

Diversion/Reentry Workgroup

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Quick Notes:

**** Workgroup is being recorded ****

- **Use the “raise hand” feature to make a comment**
- *You will be placed in line to comment in the order in which requests are received by the host.*
- **When it is your turn to comment, the meeting host will unmute your line and announce your name.**
- *Members of the public should be prepared to complete their comments within 3 minutes or less if a different time allotment is needed and announced by the Executive Officer.*

Email:

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Agenda

Time	Topics to be discussed
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions
1:10 PM	Deflection Presentation
1:50 PM	Q&A with Councilmember Advisors Public Comment on Agenda Item II
2:25 PM	Announcement/Next Steps
2:30 PM	Adjourn



Deflection

Mack Jenkins, Retired, Chief Probation Officer,
San Diego County Probation Department



Diversion/Reentry Correlation to Deflection

- The Diversion/Reentry workgroup is focused on efforts to redirect individuals with behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system and reducing recidivism.
- Deflection can be a key part of that effort.



Definition

- Pre-Arrest Diversion.
- Collaborative intervention connecting public safety and public health systems to create community-based pathways to treatment to avoid the justice system.
- Target population: people who have mental health and/or substance use disorders (SUD) that need services such recovery, housing and social services via case management.
- Alternative option to traditional arrest when officers encounter individuals with behavioral health (BH) conditions.



Think of it as...

- Individuals with BH issues are deflected away from the criminal justice system by police officers by making referrals to community human services (BH, SUD, etc.) when coming in contact with a citizen.
- Law enforcement on front lines of being part of the solution.



Center for Health and Justice

Collaborative partnerships between law enforcement agencies, fire, Emergency Medical Service, treatment providers and the recovery community, programs are working to deflect individuals with SUD to treatment and recovery and away from traditional avenues, such as emergency departments or jail.



Key Elements of Deflection

- Seeks to promote wellbeing of individuals.
- Improves public safety and community relations.
- Addresses racial inequalities (incarceration rates, justice system involvement)
- Shifts social services responses from police officers to BH services and housing.
- Keeps families intact.
- Helps reduce jail overcrowding.
- Improves relationships between police officers and the community.



Five Deflection Pathways

Self-Referral	Individual voluntarily initiates contact with first responder seeking access to treatment, without fear of arrest- and receives referral to treatment provider.
Active Outreach	First responder identifies/seeks out an individual in need of services, referral is made to a provider who engages them into treatment.
Naloxone-Plus	First responder engages an individual into treatment as part of an overdose response.
Officer Prevention	A law enforcement officer initiates treatment engagement. No criminal charges exist, but one can be filed, in response to a call for service.
Officer Intervention	Officer initiates treatment engagement and either charges are filed and held in abeyance, or citation with treatment requirements is issued.



Challenges for Deflection Programs

- Sparse resource and funding.
- Police culture often emphasizes the maintenance of order with a reliance on arrest.
- Lack of transportation to treatment and other services.
- Racial inequalities in program access and outcome.
- Societal stigma attached to drug use.



Research on Deflection

County Implementations of Deflection	Outcomes
Lee County, Illinois	Positive feedback on the program from community stake holders, police officers, treatment providers and clients.
Leon County, Florida	Participants with BH and propensity for crime and violence were more likely to fail the program, greater BH problems were associated with a higher probability of post-program arrest. An evaluation compared arrest outcomes for participants in a deflection program to those in a post booking diversion program and found that the programs had similar post-program arrest rates.



Research on Deflection (cont.)

County Implementations of Deflection	Outcomes
King County, Seattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, includes case management, SUD treatment and wrap around services.• Clients in the program had significant reductions in recidivism and criminal justice contact.• Improved housing and employment outcomes.
Albany, New York	Replicated LEAD program but had few successful diversions in first year of the program. Concerns were raised about replicability.



References

- [Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion | Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities' Center for Health and Justice](#)
- [Introduction: Deflection: Police-Led Responses to Behavioral Health Challenges | Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's](#)
- [Law Enforcement Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs: A Tale of Two Initiatives | Journal for Advancing Justice](#)
- [This Minority Mental Health Month, NAMI is Raising Awareness About Mental Health in Underrepresented Communities | NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)



****Q&A with Councilmember Advisors****

****Public Comment on Agenda Item II****



Upcoming Events

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, December 10, 2021, 2:00-4:30 PM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

