

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 1

Cover Page and Certified Designation Letter

---

**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:	Levy County CJMHSAG Implementation and Expansion	
County(ies):	Levy	
Preferred Project Start Date:	05/01/2021	
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:	Donald Savoie, President/CEO	
Street Address	1565 SW Williston Rd.	
City, State and Zip Code:	Gainesville, FL 32608	
Email:	don_savoie@mbhci.org	
Phone:	(352) 374-5600	
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	\$150,000	\$ 75,000
Program Year 2	\$150,000	\$ 75,000
Program Year 3	\$150,000	\$ 75,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL		
Certifying Official's Signature:		
Certifying Official's Name (printed):	Donald Savoie	
Title:	President/CEO	
Date:	3/8/2021	



**LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Government Serving Citizens**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**John Meeks, Chair**

**Rock Meeks**

**Mike Joyner, Vice-Chair**

**Lilly Rooks**

**Matt Brooks**

February 16, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Approval to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (Grant Number DCF RFA 2021 001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

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 #DCFR RFA 2021 001).

I confirm that on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 the Levy County Board of County Commissioners approved the request to grant permission to Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. to act specifically in the capacity of applicant agency on behalf of Levy County. This is in agreement with the Levy County Planning Committee Strategic Plan. We recognize that the grant program will benefit Levy County by implementing Mental Health Court and other jail diversion services for adults with mental health and substance use disorders with the goals of increasing public safety, averting increased jail costs, and improving the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services.

We look forward to collaborating with the members of the Planning Committee on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Meeks".

John Meeks, Chairman

JM/

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 2

Table of Contents

---

**TAB 2: TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Tab 1: Cover Page and Certified Designation Letter ..... 1**  
    Cover Page..... 1  
    Certified Designation Letter ..... 2

**Tab 2: Table of Contents ..... 3**

**Tab 3: Statement of Mandatory Assurances..... 4**

**Tab 4: Match Commitment and Summary Forms ..... 5**  
    Match Summary Report..... 5  
    Commitment of Match Donation Forms ..... 6

**Tab 5: Statement of the Problem ..... 9**

**Tab 6: Project Design and Implementation..... 19**  
    6.1 Description of the Planning Committee ..... 19  
        *Attachment 1: Appendix K: Criminal Justice, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Planning Council or Committee (Page 20)*  
    6.2 Implementation & Expansion Description (**RFA Section 3.7.6.3**)..... 22  
        *Attachment 2: Strategic Plan (Pages 46-51)*  
    6.3 Performance Measures ..... 52  
    6.4 Capability and Experience ..... 55  
    6.5 Evaluation and Sustainability..... 60

**Tab 7: Project Timeline ..... 66**

**Tab 8: Letters of Commitment ..... 84**

**Tab 9: Line Item Budget and Budget Narrative..... 92**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 3

Statement of Mandatory Assurances

---

**APPENDIX D – STATEMENT OF MANDATORY ASSURANCES**

		<u>Initial</u>
A.	<b>Infrastructure:</b> The Applicant shall possess equipment and Internet access necessary to participate fully in this solicitation.	DPS
B.	<b>Site Visits:</b> The Applicant will cooperate fully with the Department in coordinating site visits, if desired by the Department.	DPS
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 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 meets the requirements of 28 CFR 42.301.	DPS
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).	DPS
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.	DPS
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.	DPS
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.	DPS
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.	DPS
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.	DPS
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.	DPS

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 4

Match Commitment and Summary Forms

---

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

Date - March 7, 2021

County - Levy County/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Type of Grant - Levy County CJMHSAG Implementation and Expansion

Match Requirement Percentage - 50%

Total Match Required for the Grant \$ 225,000

Match Committed:

Cash	\$	<u>          </u>
In-Kind	\$	<u>225,000</u>
Total	\$	<u>225,000</u>

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By Richard V. Anderson

Approved By Donald Savoie

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

TO: (name of county) Levy County/ Meridian Behavioral Healthcare  
FROM: (donor name) Levy County  
ADDRESS: 310 School St  
Bronson, FL 32621

The following  space,  equipment,  goods or supplies, and  services, are donated to the County/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare  permanently (title passes to the County)  temporarily (title is retained by the donor), for the period June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2024

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

Description	Value
(1) <u>Phone/Internet service @ \$80 per month x 36 months</u>	<u>\$2,880.00</u>
(2) _____	\$ _____
(3) _____	\$ _____
(4) <u>Office Space - 90.25 square feet of office space x \$18.97sq. feet x 36months</u>	<u>\$61,633.53</u>

TOTAL VALUE \$64,513.53

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.

[Signature]  
(Donor Signature)

3/2/2021  
(Date)

[Signature]  
(County Designee Signature)

3/8/2021  
(Date)

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

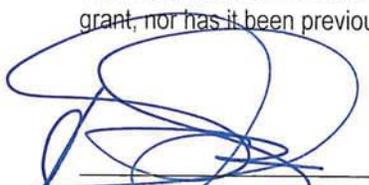
TO: (name of county) Levy County/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare  
FROM: (donor name) Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
ADDRESS: 1565 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608

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 May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2024.

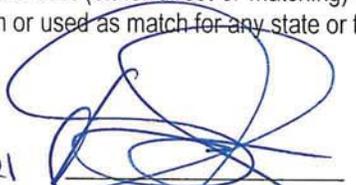
**Description and Basis for Valuation (See next page)**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
<u>(1) Staff (ARNP &amp; PD) \$21,850 X 3 year grant period</u>	<u>\$ 65,550</u>
<u>(2) Fringe Benefit (ARNP &amp; PD) \$4,741.45 X 3 year grant period</u>	<u>\$14,224</u>
<u>(3) Liability Insurance \$2,518 X 3 year grant period</u>	<u>\$ 7,554</u>
<u>(4) Rent/Utilities-\$18.97 per sq. ft X 32,916 sq. ft. X 36 mos.</u>	<u>\$ 22,479</u>
<u>(5) Administrative Costs-.10 X \$62,840 X 3 year grant period</u>	<u>\$ 18,852</u>
<u>(6) Professional Services (IT/HIM) \$10,609.33 X 3 year grant</u>	<u>\$ 31,828</u>
<b>TOTAL VALUE \$160,487</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.

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

3/8/2021  
(Date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(County Designee Signature)

3/8/2021  
(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 \$ 624.42
  - c. (2) Number of months donated during the contract 36
  - d. Value to the project [b.(1) X b.(2)] \$ 22,479
2. Title passes to the County: N/A

**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**

N/A

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

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

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 5

Statement of the Problem

---

**TAB 5: STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

**5.1 EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The proposed program, scheduled to begin in the 2020-2021 grant cycle, will implement Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHSAs) Reinvestment Grant services in Levy County, a rural, fiscally-constrained county within the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The program, referred to locally as CJMHSAG, will focus on furthering jail diversion strategies for individuals with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders. Diversion strategies will include in-jail transition services, Mental Health Court, and Forensic Outpatient services. **Stakeholders decided on this focus as a result of activities supported by a previous Levy County Planning Grant, which included a Strategic Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop conducted in 2019 with the USF CJMHSAs Technical Assistance Center (TAC).**

The only forensic treatment services currently funded in Levy County are limited to individuals with mental illnesses who have been deemed Incompetent to Proceed or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity by the criminal court. For the majority of jail inmates with chronic mental illness and/or substance use disorders, a lack of accessible, coordinated diversion services often leads to repeat arrests and increased incarcerations and jail days, thereby further driving up costs for a rural area that is already limited in resources.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare (Meridian) has been certified to serve as the applicant and lead agency of the proposed program (see Tab 1). Meridian brings to the initiative experience with other Reinvestment Grant programs in the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, including the Levy County Planning Grant and continued implementation of programs in Alachua County and rural Bradford County.

The proposed program will provide evidence-based services in the jail and community using a care coordinated, team-based approach. The program will implement a Levy County Forensic Team, consisting of a full-time master's-level clinician, full-time bachelor's-level case manager, and a part-time peer specialist, who will work with the Team to provide mentoring, advocacy, warm handoffs to referral services, follow-up, and linkages to natural support systems and community activities.

The program will address Levy County's identified service gaps through the following components:

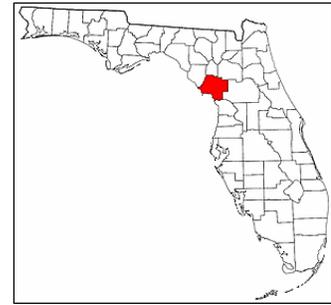
- **Staffing for Mental Health Court:** Levy County's initiative to develop and implement jail diversion strategies was originally spearheaded by dedicated local stakeholders, including the Public Defender, Levy County Detention Bureau (jail) staff, County Court Judge, and State Attorney. These stakeholders actively began the process of establishing a Mental Health Court, even while facing resource barriers in the rural, fiscally-constrained county. Levy County Court Services took the initiative and created the first Mental Health Court docket. However, full clinical and case management staffing of the court is currently unfunded, limiting services and

number of participants. The proposed program will further the work begun in establishing Levy County Mental Health Court services by providing clinical and case management staffing by the CJMHSAG Forensic Team.

- ***In-jail outreach and transition services for inmates reentering the community from the Levy County Detention Bureau:*** The Levy County SIM identified in-jail behavioral health services for the target population as a significant service need at Intercepts 2 and 3. In response to this need, the Forensic Team will provide in-jail services to include individual outreach to inmates, mental health/substance use forensic screening, and screening for need for residential treatment. For those being admitted to services, the Forensic Case Manager will begin case management, initial clinical services, and other transition services as appropriate. Jail-based clinical services, including biopsychosocial assessment and initial therapy, will be offered to increase client stability before reentry, promote early engagement in treatment, and decrease the time between the first clinical appointment. See also Tab 5, Section 5.2.1: “Screening and assessment process used to identify the target population” and Tab 6, Section 6.2.3.1.3: “Intensified transition services while in jail” for more detail on these services.
- ***Community-based Forensic Outpatient Services:*** The Levy County Forensic Team will also accept external referrals and self-referrals of individuals for community-based forensic outpatient services, including those referred as a requirement of their probation. Services provided will include assessment, case management, treatment, recovery support services, peer services, and follow up. The Forensic Team will use a care coordinated approach with the objective of helping individuals navigate service systems in their community. Meridian has the infrastructure and experience in place to also deliver services via telehealth if needed and as appropriate. See Tab 6, Section 6.2.3.1: “Levy County CJMHSAG specialized diversion programming” for more information.

**5.1.1 Geographic environment and socioeconomic factors:** In keeping with the Levy County Strategic Plan, the proposed program aims to mitigate the geographic and socioeconomic barriers that may impact access to treatment for the target population. For Levy County, this may include factors such as high poverty rates, limited local resources, transportation issues, and the challenges of a rural environment. These barriers to treatment resources can lead to a disproportionate number of individuals with behavioral health disorders incarcerated in the local jail.

Levy County is a rural county<sup>1</sup> that has been designated by the state as fiscally constrained (RFA, Appendix F). A total of 41,503 individuals live across the county’s expansive 1,118.22 square mile land area. Levy County’s population is 51.1% female and 48.9% male. The total population is 87.0% White, 9.3% Black, 0.9% Asian, 0.7% Native American/Alaska Native, .1% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and 2.0% multiple races. 8.8% are Hispanic or Latino of any race.<sup>2</sup>



Additional data (Table 1) shows socioeconomic and health disparities within Levy County:

**Table 1: Socioeconomic and Health Data, Levy County and Florida**

	% of Persons Below Poverty <sup>3</sup>	% of Population Experiencing Food Insecurity <sup>4</sup>	Monthly Medicaid Enrollment, % of Population <sup>5</sup>	% Non-elderly Uninsured <sup>6</sup>	Health Outcomes Rank (out of 67 Counties) <sup>7</sup>
Levy	20.7	16	25.9	18.1	59
Florida	14.0	13	19.9	16.1	

Data indicates that in Levy County, as in many rural counties, emergency rooms and law enforcement typically play a significant role in responding to behavioral health crises. Levy County’s emergency room visit rate for mental health crisis is 83.5 versus 61.8 statewide.<sup>8</sup> Baker Act data indicates 263 involuntary examinations for Levy County

<sup>1</sup> As indicated by the Florida Department of Health and based on U.S. Census data showing a population density of less than 100 persons per square mile.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census, Estimated Population, July 1, 2019

<sup>3</sup> WellFlorida Council. County Health Profiles. (January 2020). Retrieved from: <https://wellflorida.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/florida/2020/rankings/levy/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Health (DOH), Division of Public Health Statistics & Performance Management. (2019). Florida Charts. Retrieved from: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/OtherIndicators/NonVitalIndNoGrpDataViewer.aspx?cid=0337>

<sup>6</sup> WellFlorida, 2020

<sup>7</sup> Robert Wood Johnson, 2020

<sup>8</sup> WellFlorida, 2020

residents in 2018-19, 54.75%, of which were initiated by law enforcement.<sup>9</sup>

Levy County's unique geography can further impact the resource shortages common in rural areas. **The county has the largest land area of any county in North Central Florida and the second largest of any rural county in Florida.** Its expansive land area combined with increasing needs present resource challenges for law enforcement and other community providers. The 2019 Levy County SIM identified limited transportation services in the county as a significant resource gap. A transportation problem is a primary reason for individuals in rural counties to delay, discontinue, or entirely forgo treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.<sup>10</sup>

Latest available Florida Department of Law Enforcement data, shows 796 adult arrests in Levy County during the first 6 months of 2020 (January-June, 2020) compared to 711 during the same time period the previous year (January-June, 2019).<sup>11</sup> Levy County had a total of 1,786 adult arrests in 2019.<sup>12</sup>

***5.1.2 Target population and priority as a community concern:*** Within Levy County, 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, the criminal justice system.

