

Choice, Hope, Recovery

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.



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Counties We Serve

ALACHUA

BRADFORD

COLUMBIA

DIXIE

GILCHRIST

HAMILTON

LAFAYETTE

LEVY

PUTNAM

SUWANNEE

UNION

Our Many Thanks to Bosshardt
Realty Services for sponsoring our
Annual Report



To Our Communities

Meridian has a long history of providing community-based and publicly funded behavioral healthcare services, covering 10 counties, and almost 7,000 square miles of largely rural North Central Florida. Meridian dates to the earliest days of the community mental health movement and was established as a tax-exempt organization in 1972 to ensure access to behavioral healthcare for the citizens of this area.

Throughout our history, our goal has been to make available as full range of care as resources allow. Toward that end, the Center operates many specialized services and programs. Over the years, we have seen considerable growth, moving from a staff of fewer than 100 and a budget of less than \$5 million in the early 80's, to our present-day staff of almost 550 and budget of close to \$23 million.

We are very pleased to have served many residents of our area, and added a number of services this year:

- ❖ Served 16,202 individuals through our various treatment, child welfare, housing and support services
- ❖ Opened a Therapeutic Group Home for up to 12 adolescents
- ❖ Opened the first Opiate Treatment Program in the region, which means individuals no longer need to travel to Ocala or Jacksonville for treatment
- ❖ Created a Family Crisis Team to divert children from in-patient care by serving them and their families in the home and community
- ❖ Added 10 Crisis Stabilization beds, increasing our capacity by about 30%.
- ❖ Worked with local partners to successfully bid, and become a partner in the privatization of child welfare, forming the Partnership for Strong Families as a separate entity, and partially or completely staffing four of the region's six "service centers"
- ❖ Successfully transitioned our accreditation from JCAHO to CARF

Despite these accomplishments, we face FY05/06 with many challenges. We know that each year funding limitations restrict our ability to reach out and provide care for many of our area's residents. We will continue to work with our many community partners to find the resources needed to continue to grow and serve our communities. Many individuals and agencies across our service area step forward every year to help us fulfill our mission and bring services to those who would otherwise go without.

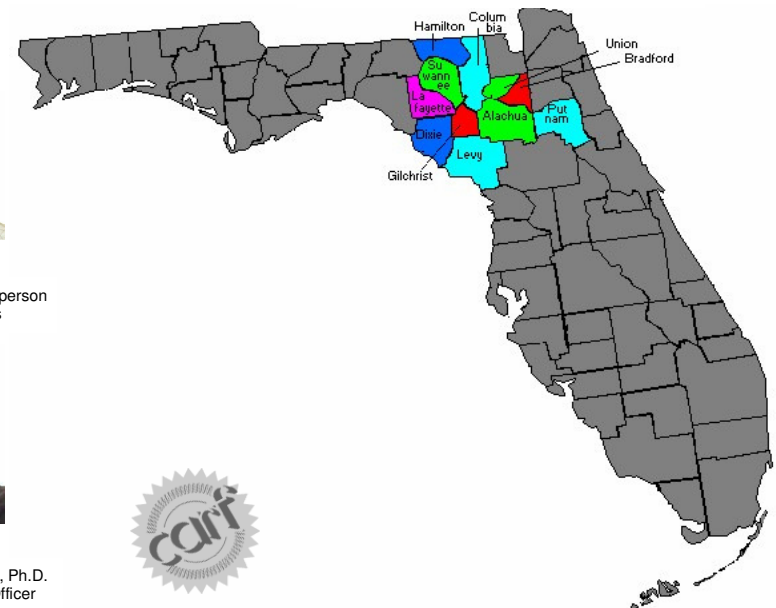
We thank you for your support.



