program participants while enrolled in the program and within one year following their end date will be collected through the LINDAS system through the Clerk of the Circuit Court, through the FLCCIS (for Bradford County) and Meridian Forensic database. 2) Data on the percent of participants diverted from a State Mental Health Treatment Facility is tracked through clinical records in Meridian's EMR and recorded in Meridian Forensic database. 3) Data on the percent of increase in the number of officers receiving CIT or MFHA training is recorded and tracked through the Alachua County CIT Coordinator training logs and Meridian training logs. 4) Percent of increase in the number of jail bed days for the target population is compiled in a monthly report based on LINDAS and FLCCIS data pre- and post-admission.

*Access to Services and Supports:* 1) Data on the percent of participants without stable housing on their start date who obtain stable housing at 90 days after their start date and one year following their Program end date will be obtained from the Meridian EMR at admission, monitored through self-report and the individual's treatment plan and tracked in Meridian Forensic database. 2) Data on the percent of participants not employed who are employed within 180 days after their Program start date and one year following their Program end date will be monitored through self-report and the individual's treatment plan and tracked in the Meridian Forensic database. 3) Data on the percent of participants assisted in obtaining social security or other benefits for which they may be eligible but were not receiving at their Program start date is tracked by staff and recorded in an internal database. 4) Data on the percent of participants receiving increased access to behavioral health services is obtained from the Meridian EMR and internal Meridian database at one year after their Program start date and compared to one year before their start date.

Additionally, the program will measure **stakeholder support** through Planning Committee Meeting Minutes and attendance, workgroup and subcommittee logs and attendance, the addition of new community partnerships as logged by the Program Director, and through Planning Committee survey. Participation in the scheduled SIM workshops will also be logged.

Stakeholder service satisfaction and service coordination will be collected through survey. The Planning Committee previously developed an annual survey, via SurveyMonkey, measuring their satisfaction with services provided at each point in the local criminal justice system continuum. Participant service satisfaction will be measured and input gathered through survey, interview and focus groups.

The results of the evaluations will be used to monitor the program's outcomes and effectiveness and ensure that 1) effectiveness and efficiency are maintained within the program; 2) progress on the program objectives and outcomes is communicated to the Planning Committee and the public; and 3) ongoing quality improvement is promoted.

The Planning Committee will develop a plan to address any performance measures/program outcomes that are below the targeted goal, and program design will be reviewed to ensure fidelity to the implementation plan. The Planning Committee will designate subcommittees/workgroups to further address issues and challenges as needed.

**6.5.2 The effect of the proposed project on the Target Population related to the budget of the jail:** By reducing the number of jail days for clients who are better served by community based care, the proposed program will also reduce jail expenditures. An estimate of future cost savings can be made by looking at a past data sample for the period April 2015 through March 2016.

The following chart compares the costs of incarceration for clients prior and after their admission into the program. Clients spent a total of 7,772 days in jail in the one-year period prior to their admission, but only 5,814 days in jail in the one-year period after their admission. Clients spent 3,161 days in jail in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year following their admission. Therefore, for participants admitted into the program, there is a noticeable decline in the number of days jailed.

At an estimated \$105.59 per day for "regular" jail (Alachua County blended rate for all inmates' costs) and an estimated \$125 per day for psychiatric inmates (based on data from Miami-Dade County in 2006), the program is clearly bending the curve on future costs. Based on the reduction of jail days and the daily cost figures, the Program saved between \$486,875 (blended) and \$576,375 (psychiatric) on clients in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year following their admission.



**How the cost savings or averted costs will sustain or expand the treatment services and supports needed in the community:**

Research has shown that individuals with mental illnesses tend to have longer jail stays and are at higher risk of re-arrest and incarceration than those without mental illness. Local jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders, yet returns on this investment related to the individual's recovery and to public safety are minimal.<sup>33</sup> CJMHSAG's success at diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorder or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders from jail has allowed Alachua County to re-invest the cost savings into enhancing and sustaining local systems of care for the target population.

**The proposed program will focus on improving recidivism outcomes to promote public sector cost savings for the consortium counties.** By taking a "community" approach over incarceration, programs such as CJMHSAG save taxpayers money, thereby increasing buy-in for sustainability of services and furthering local and state efforts to re-invest into mental health and substance abuse treatment instead of incarceration. This, in turn, provides a better return on investment through improved long-term health for individuals and increased public safety in our communities.