The subpopulation eligible for Mental Health Court are defendants who are diagnosed with mental illness or a developmental disability and who are arrested for misdemeanors, criminal traffic offenses, and certain approved third-degree felonies. Mental Health Court is a pre-trial diversion program. Defendants accepted into Mental Health Court are not declared mentally incompetent to proceed.

Target subpopulations eligible for admission to Forensic Outpatient services as a condition of probation or voluntarily include, but may not be limited to, the following:

---

<sup>9</sup> Christy, A., Rhode, S., Jenkins, K. (2020). The Baker Act Fiscal Year 2018/2019 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

<sup>10</sup> Arcury, T, Preisser, J, Gesler, W, & Powers, J. (2005). Access to transportation and health care utilization in a rural region. The Journal of Rural Health, 21(1), 31-38. Retrieved from: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1748-0361.2005.tb00059.x/>

<sup>11</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement. (2020). 2020 Semi-Annual Uniform Crime Reports. County and Municipal Arrest Record. Retrieved from: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/CJAB-Home/Uniform-Crime-Report/Semi-Annual-Reports>

<sup>12</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement. (2019). Annual Uniform Crime Reports. County and Municipal Arrest Record. Retrieved from: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/CJAB-Home/Uniform-Crime-Report/Data-Archives>

- Individuals identified as “high utilizers” of the jails and acute services, often when they are in a behavioral health crisis, and whose serious mental illness and other chronic behavioral health disorders place them at high risk of incarceration and recidivism. Without diversion services, these individuals, who are typically well known by local law enforcement and other first responders, continually cycle through the local jail.
- Individuals with chronic mental illness who have misdemeanor charges, and
  - do not meet criteria for Mental Health Court, or
  - have high arrest recidivism rates.
- Individuals with chronic mental illness who are judicially determined as restored to competency and subsequently released to the community.

**5.2 ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT JAIL POPULATION**

The Levy County Detention Bureau has a jail capacity of 350 for maximum, medium and minimum custody inmates. In addition to Levy residents, the facility houses a significant number of offenders from surrounding counties. Table 2 shows the jail population count by month for 2020 and for 2021 to date (January 1-February 25, 2021). **Note that between March through June 2020, the Levy County jail received very few inmates due to COVID-19 restrictions.** Even after June, inmate intakes were limited to serving warrants and lower level charges. As of this year (January-February 2021), intakes have been averaging approximately 5-6 per day, a significant number for a jail in a rural county.

**Table 2. Number of Levy County Jail Intakes, 2020 and 2021 to Date<sup>13</sup>**

Month	Number of Intakes
2020-January	154
2020-February	148
2020-March	139
2020-April	112
2020-May	120
2020-June	140
2020-July	142
2020-August	137
2020-September	121
2020-October	144
2020-November	156

---

<sup>13</sup> Levy County Detention Bureau, Average Monthly Population. Data report generated on February 25, 2021

Month	Number of Intakes
2020-December	156
2021-January	159
2021-February*	166

\* Partial month (February 1-February 25, 2021)

For comparison, Table 3 shows the average monthly population, as well as monthly high and low counts, for the full year prior to the pandemic (2019).

**Table 3. Levy County Jail, Average Monthly Population, 2019<sup>14</sup>**

Month	Low Count	High Count	Average Count
2019-January	163	182	172
2019-February	152	182	164
2019-March	153	168	161
2019-April	157	211	182
2019-May	194	213	205
2019-June	186	211	200
2019-July	186	219	205
2019-August	175	210	187
2019-September	178	205	193
2019-October	182	201	194
2019-November	164	196	182
2019-December	133	172	150

A report run for the inmate population showed average demographics at 71% White, 25% Black, <1% Asian, <1% Other/Unknown, 3% Hispanic, 82% male, 18% female.<sup>15</sup>

Recidivism analysis for the jail population during the first quarter of 2020 indicated an overall 72.97% recidivism rate for all inmates. The recidivism rate among inmates with misdemeanors was even higher at 81.25%.<sup>16</sup>

**5.2.1 Screening and assessment process used to identify the target population:**

Implementing an expanded and more comprehensive screening process at booking-in is a key aim of the proposed program. Currently, any identification of mental health

<sup>14</sup> Levy County Detention Bureau, Average Monthly Population. Data report generated on January 30, 2020

<sup>15</sup> Levy County Detention Bureau. Population Analysis. Data report generated on February 25, 2020

<sup>16</sup> Levy County Detention Bureau. Population Analysis by Recidivism-Current Population. Data report generated on February 25, 2020

and/or substance use issues is done through the Levy County jail's medical staff. Under the previous Reinvestment Grant Planning Grant, jail medical staff worked with Meridian and other members of the Planning Committee to identify strategies for improving the screening and assessment process in the jail. As a result, jail medical staff revised their current medical screening tool to include more targeted mental health and substance use indicators, for example, history of suicide ideation, behavioral health treatment, or prescribed psychotropic drugs. The proposed Implementation and Expansion program enhances the screening process by placing a trained and experienced Forensic Team in the Levy County jail to review the results of the initial screenings with the medical staff to determine if the individual meets criteria for admission into CJMHSAG services.

The Levy County jail will provide the Meridian Forensic Team access to meet with potential clients while they are still in jail to screen them further for diversion either through the Levy County Mental Health Court or for outpatient mental health treatment as a requirement of their probation. The Team will also provide in-jail outreach to inmates on CJMHSAG forensic services that are available on a volunteer outpatient basis upon their release and screen and approve individuals for these services as appropriate. The Team uses a Forensic Screening form that collects detailed substance use and mental health history; physical health information; and basic living, employment and vocational/educational information. Individuals are also screened and recommendations made for admittance into residential substance use treatment.

The Forensic Team will begin intensive assessment services in the jail for individuals admitted into forensic services. **The Team will use evidence-based case management tools focused on assessing the assigned client's social, clinical, and public safety needs.** For example, the **GAINS Reentry Checklist** assesses the individual's needs across 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 will use evidence-based, person-centered **Motivational Interviewing (MI)** to evaluate an individual's readiness for change, determine program placement, and promote engagement and retention.

**One of the primary objectives of the proposed Implementation and Expansion program is to expedite a biopsychosocial assessment in the jail for individuals who qualify for admittance into Mental Health Court or outpatient forensic services, but whose incarceration is extended.** This will allow the Forensic Team to begin clinical assessment and treatment prior to community reentry. Many individuals in the target population 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>17</sup> The objectives of providing 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.

Comprehensive assessment of individuals admitted to services will also include 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 also 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:** A report run by the Levy County Detention Bureau for the full year 2019 showed that among the 1,378 individuals receiving screening for mental illness by jail medical staff, 24% (334) indicated they were currently being treated for a mental health condition.<sup>18</sup> However, allowing for factors such as inmate reluctance to self-report at intake, the actual incidence of individuals entering the jail with mental health disorders can be assumed to be much higher. Both the Levy County Sheriff and the jail sergeant have reported anecdotally that substance use issues are a top concern and a significant reason for recidivism.

As part of the previous Planning Grant process, Meridian Forensic staff completed a survey of inmates to get additional data on their behavioral health profile, as well as inmates’ own perspectives on the need for services. Table 4 shows results compiled from a survey of 90 Levy County jail inmates (25 female, 65 male). **Results suggest that Levy County inmates have significant mental health and substance use histories, but few received or followed-up on treatment.**

---

<sup>17</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2017). 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, 4

<sup>18</sup> Levy County Detention Bureau. Data report generated on February 25, 2020

**Table 4. Planning Grant Survey Results of Levy County Inmates, 2019**

Indicator	# Yes	% Yes
History of substance abuse issues	54	60%
Received substance abuse services in the last 5 years	16	18%
History of mental health diagnosis	40	44%
Received mental health services in the last 5 years	22	24%
Reported taking medications for mental health	30	33%
Prescribed medications but did not take due to cost	15	17%

**5.2.3. Analysis of observed contributing factors that affect population trends in the jail:** The SIM analysis for Levy County identified the lack of a pretrial process and pretrial monitoring agency as a priority gap at Intercept 2. As a result of this gap, defendants often have to remain in jail for longer periods. This is typically the case for inmates with chronic mental illness and/or substance use disorders who may have lower level charges, combined with fewer personal resources. Because of their minor offenses and a lack of follow-up, these individuals may fall through the cracks, continue to cycle through the jail, and stay in jail longer and more frequently. By providing early assessment and treatment for persons with extended jail stays, the proposed Implementation and Expansion program aims to break this cycle. The program also aims to expand Levy County Mental Health Court, making this pre-trial diversion program available to more eligible individuals.

**5.2.4. Factors that put the target population at-risk of entering or re-entering the criminal justice system:**

Within rural areas such as Levy County, disparities and barriers specific to justice-involved individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders may be exacerbated by the disparities facing the overall population. Levy County has the challenges that many other rural, fiscally-constrained areas face, including the need for adequate affordable housing, shelters, emergency financial assistance, and other resources, which place individuals at risk of entering and re-entering the system.

As stated above, the lack of jail diversion options in the county also puts the target population, particularly those with chronic and serious disorders, at-risk of a cycle of recidivism. Without these options, many rural jails become the primary behavioral health provider whenever the individual is facing crisis. Levy County stakeholders have made the commitment to help break these cycles through continued development of the Mental Health Court they have initiated and the other forensic diversion services proposed in this application.

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

In keeping with the Levy County Strategic Plan mission, the proposed program aims to provide effective diversion services for a primary target population of adult individuals (age 18 or older) who have mental illness and/or substance use disorders and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system. The proposed program will place focus on, but will not be limited to, subpopulations whose chronic mental health and/or substance use disorders place them at higher risk for recidivism and of cycling in and out of the county jail. (See also Tab 5, Section 5.1.2 “Target population and priority as a community concern.”)

**During the grant period, the Forensic Team will screen the following projected number of individuals in the jail or community to determine eligibility for diversion services:**

- 200 in Year 1, 225 in Year 2, and 250 in Year 3.

**Among those screened, the following projected number of individuals will be admitted to the CJMHSAG program through either Mental Health Court or Forensic Outpatient services:**

- 80 in Year 1, 90 in Year 2, and 100 in Year 3.

These projections are based on an analysis of monthly Levy County jail admissions during 2020 and historical data from similar Meridian forensic programs.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 6

Project Design and Implementation

---

**TAB 6: PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**6.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In 2017 a group of criminal justice leaders (e.g., Public Defender, County Court Judge, court administration) and other Levy County stakeholders took the initiative to start planning for diversion services in Levy County with a focus on establishing Mental Health Court. At the time, the county did not have a formal planning entity, such as a Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC). During 2018-2019, the CJMHSAG Planning Grant built upon the work of these initial stakeholders by expanding the cross-system relationships needed to form a statute compliant Planning Committee with the goal of furthering jail diversion initiatives in Levy County.

**6.1.1 Composition of the Planning Committee:** Membership is in compliance with s. 394.637 (2)(a), F.S. and consists of representation from the Levy County Board of County Commissioners and key agencies and organizations within the criminal justice, treatment, and related systems. The membership for the proposed project also includes consumers of mental health and substance abuse services and family member representation of community-based treatment.