Carol Buck
Carol Buck, Chairperson
Board of Directors



Margarita Labarta
Margarita Labarta, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



SEVERE & PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS

Outpatient: Counseling, Intervention, Psychiatric
Residential: Group Homes, Supported Apartments, Housing Support
Homeless Enrichment Liaison Program
Case Management: Adult Mental Health, Forensic
Family Intervention Services
Rehabilitation Services
Supported Employment Program

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Outpatient: Intervention, Day Treatment, Forensic, Opiate Treatment
Group & Individual Therapy
Residential
Older Adult Treatment Program
Aftercare
Dependency Drug Court
Mothers Intensive Supportive Treatment
Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mental Health Residential: Achievement Center, Therapeutic Foster Care
Substance Abuse Residential: Recovery Center
Outpatient: Counseling, Intervention, Psychiatric
Case Management: Family Intervention
Child Welfare: Case Management, Comprehensive Assessment
Juvenile Drug Court
Ropes Course

SERVICES IN AN EMERGENCY

Crisis Stabilization Unit: Adult & Child
Short-Term Residential Treatment Program
Screening
Crisis Support
Family Crisis Intervention Team
Detox

Choice.

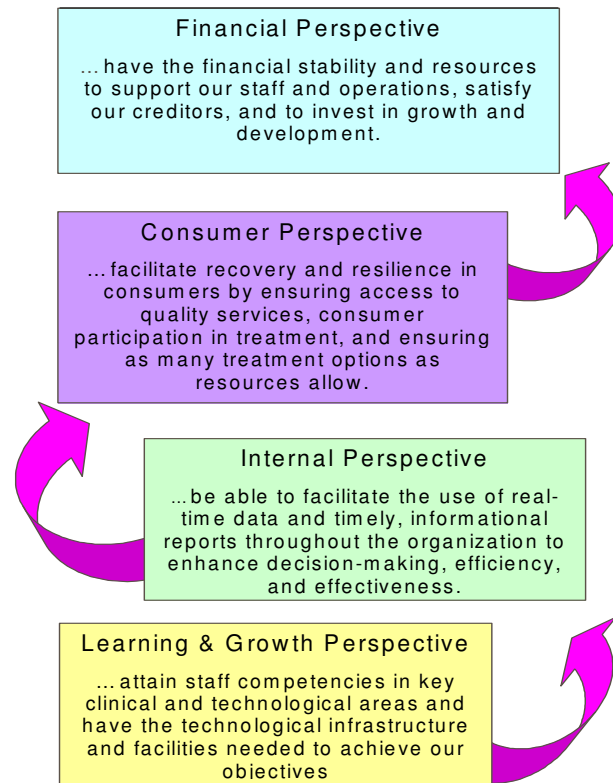
Mission

To provide quality affordable behavioral healthcare and related services in partnership with our communities

Vision

To be a model behavioral healthcare provider and employer dedicated to our customers, employees and communities

Our Mission into Action



Mary D., a shy 25-year-old, was homeless and suffered from major depression & anxiety, having had difficulties with completing her master's degree in education at UF due to her mental illness and homelessness. She was about ready to drop out of school due to severe depression and anxiety exacerbated by a poor ability to cope with the stress of school and being homeless. Mary was sleeping on benches on UF campus after her friends had kicked her out because of her inability to contribute for any rent.

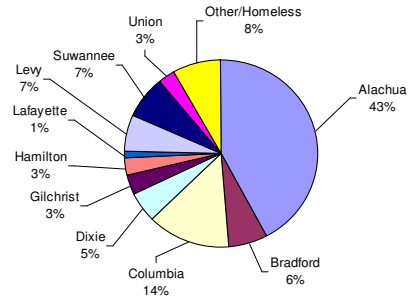
Mary was admitted to Meridian's HOPE program. After her condition was stabilized with medication, she enrolled in the disabilities program at UF as well and was linked with therapy services through UF psychiatry clinic where she received group and individual therapy. Mary was able to adjust her class schedule to a slower pace. She was in the HOPE Program for 18 months and during this time was able to obtain a substitute teaching position with the School Board of Alachua County. Once she completed her master's degree in education Mary was able to transition into permanent housing and obtain a full time teaching position. She has since been able to maintain a positive and successful career and housing, with the assistance of continued medication treatment and therapy.

Hope.

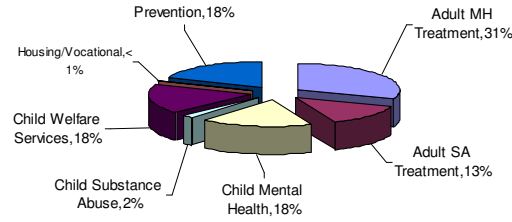
Ben W.'s girlfriend called the police because he had left their apartment and was talking about harming himself again. A 23-year-old community college student, Ben had not been taking his medications and was self-medicating with substances. The police found Ben in his locked car with the engine running. He refused to cooperate. In the conflict that ensued, Ben allegedly struck the officer and was taken to jail charged with violent felonies. At his first court appearance in the morning, Ben was court ordered to participate in a Mental Health Evaluation prior to release. Over the course of the next several weeks, Ben stabilized on his medications and was counseled regarding the importance of remaining medication compliant and substance free.