**How the proposed initiative will reduce the number of individuals judicially committed to a state mental health treatment facility:**

The Forensic Team will work collaboratively within Alachua and Bradford counties to provide services for individuals with mental illnesses who have been deemed Incompetent to Proceed or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity by the criminal court under F.S. 916. All participants under F.S. 916 will receive case management and services with the goal of diverting eligible participants from State Forensic Hospital admission. **The CJMHSAG initiative will**

<sup>33</sup> The Council of State Government (CSG) Justice Center, "The Stepping Up Initiative," accessed January 11, 2019, <https://stepuptogether.org/the-problem>.

**conduct both community and in-jail competency restoration.** Competency restoration conducted in jail or in the community assists the court to efficiently bring charges to disposition and/or place mandated conditions on the client, including mandated intervention and treatment services. In turn, this prevents competency restoration from having to be conducted at the state mental health treatment facilities, thereby reducing costs to the state.

### **6.5.3. Sustainability:**

The CJMHSAG program has made a significant, measurable difference and has become a highly valued program by local law enforcement and other criminal justice stakeholders. Funding through the CJMHSAG Reinvestment Grant has resulted in better recidivism and recovery outcomes for justice involved persons with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. As a result, funding and other investment in the program has been offset by averted costs at the local jail, and ultimately, at the prison level.

By decreasing re-arrests, incarcerations and jail days, the program has demonstrated to CJMHSAG stakeholders its impact on reducing public sector resources and increasing public safety. **Buy-in for the program has resulted in expanded County and Circuit 8 partner participation across systems and maximized, shared, coordinated resources among agencies.** These include, but are not limited to, Court Services, Crisis Services, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Bradford County Sheriff's Office, the Alachua and Bradford County Board of County Commissioners, the Gainesville Police Department, NAMI, and Meridian. For rural and less urbanized areas with limited local resources, CJMHSAG funding and the partnerships and resources it promotes, is vital. Through consortium efforts, CJMHSAG can share and maximize resources to extend services to fiscally-constrained areas that would not otherwise have the ability to sustain diversion services. For example, Bradford County's first Mental Health Court, spearheaded in 2018, is the direct result of CJMHSAG funding.

The last Alachua County SIM Workshop report acknowledged the commitment and participation of stakeholders and the importance of the program's collaborative relationships in CJMHSAG's ongoing success.<sup>34</sup> As evidence of their support for the proposed expansion program, the consortium will provide a 3-year total cash commitment of \$1,170,000 and \$694,470 in in-kind support for the expansion program.

The CJMHSAG Planning Committee has recognized that long-term sustainability of the program depends upon continued strong community buy-in. The current Strategic Plan retains a goal focused on enhancing public awareness of the program's efficacy and its role in reducing costs and promoting public safety. **Demonstrating CJMHSAG's effectiveness also enhances awareness of the importance of de-criminalizing mental illness and in supporting and sustaining general mental health services.** Strategies include, but are not limited to, continuing with the public awareness efforts begun by the Alachua County Stepping Up Initiative, as well as developing a schedule of educational presentations, trainings and public activities to enhance public awareness in both Alachua and Bradford Counties.

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<sup>34</sup> Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop, May 26, 2016, 14.

Sustainability will also be supported by the combined resource development experience of CJMHSAG partners. These partners have effectively leveraged funding from a variety of public and private sources to serve the target population and to educate and inform stakeholders. For example, as stated above Alachua County was recently awarded a two-year Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) to identify how to proactively address and reduce the prevalence of mental illness from within the local jail. The two-year planning grant will use a broad collaboration of cross-system organizations to address its goals. Meridian also recently secured a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) to expand Mental Health First Aid training in an eight-county area, including Alachua and Bradford, thereby increasing resources at Intercept 1 and strengthening education about mental health responses across the region. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, Planning Committee members or other stakeholders will apply for a minimum of two grants annually in support of related activities.

Assisting participants in obtaining benefits and coverage to meet their ongoing treatment needs is at the core of the sustainability plan. CJMHSAG includes SOAR trained staff members, who can begin benefits assistance in the jail and expedite SSI/SSDI applications for eligible participants.

