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## BAKER ACT Project

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## Introduction /Background

- During our UPC meetings we brainstormed projects and evaluated which project would benefit our patient care and safety.
- We observed an opportunity to improve the transfer process to psych facilities in a timely manner. This process involved a multidisciplinary team effort.
- According to Florida Mental Health Act “the transfer of Baker Act patients to a receiving facility is required to be completed within 12 hours once patient is medically stable.” (Florida Statute §394.463 section H #1-#2, 2012)
- There was an opportunity as well for improved communication with hospital staff, including night shift and receiving facilities.

## Project Goal

To decrease the time it takes to transfer Baker Act patients to 12 hours or less.



The Plan Do Check Act (PDCA) model for performance improvement was used to guide the development and implementation of the project.

## Plan

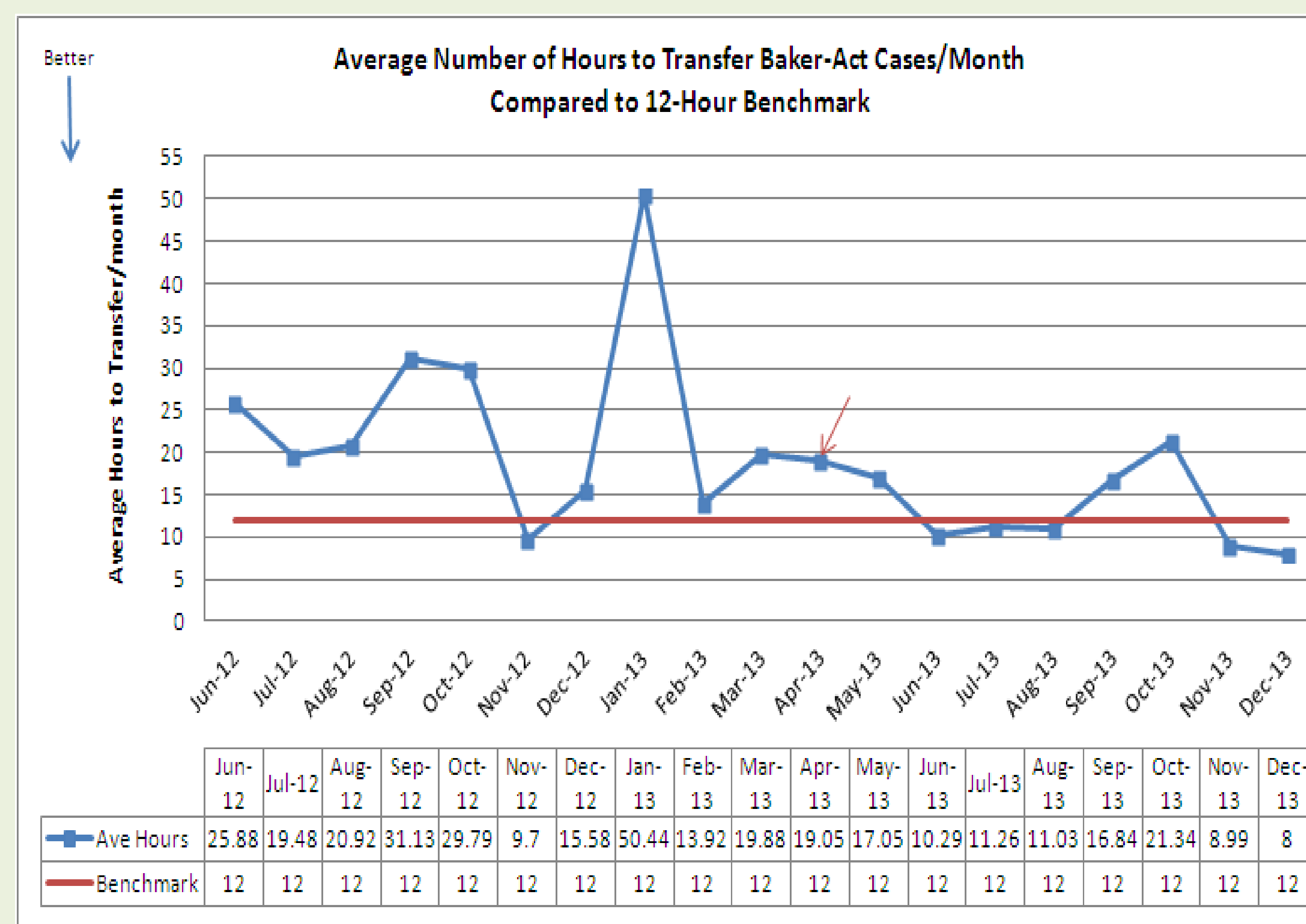
- Several meetings with PI/CM UPC members where conducted and discussed the data collected . We compiled eight months of pre-data.
- The UPC determined the implementation of new education to multidisciplinary staff.
- The UPC members worked together on the Baker Act policy to be reviewed and updated.

## Do

- We compiled eight months of pre-data and compared it to eight months of post-data once education and training was completed in April of 2013.
- We provided extensive Interdisciplinary education including: Departmental In-services for all case management staff, In-Services with all physicians and ARNP’s, rollout education for all unit’s, unit educators, as well as training the trainer.

## Check

- The average hours to achieve transfer, prior to education starting August 2012, were 26 hours.
- Post education 2012-2013 the time for psych transfer was 17 hours.
- With continued education, support from interdisciplinary team members and communication with psych facilities we were able to continue to decrease our average hours for transfer in 2013-2014 to 13 hours.



## Act

We were able to impact the hours in a positive way by decreasing the hours to transfer patients to a psych facility. Completing transfers to psych facilities is not only important for staff but also the patient’s who require psych treatment. Decreasing the time for transferring patient’s benefits our patient’s by providing them with access to treatment they require for their psych illness. This was obtainable through the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines within the hospital, community and facility leaders. We will continue to work with all disciplines and facilities to ensure the transfer within benchmark guidelines.

## References

- Florida Statute (2012): §394.463 section H #1-#2
- Statutes & Constitution. (n.d.). Retrieved June 10, from [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0300-0399/0394/0394.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0300-0399/0394/0394.html)

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