

Deflection: Transforming Justice in Illinois

Early Intervention, Community Collaboration, and Problem-Solving Court Alignment

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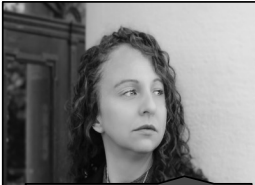
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Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- What is Deflection?
- Illinois’ Deflection Landscape
- Aligning with Problem-Solving Courts
- Benefits & Outcomes
- Discussion & Engagement
- Call to Action & Next Steps



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What is Deflection?

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Variety of Terms for the Practice of Deflection

- **Deflection**
 - First Responder (FR) Diversion
 - Pre-arrest diversion (PAD)
 - Pre-booking diversion
 - Law enforcement assisted diversion
 - Alternatives to Arrest (A2A)

Crisis & Non-Crisis approaches

- Co-responder
- Community-responder
- Mobile Crisis Teams
- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)
- Crisis/Triage centers

Whatever It's Called: Third Option for Police/FR
1) Arrest 2) Take No Action 3) Deflect

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- **Deflection**
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Focus on Non-Crisis approaches

- Co-responder
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Whatever It's Called: Third Way for Community
1) Arrest 2) Take No Action 3) Deflect

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Deflection:

Improves public safety by referring people with unmet substance-use disorders and behavioral health needs *as early as possible* into community-based support, services, and treatment, and away from arrest and prosecution.

Deflection may involve first responders (police, law enforcement, EMS, and fire), second responders, alternate responders, community-based stakeholders (people with lived experience, peers, clinicians, family members, crime survivors), prosecutors, and defense lawyers.

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graph LR
    A[First responder contact] --> B[Identify SUD/MH Challenges]
    B --> C[Deflection]
    C --> D[Connection to Community Based Services]
    D --> E[Stabilization]
  
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Understanding Deflection

Deflection solutions identify and respond to underlying problems, often without waiting for a crisis, an overdose, or an arrest.

Deflection:

- Establishes coordinated, upstream interventions, at the earliest point possible
- Utilizes effective, evidence-based approaches to care
- Reduces reliance on both the crisis system and justice system

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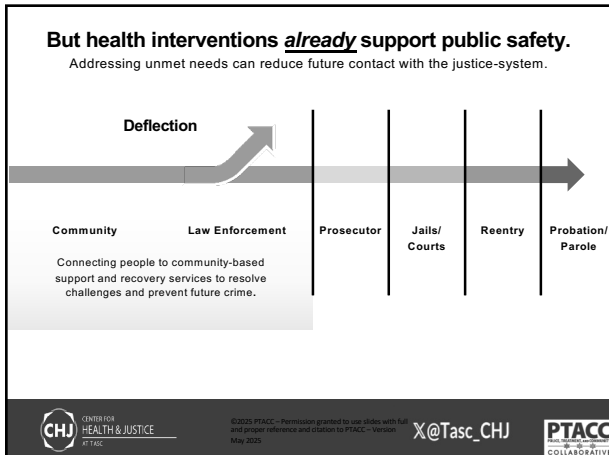
When we think of public safety, we might traditionally think of the justice system acting alone.

SIM 0	SIM 1	SIM 2	SIM 3	SIM 4	SIM 5
Community	Law Enforcement	Prosecutor	Jails/ Courts	Reentry	Probation/ Parole
	✓ Pre-/Post-Arrest ✓ Pre-/Post-Booking ✓ Pre-Filing				

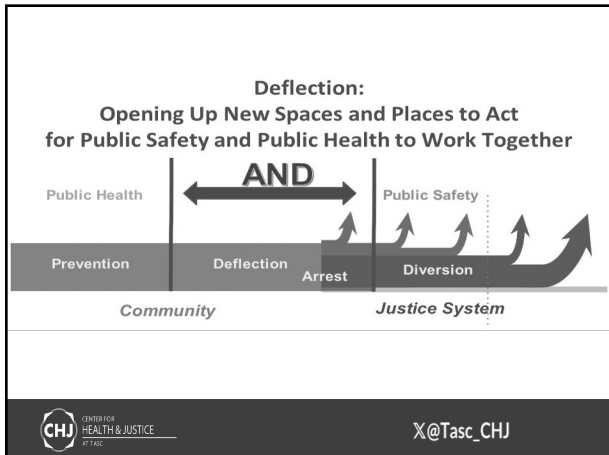
SIM = Intercepts on the Sequential Intercept Model by Policy Research Associates, Inc.