Additionally, by targeting a population with high criminogenic risk, CJMHSAG places focus on individuals who are high cost, high utilizers of the jail. Implementation of evidence-based tools such as Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) will further maximize efficiency and cost savings by directly tying risk and need to type and level of care. The program will introduce evidence-based strategies to identify the individuals most at risk of recidivism and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the intensive interventions provided by CJMHSAG. **The proposed strategy to begin clinical assessment and counseling in the jail also aims to break that cycle of recidivism by engaging individuals in treatment earlier and ensuring continuity of care after release.** CJMHSAG strategies are focused on producing long-term behavioral changes, which produce long-term effects. This approach results in a projected ongoing cost savings for the jail and for the program. These cost savings can therefore be used to sustain program activities facilitated by this grant.

**TAB 7: PROJECT TIMELINE**

**Project Timeline:** The timeline reflects an anticipated **program/service start date of April 1, 2020** during state fiscal year 2020-2021.

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Year)												Responsibility	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
<b>YEAR 1</b> Contract and coordination of services Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Children &amp; Families</li> <li>• Meridian</li> </ul>
Revise and Sign Memorandum of Agreement to include Bradford County representation Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian President/CEO</li> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Sign Alachua County interdepartmental agreements (Jail, Court Services) Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian President/CEO</li> <li>• Alachua County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• County Manager</li> </ul>
Coordinate services with Managing Entity Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian</li> <li>• Lutheran Services Florida</li> </ul>
Community Outreach and Engagement: Alachua and Bradford counties Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2020-Mar. 31, 2021	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>

YEAR 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Hire/Train new Staff as needed (program will use existing staff for most positions)  Date(s): hiring and orientation training completed by April 1, 2020	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Provide ongoing training for Forensic Diversion Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)  Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2020-Mar. 31, 2021	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete annual staff and partner training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools  Date(s): April – May, 2020	X	X											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> <li>• Benefits Coordinator (Court Services)</li> <li>• Jail Screener (ACSO)</li> </ul>
Finalize data collection and information system to track individuals during program involvement and for at least one year after (by start date of grant cycle)  Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Circuit 8 Court Administrator</li> <li>• Clerk of the Court</li> </ul>

YEAR 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Review and update referral procedures</p> <p>Date(s): by start date of program – April 1, 2020</p>	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee Workgroup</li> </ul>
<p>Cross-train criminal justice partners on referral process</p> <p>Date(s): April-May, 2020 and six months into grant cycle (September 2020)</p>	X	X				X							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Collaborate with consortium stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Train staff and implement evidence-based assessment tools, including RNR</p> <p>Date(s): April 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> </ul>
<p>Implement specialized responses by law enforcement (e.g., CIT, MHFA, Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Responses)</p> <p>Date(s): May 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Director</li> <li>• Gainesville PD</li> <li>• Alachua County Sheriff’s Office</li> <li>• Bradford County Sheriff’s Office</li> </ul>

YEAR 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p>Date(s): April 2020 and ongoing through Mar. 31, 2021</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> </ul>
<p>Review referrals and accept clients into CJMHSAG program</p> <p>Date(s): April 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Collect and compile client and performance measurement data (e.g., admissions/discharges; status information; community involvement (employment, housing, etc.); treatment/psychiatric medical services; recidivism (new charges, incarcerations, jail days), etc.</p> <p>Date(s): April 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> </ul>
<p>Continue quarterly CJMHSAG Planning Committee Meetings</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly based on program start date</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. monthly as needed and identified by the Planning Committee)</p> <p>Date(s): As needed</p>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: RFA112818HSET1

YEAR 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Review and update Strategic Plan Date(s): by end of year 1 (March 31, 2020)												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly medical record case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete weekly clinical case staffing Date(s): weekly beginning April 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance Date(s): April 2020 and ongoing through March 31, 2021	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly progress report Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2020; October 15, 2020, December 15, 2020, April 15, 2021 or as designated by Department				X				X				X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: RFA112818HSET1

YEAR 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Complete quarterly financial report  Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2020; October 15, 2020, December 15, 2020, April 15, 2021 or as designated by Department				X				X				X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Finance Department</li> </ul>
Participate in SIM analysis/review by end of each grant year to include Bradford County  Date(s): by end of year 1 (March 31, 2020)												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee members</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Year)												Responsibility
YEAR 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Community Outreach and Engagement: Alachua and Bradford counties (ongoing)  Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Provide ongoing training for Forensic Diversion Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)  Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>

