



Insights from the Frontline: Police-led Deflection Programs

International Association of Chiefs of Police
TASC's Center for Health and Justice



January 22, 2024



CENTER FOR
HEALTH & JUSTICE
AT TASC



About the IACP

Shaping the Future of the Policing Profession

- The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the largest and most influential professional association for law enforcement in the world. With more than 30,000 members in 165 countries, the IACP is a recognized leader in global policing, committed to advancing safe communities through thoughtful, progressive police leadership.
- Since 1893, the association has been serving communities worldwide by speaking out on behalf of law enforcement and advancing leadership and professionalism in policing worldwide.



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Law Enforcement - First Responder Partnership Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program

Funded by BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program in partnership with TASC's Center for Health and Justice (CHJ)

- Provides training, TA, resources, and mentoring on strategies to reduce overdoses and address substance use disorder (SUD).
- Supports law enforcement agencies in developing pathways to treatment and services for individuals with SUDs.
- Promotes collaborations between public safety and public health stakeholders to increase community-based treatment and service capacity within communities and the justice system.



[IACP COSSUP Project Page](#)



Polling Question

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Police Chief Magazine ★ January 2024



January 2024: Illicit Drugs & Substance Abuse

GUEST EDITORS Jim Maisano and Karen Maline

It's no secret that illicit substance use is a societal issue that often intersects with public safety. Whether combating fentanyl and other contributors to the opioid epidemic or finding their footing with kratom and other emerging trends, police worldwide are seeking ways to partner with communities to prevent overdoses, steer people toward recovery, and improve community wellness.



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How Deflection Differs from other Types of Justice Diversion

Intercepts 0-1: Deflection/Pre-Arrest Diversion

- Public health response to public safety
- Prevention/intervention
- Moving away from justice system ***without having entered it***
- ***Behavioral health guided*** with criminal justice partnerships

Intercepts 1-5: Other Criminal Justice Diversion

- Traditional law enforcement approach
- Intervention
- Moving out of justice system ***after having entered it***
- ***Criminal justice guided*** with behavioral health partnerships





Traditional Policing vs. Police-Led Deflection



Greetings Karen Maline

Thursday, July 6, 2023

LEADING THE NEWS

POLICING AND POLICY

New Research Suggests Drug Busts, Police Crackdowns May Make Overdose Crisis Worse

[NPR](#) [f](#) [t](#) (7/5, Mann) reports, "A growing coalition of U.S. politicians want tougher police tactics used against selling fentanyl, methamphetamines and xylazine." However, "new research published in the American Journal of Public Health suggests drug busts and police crackdowns on dealers may actually be making the overdose crisis worse." The study, which underwent a rigorous peer-review process because of its controversial findings, is based on data gathered in Indiana that found patterns of overdose and death that followed drug seizures in the city." Additionally, "some police drug enforcement tactics believe law enforcement" should do "more advanced planning and coordinate with community reduction groups and others focused on helping people with addiction" before doing a drug sweep and seizure.

**Diverting people who use drugs from the criminal justice system:
A systematic review of police-based diversion measures**

**David Décary-Hétu, Etienne Blais, Jacinthe Brisson, François Gagnon,
Sophie-Anne Lemay**

Policy implications and conclusion

The present study focused on two specific objectives: (1) reviewing evidence about the impact of police-based diversion measures on several categories of outcome and (2) identifying facilitators and barriers to the implementation and delivery of these measures. **Our findings indicate that police-based diversion measures are effective in preventing criminal offending or other contacts with the criminal justice system. Police-based measures were found to be promising to improve health and decrease social and health-related costs associated with drug use as well as expenses associated with the prosecution of drug-related offenders.**



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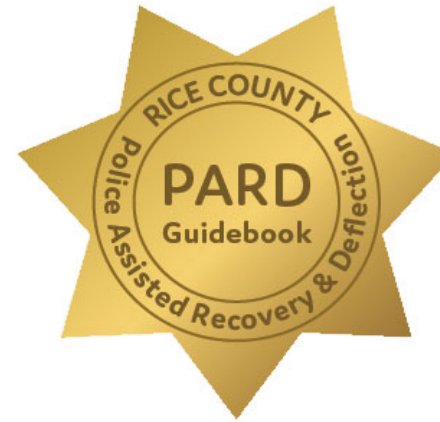


Presenters

- **Nicholas Capriglione**, Police Inspector & Social Service Outreach Supervisor, New Jersey Transit Police Department
- **Divad Sanders**, Program Director, Overdose Response Team, Newark Community Street Team, Newark, New Jersey
- **John Sherwin**, Chief of Police, Faribault Police Department, Faribault, Minnesota
- **Karen Maline**, Project Manager, IACP—Moderator