**A list of the confirmed members (RFA, Appendix K) is included in Attachment 1 on the following page.**

**TAB 6: ATTACHMENT 1**

**APPENDIX K - CJMHSR REINVESTMENT GRANT PLANNING COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE**

PLEASE PRINT

<u>Darla Whistler, Assistant State Attorney</u>	<u>Midori Lowry, Assistant Public Defender</u>
STATE ATTORNEY OR DESIGNEE	PUBLIC DEFENDER OR DESIGNEE
<u>Judge James Browning</u>	<u>Judge William Davis</u>
COUNTY COURT JUDGE	CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
<u>Blanche Woods, Court Administrator</u>	<u>Cheryl Kaufman, Circuit 8 Administrator</u>
LOCAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE	STATE PROBATION CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE
<u>Mike Joyner, County Commissioner</u>	<u>Tommy Darus, Levy Co. Director of Probation</u>
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR	COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION
<u>Bobby McCallum, Levy County Sheriff</u>	<u>Scott Anderson, Chiefland Chief of Police</u>
SHERIFF OR DESIGNEE	POLICE CHIEF OR DESIGNEE
<u>Christy Holland, Executive Director of North Central Florida Regional Housing Authority</u>	<u>Sgt Zachary Hinkofer, LCSO</u>
AREA HOMELESS OR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE	CHIEF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
<u>Robert Loyd, Superintendent of the Alachua Regional Juvenile Detention Center</u>	<u>Christopher Massey, CPO, Circuit 8</u>
DJJ - DIRECTOR OF DETENTION FACILITY OR DESIGNEE	DJJ – CHIEF OF PROBATION OFFICER OR DESIGNEE
<u>Joy Rhodes, SAMH Program Specialist</u>	<u>Lloyd Boulet</u>
DCF - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE	PRIMARY CONSUMER OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
<u>Jeremiah Alberico, VP Diversion and Recovery Services, Meridian</u>	<u>David Kranson, Tri-County Outpatient Clinical Director, Meridian</u>
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCY DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE	LOCAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE
<u>Diane Hogan, CRPS</u>	<u>William Wall, CRPS</u>
PRIMARY CONSUMER OF COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT FAMILY MEMBER	PRIMARY CONSUMER OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

**6.2.2 Planning council's activities, including the frequency of meetings for the previous 12 months and future scheduling of meetings:** The most recent Planning Committee meeting occurred on February 25, 2021. Prior to this date, meetings occurred on February 6, 2020, February 20, 2020, and March 5, 2020. After March 2020, the Committee decided to temporarily suspend meetings due to COVID-19 and the related responsibilities of their agencies/offices. Meetings have resumed and will be held a minimum of quarterly during the Implementation Grant period (i.e., 4 meetings each grant year) with additional meetings called as needed. Meetings will be publicly noticed and Chaired by the County Commission representative or other senior policy maker as agreed upon by the membership. Members will be responsible for reviewing project progress and ensuring implementation of the Strategic Plan. Special Workgroups will also be convened to address any identified service gaps, implementation issues, or other areas as needed. Committee members will actively participate in Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshops facilitated by the University of South Florida (USF), Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), CJMSA Technical Assistance Center.

With the expanded stakeholder interest and involvement built during the previous Reinvestment Grant Planning Grant period, the Planning Committee achieved a number of significant firsts in the county's diversion efforts. Levy County completed its first cross-system needs assessment focused on diversion, which included the SIM workshop facilitated by the USF CJMHSA TAC. The Committee also spearheaded a resolution to become a Stepping Up site. This national initiative was launched in 2015 as a partnership of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. Its goal is to assist jurisdictions in planning strategies for reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in U.S. jails. As of March 2, 2021, Levy County is **1 of 16 Florida counties** and **1 of only 4 DCF designated fiscally-constrained counties** to have made a Stepping Up resolution (Figure 1). The resolution furthered the county's Strategic Plan commitment to reduce incarcerations and jail days for individuals with mental illness.

**Figure 1: Florida Counties with Stepping Up Resolutions**



Source: Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, 2021

## **6.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPANSION DESCRIPTION**

Note: This section (6.2) maps to DCF RFA Section 3.7.6.3, which is limited to 35 pages.

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

**A copy of the most recent Levy County Strategic Plan is included in Attachment 2 in this Tab (pages 46-51).**

Supported by a Reinvestment Grant Planning Grant, in 2019 the Planning Committee developed Levy County's first Strategic Plan focused on diversion services for the target population. Strategic planning activities were guided by the methodology and resources available from the national Stepping Up Initiative. The Levy County Planning Committee used Stepping Up resources to help them examine Strategic Planning issues such as leadership buy-in, the process for identifying the target population, and data/performance tracking. The Strategic Plan was also informed by the SIM completed in 2019 in conjunction with the CJMHSA TAC, which assessed major county resources and service gaps at all Intercept levels.

**The Strategic Plan is scheduled to be reviewed and updated in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2021.**

Thereafter, the Levy County Planning Committee members will review and update the Strategic Plan annually and more frequently if required. Planning Committee members and other stakeholders will complete an annual survey regarding community needs and current activities based on Strategic Plan implementation. The results of the survey will inform any Strategic Plan updates. The Planning Committee members and other stakeholders will also participate in SIM analysis as scheduled by the CJMHSA TAC.

The Planning Committee is moving forward in its primary goal of establishing and expanding initial diversion services in Levy County. Applying for Reinvestment Grant Implementation and Expansion funding is an identified Strategic Plan goal (Goal 1, Objective 1) toward addressing resource barriers and building county capacity for sustainable diversion programs.

**6.2.2 Description of the project design and implementation:** In response to identified local needs, the Levy County CJMHSA project will implement evidence-based jail diversion strategies to further the primary goal of diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders from jail. The project has been designed to address the most critical service gaps and priorities identified by SIM analysis, the Strategic Plan, and stakeholder input, including a survey of individuals incarcerated in the Levy County jail. Components supported by the grant request will include 1) in-jail screening, transition/case management, and initial clinical services; 2) Mental Health Court Forensic Team staffing; and 3) forensic outpatient services to include assessment, treatment plan development, case management, treatment, recovery support services, peer services, and follow up. The program will also provide training for law enforcement and related personnel.

**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 tasks/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 Levy County by diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders from the jails or from forensic hospitalization.*
- 2) *To enhance 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.*

Objective #1:		Establish and expand diversion programs that address the above goals and begin services one month 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 partners by start date of grant cycle (anticipated May 1, 2021) <sup>1</sup>
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	-Collaborate with Jail and Court partners for collection of arrest and jail days data for Levy County  -Access data through online Official Court Record Services (OCRS)	Program Director (Meridian) County Court Services Circuit 8 Clerk of Court	-Data process reviewed and confirmed by start date of the grant cycle (anticipated May 1, 2021)

<sup>1</sup> Actual start date is dependent upon Department schedule and date of grant agreement.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #1:	Establish and expand diversion programs that address the above goals and begin services one month of the final Grant Agreement.			
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Track arrest and jail days data using Florida Comprehensive Case Information System (FLCCIS)</li> <li>-Track support services (e.g., benefits, housing, employment) through discharge data in program Databases</li> <li>-Implement follow-up by Peer Specialist to re-engage former clients, track services received and identify needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Director (Meridian)</li> <li>Forensic Clinician (Meridian)</li> <li>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</li> <li>Peer Specialist (Meridian)</li> </ul>	
1.3	Implement strategies that support the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan for diverting the Target Population from the criminal justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provide Forensic Team staffing (clinical and case management) for the Levy Mental Health Court</li> <li>-Provide in-jail outreach, screening and case management to facilitate community transition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Clinician (Meridian)</li> <li>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</li> <li>State Attorney, Public Defender, Judicial Assistant(s), Court Administrators</li> <li>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Begin Forensic Team staffing for Mental Health Court within 1 month of start date of grant cycle (anticipated June 1, 2021)</li> <li>-Screen 200 individuals by the end of year 1, 225 by the end of year 2, and 250 by the end of year 3.</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

<b>Objective #1:</b>		<b>Establish and expand diversion programs</b> that address the above goals and begin services one month of the final Grant Agreement.		
	<b>Task/Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>
		-Begin early in-jail assessment (biopsychosocial) for inmates with extended stays and/or needing pre-release stabilization  -Begin initial treatment by implementing evidence-based treatment models in jail (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)  -Facilitate timely access to post-release evidence-based outpatient treatment and care coordinated hand off to services (e.g., psychiatric, medication mgmt.)	Forensic Clinician (Meridian)  Forensic Clinician (Meridian)  Forensic Clinician (Meridian) Forensic Case Mgr. (Meridian) Levy County Probation Department	-Admit 80 diversion program participants by the end of year 1, 90 by the end of year 2, and 100 by the end of year 3.

<b>Objective #2:</b>		<b>Create and encourage collaboration among key stakeholders</b> in implementing the Strategic Plan 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.	Planning Committee Program Director (Meridian)	-Planning Committee meets with full representation

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #2:	Create and encourage <b>collaboration among key stakeholders</b> in implementing the Strategic Plan and providing ongoing oversight and quality improvement activities of the proposed project.			
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
		394.657(2)(a), F.S. and expand/update representation as needed -Set up new schedule of quarterly meetings		within 1 month of new grant cycle (anticipated June 1, 2021)
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 upon completion -Annual survey of Planning Committee and other stakeholders -Monthly Progress Reports by the Program Director -Quarterly Status Reports, including Performance Measure achievement, reviewed by the Planning Committee	Planning Committee Program Director (Meridian) Other community stakeholders  Program Director (Meridian) Levy County Planning Committee	-Completion of SIM in accordance to USF CJMSA TAC schedule  -Review and update of Strategic Plan annually  -Approval of reports by the Planning Committee at the end of each quarter of grant year

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #2:		Create and encourage <b>collaboration among key stakeholders</b> in implementing the Strategic Plan and providing ongoing oversight and quality improvement activities of the proposed project.		
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quarterly Program Status Reports submitted to the Department and the Planning Committee based on DCF timeline</li> <li>-Final Program Status Report submitted to the Department and the Planning Committee based on DCF timeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Director (Meridian)</li> <li>Levy County Board of County Commissioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Approval of the Final Program Status Report by the BOCC at the end of the 3-year grant period</li> </ul>
2.3	Participate in data sharing to inform program quality improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quarterly Report on numbers served and demographics reviewed by the planning committee</li> <li>-Quarterly Progress Reports, including Performance Measure achievement, reviewed by the Planning Committee</li> <li>-Dissemination of outcome data and other tracking and performance measures to community/regional stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Director (Meridian)</li> <li>Planning Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Approval of reports by the Planning Committee at the end of each quarter of grant year</li> <li>-Dissemination of information to community through Planning Committee meetings open to the public, during the SIM process, annual reports, and other outreach events</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #2:		Create and encourage <b>collaboration among key stakeholders</b> in implementing the Strategic Plan and providing ongoing oversight and quality improvement activities of the proposed project.		
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
2.4	Coordinate Implementation and Expansion Grant services and activities with the Managing Entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Contact with ME to ensure that services are integrated within the area's coordinated system of care</li> <li>-Dissemination of program status reports to ME</li> <li>-Dissemination of outcome data and other tracking and performance measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Director (Meridian)</li> <li>Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Coordination with ME upon grant award (anticipated April, 2021)</li> <li>-Program status and data reports distributed quarterly to ME or more frequently as required</li> </ul>
2.5	Make necessary adjustments to implementation activities, as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Planning Committee review to address any identified progress issues</li> <li>-Appointment of special Workgroup(s) by Planning Committee to address findings/service gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Committee Members</li> <li>Program Director (Meridian)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #3:		Increase implementation and access to evidence-based and best practices in mental health and substance abuse treatment services for the target population in Levy County.		
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
3.1	Implement evidence-based screening and assessment protocols and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-GAINS Reentry Checklist</li> <li>-Historical Clinical Risk Management-20, Version 3 (HCR-20 V3)</li> <li>-Assess, Plan, Identify, Coordinate (APIC) model</li> <li>- Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) tool to assess criminogenic risk</li> <li>-Motivational Interviewing (MI) to promote engagement</li> </ul>	<p>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annual training of evidence-based screening/assessment tools</li>   <li>-Quarterly case audits conducted to measure fidelity of EBP</li> </ul>
3.2	Implement a coordinated approach to outpatient treatment and recovery support services for the target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Implement evidence based models that are person-centered and trauma-focused, e.g., Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI)</li> </ul>	<p>Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>Forensic Clinician (Meridian)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Weekly clinical case staffing and quarterly case audits conducted to measure fidelity of clinical EBP</li>   <li>-Client achievement of treatment plan goals</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Objective #3:		Increase implementation and access to evidence-based and best practices in mental health and substance abuse treatment services for the target population in Levy County.		
	Task/Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party/Parties	Milestone(s)
		<p>-Initiate timely access to mainstream benefits for eligible participants, including access to federal benefits using the evidence-based SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model</p> <p>-Provide best practice, team-based care coordination to address social determinants affecting participants' long-term recovery and self-sufficiency (e.g., access to employment, education/training, transportation, housing, food, primary care, etc.)</p>	<p>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</p> <p>Forensic Case Manager (Meridian)</p> <p>Peer Specialist (Meridian)</p> <p>Community Partners (employment, healthcare, housing, transportation, etc.)</p>	<p>- SOAR data entered into the national OAT system</p> <p>-Client achievement of treatment plan goals</p>
3.3	Ensure sustainability of evidence-based services by promoting public buy-in and enhancing awareness of the need for de-criminalizing mental illness	<p>-Conduct Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training</p> <p>-Conduct community outreach activities to enhance awareness</p>	<p>MHFA certified Forensic Clinician (Meridian)</p> <p>Program Director (Meridian)</p> <p>Planning Committee Members</p>	-Train 15 Law enforcement officers and/or related staff, per year (1 MHFA training annually; 3 trainings over the 3-year grant period)

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

**6.2.2.4 Partner communication throughout the lifetime of the project:** The Levy County 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 CJMHSAG Forensic Program Director will serve as the liaison to the Committee. The Program Director will assist in coordinating the meeting activities and work product associated with the Planning Committee. The Program Director will also oversee the reporting of performance and outcome data to the Planning Committee. The members of the Planning Committee will continue to be active participants in the SIM workshops. The results of the SIM will be shared with Committee members and other community and regional stakeholders.

