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Baker Act Receiving Facility Staff Perceptions of Community Services

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Faculty and staff at the de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI) have been involved with research, policy, and training related to Florida’s civil commitment statute, also known as the Baker Act (Florida Statutes, 394, Part I, with companion Florida Administrative Code 65.E.5).

**Baker Act Reporting Center**

In 1996 changes to the Baker Act added new requirements for all “115+ Florida Department and Children and Families (DCF) designated Baker Act receiving facilities statewide to submit initiation forms for involuntary or “Baker Act” examinations to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). The Baker Act Reporting Center was established at FMHI in 1997 to receive these data on behalf of the AHCA, although there was and never has been dedicated state funding for the operations of this center. The Center has received, entered, stored and analyzed forms for over 1.5 million Baker Act examinations statewide since 1997. We anticipate receiving and entering forms for ~145,000 for 2012, which comes to over 550 paper forms received EACH business day. The volume of Baker Act exams has increased by 79% from 2000 to 2010 (see Figure 1).

*Florida is the ONLY state to create client identified, encounter level data for involuntary examination* – making this an important data set not only for Florida but to answer questions nationwide. Center staff work with providers to address questions/issues related to form submission and also work with FL DCF staff to keep the list of receiving facilities updated. In addition to producing the annual report of Baker Act data that AHCA is statutorily required to produce, Baker Act Reporting Center faculty produce multiple ad hoc reports. Over 115 such reports have been produced in the past dozen years. The Center has partnered with the Florida Senate Committee on Children and Families for two of their interim projects, providing aggregate data analyses for both.¹ Data analyses are also produced, often on short notice, during the legislative session based on needs during the session. Analyses of data compiled by the Baker Act Reporting Center were included in the 2007 Supreme Court of Florida Report, *Mental Health: Transforming Florida’s Mental Health System – Constructing a Comprehensive and Competent Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Treatment System.*²

¹ These two reports are: a) Florida Senate Interim Project report 2006-103 (November, 2005). *Clarifying the Baker Act requirements as they relate to children’s receiving and crisis stabilization units,* and b) Florida Senate Interim Project report 2006-103 (November, 2005). *Mental health professionals authorized to initiate involuntary mental health evaluations.*

Baker Act data have been used for 22 peer reviewed journal articles, 45 projects that were/are part of AHCA’s funding for Medicaid related research, and 24 additional currently active projects or past projects from 2008 to present. In addition to being used to produce an Annual Report of Baker Act Data each year since 1997, there have been 103 ad hoc reports of Baker Act data created since 2002. These ad hoc reports are requested by a variety of stakeholders, including providers, agencies and advocates.

Details about these publications and projects can be found at [http://bakeract.fmhi.usf.edu/](http://bakeract.fmhi.usf.edu/)

**BAKER ACT TRAINING CONTRACT**
For over a decade FMHI has had a series of contracts with the Florida Department of Children and Families that focus on training and technical assistance. The current contract is for three years and ends in June 2014. The work of this contract includes a) updating the Baker Act Training Manual, b) holding live, all day, statewide Baker Act trainings, c) developing and maintaining eight online training modules related to the Baker Act, d) providing technical assistance in the form of reports of data and responses to questions from a variety of stakeholders, and e) creation of Frequently Asked Questions documents that are put on the FL DCF website. The online modules are as follows:

- Introduction to the Baker Act
- Emergency Medical Conditions
- Individual Rights
- Law Enforcement
- Long Term Care
- Minors
- Suicide Prevention

Via this contract FMHI also developed and continues to maintain the Florida Guardian Advocate Training.

New to the latest contract are several web events, which are held live but then made available online. The first two have been completed, focusing on trauma informed care (Norin Dollard, Ph.D., and Victoria Hummer, Ph.D.) and suicide prevention (Tom Joiner, Ph.D.). Also in the most current contract is work to update the six hour training that DCF is required to provide to front line ALF staff for ALFs with Limited Mental Health Licenses.