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Deflection Community-Based	Justice System Legal-Based
Community-based systems and services	Takes place in the justice system and requires lawyers
May or may not involve arrest	Involves jail booking and/or filing charge
Services do not depend on involvement in the justice system	Services are made available through involvement in the justice system
Addresses underlying causes of unlawful conduct driven by behavioral health challenges	May not address underlying causes, can generate adverse collateral consequences
Always ✓ Pre-Filing	

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Language Matters!

How Deflection Differs from Diversion

Deflection	Criminal Justice Diversion
- Centered in the community - Moving away from justice system <u>without having entered it</u> - No official record - Engagement - Behavioral health guided with criminal justice partnerships - Public health approach to public safety, crime reduction and well being as goals	- Centered in the justice system - Moving out of justice system <u>after having entered it, post arrest</u> - Official arrest record - Compliance - Criminal justice guided with behavioral health partnerships - Approaches led by law and process - over and separate from crime reduction and well being as goals

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The Easiest Way to Explain Deflection

Not Waiting for Nor Needing...

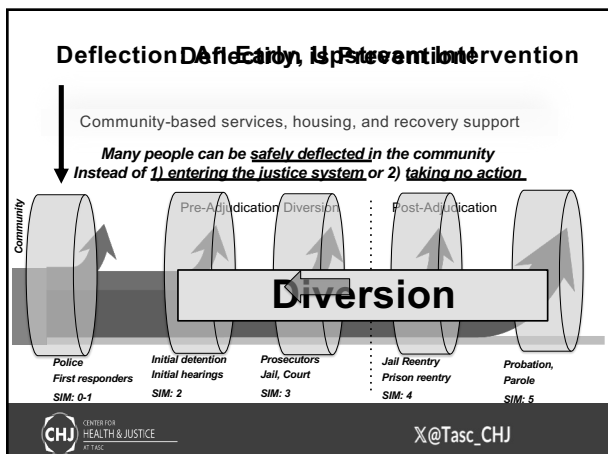
- ❖ A Crisis
- ❖ An Overdose
- ❖ An Arrest
- ❖ A Situation
- ❖ An Event

- ❖ Deflection is an early, upstream strategy
- ❖ Deflection is prevention
- ❖ Deflection is meeting people where they are