Additionally, subcommittee meetings will be held on an 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 as needed to address any service gaps and challenges identified by the Committee. For example, workgroups may convene to discuss housing strategies and transportation issues for the target population, both of which are Strategic Plan goals.

### **6.2.2.5 Plan to screen potential participants and conduct tailored, validated**

**needs-based assessments:** As summarized in Tab 5, the Forensic Team will review all referrals of potential program participants resulting from initial screenings conducted by the jail medical staff at booking in. Meridian will also accept and process referrals for Forensic Outpatient services from Probation, as well as from the Public Defender's Office, private defense attorney, State Attorney's Office, Court Judge, self-referral, and other relevant entities. If the referral does not meet the basic admission criteria for services (e.g., Mental Health Court or Outpatient Treatment), the individual will be referred to another program if appropriate (e.g., Veteran's Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, residential substance use disorder treatment), and recommendations will be made to the referral sources.

If participation in the program is a condition of release, the Forensic Case Manager will go to the jail and complete reentry (transition) planning with the inmate. The Forensic Case Manager will also complete reentry planning with individuals who are to be released but are not court ordered to the program.

In addition, the Forensic Team will also conduct screenings at the Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State Attorney, and other referral sources as appropriate. On-Site screening will be provided for any walk-in referrals at Meridian's Levy County clinic.

Forensic Team members use evidence-based, person-centered **Motivational Interviewing (MI)** as an essential tool during screening and assessment 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 Case Manager 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 the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (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 targets 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, and 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>2</sup> The RNR is a valuable tool to help the CJMHSAG Forensic 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 services are being provided at the appropriate dosage to the level of risk.

Upon assignment of a client identified for CJMHSAG services, the Forensic Clinician, who is trained in diagnosing mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders, will also conduct a biopsychosocial evaluation. **As appropriate, the Forensic Clinician will begin the biopsychosocial assessment while an individual is in the jail.**

Meridian data and experience have shown that the population the Levy County program will serve often has extended jail stays before release. Because of their disorders, many need timely services to remain stable and engaged before reentry. As a result, the proposed program will begin clinical services as soon as possible, beginning with the biopsychosocial.

The biopsychosocial uses Meridian's electronic medical record (EMR) system. The EMR includes evidence-based assessment tools used throughout Meridian and is trauma focused, client centered, and co-occurring using strength-based approaches. The GAINS Reentry Checklist and the HCR-20 V3 have also been integrated into the EMR.

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 Clinician, in collaboration with the Forensic Case Manager 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 identified, clients will be referred to the Forensic Clinician for treatment/counseling and/or to the Forensic Case Manager for case

---

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016). Emerging Issues in Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System. Retrieved from: <http://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justic/behavioral-health-criminal-justice>.

management/support services. For those clients receiving outpatient services as a condition of Probation, the Forensic Team will maintain ongoing contact with Probation officers regarding the individual's progress with treatment plan goals, including providing status reports monthly or more frequently if needed.

Clients assessed as eligible for Mental Health Court will be staffed with the State Attorney and Public Defender's office for participation in the Levy County Mental Health Court program, which can result in dismissal of charges upon successful completion of treatment plan goals.

**6.2.2.6 How the proposed design will facilitate care coordination to increase access to behavioral health treatment and support services and ancillary social services:**

To facilitate participant access to treatment, recovery support, and ancillary social/support 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 and providing warm hand offs to 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 members when available, service providers, the courts, attorneys, etc.), including, but not limited to, weekly multidisciplinary case staffings.

For individuals admitted to Mental Health Court, the Forensic Team will coordinate case management and treatment services with the State Attorney and Public Defender's offices. If screening and assessment indicate a need for outpatient services, the Forensic Team will coordinate with other community stakeholders to provide integrated forensic case management and treatment services on an outpatient level. This includes working in conjunction with the Probation Officer for individuals who are required to participate in outpatient treatment as a condition of their probation.

Evidence-based case management and treatment models provided 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.) Through care coordination with and assessment by the Meridian ARNP, psychiatric services and medications are available and monitored as part of the individual's treatment if needed.

As stated above, through coordination with the Levy County Detention Center, the Forensic Clinician will begin initial treatment for identified individuals while they are still

in the jail, particularly those with extended jail stays prior to reentry and/or those who need early care coordination and continuity of services to maintain stability and engagement in outpatient services once they are released.

If the screening and assessment indicate that inpatient services are required, the Forensic Case Manager will provide a warm hand off to a residential treatment setting. These may include Meridian's Bridge House, a residential substance use disorder treatment program; Mothers Intensive Supportive Treatment (MIST) program for pregnant and parenting women facing addiction; or other residential program based on client choice. When indicated, the Forensic Team will facilitate admission to Meridian's continuum of programs, such as crisis stabilization, psychiatric services and medication management, Addictions Receiving Facility/detox, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), 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 will be a **phased process**, promoting access to individualized, care 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; coordinated medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs
- **Phase III (Stabilization):** Advanced level of self-sufficiency; individual/group therapy; case management; coordinated 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; coordinated medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs; increased usage of peer support services
- **Phase V (Follow-up/Aftercare):** After graduation from treatment; peer support services; case management; coordinated medication management; drug testing; linkage/referral to community resources/programs; coordinated substance use disorder aftercare as needed

**Access to ancillary support services will also be promoted through a coordinated team approach.** Cross-system coordination will enable the Forensic Team to work closely with the courts, legal aid, housing providers, job training and employment, and community based supports that encourage recovery.

Assessing, identifying, planning for, and connecting to individualized ancillary support

services will begin with transition planning in the jail for incarcerated individuals. The CJMHSAG Forensic Case Manager uses 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 Case Manager will collaborate with existing Levy County service provider partners for ancillary services. Although county resources can be limited, the Forensic Team will continue to work with these partners, the Planning Committee members, and other community and regional stakeholders with the goal of identifying and increasing access to support services for forensic clients.

Examples of ancillary support services available through coordination with existing Levy County partners include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

**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 Forensic Case Manager 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. When necessary, the Forensic Case Manager will work collaboratively with Three Rivers Legal Services, which assists individuals with navigating the SSI/SSDI denial process when necessary. The Forensic Case Manager will initiate the SOAR process while participants are in jail and follow up 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>3</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. The Forensic Case Manager will coordinate linkage to the Levy County

---

<sup>3</sup> Walker E., McGee, E. & Druss, B. (2015). Mortality in Mental Disorder and Global Disease Burden Implications. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 72, no. 4: 334, doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.2502

Department of Health or other primary care provider in the community depending on participant choice. Meridian also has long-standing agreements with the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center for healthcare for veterans; UF Shands Hospital; and Palms Medical, an FQHC, all of which serve Levy County residents. 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. One of the resources Meridian brings to the CJMHSAG program is a **Primary Care Clinic** located on the organization's main campus in Gainesville. Primary care services integrate medical care (e.g., monitoring of key health indicators) with psychological treatment and care coordination to help individuals self-manage their health conditions and overall wellness. Integrated care coordination addresses social determinants of health, such as housing, nutrition, and benefits assistance. To further facilitate access for consumers, Meridian also has onsite pharmacy services at the Levy County clinic and other office locations. Based on the participant's choice and as appropriate, the Forensic Case Manager will ensure linkage to the Meridian Primary Care Clinic, including provision of transportation for those in Levy County if necessary.

**Vocational/Employment Services:** Forensic staff will work in partnership with CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion for vocational and employment supports. As appropriate, the Forensic Team can also facilitate warm hand offs to supported employment services available through Meridian. The members of the Planning Committee will assist in identifying the availability of scholarships for educational assistance, including, but not limited to, GED completion.

**Housing Services:** Partnerships for addressing housing needs of program participants include the Levy County Housing Authority and North Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry. Developing a permanent supportive housing program in Levy County is identified as an objective of the Strategic Plan (Goal 6, Objective 1) that will be further explored by the Planning Committee.

**Basic Needs Support:** Basic needs support (e.g., food, emergency financial assistance, clothing, shelter) will be accessed through long-standing community partners, such as the Tri-County Community Resource Center operated by Partnership for Strong Families. The Resource Center is located in Levy County and offers an array of services. Catholic Charities, another long-standing partner, provides emergency financial assistance and other basic needs supports, including rural mobile food and personal item distribution.

**Client Flex Funds:** Ancillary services will include client flex funds to assist participants with basic needs (e.g., rental assistance for housing, clothing for interviews, hygiene needs, transportation).

As in many rural counties, low cost, accessible transportation is a critical need for residents. The Strategic Plan contains multiple objectives to work with the Levy County

Public Transportation Service to decrease eligibility and use restrictions for residents. The CJMHSAG Implementation and Expansion program will help to address immediate transportation needs for the target population by offering services accessible to the participant in their community and in-home, including telehealth services; transportation flex funds; and limited Meridian transport as needed.

All service coordination will be consumer-driven with program participants playing an active role in their treatment plan. All services will be coordinated through the Forensic Program Director to ensure that they are properly documented and that the participants receive the kind and level 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 at intercept, capacity, and how they intend to implement or expand diversion initiatives:** As they did during the Planning Grant stage, 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.

Levy County law enforcement has had an ongoing interest in assessing and participating in diversion initiative implementation. For example, Meridian partners with local law enforcement throughout the region, including the Sheriff's Office in Levy County, to implement Mobile Response Teams for youth and young adults facing behavioral health crisis. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training was previously held for Levy County law enforcement professionals. The proposed Implementation and Expansion Grant program will offer evidence-based Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for Levy County law enforcement and related staff. Facilitated by the Forensic Clinician certified in MHFA, the training provides individuals with the skills they need to recognize the signs of mental disorders and to assist someone who is developing a mental health issue or experiencing a mental health crisis, including employing crisis de-escalation. These Intercept 0 and Intercept 1 interventions are further described in Section 6.2.3. below.

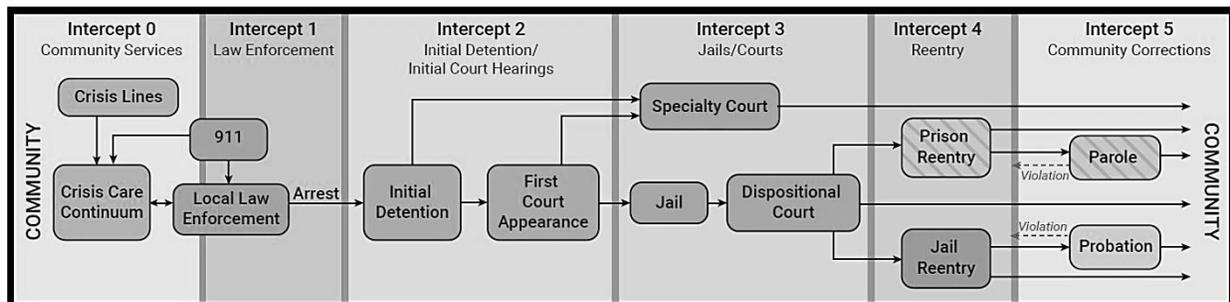
**6.2.2.8 Recovery Support Specialists and Peer Support:** The Levy County Forensic Team will include a Peer Specialist (state certified or certified eligible) who will assist with recovery supports on an individual and family basis. The Peer Specialist will promote symptom-management, personal growth, and engagement by offering mentoring, advocacy, role modeling, employment skills and employment assistance, warm handoffs to referral services, follow-up, and linkages to natural support systems

and community activities. The Peer Specialist will assist participants in Mental Health Court during court hearings.

