

By Senator Gruters

22-00928-24

20241394__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to mental health; amending s. 394.495,
3 F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and
4 Families to contract with managing entities to provide
5 community mobile support teams; providing the purpose
6 of the community mobile support teams; providing
7 requirements for support team crisis counselors;
8 providing requirements for managing entities in
9 creating the community mobile support teams; providing
10 an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 394.495,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of care;
17 programs and services.—

18 (8) (a) The department shall contract with managing entities
19 for community mobile support teams throughout this state to
20 place crisis counselors from community mental health centers
21 within local law enforcement agencies to conduct follow-up
22 contacts with children, adolescents, and adults who have been
23 involuntarily committed under the Baker Act by a law enforcement
24 officer. The purpose of the community mobile support teams
25 through their partnerships with law enforcement is to reduce
26 recidivism of law enforcement Baker Act commitments, reduce the
27 time burden of law enforcement completing follow-up work with
28 individuals after they have been subject to treatment under the
29 Baker Act, provide additional crisis intervention services,

22-00928-24

20241394__

30 engage individuals in ongoing mental health care, and provide a
31 source for mental health crisis intervention other than law
32 enforcement.

33 (b) A community mobile support team crisis counselor shall,
34 at a minimum:

35 1. Reach out to individuals who may need additional mental
36 health support following commitment under the Baker Act.

37 2. Conduct home visits to assist individuals in connecting
38 with appropriate aftercare services in their community following
39 their release from a mental health facility.

40 3. Provide support to the individuals during the transition
41 period from their Baker Act release to connection with aftercare
42 services.

43 4. Provide brief crisis counseling and assessment for
44 additional needs.

45 (c) When creating a community mobile support team, the
46 managing entity must, at a minimum:

47 1. Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies in the
48 planning, development, evaluation, and selection processes.

49 2. Require that services be made available 7 days a week.

50 3. Require the provider to establish independent response
51 protocols and memoranda of understanding with local law
52 enforcement agencies.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.