



"exceptional and comprehensive behavioral healthcare"

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Press Release

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Stewart-Marchman-Act Contracts to Acquire Services and Employees of Putnam-St. Johns Behavioral Health

SMA Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (SMA) has negotiated an agreement to assume the assets and operations of Putnam-St Johns Behavioral Health (PSJBH), effective February 1, 2012.

January 20th, the Boards of the two non-profit organizations signed off on an agreement that will take effect on February 1, 2012. SMA is working with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) on an amendment to SMA's existing contract that would add the Putnam and St. Johns services formerly provided by PSJBH. Employees were notified on Friday that they will become SMA employees on February 1st.

PSJBH currently employs approximately 60 people. It has two locations, 330 Kay Larkin Drive in Palatka and 1955 S. U.S. 1 in St. Augustine. The Palatka location provides outpatient adult and children's mental health services and outpatient adult and children's substance abuse services. This location also includes an 8 bed detox unit and 6 bed adult residential substance abuse program. This location has a current open caseload of approximately 1600 clients. The St. Augustine location provides outpatient adult and children's mental health services and outpatient adult and children's substance abuse services. This location has a current caseload of approximately 1,200 clients.

Chet Bell, CEO at SMA stated that "consistent with our mission, SMA looks forward to providing the residents of Putnam and St. Johns counties with exceptional and comprehensive behavioral healthcare. The focus of both agency boards in fashioning this agreement is to ensure that clients receive uninterrupted care and that the employees of Putnam-St. Johns Behavioral Health all retain employment as they become employees of SMA on February 1."

SMA Behavioral Health Services, Inc., based in Daytona Beach, has provided substance abuse and mental health services in Volusia and Flagler County for more than 50 years. Currently the agency employs 575 staff with an annual budget of \$38 million.

