



Police Responses to Behavioral Health Challenges Through Deflection Strategies

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

TASC's Center for Health & Justice

July 13, 2023



CENTER FOR
HEALTH & JUSTICE
AT TASC



CHJ Training and Technical Assistance

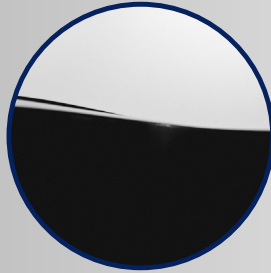
- Providing Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) to deflection and pre-arrest diversion initiatives since 2017
- Grounded in the concept of the Six Pathways
- Individualized TTA for communities looking to develop or enhance their deflection programs
- [First Responder Deflection Resource Library](#)
- [The Deflection Conversation Framework Training](#)



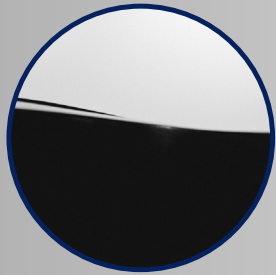
The background of the slide is a collage. On the right side, there is a large, circular logo for the National Association of Police Executives (NAPE). The logo is blue and white with a gold border. It features the letters 'NAPE' in a large, stylized font in the center. Below the letters, there is a scale of justice. The words 'NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE EXECUTIVES' are written around the perimeter of the circle. On the left side, there is a close-up photograph of a police badge. The badge is silver and has the word 'POLICE' engraved on it. The background of the badge shows a landscape with mountains and a body of water. A thick, diagonal gold and white stripe runs across the slide from the top left to the bottom right, partially overlapping the NAPE logo and the badge image.

Police Responses to Behavioral Health Challenges Through Deflection Strategies

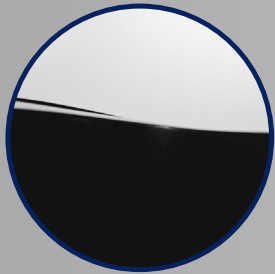
Panelists



DANIEL HAHN,
Chief (retired), Sacramento Police Department,
Sacramento, California



DR. RECHELLE NETTLES,
Wellness Program Leader,
Oakland Police Department



Moderator, Jonni Redick
Retired Assistant Chief, California Highway Patrol
Chair, NOBLE National Safety & Wellness Committee



In 2017, an estimated **19.7M** Americans aged 12 and older had SUDs, **46.6M** had a mental health disorder, and **8.5M** had co-occurring SUDs and mental health disorders.

The introduction of deflection came about in the ***Journal for Advancing Justice*** entitled **Emerging Best Practices in Law Enforcement Deflection and Community Supervision Programs.**

TASC Center for Health and Justice (CHJ)
Center for Justice Research and Evaluation at (ICJIA)

Deflection is increasing within law enforcement agencies to **improve service connections for individuals** in their communities and employ more collaborative interventions to create **community-based treatment pathways** for people with **substance use disorders (SUDs), mental health disorders, or both, without entering the justice system.**



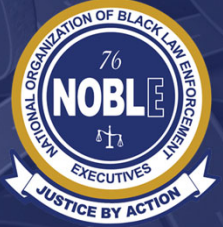
According to research...

Behavioral health is a major societal issue with public health and criminal justice implications.



Question #1

Please describe your experience with deflection pathways, approaches, or initiatives and for what specific purpose or target population.