**6.2.2.9 Collaboration and the relationship between the partner counties in the consortium:** The applicant is not a consortium of counties. The Levy County Planning Committee, however, draws upon the expertise of several regional members, who bring to the Levy County initiative their experience with other Reinvestment Grant programs and with a range of diversion programs in other counties within Circuit 8.

**6.2.3 Strategies to serve the target population:** Moving from planning to implementation, the program will focus primarily at establishing core interventions at Intercepts 0 through 5 (Figure 2). The proposed program will work in collaboration with cross-system stakeholder providers and programs to implement and expand strategies and interventions that benefit the target population. These include strategies provided directly through Reinvestment Grant funding, as well as through the shared, coordinated strategies, programs, and resources of the Levy County CJMHSAG partner base. **This collaborative approach will allow the fiscally-constrained county to maximize resources, while continuing to move toward the ultimate goal of creating a full range of interventions across all intercept levels.**

**Figure 2: Sequential Intercept Model Intercept Levels**



Source: Policy Research Associates. The Sequential Intercept Model. Retrieved from: <https://www.prainc.com/sim/>

**6.2.3.1 Levy County CJMHSAG specialized diversion programming:**

The Levy County CJMHSAG Forensic Team will use **person-centered and recovery oriented** interventions and techniques from client admission into the program through discharge and follow-up. Techniques will include, but may not be limited to, recovery goal setting and identifying strengths and informal/natural supports (e.g., peer groups/support, family support). 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 include clinical groups two times per week and peer support groups 1 time per week. Frequency of individual therapy is contingent on the individual's stability and risk factors. Frequency of face-to-face case management is typically one time per month with frequency contingent on the individual's needs based on the treatment plan. The Forensic Case Manager will also provide indirect services for the client for ancillary supports.

Prior to the pandemic, Meridian had been using **telehealth** for over seven years and therefore had the infrastructure and experience in place to expand its use for individuals who could not come for in-person outpatient treatment due to COVID-19. For the six-month period May-October 2020, Meridian was able to provide 40,463 telehealth services to persons throughout our service region. We continue to use telehealth to expand access for individuals who have barriers to face-to-face contact and to increase frequency of contact. Telehealth services will be available for CJMHSAG program participants, which will also serve to increase the frequency of monitoring/supervision for those who require it.

Monitoring also occurs when the Forensic Team coordinates with monitoring agencies (e.g., Probation Department). The Forensic Team will report on progress towards goals and objectives of the treatment plan.

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

**6.2.3.1.1 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 proposed program will include training designed to educate law enforcement and related stakeholders in responding appropriately to individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Under the previous Planning Grant, staff provided outreach to promote Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for law enforcement, 911 staff, and other relevant Levy County personnel, resulting in completion of CIT Training by Levy County law enforcement and related personnel.

Under the proposed implementation and expansion, the Forensic Clinician, certified in evidence-based Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), will facilitate MHFA training for

law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals to raise awareness on how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The program will offer 1 MHFA training for a projected 15 law enforcement personnel annually.

The Forensic Team will provide eligible CJMHSAG clients and their family/support persons with information on and linkage to Intercept 0 and 1 crisis care and law enforcement interventions available through collaborative partnerships and resources. For example, Meridian, in conjunction with law enforcement and other partners, implements Mobile Response Teams (MRTs) in all Judicial Circuit 8 counties, including Levy, for individuals under 25 who are experiencing behavioral health crisis. The program provides law enforcement with a dedicated line to contact MRT staff directly, and MRT staff are available to law enforcement from the initial call through the duration of the crisis. **The MRT program is available through funds outside of Reinvestment Grant funding.**

**6.2.3.1.2 Mental Health Court (Intercept 3):** Mental Health Court is a pretrial diversion program for individuals who are diagnosed with mental illness or a developmental disability and who are arrested for misdemeanors, criminal traffic offenses, and certain approved third-degree felonies. The Mental Health Court model directly addresses Levy County priorities by providing a diversion option for the County's target population of individuals who, without intervention, are at high risk of continually cycling through the jail. Mental Health Court addresses Levy County public safety and cost-reduction goals by decreasing the high cost of repeat arrest and incarceration and related court and other corrections costs. Mental Health Court provides a less restrictive option for individuals who have a desire to change and provides a bridge to more stability, independence, and a better quality of life. Individuals participate in program services, while receiving ongoing judicial review with the goal of dismissing the charges against them.

The Public Defender and State Attorney's Offices of the Eighth Judicial Circuit and other criminal justice stakeholders spearheaded the program in Levy County because of their belief in the appropriateness and effectiveness of the model for the county. The program currently operates with a limited docket and services. Even with limited resources, Levy County Mental Health Court has seen a high completion rate, has graduated several participants, and currently has a waiting list.

The proposed Implementation and Expansion program will establish a Meridian Forensic Team in Mental Health Court enabling more individuals to be served with full case management and clinical services. This expansion will also allow the program to increase capacity through more data sharing, public awareness, and expanded partnerships.

In accordance with the model, the Forensic Team will provide case management, treatment, skills building, and recovery support services. The Team will develop a treatment plan with the defendant, and the defendant will be expected to meet the plan's goals and progress through the program's phases to complete the program. During the program's duration (typically six months to one year) the participant must consistently participate in mental health and substance use treatment and related services, remain in contact with the assigned Team member(s), and complete drug tests. Members of the Forensic Team will attend court staffings to promote continuity of care, leading to the best outcomes for participants. The Forensic Team will assist the court and attorneys in Levy County through information and advocacy, including attending court and/or court staffing meetings. Additionally, the Forensic Peer Specialist will provide peer services in Mental Health Court to assist participants and reduce stress during court hearings.

**6.2.3.1.3 Intensified transition services while in jail (Intercept 4):** The Levy County CJMHSAG program 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. Based on the identified needs of the Levy County target population, the program will offer transition services to include jail-based early clinical assessment and treatment to engage individuals in services and ensure continuity of care upon their reentry.

The Levy County CJMHSAG program will implement the evidence based transition planning model **APIC (Access, Plan, Identify, Coordinate)**, which was designed specifically for a jail population with co-occurring disorders. The Forensic Case Manager will be trained in the APIC model (Table 5). 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 Case Manager and the inmate.<sup>4</sup> In addition, APIC supports collaboration between the jail, Meridian, and other stakeholders in developing and monitoring the post-release process.

---

<sup>4</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, 7

**Table 5: Summary of the APIC Model<sup>5</sup> within the Levy County CJMHSAG Program**

<p>Assess the inmate's clinical and social needs and public safety risks</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, 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</p>
<p>Plan for the treatment and services required to address the inmate's needs</p>	<p>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)</p> <p>Learn from inmate what has worked/not worked in past transitions, seek family input as is possible</p> <p>Initiate benefits process for eligible inmates</p>
<p>Identify required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improve safety by allowing communication and multidisciplinary case management and release planning</li> <li>2) Enable treatment providers to communicate continuing plan referrals between agencies</li> </ol>
<p>Coordinate the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services</p>	<p>Provide administrative oversight of the assessment and planning process to assure information is routinely collected and translated into practical transition</p>

Implementation of the APIC model is further supported by the program's use of the evidence based **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 completing a biopsychosocial assessment, the Forensic Clinician will begin clinical services in the jail for those identified individuals who will remain incarcerated for at least four weeks. The objective of these services is to begin treatment services while individuals are in the jail so that they will be able to integrate in treatment services post-

---

<sup>5</sup> Osher et al., 6-17

release. The Meridian Forensic Clinician will provide clinical and educational services and develop an individual treatment plan with the client based on the results of the assessment. The clinician will provide in-jail treatment services in phases: Orientation, Treatment, and Reentry. (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.) During the Orientation Phase, sessions will be educational and motivational, addressing issues related to criminological thinking and discussions related to mental health and substance use. 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, each person will receive assignments that will be discussed in subsequent sessions. The Reentry Phase will be conducted for those individuals transitioning out of the jail. 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 assistance. Warm handoffs to 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 will provide person-centered and solution focused outpatient treatment to Levy County CJMHSAG participants as determined by assessment. Outpatient treatment will be provided in collaboration with the Levy County Probation Department for those individuals for whom treatment is a condition of their probation. Outpatient treatment will also be provided on a voluntary basis for eligible individuals.

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. The Forensic Clinician will be certified in the MRT model.

- **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>6</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 be trained in SAMHSA GAINS Center Trauma-Informed Responses for criminal justice professionals.

Other specialized group interventions may include the following:

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

---

<sup>6</sup> Landenberger, N.A. & Lipsey, M. (2005). The Positive Effects of Cognitive Behavioral Programs for Offenders: A Meta-analysis of Factors Associated with Effective treatment. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1, no. 4:451-476.

**TAB 6: Attachment 2**

**Levy County Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHSAs)  
Reinvestment Planning Grant  
Strategic Plan  
2019 - 2020**

**Statement of the Problem**

The purpose of the Strategic Plan in Levy County, which is a rural and fiscally constrained county within the Eighth Judicial Circuit, is to identify and improve jail diversion tactics for adults with mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorders. The interest for jail diversion heightened in Levy County with stakeholders, such as the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, the County Court Judge, and the Levy County Jail (Detention Bureau), when the Mental Health Court was created in July 2018. It was universally understood, even with limited resources, a community needs assessment and planning process was required to identify and advance jail diversion opportunities. The Levy County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) agreed that Meridian Behavior Healthcare, Inc. would be the lead agency for the planning process. Meridian was a natural choice since they had experience in Bradford and Alachua Counties Circuit 8 courts through the CJMHSAs grants.

Forensic services are only available to those in Levy County who are deemed Incompetent to Proceed or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity as determined by the criminal court. As indicated in The Stepping Up Initiative, which is a partnership with the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation created in 2015, a lack of accessible resources and coordinated diversion services often leads to repeat arrests and additional incarcerations with increased jail days, which in turn drives up costs for a county that is already suffering from inadequate resources. The Stepping Up Initiative assists counties and various jurisdictions in planning strategies to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in U.S. jails.

A Community Health Survey of Community Members, prepared by WellFlorida Council, 2017, cited the five most important health problems having the greatest impact on overall community health. Levy County residents 18 years and older surveyed chose substance abuse/drug use; access to primary health care; obesity; dental problems and mental health problems listed in their order of importance. Sixty percent of the concerns by Levy County residents deal with the very essence of the CJMHSAs Grant Program.

With a total population of 40,448, Levy County is 100% rural and designated by the state as fiscally constrained. This figure is based on the most recent data from the Florida Bureau of Economic Business Resources of 2017 (FlHealthCHARTS). This figure includes an estimated small decrease from 40,801 from the 2010 United States Census Bureau. Projections for 2020 are estimated to be 42,448. The county's 1,118 square miles in size and lack of transportation presents geographical challenges for both clients and providers.

The final contributing factors inhibiting jail diversion is rooted in the county's socioeconomic factors. The poverty rate for all Levy County residents is higher than the state of Florida. In 2015, the poverty rate was 22.1% for Levy County while 15.8% for the state. For children living

in poverty in Levy County, the rates were also higher than in the state at 35.3% and 23.4% respectively (U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates).

### **County Partnerships Executed in the Strategic Planning Process and Participates**

There were four Memorandums of Agreement executed with the stakeholders throughout Levy County. The four MOUs that have been executed are with the State's Attorney Office for Circuit 8; the Public Defender's Office in Levy County; Levy County Sheriff's Office; and the Williston Police Department (C-1.2.3).

