Law Enforcement-Led Diversion: Mental Health and Opioid Outreach Innovations

Center for Health and Justice at TASC
National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA)

May 20, 2021
National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA)

- NSA is a not-for-profit organization with approximately 13,000 members
- Represents the 3,081 Sheriffs’ Offices in the United States
- Chartered in 1940 and headquartered in Alexandria, VA
- Providing training and technical assistance for over 80 years
- Mission to support and enhance the professionalism of those whose job it is to serve and protect.
Why are Diversion and Outreach Necessary?

Mitch Cunningham, Deputy Chief (ret)
Wilmington County Police Department
The severity of the problem

Figure 3. Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates involving opioids, by type of opioid: United States, 1999–2018

- Synthetic opioids other than methadone
- Natural and semisynthetic opioids
- Heroin
- Methadone
Relapse rates by selected disease
DECRIMINALIZING MENTAL ILLNESS
NASHVILLE’S NEW APPROACH

Daron Hall, Sheriff
Nashville – Davidson County Sheriff’s Office
NASHVILLE’S NEW APPROACH
BCC ADVANTAGES

- Provide direct mental health treatment and care for those who meet the eligibility requirements.
- More appropriate way to care for our city's mentally ill population who come into the criminal justice system.
- More cost-effective than caring for the inmate in a jail environment.
ARRESTEE BROUGHT TO BOOKING BY POLICE
BOOKING ROOM
BCC DOOR ON LEFT – BOOKING DOOR ON RIGHT
TECHNICIAN STATION/COUNSELING ROOM
SLEEP, ACTIVITY, AND OUTDOOR SPACE
DECRIMINALIZING MENTAL ILLNESS
NASHVILLE’S NEW APPROACH

Daron Hall, Sheriff
Nashville – Davidson County Sheriff's Office
Wilmington, North Carolina Police Department: A Case Study

- Naloxone: 2nd jurisdiction in the state to acquire
  - Currently over 200 lives saved since March 2016

- LEAD program: pre-arrest diversion program

- Quick Response Team: post overdose response strategy

- Partnership with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition
Example of FR-Led Diversion: LEAD Program

- Pre-arrest diversion program based on the national model
- Arrests vs. Social Referrals
- Uses ODMAP to identify areas to engage in outreach
- Expanding LEAD training, during CIT annual refresher courses
- A partnership with the District Attorney’s Office, nonprofits, mental health community, State and local public health and others
Another example: Quick Response Team

- Started June 2018
- Partnership with local substance abuse service provider, EMS and Police/Fire
- Provides addiction services outreach within 3 days
- 83% success rate of clients going into treatment
- Uses ODMAP to identify areas to engage in outreach
Questions?
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thank you!
Need TA?

To request training and technical assistance, contact CHJ:

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or visit the TTA request page on the COSSAP website:  
https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request