

## Access to Care – Acute Care Transport Options

During this time, we looked at the options for patients who are under a mental health status to be transported. Currently, the primary transportation for many state areas is law enforcement.

Our research found that completely removing law enforcement from the transport process is not a feasible solution due to several issues.

- Law enforcement, due to state laws, has primary responsibility.
- In many areas, no other transport mechanisms are available to complete these transports.
- Lack of receiving facilities for mental health patients.
  - o Some patients must be transported upwards of 75 miles in some areas of the state.
- The cost of having other transportation is prohibitive with current funding levels.

Seeing these issues, we looked at what could help with the transportation of these patients, lessen the burden on law enforcement to be the only transport mechanism, and diminish the stigma of a patient in a mental health crisis.

1. What high-utilizer organization of behavioral health transports could help take some of the workload off law enforcement
  - a. Schools
    - i. A transport section is set up within the established transportation of the school system or guardian program.
  - b. Hospital Systems
    - i. Help with funding for transport services.
2. In areas where other transport services are available, work to establish contracts/funding for transportation.
3. Mobile response teams can transport patients to the receiving facility when placed under a mental health status.
4. Funding for establishing receiving facilities for areas lacking these facilities.

Law enforcement may not be able to be removed entirely from the transportation of a person in a mental health crisis. There may be ways to lessen the burden for law enforcement and establishment of other mechanisms for transportation.