

## **Executive Director's Report – April 15, 2025**

**Transportation Services Update-** In March, Jackson County completed 40 transports, while Marshall County recorded 193 transports, broken down as follows:

- Day Treatment: 159
- Outpatient Services: 34

**16-Bed Crisis Residential Unit-** Please see the attached letter from Commissioner Boswell confirming her commitment to our 16-bed Crisis Residential Unit project for FY26. I will prepare and submit the requested proposal, scope of work, and budget by the May 16th deadline.

**Geriatrics Program: Rebuilding & Expansion-** Our geriatric program, particularly within nursing homes, was significantly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic due to restricted facility access and a decline in referrals. We are now actively rebuilding this program:

- **New Partnerships:** We have secured new contracts with Albertville and Barfield nursing homes to reintroduce services.
- **Peer Services Integration:** We are incorporating peer support services to enhance care and engagement within these facilities.
- **Community Expansion:** As part of our CCBHC outreach, we will expand geriatric services beyond nursing homes to better serve older adults across the community.

**Scottsboro Facilities Update-** We officially moved into the Highway 35 building on Friday, April 11, and began seeing clients on Monday, April 14. Staff and clients have responded positively, and I want to express our gratitude to the Board for making this relocation possible.

**Next Steps:** I propose repurposing the former building as a site for our upcoming Supported Employment Program. This program, part of our CCBHC initiative, will assist residential and community clients in developing job skills and gaining meaningful employment.

**CCBHC Task Force Progress-** Our CCBHC Task Force continues to meet weekly in preparation for our July implementation. Key updates include:

- **Organizational Structure:**  
We are reviewing and updating lines of supervision and restructuring the organizational chart. We're approximately halfway through this process and will provide the Board with the updated chart once finalized.
- **Staffing Updates:**  
All new CCBHC positions have been posted internally. Current employees are actively applying. Once the internal application window closes, we will post externally. The Task Force will be coordinating transitions to ensure continuity across existing programs during the expansion.
- **Policy Development:**  
We are drafting the required new CCBHC policies and procedures. A preliminary set will be ready for Board review next month.

**Note:** Task Force meeting minutes will continue to be included in your packets to keep you informed of progress and focus areas.

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Kay Ivey  
Governor

Kimberly G. Boswell  
Commissioner

April 7, 2025

Mr. Myron Gargis, LICSW, *Executive Director*  
Mountain Lakes Behavioral Healthcare  
3200 Willow Beach Road  
Guntersville, AL 35976

Dear Mr. Gargis,

I hope this letter finds you well. It was a pleasure to meet with you, the Marshall County Legislative Delegation, and other critical stakeholders on Friday, February 7, 2025, at Marshall Medical Center North. During this meeting, we discussed the tremendous need for civil commitment beds in Marshall County, as well as the \$10 million appropriation for civil commitment services in the Governor's recommended FY 2026 General Fund Budget. Further, I made the commitment for Mountain Lakes to receive part of this appropriation for a new 16-bed Crisis Residential Unit (CRU) at the rate of \$400 per day per bed. Additionally, Mountain Lakes graciously committed to raising the capital funds needed for the project.

As you know, Mountain Lakes' catchment area has 0.6 civil commitment beds per 100,000 residents. This is the lowest rate in Alabama, making the project for a new CRU in Marshall County a priority for the Department. Although the House recommended General Fund budget reduced the civil commitment bed appropriation to \$8 million, our commitment to funding this project stands so long as there are no further cuts to the General Fund Budget.

The legislative session is projected to end within the first two weeks of May. By Friday, May 16, please submit a proposal with a scope of work and budget that reflects what was discussed in the February meeting referenced above. The proposal should also include preliminary plans for the CRU's building. If you have any questions, please contact Collier Tynes Dixon at 334-530-0046 or [collier.tynes@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:collier.tynes@mh.alabama.gov). We look forward to receiving your proposal and working together on this important project.

Sincerely,

Kimberly G. Boswell  
*Commissioner, Alabama Department of Mental Health*