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FARIBAULT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Assisted Recovery and Deflection
(PARD)





Faribault, MN: Pop. 24,414

Rice County, MN: Pop. 67,097

- Rice County is considered a “rural” county as it is not part of an MSA.
- In FY 2022, Rice County received a 3-year BJA Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grant.
- **Rice County’s Program is focused on:**
 - Police-Assisted Recovery and Deflection (PARD)
 - Pre-charge adult diversion and post-booking treatment alternatives
 - Overdose follow-up
 - Recovery Support Team
 - Pre and Post Treatment Housing
 - Prioritizing outcomes for Latino and East African communities

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Partnerships

- All Rice County Law Enforcement
 - Faribault PD, Northfield PD, Rice County Sheriff's Office, Dundas PD, Lonsdale PD
- Rice County Social Services
 - Community Based Coordinators (social workers) are embedded with Faribault PD, Northfield PD, and the Rice County Sheriff's Office/Jail
- Rice County Attorney's Office
- Beyond Brink - pre-treatment housing
- Health Finders - non-profit community health center, harm reduction-focused



Police Led Diversion – Why?

- Evidence-based crime reduction strategy
- Compliments existing crime reduction strategies
 - Community Policing, Intelligence Led Policing, Compstat, Hot Spot Policing, and other evidence-based strategies
- What we've done for the last 50 years has not worked
- More efficient use of time when compared to an arrest, booking, and paperwork
- Eliminates the frustration felt by officers when an individual is released from custody before paperwork is completed or they're arrested again the next day
- It is officer led and makes a difference in people's lives



Police Led Diversion – How?

- Look for partnerships within your community
 - Hospitals, substance use treatment providers, non-profit service providers, health clinics, social service agencies
- Funding
 - grants, asset forfeiture funds, local partnerships?
- Train your Officers
 - Demonstrate top-down buy-in
 - Teach about the science of addiction; officers value evidence
 - Make the process easy for officers
 - Remind them why they became officers



Contact Information

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**New Jersey Transit Police
Outreach Unit
Inspector Nicholas
Capriglione**

NJ TRANSIT and the NJ TRANSIT Police Department (NJTPD) recognized that responding to homelessness would require a coordinated response between:

- Law Enforcement
- Social Services
- Other Agencies and Organizations



The Outreach Unit

- Collaborates with social service providers to deliver effective outreach and compassionate enforcement to the homeless community
- Consisted of five full-time officers as of March 4, 2017

Goal

To help individuals without a permanent residence and experiencing a variety of social service issues by:

- Providing connections directly with services
- Meeting them where they're at - active outreach
- Offering transportation to local social service facilities



Areas of Responsibility:

The Outreach Unit consists of five full-time police officers positioned in NJ TRANSIT's main transportation hubs across New Jersey, including:

- Newark Penn Station – 2 additional officers assigned to outreach functions on day and afternoon shifts (Newark, Oranges, Elizabeth, Rahway, New Brunswick, etc.)
- Hoboken Terminal – Partner With 2 Social Workers from Hoboken (Hoboken, Jersey City, etc.)
- Secaucus Junction (Hackensack, Paterson, etc.)
- Trenton Transit Center
- Camden/Walter Rand Transportation Center
- Atlantic City Bus Terminal



PO Kayla Young
Camden



PO Sean Pfeifer
Newark



PO Chris Veniero
Hoboken/Secaucus



PO Jim Ludzieski
Atlantic City



PO Bob Furlong
Trenton



Basket Approach

Different partner organizations come to the stations at various times during the day and evening and meet with officers from NJTPD



Each member of the team brings their own expertise, knowledge, and life experience to help bring ideas to the table. Together, we engage, encourage, and offer partnership in helping those individuals reach their goals.

Partnership Examples:

1. Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
2. Bridges Outreach (Newark and Summit)
3. NJCRI
4. Newark HOT Team
5. Project Live
6. Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris
7. Volunteers of America
8. JFS / Jewish Family Services
9. Solstice Counseling and Wellness Centers

Drop In Centers

Individuals can obtain:

- Food and clothing
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use treatment
- Identification services
- Welfare-related needs
- Shelter/housing placement (& application needs)
- Employment assistance
- Relocation Assistance



Mental Health Partnerships & Inter-Agency Collaborations

The NJ TRANSIT Outreach Program partners with mental health services in transit hub communities.

Trained mental health screeners partner with outreach officers to identify individuals who may be in, or are on the verge of being in, a crisis.