YEAR 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Complete annual staff and partner training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools</p> <p>Date(s): April – May, 2021</p>	X	X											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> <li>• Benefits Coordinator (Court Services)</li> <li>• Jail Screener (ACSO)</li> </ul>
<p>Collaborate with consortium stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Implement specialized responses by law enforcement (CIT, MHFA, Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Reponses)</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Gainesville PD</li> <li>• Alachua County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• Bradford County Sheriff's Office</li> </ul>
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> </ul>
<p>Review referrals and accept clients into CJMHSAG program</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>

YEAR 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Date(s): April 1, 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022													
Collect and compile client and performance measurement data (e.g., admissions/discharges; status information; community involvement (employment, housing, etc.); treatment/psychiatric medical services; recidivism (new charges, incarcerations, jail days), etc.  Date(s): April 1, 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	• Executive Program Support Staff
Continue quarterly CJMHSAG Planning Committee Meetings  Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	• Consortium Planning Committee Members
Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. monthly as needed and identified by the Planning Committee)  Date(s): as needed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	• Consortium Planning Committee Members
Review and update Strategic Plan (annual)  Date(s): by end of year 2 (March 31, 2022)												X	• Consortium Planning Committee Members
Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning  Date(s): quarterly based on prog. start date			X			X			X			X	• Consortium Planning Committee Members

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: RFA112818HSET1

YEAR 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Complete quarterly medical record case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs  Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete weekly clinical case staffing  Date(s): weekly beginning April 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance  Date(s): April 2021 and ongoing through March 31, 2022	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly progress report  Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2021; October 15, 2021, December 15, 2021, April 15, 2022 or as designated by Department			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly financial report  Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2021; October 15, 2021, December 15, 2021, April 15, 2022 or as designated by Department				X				X				X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Finance Department</li> </ul>
Participate in annual SIM analysis/review by end of each grant year  Date(s): by end of year 1 (March 31, 2021)												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee members</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Year)												Responsibility
YEAR 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Community Outreach and Engagement: Alachua and Bradford counties (ongoing)  Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Provide ongoing training for Forensic Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)  Date(s): ongoing April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete annual staff and partner training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools  Date(s): April – May, 2022	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recover Specialists</li> <li>• Benefits Coordinator (Court Services)</li> <li>• Jail Screener (ACSO)</li> </ul>
Collaborate with consortium stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population  Date(s): April 1, 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>

YEAR 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Implement specialized responses by law enforcement (CIT, MHFA, Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Reponses)</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Alachua County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• Bradford County Sheriff's Office</li> </ul>
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Forensic Specialists</li> <li>• Forensic Recovery Specialists</li> </ul>
<p>Review referrals and accept clients into CJMHSAG program</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Collect and compile client and performance measurement data (e.g., admissions/discharges; status information; community involvement (employment, housing, etc.); treatment/psychiatric medical services; recidivism (new charges, incarcerations, jail days), etc.</p> <p>Date(s): April 1, 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> </ul>
<p>Continue quarterly CJMHSAG Planning Committee Meetings</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly based on prog. start date</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>

YEAR 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. monthly as needed and identified by the Planning Committee)  Date(s): as needed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning  Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly medical record case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs  Date(s): quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete weekly clinical case staffing  Date(s): weekly beginning April 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance  Date(s): April 2022 and ongoing through March 31, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly progress report and presentation to CJMHSAG Planning Committee  Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2022; October 15, 2022, December 15, 2022, April 15, 2023 or as designated by Department			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Program Support Staff</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> </ul>

YEAR 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Complete quarterly financial report</p> <p>Date(s): anticipated July 15, 2022; October 15, 2022, December 15, 2022, April 15, 2023 or as designated by Department</p>				X				X				X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Finance Department</li> </ul>
<p>Participate in annual SIM analysis/review by end of each grant year</p> <p>Date(s): by end of year 1 (March 31, 2023)</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee members</li> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Complete, approve and submit final Program Status Report</p> <p>Date(s): complete and approve March – April, 2020; submission to Department no later than May 31, 2020 or as designated</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJMHSAG Program Director</li> <li>• Planning Committee members</li> <li>• Alachua BoCC</li> <li>• Bradford BoCC</li> </ul>
<p>Complete, approve and submit final Financial Status Report</p> <p>Date(s): complete and approve March – April, 2023; submission to Department no later than May 31, 2023 or as designated</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Financial Department</li> </ul>

## Letters of Commitment Summary

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**James P. Nilon**  
Chief Judge  
nilonj@circuit8.org

Alachua County Courthouse  
Family and Civil Justice Center  
201 East University Avenue, Room 409  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
(352) 384-3081  
Fax: (352) 381-0176

**K. Shea Hagan**  
Judicial Assistant  
HaganS@circuit8.org

January 14, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Court is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida agrees to continue to provide representation on the CJMHSAG Planning Committee and to provide input into the implementation and effectiveness of the program.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in this important initiative. This funding will allow Alachua and Bradford counties to improve care for defendants diagnosed with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. This care will result in less jail time and reduced forensic hospitalizations, thereby reducing costs and helping improve the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Nilon".