The Planning Committee members were the other participants who were involved in crafting the Strategic Plan. They were contacted individually to utilize their particular expertise to contribute to the Strategic Plan, i.e., using the input from the Public Defender and State Attorney on how their interaction with Mental Health Court will contribute to jail diversion in Levy County as stated in the Strategic Plan; how the County Commissioner will commit in-kind resources in the implementation phase and wants to be used in networking his contacts in Levy Co.; how the Williston Police Department offered to work with their local hospital to provide services consistent with the Strategic Plan; how the Sheriff and his staff will implement their modified booking assessment to identify those with mental health/substance abuse issues at booking. These were just some of the examples of how the committee members were used in formulating the Strategic Plan. Every member was called upon to share their proficiencies. (C-2.5.1.1.4)

A significant process that helped form planning alliances with the Levy County stakeholders was The Stepping Up Initiative. It was utilized to give direction to the Levy County Planning Grant Committee's activities through its available methodology and resources.

A tool kit with six questions, that assists county decision-makers/stakeholders in developing a plan, was presented to involve decision-makers/stakeholders in the planning process. The Levy County CJMHSA Planning Grant Committee based their strategic planning activities around answering the following questions: 1) Is your leadership committed? 2) Do you have a timely screening and assessment on inmates? 3) Do you have baseline data? 4) Have you conducted a comprehensive process analysis and service inventory? 5) Have you prioritized policy, practice and funding? 6) Do you track process? Haneberg, R.; Fabelo, T.; Osher, F.; & Thompson, M. (2017). *Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jail: Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask*.

By answering these questions, the Planning Grant Committee will identify resources and funding options surfacing because of the planning process and identify any service gaps. To supplement strategic alliances and enhance the planning process, Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshops were conducted on January 24, 2019 and March 24, 2019 by the DCF Forensics Department and the Florida Mental Health Institute's Technical Assistance Center (TAC). These workshops allowed the committee to come together to recognize the resources, social services need and the gaps in those services as they exist in Levy County. Moreover, the exchange of information led to writing policies and procedures on how to eliminate or minimize these service gaps.

To conclude this section, there were two surveys that helped to determine the strategic planning course. One was done with the inmates of the Levy County jail, which indicated a 79% rate having a Mental Health or Substance Abuse (MH/SA) disorder. All those answering the survey

said they wish they had MH/SA services available to them, either while incarcerated and/or in the community. The other survey, different from the inmate survey, was given to the Levy County stakeholders. The surprising consensus within this group was that 92%-96% identified a social services and training need in Levy County.

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Levy County Jail Diversion Planning Grant Committee is to promote a system of identification, assessment, and negotiation to effectively divert those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders and involvement in the criminal justice system from the jail to appropriate services.

**Vision Statement**

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

**Values Statement**

Collectively, the Levy County Jail Diversion Planning Grant Committee accepts the Stepping Up Initiative by pledging to support a reduction of incarcerations and jail days. Fundamentally, the Committee understands, by attaching services to those suffering from Mental Health/Substance Abuse disorders, upon reentry into the community, they will have accomplished their Mission.

**APPENDIX A**

**Goal # 1: Apply for Implementation Phase of the CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Apply for the CJMHSA Reinvestment Implementation Grant	Successfully have the grant awarded to Levy Co.	Meridian Behavior Health Care, Inc. (MBHCI)	Based on the DCF cycle for RFPs

**Goal # 2: Increase Community Resources**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Develop a Warm Line for Levy Co. residents who are not in a full blown crisis, but need someone to talk to	Market the Warm Line phone number out to the Levy Co. residents	Alachua County’s Crisis Center Project Coordinator	TBA

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

2	Decrease the restrictions on the use of the Levy Co. Public Transportation Service	Allowing Levy Co. residents to use transportation services when needed vs. extended advanced scheduling	Director of the Levy Co. Transportation Service	TBA
3	Develop Outreach in Levy Co. for the target population	Hire and train staff to identify those needing outreach services for their MH/SA issues	Tri-Co. Community Resource Center, Levy Co. Health Dept. and MBHCI	TBA
4	Train more MDs in Baker and Marchman Acts	List the MDs/providers in Levy Co. having involvement with the target group	MBHCI, Tri-Co. Resource Center and Levy Co. Health Dept.	TBA

**Goal #3: Develop Services for Initial Detention and First Court Appearances**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Develop Pre-trial services	To initiate services during the booking process	Appropriate court personnel and the Manager of the 916 cases for MBHCI	TBA
2	Decrease the restrictions on the use of the Levy Co. Public Transportation Service	Allowing Levy Co. residents to use transportation services when needed vs. extended advanced scheduling	Director of the Levy Co. Transportation Service	TBA
3	Develop Outreach in Levy Co. for the target population	Hire and train staff to identify those needing outreach services for their MH/SA issues	Tri-Co. Community Resource Center, Levy Co. Health Dept. and MBHCI	TBA

**Goal # 4: Improve Services with the Jails and Courts**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Generate social services for Veterans in jail and in the court system	Incorporate the services identified in the Levy Co. Planning Grant Needs Assessment	The VA representative on the Levy Co. Planning Committee	TBA
2	Provide case managers to those having MH/SA issues in the jail and criminal justice court system	Develop those services identified in the assessment conducted during the booking process and the inmate survey	MBHCI Forensics Department	TBA
3	Develop in-county social services for the target population	Hire and train staff to be assigned to providers who serve the target population	MBHCI Forensics Department and Levy Co. Health Department	TBA
4	Conduct a Crisis Intervention Team training for Levy Co. law enforcement professionals	When the 40 hr. training in MH/SA has concluded	Florida Sheriff Assoc. staff person for rural counties	Completed June 7, 2019
5	Increase utilization of Levy Co. Mental Health Court	Add one person per month until the target population in the jail is reduced 20%	State Attorney, Public Defender and 916 Manager for Levy Co. and MBHCI	Mental Health Court was created July 2018

**Goal # 5: Reentry**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Decrease the restrictions on the use of the Levy Co. Public Transportation Service	Refer to Goal # 3, Objective 1.2	Refer to Goal # 3, Objective 1.2	TBA

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

2	Develop Emergency and Transitional Housing	Centrally locate a building to be converted into emergency and transitional housing	Lutheran Services of Florida Housing staff, Tri-County Community Resource Center, Levy Co. Dept. of Health and MBHCI	TBA
---	--	---	--	-----

**Goal # 6: Community Corrections**

Objectives:				
	Task	Performance Measure	Lead Person or Organization	Projected Completion Date
1	Design a supportive housing program in Levy Co. for the target population, including medical and social support services	Explore locations, then secure a site to provide supportive housing for the target population	MBHCI, Tri-County Community Resource Center, Lutheran Services of Florida's housing staff and Levy Co. DOH	TBA
2	Create a National Alliance for Mentally Ill chapter in Levy Co.	Reach out to the Gainesville chapter for their guidelines	MBHCI, the VA representative on the Planning Committee, Tri-County Res. Ctr.	TBA
3	Develop a Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc. Rehab) program for the target population of Levy Co.	Review Alachua, Flagler and Putnam County's Voc. Rehab. programs as models	Sub-committee-- Fl. Dept. of Corrections, Adult System of Care Mgr. for Lutheran Services of Florida, VA rep. from the Planning Committee, Tri-County Resource Center.	TBA
4	Construct specialized caseloads specific to focusing on reducing recidivism, becoming self-sufficient, reducing jail days and number of incarcerations	When case managers adapt to the best practices of existing modalities	MBHCI, VA rep., from the planning committee and Mental Health court personnel.	TBA

## **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 be a collaborative effort among Meridian, the Eighth Judicial Circuit, the jail, and the other key program partners for information such as arrest and number of jail days. Meridian, the lead agency, has had procedures in place to capture data for 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 Forensic Program Director will have the responsibility of 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) 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 previously augmented to track clients participating in forensic grant programs, including the ability to track appointment compliance and data for status updates to the court system and access to other services received by participants. The EMR also assists with discharge planning and tracks individuals for follow-up. The GAINS Reentry Checklist and the HCR-20 V3 are integrated into the EMR. Because the Forensic Team members have access to each record, participant records can be updated quickly. Reports are able to be run on EMR data at any interval.

Data collection will be done in a confidential manner as specified in established policies and procedures. Meridian and Levy County collaborative partners 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:** Table 6 below shows the data collection and tracking methodology and benchmark targets for the required performance measures.

**Table 6: Required Program Performance Measures**

Performance Measure	Methodology to Report	Proposed Target
1. Percent who are arrested or rearrested while receiving services	Data compiled using online Official Court Record Services (OCRS) and the Florida Comprehensive Case Information System (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 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	Forensic Team member 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.
3. 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.
4. Percent who successfully complete Program services	Clinical records in Meridian EMR; recorded in Meridian Forensic database	60% of Program participants will successfully complete Program services by meeting the goals and objectives set forth in their plan of care, co-developed with the participant.
5. Percent who are arrested or rearrested within six months following their ending date for Program services	Data compiled using online Official Court Record Services (OCRS) and the Florida Comprehensive Case Information System (FLCCIS); new arrests/re-arrests are recorded in Meridian database	60% reduction in the total number of arrests among Program participants in the six-month period following their ending date compared to the six-month period prior to their start date

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

Performance Measure	Methodology to Report	Proposed Target
6. 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.
7. Percent of Program participants who reside in a stable housing environment six months 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  Six-month and annual follow-up after discharge by Peer Specialist to include current housing status; recorded 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 six months after their Program end date.
8. 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.
9. Percent employed full or part time six months following their Program end date	Self-report for historical data; monitoring of treatment plan; tracked in Meridian Forensic database  Six-month and annual follow-up after discharge by Peer Specialist to include 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 six months following their Program end date.

**6.3.3 Additional proposed performance measures unique to the tasks outlined in the application, including proposed targets and methodologies:** Table 7 below lists the additional performance measures proposed and the related methodology and benchmark targets.

**Table 7: Proposed Performance Measures**

Performance Measure	Methodology to Report	Proposed Target
10. Percent of decrease in the number of jail bed days for target population demonstrating reduced spending in criminal justice	Monthly report based on OCRS and FLCCIS data pre- and post- admission	60% reduction in jail days 1 year past Program start date
11. Percent of increase in participants entered into Mental Health Court from current total served at grant award	Mental Health Court records and Meridian internal database	75% increase in the number of Mental Health Court participants in year 1 of the grant period; 100% in year 2; 125% in year 3

**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.**, the lead agency, is a private not-for-profit corporation that has provided quality and affordable behavioral health care for the past 48 years. Meridian predominantly serves a 12-county area in North Central Florida that includes Levy County. Services are community-based, person-focused, and specifically designed to be congruent with the demographics and cultural and linguistic needs of the individuals and communities in each county. 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 mental health crisis stabilization and substance abuse stabilization and detox; psychiatric treatment and medication management; and in-patient, residential, and outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. 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, services for pregnant and parenting mothers, 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 Commission on 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 Levy County and surrounding counties in Circuits 8 and 3 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 Alachua County's (Circuit 8) Reinvestment Grant program since it was first implemented in 2008 and in its subsequent expansions, including a consortium expansion of the program in rural Bradford County. 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.

**Other Partners:**

The primary local law enforcement partner, the **Levy County Sheriff's Office (LCSO)**, oversees the county jail (Detention Bureau). Sheriff Bobby McCallum and staff have worked in partnership with Meridian and other stakeholders on initiatives to address the needs of individuals with behavioral health disorders, including the Mobile Response Team program.

**Several partners have been responsible for spearheading the discussion about diversion services in Levy County and for initial implementation of a Mental Health Court.** All of these partners participated as members of the Planning Committee for the previous Levy County CJMSA Reinvestment Planning Grant. The **Public Defender's Office** for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, has been active in promoting diversion efforts for justice-involved individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders. The Public Defender's office has had active representation on the Reinvestment Grant Planning Committee for Alachua County, which now also includes Bradford County, and is active on the Levy County Planning Committee as well. **Judge James T. Browning**, County Court Judge for Levy County, has also been instrumental in spearheading efforts for Mental Health Court in Levy and is a strong supporter of furthering diversion initiatives for the target population.

The **Levy County Board of County Commissioners** approved the previous Levy County Planning Grant, participated in strategic planning for the proposed

implementation and continues to serve on the Planning Committee. As stated above, during the Planning Grant phase the BOCC passed a resolution to become a Stepping Up county and participated in the county's first SIM analysis by the TAC at USF/FMHI, evidence of their continued commitment to the Levy County Strategic Plan's goal to divert those with mental illness and substance use disorders from the jail to appropriate services.

**6.4.2 Availability of resources for the proposed project:** As a rural and fiscally-constrained county, Levy County faces resource challenges. One of the major aims of the previous Reinvestment Grant planning process was to bring cross-system stakeholders together, including those who are experienced in implementing jail diversion programs, to develop strategies for identifying and maximizing resources. The proposed Reinvestment Grant Implementation and Expansion program will allow Levy County to establish and expand core, sustainable diversion services in the county, while continuing to move forward in its long-range goal of building the county's capacity for sustainable diversion interventions at all Intercept levels.