Creating a Culture of Wellness

Dr. Bechell





Oakland Police
Department
Wellness Unit

Deflection Program

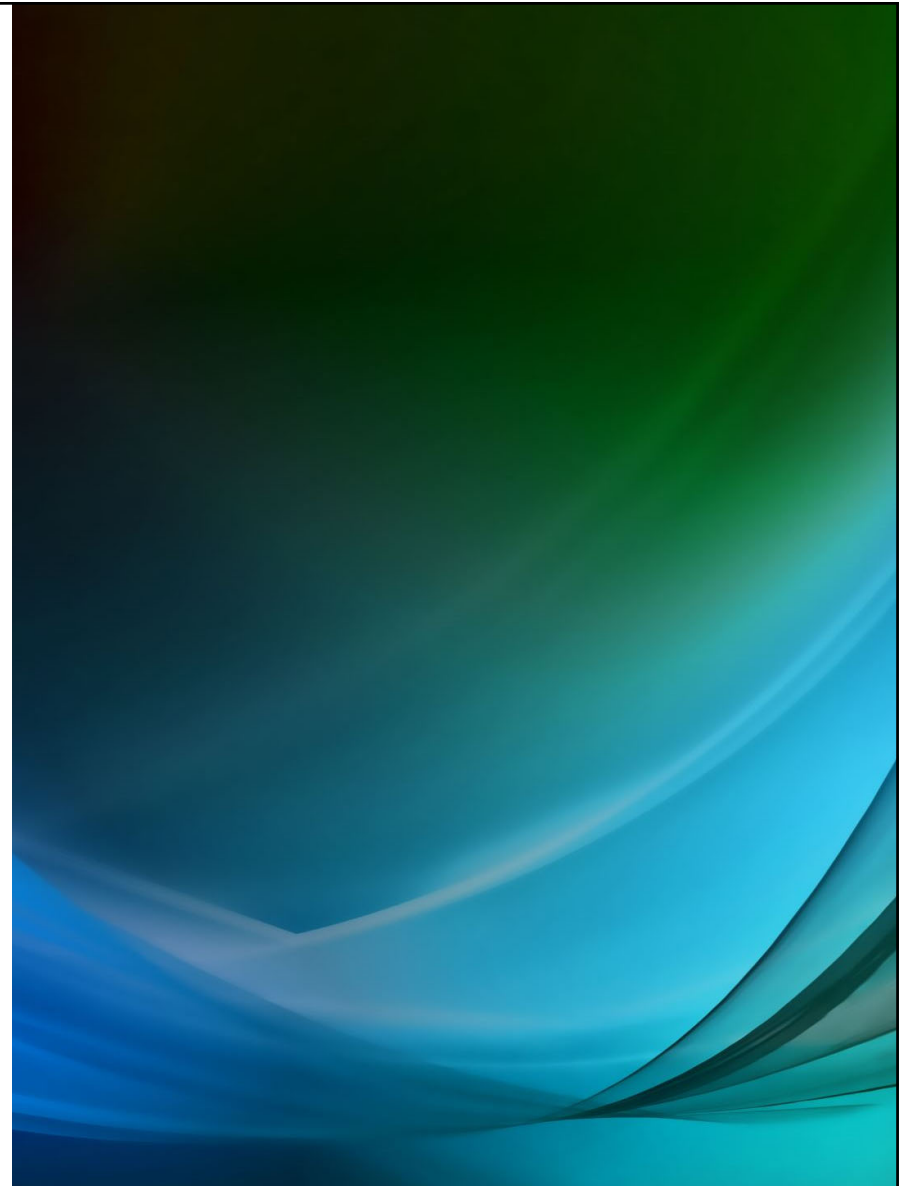
**CARES (Community
Assessment Referral and
Engagement Services**

Dr. Rechelle Nettles



CARES initiative was created by the Alameda County DA's office and the Oakland Police Department's Mental Health Unit. As result of Proposition 47 in 2014.

The purpose of **CARES** is to divert people who have committed low level nonviolent crimes to a clinic to receive mental health or substance abuse help

