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Mount Dora Police charge four caretakers in Aggravated Abuse of Disabled Adult case

Mount Dora, Fla. (August 22,2019) – On Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at approximately 2:53pm, Mount Dora Police officers responded to a group home at 3040 Mary Lane (Attain, Inc.) in reference to a verbal disturbance. Upon arrival, officers discovered a disabled female resident with bruising on her face, including a laceration, and a skinned knee.

The employees stated that the female caused the injuries to herself and her behavior while the officers were on scene was extremely erratic and consistent with the employees' statements at the time. The officers evaluated the victim under the provisions of the Baker Act, but she did not meet the criteria. Officers documented the injuries in an incident report and The Department of Children and Families (DCF) was notified.

DCF responded to the offices of Attain Inc., along with Mount Dora Police officers, on August 15, 2019 and met with the regional director. They were then able to review surveillance camera footage from inside the home on the date of the incident, which revealed that the female resident had been battered by employees. Attain, Inc. management placed the employees on administrative leave immediately and Mount Dora Police detectives began processing arrest warrants for the employees involved.

On Monday, August 19, 2019, detectives obtained arrest warrants for Carolyn Joe, Berneisha Blunt, Jaleyah Wiggins, and Sheneka Hester for the charge of Aggravated Abuse of a Disabled Adult. Berneisha Blunt turned herself to the Lake County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday and Sheneka Hester turned herself in today.

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