



Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 26-00081**

**Agenda Date: 1/13/2026**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Grant (CJMHSAG) Cash Match Agreement

**Presenter:**

Heather Akpan

**Description:**

CJMHSAG Cash Match Agreement

**Recommended Action:**

Approve Agreement

**Prior Board Motions:**

March 12, 2024 BoCC approval of resolution authorizing Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. to submit an application on behalf of Alachua County responsive to the DCF RFA 2324 011 Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant and approval of \$370,000 annual match for 3 consecutive years.

October 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 25-00571 Approved the contract for services and payments related to CJMHSAG

**Fiscal Note:**

\$370,000 cash match for three consecutive years – 001.36.3655.563.34.00

**Strategic Guide:**

Social and Economic Opportunity

**Background:**

This agreement is slightly modified from the agreement approved October 28, 2025. Several small errors were recognized and the payment schedule needed to be revised.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. (MBHCI) on behalf of Alachua County is implementing the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant (CJMHSAG) program in Alachua County to provide outreach, assessments, treatment, case-management, and individualized support services to adults 18 years or older, who have mental illness, substance use and/or cooccurring disorders who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice systems. MBHCI will implement a Co-Responder Team in collaboration with MBHCI and the Alachua County Sheriff Office. The services, treatment and wrap-around supports of the program are designed to divert the program's target population away from the criminal justice system into treatment and provide supportive services so individuals can receive services needed to remain in the community and live quality, productive lives.

The Alachua County Board of County Commissions has designated/certified MBHCI to serve as the CJMHSAG program's applicant and lead operating agency in Alachua County, FL. MBHCI will lead the CJMHSAG program operation with the oversight of CJMHSAG Planning Committee and in collaboration with the Alachua County Sheriff (ASO), Gainesville Police Department (GPD), Alachua County Court Services, Community Support Services, Alachua County Public Safety Council, and other community behavioral, housing and supportive services providers. The goal of the program is aligned with the funding purpose as established in DCF RFA 2324 011, as well as the county appointed CJMHSAG committee's strategic plan that oversees ongoing efforts to increase public safety; improve accessibility to and effectiveness of mental health and substance abuse treatment services; reduce incarceration and recidivism. The overall design, structure and operation of the CJMHSAG program is centered around two evidence-based models: The Sequential Intercept Model (SIMS) and APIC Model (Access, Plan, Identify, Collaborations). Provision of services will be collaborated and integrated with community providers which will strengthen the Recovery Systems of Care (ROSC) for individuals served. Services provided through the CJMHSAG program will also yield outcomes that have both local and state impact to include, increase public safety and avert increased spending on criminal justice systems as the target population will be diverted from involvement with law enforcement and the criminal justice system into needed treatment and services that will help them to remain and/or successfully re-enter in the community. Through the CJMHSAG program, the county also aims to mitigate both geographic and socioeconomic barriers that may impact access to treatment for the target population. This includes challenges and barriers in rural communities and areas with high poverty and limited resources.