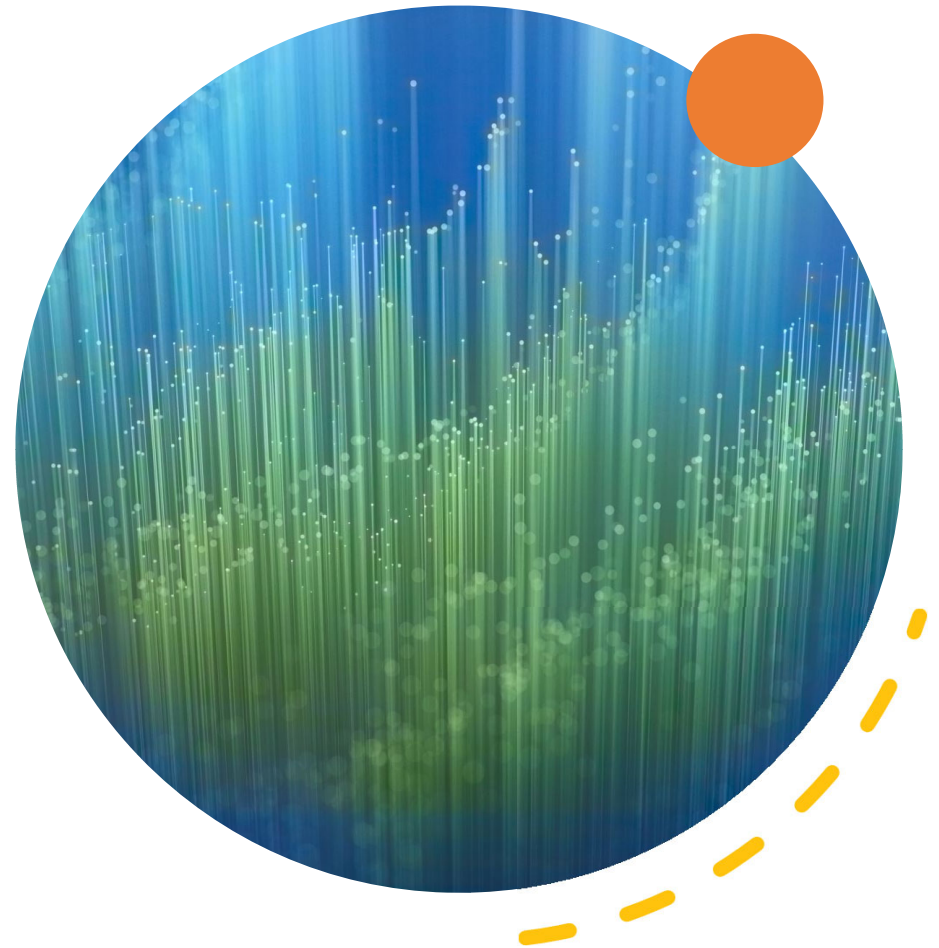


Requirements to enter CARES

*The consumer cannot be violent and must volunteer for the program.

*The program is in cooperation with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

*If the person is eligible and completes the program no criminal charges will be filed.



One noted problem with the program

Officers have noticed people who have committed citable offenses (specifically drugs) are reluctant to volunteer for the program.



OPD Also three other deflection programs

1

Mobile Crisis Unit (two clinicians),

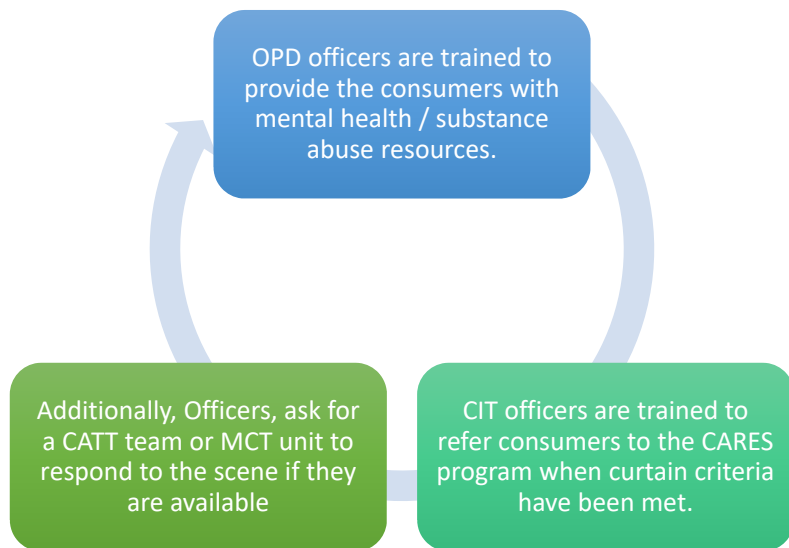
2

Mobile Evaluation Team (CIT officer and one clinician)

3

and Community Assessment Transportation Team (Clinician and EMT)

OPD and Alameda County Behavioral Health has taken great effort to make sure people who experience a mental health crisis and commit nonviolent crimes are provided with an opportunity to receive help and are not incarcerated.



