

Mobile Response Teams for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities



Report and Recommendations
2025

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| BACKGROUND | 1 |
| CURRENT STATE | 1 |
| Data | 1 |
| Training | 2 |
| Mobile Response Team Implementation | 3 |
| CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS | 3 |

BACKGROUND

During Fiscal Year 2024-25, the Florida Legislature continued funding a pilot program under the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) serving individuals with a co-occurrence of an intellectual and developmental disability and a mental health diagnosis. The pilot program was limited to Broward, Hillsborough, Leon, and Orange counties. This funding was allocated to provide training resources for providers and caregivers to effectively support individuals who are dually diagnosed and to provide behavioral health and developmental disabilities subject matter experts opportunities to enhance their skill sets within the existing Mobile Response Team (MRT) framework.

Approximately 36,000 individuals were served through APD's iBudget Waiver during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. National trends show that up to 40% of individuals who have an intellectual and developmental disability also have mental health needs.

CURRENT STATE

Data

According to data from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), calls requesting MRT support in Florida have increased by 79% over Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The deployment of the MRT model has resulted in 78% avoidance of Crisis Stabilization Unit admissions statewide.

MRTs in Broward, Hillsborough, Leon, and Orange counties reported the following statistics for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Please note this data is inclusive of all Floridians who accessed services through the MRT model.

| Managing Entity | Total Calls Received | Calls that Originated from a School | Calls Requiring an Acute Response | Of Calls Requiring an Acute Response: | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | Calls Resulting in a Voluntary Examination | Calls Resulting in an Involuntary Examination | Calls that were Diverted from Involuntary Examination |
| Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (Broward County) | 4,099 | 244 | 3,316 | 101 | 855 | 57% |
| Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (Hillsborough County) | 8,306 | 471 | 6,889 | 483 | 1,415 | 73% |
| Northwest Florida Health Network (Leon County) | 6,223 | 149 | 2,259 | 4 | 420 | 81% |
| Central Florida Cares Health System (Orange County) | 1,974 | 6 | 1,666 | 6 | 66 | 96% |

(Data source: Department of Children and Families)

Training

APD executed an agreement with the National Center for START Services in Spring of 2024 and continued to provide training sessions to a total of 227 providers and caregivers through the end of FY 24-25. Of these learners, a total of 78 participants (including 12 Familial Caregivers) reinforced their learning through technical assistance sessions and the National Online Training Series course offerings. These learning resources were offered to all training participants across the four pilot counties.

These training opportunities have proven to show beneficial outcomes and participant overall course satisfaction rating of 98.5% and self-rated reinforcement of abilities of 94.5%.

Mobile Response Team Implementation

One element of this pilot project includes collaboration between APD and DCF to incorporate Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) into the existing MRT structure. While this element has not yet been implemented, the partnership between APD and MRTs was observed over the past year within the High Watch Program. This program was designed to provide additional monitoring and support to clients who have been identified as meeting specific criteria regarding their behavioral or medical needs through a regional network including High Watch Regional Behavior Analysts. This added focus of agency resources promoted more stability and success towards independence on a long-term basis for these clients. The clients who received both High Watch and MRT interventions had a 100% diversion rate from any Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) placement, hospitalization, incarceration, or loss of residential placement.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

APD plans to build on the successes of the Dual Diagnosis Pilot by exploring other training opportunities to promote the community support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and a mental health diagnosis by meeting their needs and pivoting toward healthier pathways.