

# THE POLICE, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



## 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 PTAC Collaborative?

The Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative ("PTAC Collaborative") was launched in April 2017 with a mission to strategically widen community behavioral health and social service options available through law enforcement diversion. The purpose of the PTAC Collaborative is to provide national vision, leadership, voice, and action to reframe the relationship between law enforcement, treatment, and community, with a collective aim of assisting people with substance use and mental health problems in getting help rather than being arrested.

The PTAC Collaborative is organized in five 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.

- **Big Idea/Big Tent** – the PTAC Collaborative leadership team that focuses on partnerships, resources, roles, message, policy, and strategy, as well as connecting the five strategic areas together
- **Think Tank** – for behavioral health (drug treatment, mental health) and social services to ensure their equal and critical seat at the table
- **Informing the Field** – for practitioners already considering or implementing police-assisted diversion
- **Research** – including researchers in academia, government, and the justice community interested in developing standard metrics for police-assisted diversion research and evaluation
- **Community** – for community leaders, residents, and family members to add their voices and perspectives

The PTAC Collaborative 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.

The next event will be the inaugural *Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative National Conference* to be held in March 2018.

### **What Will the PTAC Collaborative 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.

### **What are the Next Steps You Can Do?**

1. Sign up to be part of the PTAC Collaborative and stay informed about what's going on around the country. To sign up, send an email to Jac Charlier at [jcharlier@tasc.org](mailto:jcharlier@tasc.org).
2. Join one of the five 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 PTAC Collaborative fact sheet.

### **How Do I Contact the PTAC Collaborative?**

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