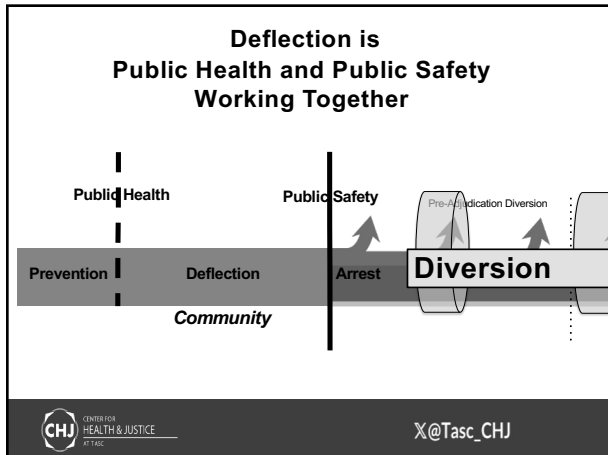
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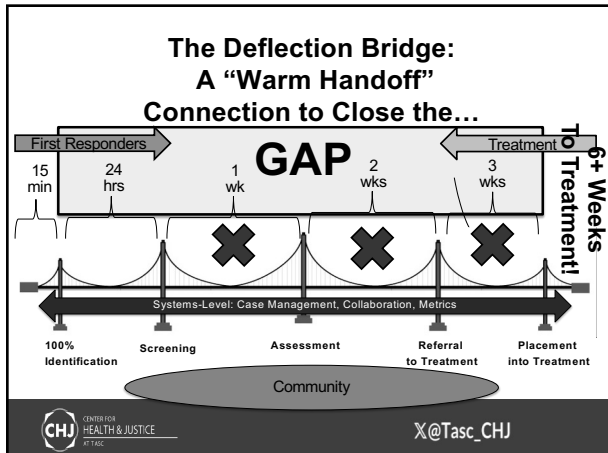
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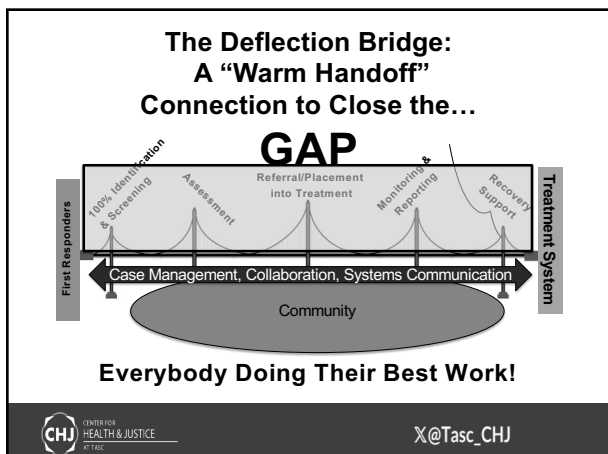
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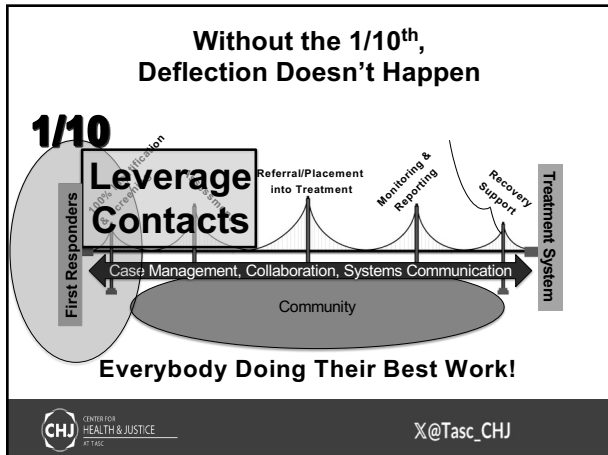
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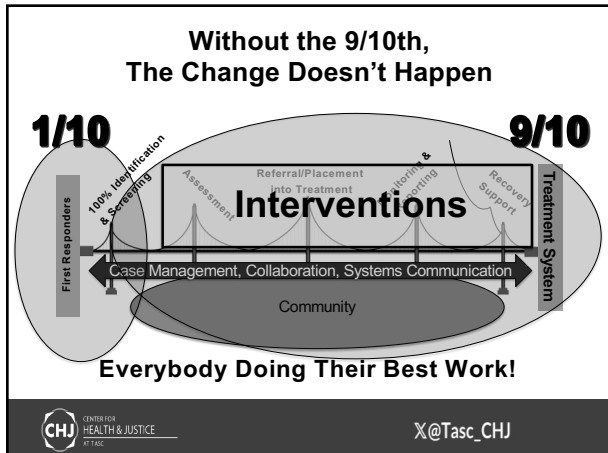
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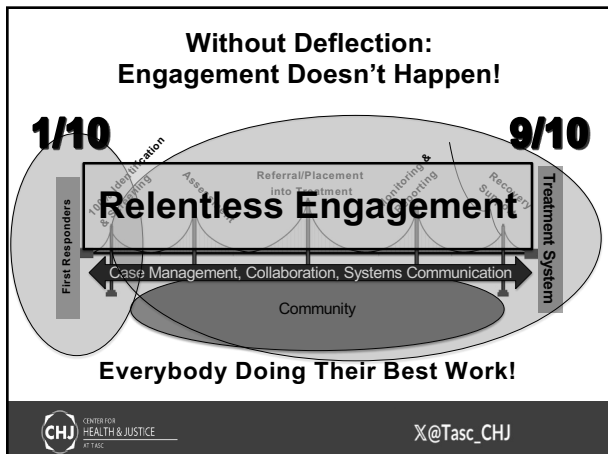
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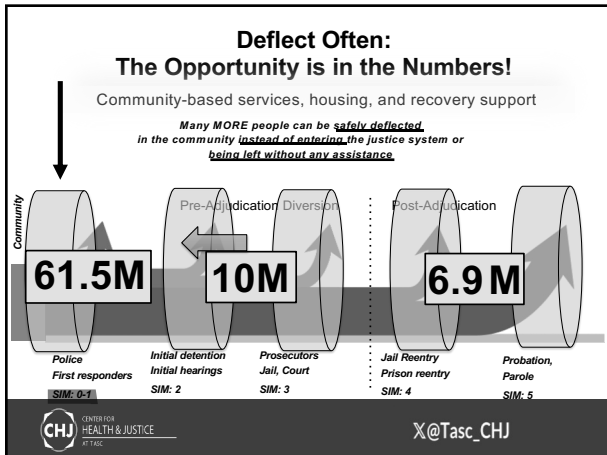
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Pathways for Deflection

1. Self Referral
2. Active Outreach
3. Naloxone Plus
4. First Responder/Officer Referral
5. Officer intervention
6. Community Response

The Six Pathways: Frameworks for Implementing Deflection to Treatment, Services, and Recovery

Screen of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Comprehensive Clinical Services and Administrative Program (CSCAP)
The Six Pathways: Frameworks for Implementing Deflection to Treatment, Services, and Recovery

There are six pathways or paths, all of which are designed to help individuals who are at risk of entering the justice system. These pathways are designed to help individuals who are at risk of entering the justice system. These pathways are designed to help individuals who are at risk of entering the justice system.