As the lead agency, Meridian brings to the project personnel who have extensive experience with the target population of justice-involved individuals with mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders and with implementing forensic diversion programs, including Reinvestment Grant funded programs. Forensic staff also have knowledge of and experience with the national Stepping Up diversion planning model designed specifically for county leaders. Program resources also include existing evidence-based assessment and treatment tools. Meridian certifies staff delivering evidence-based models (e.g., MRT, Mental Health First Aid), has existing in-house trainers to train Forensic staff in select evidence-based practices (e.g., Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Responses), and brings to the program expertise in these chosen models and their use with the focus population. As the comprehensive behavioral health provider in the region, 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 through warm handoff referral as needed.

As stated in Section 6.2.2.6, the project has access to long-standing existing partnerships for the delivery of ancillary social services and will continue to work with members of the Planning Committee and other stakeholders to build partnership capacity.

The project will also benefit from Planning Committee membership that includes Circuit 8 representation. Entities such as the State Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office have years of committee involvement with Reinvestment Grant projects and similar initiatives for the target population of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Additionally, the CJMHSAG Technical Assistance Center (CJMHSAG TAC) will bring essential resources through SIM implementation and ongoing technical assistance

support. Meridian and several of the Planning Committee members have worked closely with the CJMHSAG TAC for the Levy County Reinvestment Grant Planning Grant and other Reinvestment Grant Implementation and Expansion projects.

**6.4.3 Anticipated role of advocates, peer specialists, family members, and responsible partners:** The Levy County CJMHSAG Planning Committee includes a family member of community-based services, a primary consumer of mental health services and a primary consumer of substance abuse services. These individuals will remain active in the Committee and play a key role in proposing and approving diversion program 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/consumers 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 transition. 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 program will include a Peer Specialist supporting participants and family members/partners. The role of the Peer Specialist is to engage participants and their family/partner support persons both during treatment and during follow-up/aftercare. The Peer Specialists will assist participants and their support persons in resolving any concerns or questions they may have.

The Levy County Strategic Plan includes an objective to work toward development of a local National Alliance for Mentally Ill (NAMI) chapter in Levy County (Goal 6, Objective 2) to promote advocacy and support for participants and their families. Meridian, who is an active partner with the NAMI chapter in Gainesville, will work with other members of the Planning Committee to further that objective.

**6.4.4 Proposed staff, including Project Director, key personnel, and subcontractors who will participate in the project:**

Meridian will staff the following positions. The proposed program will use some existing staff members for positions. As an established provider of Forensic Services, Meridian has the employment resources and procedures in place to hire and train any vacant positions prior to the program start date. As a result, the Forensic Team will be ready to implement services one month after the start date (anticipated June 1, 2021). The proposed Levy County CJMHSAG staff are as follows:

**Forensic Case Manager (1 @ 100% effort):** The Forensic Case Manager will be responsible for providing screening, assessment, and intensive case management and referral services. She/he will use evidence based, trauma informed screening and assessment tools and intervention models. She/he will coordinate services with the Courts, Court Services, the jails, and community. This Forensic Case Manager 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. This position must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, psychology, sociology, public health, or related field with at least one year of experience in case management. Experience in a forensic discipline is preferred.

**Forensic Clinician (1 @ 100% effort):** The Forensic Clinician 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 use disorders. The Forensic Clinician will provide direct clinical services, intensive case management, and follow-up on an outpatient basis. Clinical work will also begin in the jail as appropriate to provide assessment, engagement, and initial treatment to assist the inmate with transition from jail to community-based treatment for successful reentry. The Forensic Clinician 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 Clinicians are supervised by a licensed individual who conducts at least monthly clinical supervision.

**Forensic Peer Specialist (.50% effort):** The Peer Specialist will promote symptom-management, personal growth and engagement by offering mentoring, advocacy, role modeling, employment skills and employment assistance, warm handoffs to referral services, follow-up, and linkages to natural support systems and community activities. The Peer Specialist will also assist participants in Mental Health Court during court hearings. The Forensic Peer Specialist is a consumer who has at least 2 years of experience in mental health and/or substance abuse recovery. State certified or certified eligible is preferred.

**Program Director (20% effort):** The Program Director, Jeremiah Alberico, LMHC, is the Vice President of Forensics Programs at Meridian. Mr. Alberico, a licensed clinician, has experience in forensics management, training, counseling, and supervision, including experience providing oversight of Meridian's Reinvestment Grant programs.

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. The Program Director will also review, assess, determine eligibility, and provide outreach liaison to stakeholders. This position will also oversee and manage the flow of services and activities of the Team. **The salary for this position is provided by Meridian as in-kind to the program.**

**Psychiatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) (.05% 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. **The salary for this position is provided by Meridian as in-kind to the program.**

## **EVALUATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Evaluation:**

A primary responsibility of the Levy County Planning Committee is to oversee program progress and performance in achieving milestones and outcomes. The Program Director will have the day-to-day responsibility of ensuring program progress. He will oversee preparation of quarterly evaluations based on timelines and planning objectives, which will be reviewed by Planning Committee members to determine whether or not milestones are being met. As necessary, the Planning Committee may convene a special workgroup to address any progress issues related to the achievement of project milestones or performance measures. Quarterly and final reports will also be submitted to and reviewed by the Department in accordance to the Department's timeline.

The methodology for data collection and reporting for each program performance measure is described in Sections 6.3.2 and 6.3.3 above. 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 six months following their end date will be collected from Official Court Record Services (OCRS), the Florida Comprehensive Case Information System (FLCCIS), and the 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 the Meridian Forensic database. 4) Percent of decrease in the number of jail bed days for the target population is compiled in a monthly report based on OCRS 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 six months 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 the Meridian Forensic database. 2) Data on the percent of participants not employed who are employed within 180 days after their Program start date and the percent employed six months 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 increase in participants entered into Mental Health Court from the current total served at grant award is obtained in Mental Health Court records and the Meridian internal database. 5) Data on the percent who successfully complete Program services is obtained from the Meridian EMR and recorded in an internal database.

Participant service satisfaction will be measured and input gathered through survey, interview and focus groups. Additionally, the program will measure **stakeholder support and Planning Committee participation** through Planning Committee meeting minutes and attendance, workgroup and subcommittee logs and attendance, and 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.

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 the 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:**

**6.5.2.1 How the proposed initiative will reduce the expenditures associated with the incarceration of the Target Population:**

The proposed program will reduce jail expenditures by reducing the number of jail days for clients who are better served by community based care. Meridian’s implementation of other Reinvestment Grant initiatives in partnership with Alachua and Bradford counties has shown a measurable, positive impact for the target population. For example, Figure 3 shows the number of jail days one year before, one year after, and two years after admission for 111 Alachua County clients:

**Figure 3: Jail Days Reductions, Alachua County Reinvestment Grant Program, 2019**



The Alachua County program has also seen ongoing reductions in the number of charges and incarcerations by the target population. The new and expanded diversion efforts in Levy County can be expected to result in direct jail days reductions for clients as a result of their participation, as well as an increasing, positive impact on recidivism, public safety, and criminal justice expenditures for Levy County over time.

**6.5.2.2 The proposed methodology to measure the defined outcomes and the corresponding savings or averted costs:**

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

Program outcomes will include performance measurement data on the percent of decrease in the number of jail bed days for the program’s target population as measured by OCRS and FLCCIS data pre- and post- admission. A reduction in jail bed days for the Reinvestment Grant population demonstrates reduced community spending for criminal justice. Research has shown that individuals with mental illnesses 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>7</sup> Diverting individuals with mental illness, substance use disorder or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders from jail will allow Levy 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 Levy County.** By taking a “community” approach over incarceration, programs such as the Levy County 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.

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

The proposed diversion initiatives provide the resources to identify, target, and engage individuals earlier and to keep individuals in care. As a result, individuals are engaged in community-based treatment before competency comes into question. Initiatives such as Mental Health Court and Forensic Outpatient also bring more resources when deciding the disposition of a case. Increasing the level of services and support in Levy County gives the courts options to state forensic hospital commitment when ruling a case.

Meridian is also the provider of 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 receive case management and services with the goal of diverting eligible participants from state forensic hospital admission. The CJMHSAG Forensic Team will work collaboratively with the 916 staff member to support the goal of community and/or jail based competency restoration, thereby averting the need to conduct competency restoration at the state mental health treatment facility.

**6.5.3. Sustainability:** Funding through the CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant will result in better recidivism and recovery outcomes for justice involved persons in Levy County, who have mental illness and/or substance use disorders. As a result, funding and other investment in the program will be offset by averted costs at the local jail, and ultimately, at the prison level.

The members of the CJMHSAG Planning Committee have recognized that long-term sustainability of the program depends upon strong community buy-in. Its members have already demonstrated their buy-in through their participation in Planning Grant initiatives, their development of and strong interest in expanding Mental Health Court in

---

<sup>7</sup> The Council of State Government (CSG) Justice Center. (2019). The Stepping Up Initiative. Retrieved from: <https://stepuptogether.org/the-problem>.

Levy County, the Board of County Commission resolution making Levy a Stepping Up county, and their participation in the first SIM analysis offered in their county.

Community awareness and buy-in is anticipated to increase based on positive program outcomes, which will be regularly reported. By decreasing re-arrests, incarcerations, and jail days, the program will demonstrate to Levy County stakeholders its impact on reducing public sector resources and increasing public safety. Demonstrating CJMHSAG's effectiveness will also enhance awareness of the importance of de-criminalizing mental illness and in supporting and sustaining general mental health services. The program will regularly disseminate program outcomes and data to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners; other Planning Committee members; and community, regional and statewide stakeholders through activities such as regular progress reports, SIM workshops, and public awareness strategies. Examples of public awareness strategies include, but are not limited to, expanding Levy County's Stepping Up participation, providing an annual schedule of Mental Health First Aid in Levy County, and other community outreach activities to enhance awareness.

Sustainability will be supported by the combined resource development experience of the program partners who have effectively leveraged funding from a variety of public and private sources to serve the target population and other subpopulations of individuals with mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders. For example, based on the success of its forensic programs, Meridian formerly obtained a multi-year federal SAMHSA Offender Reentry Program grant to support treatment and recovery support for individuals with substance use disorder and felony convictions. Meridian has also been successful in leveraging community-wide resources to obtain ongoing federal funding for Veterans services, as well as several multi-year federal grants supporting individuals with behavioral health disorders who are experiencing homelessness.

Assisting participants in obtaining benefits and coverage to meet their ongoing treatment needs is at the core of the sustainability plan. The proposed program's Forensic Case Manager will be SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) trained and will begin benefits assistance in the jail to expedite SSI/SSDI applications for eligible participants.

The Levy County project will also focus on phased implementation of diversion initiatives, thereby ensuring that programs remain feasible in relation to available resources and allowing for ongoing capacity building to sustain current and future programs. Additionally, the project will place special focus on a population of individuals who are high cost, high utilizers of the county jail due to chronic mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

The program will introduce evidence-based strategies for identifying the right individuals for the right services, thereby reducing recidivism and minimizing costs. 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. Evidence-based tools and strategies will identify the individuals most at risk of recidivism and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the intensive interventions

provided by the Levy County CJMHSAG program. The strategy to begin clinical assessment and counseling in the jail also aims to break the cycle of recidivism by engaging individuals in treatment earlier and ensuring continuity of care after release.

Levy County 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.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 7

Project Timeline

---

**TAB 7: PROJECT TIMELINE**

The timeline reflects an anticipated startup date of May 1, 2021. The actual start date is dependent upon grant award and subsequent contract date. The proposed program will make use of existing staff, partnerships, resources and procedures to help ensure timely startup. Service delivery to clients is anticipated to begin June 1, 2021 or one month after startup.