James P. Nilon, Chief Judge

cc: Denise R. Ferrero, Circuit Judge, Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center



JEANNE M. SINGER  
CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

120 WEST UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

TELEPHONE (352) 374 - 3670

BRIAN S. KRAMER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**WILLIAM P. CERVONE**  
**STATE ATTORNEY**

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
SERVING  
ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, GILCHRIST, LEVY  
AND UNION COUNTIES

PLEASE REPLY TO:

January 10, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

The Office of the State Attorney for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, the Office of the State Attorney for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit agrees to:

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Assist with coordination of therapeutic courts
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings

We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative designed to reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Cervone", written over a faint circular stamp.

William P. Cervone  
State Attorney

WPC/am

**STACY A. SCOTT**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
Eighth Judicial Circuit

151 Southwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601-6229  
(352) 338-7370

81 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Macclenny, FL 32063  
(904) 259-4245

Bradford County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 1059  
Starke, FL 32091-1059  
(904) 966-6273

353 South Court Street  
P.O. Box 1119  
Bronson, FL 32621-1119  
(352) 486-5350



Serving Alachua County

Serving Baker County

Serving Bradford and  
Union Counties

Serving Levy and  
Gilchrist Counties

Reply to:

January 16, 2019

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

The Office of the Public Defender, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

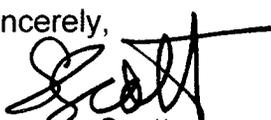
CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, the Office of the Public Defender, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit agrees to:

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Assist with coordination of therapeutic courts
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings
- Provide office space for a Forensic Specialist

We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative designed to reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

  
Stacy A. Scott  
Public Defender



# Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Charles S. Chestnut IV, *Chair*  
Robert Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*  
Mike Byerly  
Ken Cornell  
Marihelen Wheeler

**Administration**  
Michele L. Lieberman  
*County Manager*

January 23, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta, President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA#112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

Alachua County is providing this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from the jails and forensic hospitalization. The program increases access to outreach, treatment and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of CJMHSAG goals, Alachua County agrees to:

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Provide the Benefits Coordinator and Criminal Justice Liaison staff members supported through CJMHSAG funding
- Collaborate with CJMHSAG staff to provide specialized services in the Mental Health Court and Felony Forensics Specialized courts
- Provide access to data in support of the program

We look forward to our continued partnership in this important initiative. Through enhanced coordination and accessibility, the CJMHSAG program will reduce recidivism, lower costs and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair  
Alachua County Commission  
Chr19.034

cc: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager  
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney



# **Bradford County Manager's Office**

Brad Carter, County Manager  
brad\_carter@bradfordcountyfl.gov

Rachel Rhoden, Deputy County Manager  
rachel\_rhoden@bradfordcountyfl.gov

January 17, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta, President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA#112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

Bradford County is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from the jails and forensic hospitalization. The program increases access to outreach, treatment and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, Bradford County agrees to:

- Participate in the CMJMSAG Planning Committee, including representation at Planning Committee Meetings
- Provide input on the service needs of the Bradford County target population

We look forward to our continued partnership in this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Brad Carter



Sheriff Sadie Darnell  
Post Office Box 5489 • Gainesville, FL 32627

January 15, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta, President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

On behalf of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

The CJMHSAG program enables Meridian and the other community partners to provide outreach, assessment, treatment, case-management and individualized support services for criminal justice-involved adults in Alachua and Bradford counties who have mental illness, substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. Under RFA112818HSET1, Meridian proposes to expand post-booking assessment and initial counseling/case management services for inmates in the Alachua County Jail who have been screened and identified as having behavioral health disorders and who are transitioning toward discharge.