1. Self Referral

Self-referral is the first pathway. It is the most common pathway. It is the most common pathway. It is the most common pathway.

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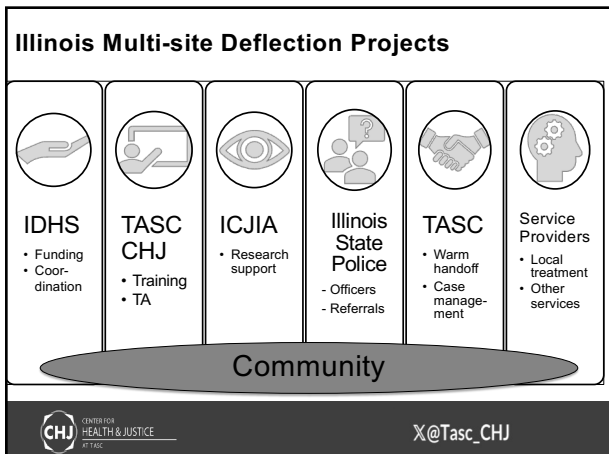
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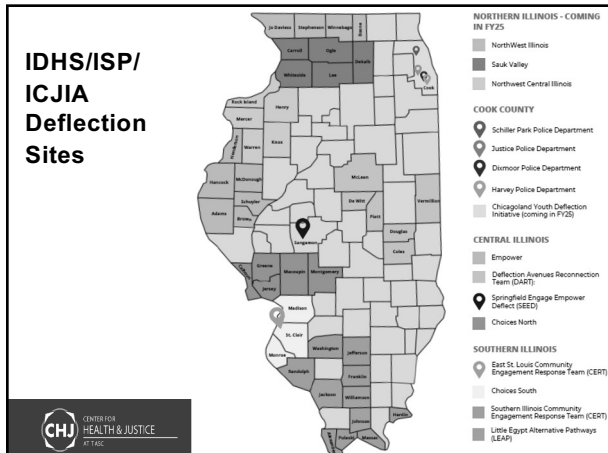
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Concept of the Operation

- Timing:** Runs (estimated) 9-12 months from today to train, implement, operationalize, and provide TA Support
- Operational Organizations/Agencies**
 - Identified community, treatment, faith, and service providers
 - DHS - SUPR
 - Illinois State Police
 - ICJIA
 - TASC – CHJ
 - National subject matter experts
- Elements**
 - Technical Assistance (TA)
 - Deflection Specialists as part of the Deflection Teams

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Concept of the Operation: Teams

- Creation of Deflection Teams**
 - Police (State, County, and Local)
 - Community behavioral health agencies
 - ROSCs
 - Housing
 - Civic entities
 - Faith organizations
 - Community partners
 - People with lived experience
 - Deflection Specialists
 - Deflection Supervisors and Managers
 - TASC Case Managers

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Concept of the Operation: Phase I (1-3 Months +/-)

- ✓ **Milestones +30 Days -(Preparation Work)**
 - Complete all IDHS and ISP executive leadership meetings
- **Milestones +60 Days (Phase I)**
 - Complete ISP, ICJIA, IDHS, and TASC meetings
 - Complete outreach, preparation, and preliminary meetings
 - Complete kick-off meeting with the Deflection invitees: police, treatment, and community leaders
- **ICJIA Evaluation**





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Concept of the Operation: Phase II Action Planning (2 months +/-)

- **Milestones +120 Days (Phase II)**
 - Complete the Deflection Solutions Action Plan (DSAP) with the group, local police, treatment, civic, and community leaders
 - This is done in two 3-day sessions. We work from Tuesday afternoon until Thursday afternoon. The team works through the DSAP to develop an actionable plan to implement the initiative.
- **ICJIA Evaluations**





DEFLECTION & PRE-ARREST DEFLECTION

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Concept of the Operation: Phase III Implementation (6 months +/-)

- **Milestones +180 Days (Phase III - estimated due to implementation time)**
 - Quality control on SAP
 - Complete implementation – Connecting the “bridge”
 - Complete deflection training for Deflection Teams for the Group, local police, treatment, civic, and community leaders
- Meet every two weeks for 1.5 hours
- Done in hybrid format: Some virtual, some in-person
- First step is QC
- Work on the action steps to accomplish strategies
- **ICJIA Evaluations**