**Websites related to the Baker Act Reporting Center and Baker Act Training Contract work are listed below.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker Act Reporting Center</th>
<th><a href="http://bakeract.fmhi.usf.edu/">http://bakeract.fmhi.usf.edu/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Guardian Advocate Training</td>
<td><a href="http://mhlp.fmhi.usf.edu/training/tdetail.cfm?id=65">http://mhlp.fmhi.usf.edu/training/tdetail.cfm?id=65</a></td>
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**CURRENT CHALLENGES**
The lack of dedicated state funding for the Baker Act Reporting Center has been a concern since 1997, but even more so in these difficult fiscal times. We are approximately one year behind on data entry because of this lack of funding. With funds from the 2012/2013 AHCA Medicaid Research contract it appears likely that we will be able to catch up on data entry in that fiscal year. But how to proceed in the future to maintain our Baker Act Reporting Center work, let alone to be able to produce more of the proactive analyses of data/reports that can inform our state, is not clear. We are looking to key stakeholders to work with us on this funding issue, the lack of which jeopardizes this valuable statewide resource.
Appendix

Table 1: Peer Reviewed Journal Publications Using Baker Act Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal/Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>DOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Christy, A.</td>
<td>Taking issue: Context matters.</td>
<td>Psychiatric Services, 61(9)</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>10.1176/appi.ps.61.10.955</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christy, A., Petrila, J., McCranie, M., &amp; Lotts, V.</td>
<td>Involuntary outpatient commitment in Florida: Case Information and Provider Experience and Opinions.</td>
<td>International Journal of Forensic Mental Health Services, 8(2)</td>
<td>122-130</td>
<td>10.1080/14999010903199340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3 You can copy and paste the doi code into the doi resolver at this site and it will bring you to the publisher site (and abstract) for the article: [http://www.crossref.org/](http://www.crossref.org/)
Peer Reviewed Journal Publications Using Baker Act Data (continued)

2008


2007


2006


2005


2003


Table 2: AHCA Contract Funded Technical Reports of Projects Utilizing Baker Act Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studies using Baker Act data for reports to be produced at the end of FY2011/2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluation of Florida’s Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>• AHCA Florida Mental Health Managed Care Evaluation: Administrative Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Estimating the Effects and Cost Impact of Medication Compliance and Outpatient Services on Criminal Justice Outcomes for Persons with Serious Mental Illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• AHCA Evaluation of Medicaid Funded Out of Home (OOH) Care Treatment Settings: Characteristics and Treatment Experiences of Youth in Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Programs (SIPP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• AHCA Evaluation of Medicaid Funded Out of Home (OOH) Care Treatment Settings: Family Involvement in Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• AHCA Evaluation of Medicaid Funded Out of Home (OOH) Care Treatment Settings: Enhanced Therapeutic Foster Care Pilot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• AHCA Evaluation of Medicaid Funded Out of Home (OOH) Care Treatment Settings: SIPP Data Summary Report and Performance Measures</td>
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<table>
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<th>2010</th>
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### 2008 (continued)


### 2007


### 2006


### 2005

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<td>2004</td>
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</table>
Projects Approved to Use Baker Act Examination Data Since FY 2008/2009: Does NOT Include Studies that are Part of the AHCA Medicaid Study Listed in Table 2

1. The Impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Baker Act Examination Initiations in Florida
2. Evaluation of Florida’s SAMHSA Funded Justice Diversion Trauma Recovery Initiative
3. Broward County Mental Health Court Evaluation: Ten Year Retrospective
4. Archival Data Study of Justice Involved Veterans
5. Guardianship for Persons with Mental Illness
6. Involuntary Examinations for Person who Die by Suicide (focus on persons who served in the military and on youth)
7. Follow-up Study of Children Under 6 Years Old Who Went Through the Prior Authorization Process for the Use of Antipsychotic Medications
8. Estimating the Effect and Cost Impact of Medication Compliance and Outpatient Services on Criminal Justice Outcomes for Persons with Serious Mental Illness
9. Marion County Mental Health Court Evaluation
10. Juveniles Who Are Involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice System
11. The Impact of Loss of Medicaid Enrollment on Children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance as They Transition to Adulthood
12. Profile of the Pinellas County Adult Drug Court Clients
13. Behavioral Health Service Utilization Among Heavy Users of the Criminal Justice System
14. Evaluation of the Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Program
15. Role of Non-traditional Acute Care Inpatient Facilities in Florida’s Mental Health System and Relative Effectiveness of Different Antipsychotic Medications in Treating Discharges
17. HACT Cost Analysis
18. Technical Assistance on Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse
19. Pilot Study on Baker Act Evaluations and Associated Hospital Discharges and Receiving RLAI
20. The Costs of Persons with Serious Mental Illness that Become Involved in the Criminal Justice System
21. The Impact of Risperidone Long-Acting Injection Related Preferred Drug List Changes on Patient Outcomes and Costs to the Healthcare System
22. Study of the Effects of Risperdal RLAI and Oral Second Generation Anti-Psychotics on Recidivism of Individuals with an SMI that Became Engaged in the Criminal Justice System
23. Impact of Consta Related Preferred Drug List Charges on Patient Outcomes and Costs to the Healthcare System
24. Policy Analysis of Florida Prison: Penetration of Those Dealing with Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse
### 2012 (3 reports to date)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Residence with Focus on Baker Act Exams for People at Assisted Living Facilities or Nursing Homes
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Residence for Children and Adults and by Year
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Residence for Children and Adults and by Year

