



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Apalachee Center, CRMC and TMH Open Baker Act Central Receiving Facility**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Apalachee Center, Capital Regional Medical Center, and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare announce the opening of a Central Receiving Facility at Apalachee Center for individuals needing involuntary psychiatric admission under the Florida Baker Act or Marchman Act. - The Central Receiving Facility (CRF) at Apalachee Center will serve the eight counties of the Big Bend region – Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla.

Law enforcement officers are required to bring individuals in psychiatric or substance-induced crisis under a Baker Act/Marchman Act to a Baker Act Receiving Facility. - Last year, a coalition including law enforcement, Leon County Commission, advocates, NAMI Tallahassee, and the three hospital systems applied for and received state funding to create a single facility to receive all Baker Act/Marchman Act clients.

“Having a single point of entry will help reduce patient wait times in hospital emergency departments and provides a rapid assessment of individuals experiencing a psychotic break or suffering with an addiction which makes them incapable of seeking the help they so desperately need. Apalachee Center is honored to serve as the entry point of the new Central Receiving system for the Big Bend of Florida,” said Dr. Jay Reeve, Apalachee Center’s Chief Executive Officer.

“We look forward to our continued collaboration with our community partners in providing mental health services to the residents of the Big Bend region. The Central Receiving Facility will allow for a fast response, while providing quality, compassionate mental health care, in a safe and respectful environment,” said Mark Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Capital Regional Medical Center.

“The new Central Receiving Facility is an excellent example of our healthcare community coming together to support the mental health needs of the public,” said Mark O’Bryant, President and CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. “This new facility and process will enable people experiencing a behavioral health crisis to receive care in a more timely and efficient way.”

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