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Concept of the Operation: Phase IV Operationalization (3 months +/-)

Milestones +210 Days (Phase IV - estimated due to implementation time)

Launch

Operationalize Deflection Initiative

Begin technical assistance (TA) and continue for 90 days

ICJIA Evaluations

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How Deflection Aligns with Problem-Solving Courts

Complements existing treatment court programs

Provides earlier pathways to services for individuals who might later qualify for courts

Prior deflection participation can enhance success in problem-solving courts

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Deflection
Community-Based

ADDRESSES CAUSES OF BEHAVIOR

Justice System
Legal-Based

DETERMINES GUILT

Filing Decision

0
Community

1
Law Enforcement
✓ Pre-/Post-Arrest
✓ Pre-/Post-Booking
✓ Pre-Filing

2
Prosecutor

3
Jails/
Courts

4
Reentry

5
Probation/
Parole

Interventions along the Sequential Intercept Map

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Benefits of Deflection




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Key Benefits of Deflection for Problem-Solving Courts

- ❖ Reduced Caseloads & System Burden – fewer low-level cases reach the courts
- ❖ Earlier Intervention – individuals get help before charges and records
- ❖ Improved Outcomes – stabilized individuals succeed more in court programs
- ❖ Stronger Continuum of Care – integrates prevention, deflection, diversion, treatment
- ❖ Better Equity & Access – expands help beyond strict court eligibility rules
- ❖ Stronger Community Partnerships – enhances the networks problem-solving courts rely on




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Problem-Solving Courts: With vs. Without Deflection

<u>Without Deflection:</u> ❖ Higher caseloads ❖ Later system intervention ❖ Limited eligibility for services ❖ Greater burden on courts	<u>With Deflection:</u> ❖ Reduced caseloads ❖ Earlier, community-based help ❖ Broader access to treatment ❖ Courts focus on complex cases
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Deflection: What's In It For others?

- ❖People and Families – Earlier and low-barrier access to treatment
- ❖People and Families – Meeting you where you are, AKA engagement
- ❖People and Families – Keeping families intact and children with family
- ❖Police – Removing the social burden to solve drug use
- ❖Police – Getting out of situations you are not trained for nor want to be in
- ❖Police – Improving officer and community safety
- ❖Treatment – Earlier and greater access to those you serve
- ❖Treatment – Better outcomes for those you serve
- ❖Community – Less drugs and less crime in your neighborhood
- ❖Community – Family, friends, and neighbors doing better/well


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Deflection: Part of Illinois' Solution

- Creates "low bar" easy access to treatment, housing, and services
- **Lives saved, lives restored**
- Avoid escalation in police-resident encounters
- **Improve public safety (real and perceived)**
- Build police-community relations and enhance existing collaborations
- **Drug-related crime reduction**
- Reduce the social burden on law enforcement
- **Build public health& public safety collaborations**
- Move away from use of the justice system for BH issues
- **Save public dollars**
- Keep families intact
- **"Net-narrowing" strategy that addresses mass incarceration**
- Address racial disparities
- **Get to people earlier than possible before deflection**
- Promote the well-being of officers and the community alike


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Your Role





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Why It Matters to Prosecutors

- Reduces low-level case filings & backlog
- Focuses resources on serious/public-safety cases
- Supports “smart on crime” and grant mandates
- Builds better evidence & treatment engagement for specialty court participants



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Why It Matters to Defense Attorneys/Public Defenders

- Minimizes criminal records & collateral consequences
- Offers earlier advocacy options for clients
- Creates leverage in plea discussions
- Expands the continuum of care for clients headed to specialty courts



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How Prosecutors & Defense Counsel Can Engage

- Learn available deflection programs in your jurisdiction
- Collaborate with first responders and service providers
- Use pre-charge treatment engagement as a negotiating point
- Share outcome data with courts and funders



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Ways To Get Involved in Pre-Arrest Deflection

- **Join the Leadership Team** – Help shape policies and procedures, align court processes, and guide the initiative’s direction.
- **Serve as a Referral Partner** – Work with deflection teams to connect clients to services before charges are filed.
- **Promote the Program** – Share information with colleagues, courts, and community partners to expand awareness and participation.
- **Mix & Match** – Take on one or more of these roles to fit your capacity.



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Call to Action

- **Explore** how your expertise can support and enhance deflection initiatives
- **Collaborate** across systems to create community-driven solutions
- **Participate** in shaping a more effective, humane, and preventive justice response



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