### 2011 (10 reports)
- Summary Excel Spreadsheet of Baker Act Exams from Assisted Living Facilities
- Summary Excel Spreadsheet of Baker Act Exams for Public vs. Private Facilities by DCF Region
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by Time Spans for Adults and Children
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Adults by Select Pinellas County Municipalities
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children Residing in Duval, Pasco, Pinellas and Seminole Counties
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Palm Beach County with Emphasis on the Institute for Mental Health at St. Mary’s Hospital
- Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Examinations with an Emphasis on Exams within 30 and 60 Days
- Counts of Baker Act Exams in Polk, Highlands and Hardee by Zip Code and Age Groupings of Children
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Residence for Multiple Years and by Age Group
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Palm Beach and Broward County for 2008, 2009 and First Six Months of 2010

### 2010 (20 reports)
- Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Examinations by County and Receiving Facility*
- Counts of Involuntary Outpatient Placements to Date*
- Counts of Baker Act Exams for 2009 by County and Certificate Type*
- Counts of Baker Act Exams in Highlands County Zip Codes*
- Counts of Baker Act Exams in Select Hillsborough County Zip Codes*
- Statistics provided for counts of involuntary examinations in Orange County*
- Statistics provided for counts of involuntary examinations for adults and children for residents of Monroe County*
- Counts of Baker Act Exams provided to DCF staff for Circuit 10*
- Data summary & additional materials (reports) provided to FL DCF staff to address legislative (funding) issues for CSUs
- Special Report of Baker act Data for 10 through 24 Year Olds in Duval County and Statewide by Year and Month
- Special Report of Baker act Data for Florida DCF Circuit 1: Emphasis on Counts by Age for Children
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Indian River County
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Florida Department of Children and Families Northwest Region
- Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Examinations by County and Receiving Facility*
- Counts of Involuntary Outpatient Placements to Date*
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Hillsborough County: Emphasis on Demographic Characteristics
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Department of Children and Families Circuit 1
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Pinellas County: Emphasis on Counts Over Time
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties: Emphasis on Older Adults (60+)
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations Data for Polk County (Emphasis on Zip Codes of Residence)

### 2009 (15 reports)
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations by County Over Multiple Years by Age Group
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations in Palm Beach County.
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations by County of Residence for Children and Older Adults
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Clay, St. Johns and Okaloosa County
2009 (continued)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Residents of Nassau County
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Involuntary Exams in 2008 in Miami/Dade County for Adolescents
- Special Report of Repeated Involuntary Examinations
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations at St. Anthony’s Hospital
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations by Circuit (at the request of a legislator)
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations of Children at Bay County Receiving Facilities and/or Children Who Were Residents of Bay County
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for DCF Circuit 19 (second author, Jing Guo, M.S.)
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Residents of Hendry and Glades Counties
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Monroe County
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center
- Special Report of Involuntary Outpatient Placement in Florida from January 2005 through June 2008

2008 (15 reports)
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Pinellas County, with Emphasis on Examinations of Children
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Pinellas County
- Count of 2007 Baker Act Exams provided as per a DCF request for a reporter’s request
- Special Report of Repeated Baker Act Examinations in DCF Circuit 20
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Monroe County
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Older Adults in Broward County
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Monroe County for the First Quarter of 2008
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children: Focus on DJJ, DCF Custody, and School Involvement Prior to Baker Act Examination (report produced at the request of DCF – Children’s Mental Health)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Involuntary Examinations Statewide and for Pinellas County Receiving Facilities by day of Week of Examination Initiation
- Special Report of Involuntary Examinations for Pinellas County Residents with an Emphasis on Repeated Initiations
- Special Report if Involuntary Examinations for Highlands County Residents
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Monroe County (February 2008)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for DCF District 8 Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for DCF District 14 Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Involuntary Examinations in Miami/Dade county for Adolescents (13-17)