When the state eventually agreed to reduce his charges to misdemeanors, Ben agreed and was released from custody to participate in Mental Health Court. Through medical services, he was able to continue his medications, as well as relieve the financial constraints he was experiencing through referral and acceptance in the drug company's indigent program.

Through the support and encouragement of Mental Health Court, including referral to a Bipolar Support Group, Ben's family also became more supportive of his problems and remain so to this day. When he successfully completed Mental Health Court (his charges were dropped and he no longer had a felony record), Ben was working two jobs and had been accepted as a transfer student to the University of Florida beginning this summer.



Proportion of Services by County



Proportion of Services by Type



Fiscal Year Ending 04/05

Total served	16,202
Total at or below Poverty	79.29%

REVENUES

State and Federal	\$ 13,466,330
County	\$ 1,177,030
Medicaid	\$ 6,679,740
Client Fees & Insurance	\$ 1,099,687
Donations	\$ 527,784
Other Revenues	\$ 759,624
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 23,710,195

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 16,025,136
Professional and Subcontracted Services	\$ 1,737,426
Facilities	\$ 1,144,286
Equipment	\$ 387,777
Travel	\$ 435,157
Medical/Pharmacy	\$ 444,218
Operating Supplies	\$ 1,079,204
Other	\$ 2,217,659
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 23,470,863
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 239,332



Gender of Persons Served

Race & Ethnicity of Persons Served

White	72%
Black	25%
Multiracial	3%
American Indian	0%
Asian	0%
Islander	0%

Ages of Persons Served

0 - 5	3%
6 - 12	14%
13 - 17	14%
18 - 44	45%
45 - 46	20%
45 - 66	2%
65 +	2%

Recovery.

Our Accomplishments

Opened *The Achievement Center*: a 12 bed Therapeutic Group Home for adolescents that serves all 11 counties in the Department of Children and Families District 3

Started a *Family Crisis Intervention Program* to divert youth from Crisis Stabilization Units

Opened an *Opiate Treatment Program*: This is the only such program in the region and means individuals in need of this care no longer need to travel to Ocala or Jacksonville for treatment

Added 10 Crisis Stabilization Unit beds (2 Alachua, 8 Lake City), serving the entire district

Became a partner in the privatization of child welfare through our participation in Partnership for Strong Families

Granted the award to add a 10 bed *Short-Term Residential Treatment Program* funded through a legislative special member project supported by many consumers and other advocates

Became accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), replacing accreditation by JCAHO (Joint Commission)

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Paul J. came to Meridian through a child welfare referral due to a failed adoption. He was adopted as part of a sibling group. Unfortunately the adoptive parents felt that his behaviors were not manageable, reversed the adoption on him but not his siblings. This rejection caused tremendous additional stress on Paul who grew up in an abusive environment. On top of his poor socialization skills Paul was suffering from diabetes and hepatitis. His hepatitis was thought to have been contracted through his father who was an intravenous drug user. Paul often hoarded unhealthy food that could trigger his diabetes and often flirted with levels that could put him in a diabetic coma. When behavioral interventions were attempted he was often oppositional and non responsive.

Paul required intensive psychiatric medication, residential treatment and therapeutic intervention. When stabilized from these services he was returned to one of Meridian's Specialized Therapeutic Foster Homes. The foster parent was open to the idea of working on Paul's goals, strengths and talents. The case manager also encouraged him to continue his academics to pursue his goal of college.

Paul was also interested in swimming. After working on his form at the YMCA the he was able to make the varsity swim team at the local high school. Currently Paul is enjoying being in mainstream high school and maintains many friends through his swim team socialization. His foster parent has decided to adopt him and they are in the final stages of a successful adoption story. Paul is now on target for graduation.



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Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. is registered with the State of Florida under the solicitation of Contributions Act. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1.800.435.7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. does not employ commissioned fundraisers.