Question #2



Share your experience in how agencies can reshape policing culture around the reliance on arrest versus deflection.

Question #3



Please share any deflection-related legislation and public policies that have been advanced to facilitate policing initiatives?

Question #4



What are strategies for using Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs) or Mobile Crisis Teams (MCTs) to affect engagement in mental health services for individuals experiencing mental health crises?

The **MCT/MET**
responds to calls out
in the field and so
does the **CATT**
team.

* A goal of the MCT/MET and the CATT team is to respond to the scene once it is secure and the consumer can talk to a clinician instead of an officer.

* Our CATT teams focus is to divert the consumer to a place to receive help instead of John George Psychiatric Pavilion.

*OPD also have CIT trained officers.

*The department is in the process of trying to get every sworn member CIT trained.

*The CIT trained officer response to consumers who are suffering from a mental health crisis, and someone has called for the police to respond.

*OPD tries to send at least one CIT trained officer to every mental health crisis call.

*The CATT team and the MCT/MET will conduct follow ups with the consumer if they wish to do so.

*It appears to be very helpful when the consumers agree to conduct a follow up with the MCT/MET or CATT team.

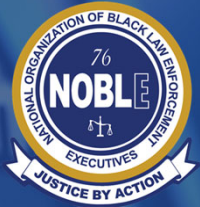
Areas of growth opportunity for MCT/MET and CATT teams.

*The MCT/MET and the CATT team only work a limited number of hours primarily during the work week during business hours (the CATT team is working on getting more coverage other than the days and times previously mentioned).

*There are not enough mental health teams to work 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

* More teams available during peak hours especially on the weekends would be greatly beneficial

Question #5



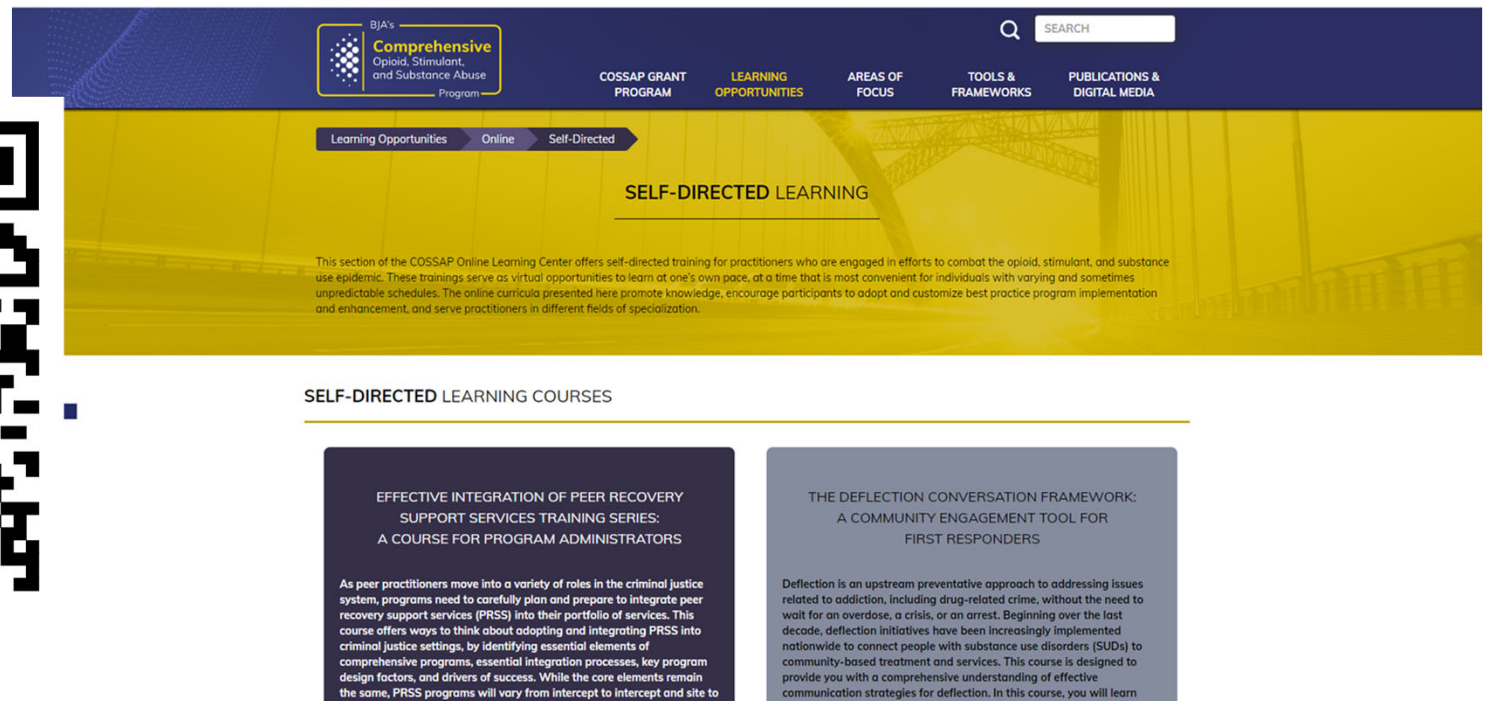
What are the areas within deflection that still need to be addressed internally within police agencies, among community stakeholders, or among governance stakeholders and systems within your region?

