

Proposal for Funding of AltaPointe Health Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)/Crisis Intervention Team Services

Baldwin County is one of the fastest growing areas in the region, and with this growth, AltaPointe has seen a rise in calls related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness. We are also receiving more requests from law enforcement seeking support with individuals in crisis, reflecting the increased needs across the community. AltaPointe was awarded a four-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2016. This funding enabled AltaPointe to establish a new clinical team that provided extended hours and weekend coverage, delivering intensive services and monitoring for individuals with frequent law enforcement encounters, repeated hospitalizations, and chronic, severe mental health and substance use disorders. The program earned national recognition for its success, and AltaPointe staff were invited to present their findings before a national audience in San Antonio. Key accomplishments over the four years included:

- reduction in recidivism and days spent in jail
- reduction of use of force incidents with law enforcement
- reduction in the number of interactions with law enforcement
- increased access to housing, healthcare, and benefits
- increased compliance with treatment and medication
- reduction in the number of hospitalizations
- reduction in the length of stay for individuals requiring hospitalization during and after participation in the program (because participants were closely monitored and received rapid intervention, those who did need hospitalization were less acutely ill and able to recover more quickly.)

There have been significant measurable cost-savings for local emergency departments and the Baldwin County Jail. In addition, the program produced important intangible benefits, including stronger cooperative relationships with law enforcement that supported pre-arrest diversion and mental health intervention, post-arrest medication assistance and evaluation, and improved collaboration with other key stakeholders.

Thanks to the Baldwin County Commission's funding from April 2023 through December 2025, AltaPointe has been able to continue this program with four full-time

employees who provide patient services during extended weekday hours and on weekends, with 24-hour access to on-call staff. This team has enabled AltaPointe to serve not only the outpatient commitment population but also to respond on-scene with law enforcement during mental health, substance use, or homelessness-related crises. The Baldwin County Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) team can also facilitate diversion to AltaPointe's 24-hour Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) in Mobile, where individuals can access immediate treatment and ongoing services.

Over the past two years, funding for the Baldwin County AOT team has supported 3,635 interactions with participants enrolled in this intensive, court-ordered outpatient program. Eighty-Three percent of those served have a diagnosed substance use disorder. In the 12 months prior to enrollment, participants spent 3,341 days in psychiatric hospitals; since being managed by the AOT team, that number has dropped to 609 days. Arrests have decreased from 87 in the year prior to AOT enrollment to just 23 since. In addition, the team has responded to 2,520 calls involving justice-involved individuals, including both in-person and remote co-responses with the Sheriff's Office and municipal law enforcement agencies.

AltaPointe is currently partnering with multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, to provide mental health training for officers who are often the first responders to mental health, substance use, and homelessness crises. Equipping officers with these skills, and the ability to partner with clinicians on calls, supports diversion from incarceration to treatment, increases the likelihood that individuals remain engaged in services, and encourages them to contact providers during future crises. This approach also frees law enforcement to focus on public safety and helps reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illness in local jails. National data consistently shows that as officers receive more training on effectively handling mental health calls—which continue to rise—the likelihood of incidents involving deadly force decreases.

Continued funding from Baldwin County would provide the resources necessary to sustain, restore, and enhance these programs and services for county residents. AltaPointe respectfully requests funding for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, at an estimated cost of \$384,687 annually, or \$769,374 for the two-year period. A detailed budget for staffing, travel, and supply expenses is provided on the following page.

AltaPointe Health Systems, Inc.			
Baldwin County			
Mental Health and Homelessness Initiative			
January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027			
	1/1/26- 12/31/26	1/1/27- 12/31/27	Total
Personnel			
Masters Level Therapist	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 133,000.00
Masters Level Therapist	60,000.00	60,000.00	120,000.00
RN	83,200.00	83,200.00	166,400.00
RN	83,200.00	83,200.00	166,400.00
Total Personnel	292,900.00	292,900.00	585,800.00
Fringe Benefits			
FICA (7.65%)	23,000.00	23,000.00	46,000.00
Retirement (3%)	8,787.00	8,787.00	17,574.00
Total Fringe Benefits	31,787.00	31,787.00	63,574.00
Local Travel	50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
Supplies Expenses			
Programmatic Supplies	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00
Total	\$ 384,687.00	\$ 384,687.00	\$ 769,374.00