Arrive Together Initiative

- New Jersey Transit Police Department Partnered with Beth Israel Medical Center's PESS Unit Starting June of 2023
- 1st Location at Newark Penn Station
- Officer and Certified Mental Health Screener
- 2 Days/Week, 8 Hour Shifts
- Since June 2023: 367 Engagements
- Over 18% of Total NJ State AT Engagements over 2-Year Period
- 36% of Engagements Result In Linkage to Services
- NJ Transit Arrive Together Expanding to Paterson and Camden

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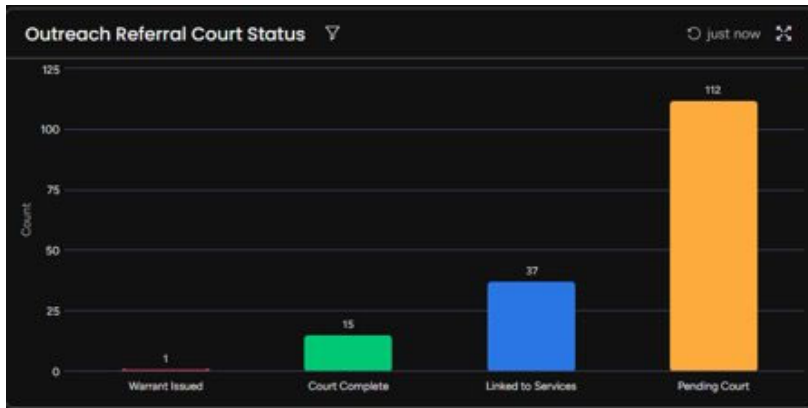
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Criminal Justice Component

The NJTPD's Outreach Referral Program, based at Newark Penn Station, provides officers a means to give low-level offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation and social service assistance in the place of fines or incarceration.



HELP IS AVAILABLE:



NEWARK COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
31 Green Street
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 733-5180



COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT PROGRAMS OF NEW JERSEY

BETTER LIFE WELLNESS CENTER
101 14th Ave
Newark, NJ 07102
(862)229-1400

REPORT CRIMINAL OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

**1-888-847-7658
OR TEXT 65873**

OUTREACH REFERRAL CARD

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

IDENTIFIERS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

OUTREACH LOCATION: _____

OUTREACH DATE AND TIME: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

VIOLATION: _____

LOCATION: _____

DATE AND TIME: _____

OFFICER: _____



Step By Step Walkthrough with Example



1. Deflection outreach w/peer counselors and partners prior to LE patrol interaction
2. (LEO Interaction) pre-arrest/summons attempt at connection to services (Blue Card provided with service provider info, No Strike rule)
3. (LEO Interaction) at point of arrest (field or custodial) – attempt connection to services (Blue Card filed with charges and sent to court)
4. Post-arrest/summons, continued attempts at connection to services through deflection outreach and Social Service Court
5. During incarceration (when necessary) attempt at connection to services with Essex County Jail connected providers (CJS and CJR)
6. Post-release follow-up attempt at connection to services

Operation Helping Hand

The NJTPD Outreach Unit is part of Operation Helping Hand, a program of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office that partners law enforcement with peer counselors who have lived experience with substance use disorder (SUD).

Because they have been through their own addiction and recovery journeys, peer counselors can offer:

- Emotional support
- Practical advice
- Guidance on how to access treatment and recovery services

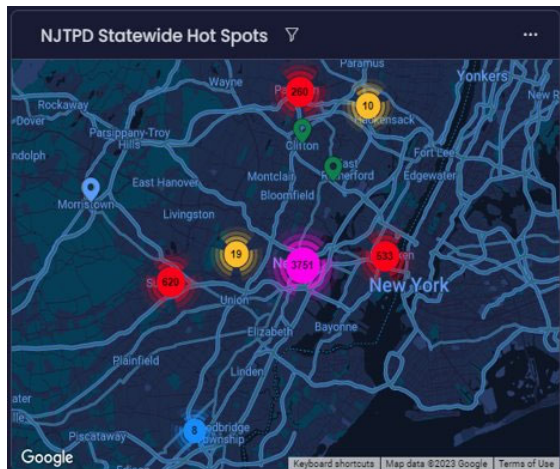
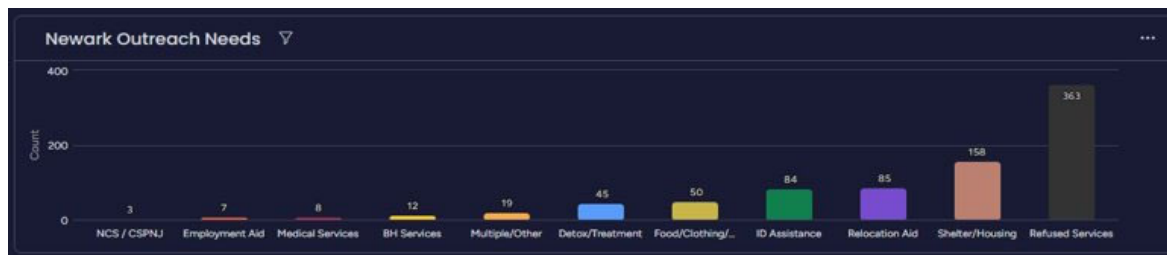
The partnership between the NJTPD Outreach Unit and peer counselors is an asset to the transit community and a model that other law enforcement agencies have begun to adopt.