The background of the slide is a collage. On the right side, there is a large, circular logo for the National Association of Public Safety Executives (NAPSE). The logo is blue and white with gold accents. It features the word "NAPSE" in large, bold, white letters in the center. Surrounding this are the words "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EXECUTIVES" in blue. A gold banner at the bottom of the logo contains the word "EXECUTIVES". On the left side, there is a close-up photograph of a police badge. The badge is silver and has the word "POLICE" engraved on it. A gold diagonal stripe runs from the top left towards the bottom right, crossing over the NAPSE logo.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

For further information about this webinar and other resources, please go to *noblenational.org*

The Deflection Conversation Framework: A Community Engagement Tool for First Responders



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with options: COSSAP GRANT PROGRAM, LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, AREAS OF FOCUS, TOOLS & FRAMEWORKS, and PUBLICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Learning Opportunities > Online > Self-Directed'. The main heading is 'SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING'. A paragraph below states: 'This section of the COSSAP Online Learning Center offers self-directed training for practitioners who are engaged in efforts to combat the opioid, stimulant, and substance use epidemic. These trainings serve as virtual opportunities to learn at one's own pace, at a time that is most convenient for individuals with varying and sometimes unpredictable schedules. The online curricula presented here promote knowledge, encourage participants to adopt and customize best practice program implementation and enhancement, and serve practitioners in different fields of specialization.'

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING COURSES

- EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES TRAINING SERIES: A COURSE FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS**
As peer practitioners move into a variety of roles in the criminal justice system, programs need to carefully plan and prepare to integrate peer recovery support services (PRSS) into their portfolio of services. This course offers ways to think about adopting and integrating PRSS into criminal justice settings, by identifying essential elements of comprehensive programs, essential integration processes, key program design factors, and drivers of success. While the core elements remain the same, PRSS programs will vary from intercept to intercept and site to site.
- THE DEFLECTION CONVERSATION FRAMEWORK: A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOL FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**
Deflection is an upstream preventative approach to addressing issues related to addiction, including drug-related crime, without the need to wait for an overdose, a crisis, or an arrest. Beginning over the last decade, deflection initiatives have been increasingly implemented nationwide to connect people with substance use disorders (SUDs) to community-based treatment and services. This course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of effective communication strategies for deflection. In this course, you will learn

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/Online/Self-Directed/Deflection>

Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) 2023 National Deflection & Pre-arrest Diversion Training Summit

Registration Now Open!

PTACC 2023 National Deflection
& Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit
October 3-6, 2023 | Denver, Colorado



For inquiries, contact PTACC:
info@ptaccollaborative.org
ptaccollaborative.org

<https://ptaccollaborative.org>



For more information and to request TTA

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Request TTA on the COSSAP Resources Website

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA>

TASC's Center for Health and Justice

www.centerforhealthandjustice.org