

# Providing National Vision, Leadership, Voice, and Action on Pre-arrest Diversion

#### IT'S HAPPENING NOW - IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY TO BE PART OF IT?

Communities across the country are launching pre-arrest diversion initiatives designed to better address law enforcement's encounters with people who have challenges with drug use and mental health. These pre-arrest/pre-booking initiatives enable law enforcement officers, when appropriate, to divert eligible individuals away from the criminal justice system and into community-based behavioral health interventions and social services. In this way, law enforcement becomes a new and sizable pathway to treatment and social services.

Simultaneously, federal, state and local governments and organizations are advocating for increased attention to and implementation of diversion initiatives that feature partnerships among police, treatment, and the community. The reasons for growth in these diversion initiatives are many: they promise reduced crime and recidivism, improved community/law enforcement relations, reduced burden on the justice system, restored lives, and cost savings.

What's been missing from the conversation about this emerging movement is a forum where national police, treatment and community leaders can join together...*until now!* 

# WHAT IS THE POLICE, TREATMENT, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE (PTACC)?

The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) was launched in April 2017 with a mission to strategically enhance the quantity and quality of community behavioral health and social service options through engagement in pre-arrest diversion. The purpose of PTACC is to provide vision, leadership, advocacy, and education to facilitate the practice of pre-arrest diversion across the United States.

The PTAC Collaborative is organized in six strategic areas. We welcome the participation of representatives from law enforcement and other criminal justice entities, behavioral health, research, community, advocacy and related organizations in any of the strategic areas.

# LEADERSHIP

Team that focuses on the big picture - partnerships, resources, roles, messaging, policy, and strategy.

#### **TREATMENT, HOUSING, AND RECOVERY**

Practioners from treatment, mental health, and social service providers, who develop resources on emerging promising practices regarding working with diverted individuals.

# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Law enforcement and other criminal justice stakeholders who share information, innovations. and lessons learned, and also develop resources for the field.

# **COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

Local community leaders, residents, advocates, family members, and people with lived experience who apply their voices, knowledge, and perspectives to program implementation, with a strong focus on parity across all demographics.

RESEARCH

Researchers in academia; federal, state, and local government; and the justice community interested in developing standard metrics for researching and evaluating pre-arrest diversion programs.

# **POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Team that advances this topic in the civic space by helping to track and develop local, state, and federal-level legislation and policy on pre-arrest diversion, including planning, implementation, funding, and evaluation. This team translates the efforts of all of the other strategy areas into policy and law. The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) resulted from a consensus decision made at the inaugural National Pre-Arrest Deflection Summit held at the headquarters of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in March 2017. The summit was co-convened by the Center for Health and Justice at TASC and the Civil Citation Network. Around the same table were 45 leaders representing 39 organizations from across the nation, including summit organizers from AdCare Criminal Justice Services, C4 Recovery Solutions, Inc., George Mason University, and Western Carolina University.

In March 2018, PTACC held the first of its kind National Training Conference on Pre-Arrest Diversion, which was attended by over 20 sites wishing to implement or enhance their existing pre-arrest diversion programs. A second national training conference will be held November 10-13, 2019 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

#### WHAT WILL PTACC DO?

- 1 Educate communities, practitioners, policy makers, police, and treatment leaders about pre-arrest diversion.
- 2 Equip the field with an inventory of existing programs and practices to aid in understanding and implementation of all the pre-arrest diversion models.
- 3 Analyze the current research to establish standard metrics of pre-arrest diversion practices that will build future collaborative research efforts.
- 4 Build a learning and mentoring community to support existing and new pre-arrest diversion efforts.
- 5 Motivate funding organizations to expand and shore up existing pre-arrest diversion efforts and to support community-based solutions for behavioral health problems.
- 6 Create critical principles for police and treatment models that are easy to implement.
- 7 Provide business models to grow behavioral health community capacity.
- 8 Develop a cadre of leaders able to speak and present on all aspects of pre-arrest diversion community, behavioral health, and law enforcement; policy and practice; and research.
- **9** Shape and refine the varying messages for decision-makers and practitioners in order to provide clarity for communities to proceed with the pre-arrest diversion approach that best suits their needs.

#### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- 1 Sign up to be part of the PTAC Collaborative and stay informed about what's going on around the country. To sign up, go to http://ptaccollaborative.org/strategy-areas/
- 2 Join one of the six strategic areas to add your voice to the conversations about how to advance pre-arrest diversion in the country and in your community.
- 3 Invite others to join the movement by sharing this PTACC fact sheet and going to the PTACC website to sign up for a strategy area.

# HOW DO I CONTACT THE POLICE, TREATMENT, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE (PTACC)?

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