We understand that, if funded, Meridian will provide the following services to eligible individuals:

- Post-booking assessment and transition counseling/case management services in the jail for inmates scheduled for discharge
- Comprehensive assessment; substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders treatment; and recovery support services for individuals who are referred to the CJMHSAG program after release from the jail
- 

We also understand that the proposed project will fund a CJMHSAG screener at the jail, who is an employee of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and a contracted employee of this request.

For this project, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office will provide, as long as the above position remains funded by CJMHSAG, the following:

- Access to the eligible inmate population for the delivery of assessment and transition services
- Physical space for various Forensic Team members providing in-jail transition service
- Access to data regarding jail inmates
- Continued participation in CJMHSAG Strategic Planning
- Continued participation in CIT and Mental Health First Aid trainings



We look forward to our partnership in this enhanced initiative with the goals of reducing recidivism, lowering costs, and improving the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Sadie Darnell  
Sheriff





January 10, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

On behalf of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office agrees to:

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee, including representation at Planning Committee Meetings
- Provide referrals to the program as appropriate

We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative. Through enhanced coordination and accessibility, the CJMHSAG program will reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Gordon Smith  
Sheriff

*P.O. Box 400 Starke, FL 32091  
945-B N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091  
Telephone: 904-966-6910 - Fax: 904-966-6160*

January 10, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

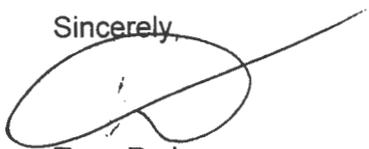
Dear Dr. Labarta:

The Gainesville Police Department is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case-management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

- In support of CJMHSAG goals, the Gainesville Police Department agrees to:
- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Participate in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings
- Work collaboratively with CJMHSAG Forensic Diversion staff in the Gainesville Police Department's Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction (B.O.L.D.) Program
- A resource of referrals for our Police Officers and staff working in our community
- We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative designed to reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Tony R. Jones  
Chief of Police



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

January 14, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSAG program, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, North Region Probation Eighth Judicial Circuit agrees to:

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee, including representation at Planning Committee Meetings
- Provide referrals of clients aged 18 and older who may benefit from CJMHSAG services

We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative designed to reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Rogers  
Chief Probation Officer of the Eighth Judicial Circuit  
North Region Probation & Community Intervention

Ron DeSantis, Governor

Simone Marsteller, Secretary

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2737 Centerview Drive • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3100 • (850) 488-1850

*The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.*

January 10, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

NAMI Gainesville is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case-management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of CJMHSAG goals, NAMI Gainesville agrees to:

- Support program efforts to decriminalize mental illness
- Provide referrals to the program as appropriate
- Provide education to forensic clients and their families
- Offer input on CJMHSAG services provided in Mental Health Court

We look forward to our partnership in this important initiative. Through enhanced coordination and accessibility, the CJMHSAG program will reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Arthur Stockwell  
President, Board of Directors, NAMI Gainesville

Cyndi Garvan *President*  
Trish Sokol *Vice President*  
Kathleen Ryan *Treasurer*

Brett Buell *Executive Director*



A World of Growing Opportunities

[www.GoClubhouse.org](http://www.GoClubhouse.org)

102 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Unit 2  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
Phone: 352-224-5523

Website: [www.goclubhouse.org](http://www.goclubhouse.org)

January 11, 2019

Dr. Margarita Labarta  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 141750  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1750

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA112818HSET1)

Dear Dr. Labarta:

The Gainesville Opportunity Center is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed in Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's application.

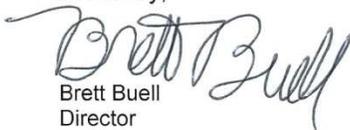
CJMHSAG, a collaborative initiative between key stakeholders in Alachua and Bradford counties, is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. This program increases access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

The Gainesville Opportunity Center is dedicated to promoting and upholding the International Clubhouse Model Standards of helping people with a mental illness better their lives and honor their choices. In support of CJMHSAG goals, the Gainesville Opportunity Center agrees to:

- Collaborate with the Meridian CJMSAG team on prospective referrals of participants to assist with community integrations and independence at the Gainesville Opportunity Center
- Refer individuals to the CJMSAG program who may benefit from case management/intervention services and mental health and substance abuse treatment

We look forward to our partnership and wish you continued success with the CJMSAG initiative.

Sincerely,

  
Brett Buell  
Director