Data Collection

Monday.com documented engagements since February of 2022: over 9,600

Majority have been alongside partner providers employing the co-responder model of outreach



Lessons Learned

1. Enticements / Giveaways
2. Need for offsite services
 - (examples from Newark Penn and LACS office)
3. Importance of direct services offer
4. Need for consequences for bad behavior
 - but not as a barrier to services
5. Value in Peer Counselor engagement
6. Overall shift in policing
7. Consistency is Key in building trust
8. The importance of knowing a name



Questions/Comments/Contact Information



Questions?

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The Newark Community Street Team – Overdose Response Team (NCST-ORT)

The Overdose Response Team (ORT) is the result of a partnership between the Newark Community Street Team and University Hospital.

The ORT:

- Provides a community-led response to overdose emergency calls in Newark
 - Two days a week, two outreach workers co-respond to OD calls w/University Hospital EMS, provide affected individuals with harm reduction supplies, and seek to engage them in care coordination services
 - Three days a week, the ORT conducts follow-up to address these individuals' health and social needs
- Reduces fatal and non-fatal overdoses
- Reduces health and social harms to people who use drugs and their communities
- Improves the use of harm reduction services
- Reduces arrests associated with overdose events



The Newark Community Street Team – Overdose Response Team (NCST-ORT)

NCST-ORT Community-Based Approach

NCST-ORT recognized that:

- Responding to issues caused by opioid use require a strategic, collaborative effort with local stakeholders and community-based initiatives.
- Evidence-based treatments play a pivotal role in addressing SUD in communities.
- Collaborative efforts among public safety officials, behavioral health and treatment providers, and social service professionals have resulted in a continuum of care from prevention efforts to recovery.
- Community-based organizations and service providers serve as the bridge between formal systems and community members.
 - Allows for a nuanced understanding of local needs and challenges
 - Initiatives are tailored to the community, breaks down barriers, fosters trust among affected populations

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The Newark Community Street Team – Overdose Response Team (NCST-ORT)

Collaboration between NCST-ORT and the New Jersey Transit Police Department (NJTPD)

The NJTPD has been an anchor in the success of Newark’s collaborative approach.

The active support of NJTPD:

- Signaled a shift in the paradigm from viewing SUD merely as a law enforcement issue to understanding it as a public health crisis requiring a multifaceted approach.
- Helps strengthen relationships between law enforcement, service providers, and the community in need.
- Includes resources, support, and a culture that is open to the creation of and participation in innovative programs.

Shared values—both NCST-ORT and NJTPD:

- Believe in the practice of *meaningful engagement*—using individuals who have lived experience with SUD
- Recognize that, in addition to being a medical issue, addiction is entwined with social, economic, and psychological factors



Q&A and Resources

TASC's Center for Health and Justice

**COSSAP TTA Provider for
First Responder Led Deflection Initiatives**



Website: <http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org/>



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Contact Information

For questions about this webinar or information about IACP-related programs and conferences:

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For questions about COSSUP TTA or the First Responder Deflection Mentoring Program:

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TASC's Center for Health and Justice

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Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Resource Center

COSSUP
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Use Program

Program **Topics** **Learn** **Resource Library**

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RESPONSES TO
THE OPIOID CRISIS**

I want to ...
Find Learning Opportunities

Get Started

Subscribe

Site-Based Grants Request Assistance

www.cossup.org



COSSUP Resources

Tailored Assistance—The COSSUP training and technical assistance (TTA) program offers a variety of learning opportunities and assistance to support local, tribal, and state organizations, stakeholders, and projects in building and sustaining multidisciplinary responses to the nation’s substance use crisis. ***You do not need to be a COSSUP grantee to request support.*** TTAs are provided in a variety of formats, including virtual and in-person training events, workshop and meeting presentations, and online resources. Request TTA to support your activities at <https://www.cossup.org/Program/TTA/Request>.

Funding Opportunities—Current COSSUP and complementary funding opportunities are shared at <https://www.cossup.org/Program/Funding>.

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