2007 (14 reports)
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations in Miami/Dade County by Client Zip Code
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Monroe County (November 2007)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Duval County Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Martin County Residents
- Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Examinations by County and Receiving Facility*
- Counts of Involuntary Outpatient Placements to Date*
- Special Report of Involuntary Outpatient Placement and Involuntary Inpatient Placement Data
- Special Report of Pinellas County Baker Act Data with a Focus on Fiscal Year 2007
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children in Brevard County
- Special report of Baker Act Data for Children in Miami/Dade County
- Special Report of Dade County Baker Act Data
- Special Report of Pinellas County Baker Act Data for FY2007
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations Initiated by Licensed Mental Health Counselors
- Excel spreadsheet of aggregate counts of 2006 Baker Act exams for zip codes in Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties (request of DCF District Staff)
### 2006 (8 reports)

- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children and Adults by Race/Ethnicity (requested by DCF staff)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for DCF District 7 by Month (requested by DCF District Staff)
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Miami/Dade County for Children and Adults
- Provide ongoing reports about involuntary outpatient placement orders to the Florida Department of Children and Families – 2005 to present
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Department of Children and Families District 15 (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties).
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children with a Focus on Repeated Examinations
- Special Report of Baker Act Data Comparing Baker Act Examinations by Months Across Calendar Years (requested by Florida Department of Children and Families staff to assess the possible impact of Medicare Part D) – Two analyses completed (January 2006 and May 2006).
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Highlands County – 7/1/05 to 6/30/06
- Special Report of District 14 Baker Act Data by Selected Zip Codes

### 2005 (12 reports)

- Assisted Florida Senate Committee on Children & Families with data for report focusing on children & the Baker Act
- Special Report of Baker Act Exams of Children in Pinellas County Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Exams for FY04/05 for Children/Adults and Public/Private Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Pinellas County for Calendar Year 2004
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Highlands County from 1/1/2004 through 6/30/20005
- Special Report of Repeated Baker Act Examinations of Children in with Special Emphasis on Department of Children and Families Districts/Regions
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations of Children for 2002 through 2004
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Children for School Years 02/05, 02/03, and 03/04
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations at Department of Children & Families D15 Baker Act Receiving Facilities
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Examinations at the Oakwood Center of the Palm Beaches
- Special Report of Baker Act Data from Florida Medical Center
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations Specific to Pasco County Facilities

### 2004 (8 reports)

- Multiple ad hoc analyses conducted to address issues relevant to proposed legislative changes to the Baker Act in the 2004 legislative session
- Assisted Florida Senate Committee on Children and Families with data for report focusing on types of mental health professionals authorized to initiate Baker Act examinations
- Special Report of Repeated Baker Act Examinations
- Special Report of Repeated Baker Act Examinations: Statewide and for Miami/Dade County
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by Baker Act Exams in Leon County Receiving Facilities for Two Fiscal Years (7/01-6/03)
- Summary Report of Baker Act Data from Hillsborough County Receiving Facilities for Examinations from 02 to 03
- Special Report of Baker Act Data: Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Exams for Children: Statewide & by County of Initiation

### 2003 (3 reports)

- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Facility for Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach Counties
- Special Report of Baker Act Data for Children Initiated in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties
- Special Report of Baker Act Data: Description of Repeated Baker Act Exams for Adults in Calendar years 2000-2002

### 2002 (9 reports)

- Analysis of Repeated Baker Act Examinations in Hillsborough County for Adults
- Special Report of Baker Act Data by County of Initiation Over Multiple Years
- Special Report of Baker Act Examinations for Individuals Living in Nassau County
- Ad Hoc Baker Act Data Report for Children Living in Hernando County
- Summary of Baker act Data for Fiscal Years 1999 through 2001, with Pinellas Specific Analyses
- Special Report of Baker Act Data: Children with Examinations at South County Mental Health Center
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2002 (continued)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Special Report of Baker Act Data: Change Over Time in Volume of Baker Act Examination Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Special Report of Department of Children &amp; Families District 13 Baker Act Exam Data for Initiations in 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Special Report of Baker Act Initiation Forms Received in Calendar Year 2001 Initiated in Clay County by Receiving Facility</td>
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