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Period)												Responsibility	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Contract and initial coordination of services <b>Date(s):</b> by start date of the program – May 1, 2021	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FL Department of Children &amp; Families</li> <li>• Meridian</li> </ul>
Coordinate services with Managing Entity <b>Date(s):</b> By start date of the program – May 1, 2021	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian</li> <li>• Lutheran Services Florida</li> </ul>
Sign Memorandum of Agreement related to new implementation and expansion <b>Date(s):</b> By start date of the program – May 1, 2021	X													<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian President/CEO</li> <li>• Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Community Outreach and Engagement</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> Ongoing May 1, 2021-Apr. 30, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Hire/Train program staff as needed (program will use existing staff where possible)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> Hiring and orientation training completed by May 31, 2021</p>	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Provide ongoing training for Forensic Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> Ongoing May 1, 2021-Apr. 30, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete annual staff training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> May-June, 2021</p>	X	X											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Case Manager</li> <li>• Forensic Clinician</li> </ul>
<p>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)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> By May 2021</p>	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Circuit 8 Clerk of the Court</li> <li>• County Court Services</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Review and update referral procedures</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> By May 2021</p>	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee</li> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Cross-train criminal justice partners on referral process</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> May-June, 2021 and six months into grant cycle (October 2021)</p>	X	X				X							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Collaborate with stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> May 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Implement evidence-based assessment tools, including RNR</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> June 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Forensic Program Director</p> <p>Forensic Case Mgr.</p> <p>Forensic Clinician</p>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Conduct Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training one time annually (tentative date dependent on trainee/trainer schedule)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> During 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Year 1</p>						X							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Forensic Clinician certified in MHFA</li> </ul>
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> June 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Case Mgr.</li> <li>• Forensic Clinician</li> </ul>
<p>Accept clients into services</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> June 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Team</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><b>Date(s):</b> June 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 20, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Forensic Team</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Continue quarterly Levy County Planning Committee Meetings  <b>Date(s):</b> Quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. as needed and identified by the Planning Committee)  <b>Date(s):</b> As needed			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Review and update Strategic Plan  <b>Date(s):</b> By end of year 1 (Apr. 30, 2022)												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning  <b>Date(s):</b> Quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
Complete quarterly case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs  <b>Date(s):</b> quarterly based on program start date			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Complete weekly clinical case staffing</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> weekly beginning June 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance</p> <p>Date(s): June 1, 2021 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2022</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly progress report</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<p>Complete quarterly financial report</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Finance Department</li> </ul>
<p>Participate in SIM analysis/review by end of each grant year or as designated by the CJMSA TAC</p> <p>Date(s): by end of year 1 (Apr. 30, 2022)</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee members</li> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Period)												Responsibility
YEAR 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Community Outreach and Engagement: (ongoing)  Date(s): ongoing May 1, 2022-Apr. 30, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
Provide ongoing training for Forensic Diversion Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)  Date(s): ongoing May 1, 2022-Apr. 30, 2023	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete annual staff and partner training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools  Date(s): May – June, 2022	X	X											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Case Manager</li> <li>• Forensic Clinician</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<p>Collaborate with stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training one time annually (tentative date dependent on trainee/trainer schedule)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> During 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Year 2</p>						X							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Forensic Clinician certified in MHFA</li> </ul>
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Case Mgr.</li> <li>• Forensic Clinician</li> </ul>
<p>Review referrals and accept clients into CJMHSAG program</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<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): May 1, 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Continue quarterly Levy County Planning Committee Meetings</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly during May 1, 2022-Apr. 30, 2023</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. 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	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<p>Review and update Strategic Plan (annual)</p> <p>Date(s): by end of year 2 (Apr. 30, 2023)</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly during May 1, 2022-Apr. 30, 2023</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly during May 1, 2022-Apr. 30, 2023</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete weekly clinical case staffing</p> <p>Date(s): weekly beginning May 1, 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<p>Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance</p> <p>Date(s): May 2022 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2023</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly progress report and presentation to Levy County Planning Committee</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly financial report</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			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 or as designated by the CJMHSA TAC</p> <p>Date(s): by end of year 2 (Apr. 30, 2023)</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Committee members</li> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>

Activity	Milestones (Months in Grant Period)												Responsibility
YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Community Outreach and Engagement: Levy County (ongoing)  Date(s): ongoing May 1, 2023-Apr. 30, 2024	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
Provide ongoing training for Forensic Team on evidence-based engagement and treatment models (MI, MRT, etc.)  Date(s): ongoing May 1, 2023-Apr. 30, 2024	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
Complete annual staff and partner training of evidence-based screening and assessment tools  Date(s): May-June, 2023	X												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Case Mgr.</li> <li>• Forensic Clinician</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<p>Collaborate with stakeholders (state attorney, law enforcement, jail staff, etc.) to share information/resources for target population</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> <li>• Other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training one time annually (tentative date dependent on trainee/trainer schedule)</p> <p><b>Date(s):</b> During 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Year 3</p>						X							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Forensic Clinician certified in MHFA</li> </ul>
<p>Implement screening and assessment of clients</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Forensic Case Mgr.</li> <li>• Forensic Clinicians</li> </ul>
<p>Review referrals and accept clients into CJMHSAG program</p> <p>Date(s): May 1, 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<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): May 1, 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Continue quarterly Levy County 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>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Implement Workgroup Meetings (Housing, Transportation, etc. 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	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<p>Conduct expansion and sustainability Discussions/Planning</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly based on program start date</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy County Planning Committee Members</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly case audits to measure fidelity of the EBPs</p> <p>Date(s): quarterly based on program start date</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete weekly clinical case staffing</p> <p>Date(s): weekly beginning May 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete internal monthly reports of Progress/Performance</p> <p>Date(s): May 2023 and ongoing through Apr. 30, 2024</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<p>Complete quarterly progress report and presentation to Levy County Planning Committee</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			X			X			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> </ul>
<p>Complete quarterly financial report</p> <p>Date(s): 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the quarter of services or as designated by Department</p>			X			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 or as designated by the CJMHSA TAC</p> <p>Date(s): by end of year 3 (Apr. 30, 2024)</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee members</li> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Other area stakeholders</li> </ul>

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: DCF RFA 2021 001

YEAR 3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<p>Complete, approve and submit final Program Status Report</p> <p>Date(s): complete and approve April – May, 2024; submission to Department no later than June 30, 2024 or as designated</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forensic Program Director</li> <li>• Levy County Planning Committee members</li> <li>• Levy County BoCC</li> </ul>
<p>Complete, approve and submit final Financial Status Report</p> <p>Date(s): complete and approve April – May, 2024; submission to Department no later than June 30, 2024 or as designated</p>												X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Financial Department</li> </ul>

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT GRANT  
DCF RFA 2021 001  
Levy County Implementation and Expansion Grant**

Tab 8

Letters of Commitment

---

**Letters of Commitment Summary**

Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida..... 85

State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida .....86

Public Defender, Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida .....87

Sheriff of Levy County.....88

Chief Probation Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice.....89

Levy County Board of County Commissioners .....90

University of South Florida, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences,  
CJMHS Technical Assistance Center .....91



## Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida

Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union Counties

Chambers of  
**Mark W. Moseley**  
Chief Judge

Alachua County Courthouse  
Family and Civil Justice Center  
201 E. University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601  
(352) 374-3642

**Joy Cummings**  
Judicial Assistant  
cummingsoj@circuit8.org

March 3, 2021

Board of County Commissioners  
of Levy County  
310 School Street  
Bronson, FL 32621

RE: Letter of Support for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Grant Program  
(RFA2021001)

Dear Board of County Commissioners of Levy County:

The Eighth Judicial Circuit supports Levy County's application for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG).

The Court works with Levy County and other community partners who provide outreach, assessment, treatment, case management and necessary support services for adults with mental illness, substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders. In support of this program, the Eighth Judicial Circuit will continue holding Mental Health Court and participating in the Levy County CJMHSAG Planning Committee meetings.

This funding will allow Levy County to improve care for defendants diagnosed with mental illness use disorders, thereby reducing jail time and forensic and/or substance hospitalizations. In turn, this will assist with lowering costs while improving community safety.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark W. Moseley".

Mark W. Moseley, Chief Judge  
Eighth Judicial Circuit



HEATHER L. JONES  
CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

120 WEST UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

**BRIAN S. KRAMER**  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
SERVING  
ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, GILCHRIST, LEVY  
AND UNION COUNTIES

PLEASE REPLY TO:

February 3, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA2021001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare on behalf of Levy County.

The proposed initiative is a collaboration between key stakeholders and is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. The Levy County CJMHSAG program aims to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase 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 Levy County CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings

I look forward to continuing our partnership in expanding jail diversion services for individuals 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 "Brian S. Kramer".

Brian S. Kramer  
State Attorney

BSK/ac

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

121 South West 2nd Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
(352) 338-7370

81 North 3rd 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

February 3, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and  
Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA2021001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare on behalf of Levy County.

The proposed initiative is a collaboration between key stakeholders and is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. The Levy County CJMHSAG program aims to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

In support of the CJMHSA program, the Office of the Public Defender for the 8th Judicial Circuit agrees to:

- Participate in the Levy County CJMHSA Planning Committee
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings

I look forward to continuing our partnership in expanding jail diversion services for individuals 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,

Stacy A. Scott  
Public Defender

**Robert (Bobby) B. McCallum, Jr.**  
**Sheriff of Levy County**



MEMBER, FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION  
9150 NE 80th AVENUE  
P.O. DRAWER 1719  
BRONSON, FLORIDA 32621-1719

PHONE: (352) 486-5111  
FAX: (352) 486-5116  
JAIL: (352) 486-5121  
CIVIL DIV.: (352) 486-5206

March 3, 2020

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA2021001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare on behalf of Levy County.

The proposed initiative is a collaboration between key stakeholders and is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. The Levy County CJMHSAG program aims to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase 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 Levy County Sheriff's Office agrees to:

- Participate in the Levy County CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings
- Access to the eligible inmate population for the delivery of assessment and transition services
- Access to data regarding jail inmates

I look forward to continuing our partnership in expanding jail diversion services for individuals 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 "Robert B. McCallum, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert B. McCallum, Jr.  
Sheriff

February 3, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA2021001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

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 on behalf of Levy County.

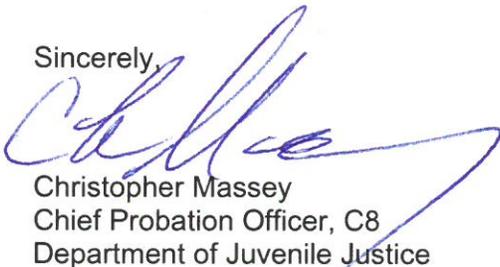
The proposed initiative is a collaboration between key stakeholders and is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. The Levy County CJMHSAG program aims to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase 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, I agree to;

- Participate in the CJMHSAG Planning Committee, including representation at Planning Committee Meetings

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,



Christopher Massey  
Chief Probation Officer, C8  
Department of Juvenile Justice



**LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Government Serving Citizens**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**John Meeks, Chair  
Rock Meeks  
Mike Joyner, Vice-Chair  
Lilly Rooks  
Matt Brooks**

February 16, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program (Grant Number DCF RFA 2021 001)

Dear Mr. Savoie:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) program proposed by Meridian Behavioral Healthcare on behalf of Levy County.

The proposed initiative is a collaboration between key stakeholders and is designed to divert individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and forensic hospitalization. The Levy County CJMHSAG program aims to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase 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 Levy County Board of County Commissioners agrees to:

- Participate in the Levy County CJMHSAG Planning Committee
- Participate in relevant forensics trainings

We look forward to continuing 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,

John Meeks, Chairman

JM/sh

February 3, 2021

Mr. Donald Savoie  
President/CEO  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
1565 SW Williston Rd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

RE: Letter of Support for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse  
Reinvestment Grant Program (RFA 2021 001)

Dear Mr. Savoie,

It is my understanding that Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, on behalf of Levy County, intends to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse grant (CJMHTSA) (Grant # RFA 2021 001) to expand Mental Health Court services in the county and increase access to outreach, assessment, treatment, case management, and recovery support services for justice involved individuals and those at risk.

Please accept this letter of support from the USF CJMHTSA Technical Assistance Center (TAC) for your proposal. The TAC was pleased to conduct a Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) workshop for Levy County in 2019, which was well attended by twelve key stakeholders and exemplified the county's commitment to systems improvement for the target population.

As you know, SIM is a best practice in cross-systems planning among the criminal justice, substance use, and mental health systems. It is the intent of the SIM to build consensus, establish program priorities, identify evidenced-based treatment models and establish a concrete strategic action plan. We are committed to continuing to work with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and all of the Levy County stakeholders to provide additional technical assistance and a full SIM to assist in the implementation of your proposal.

If you have any questions about our assistance, you can contact me at [ashockley1@usf.edu](mailto:ashockley1@usf.edu) or call directly at 813-974-2330.

Sincerely,



Abby Shockley, MPH  
Director, USF CJMHTSA TAC  
[www.floridatac.org](http://www.floridatac.org)