



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *Wednesday, January 28, 2026, | 3:00 pm |*

Meeting location *Microsoft Teams*

ATTENDEES

Meeting Facilitator: Chairperson Kelly O'Meara, MPD, Adam Schutzman, CJCC

Attendees:

CJCC: Adam Schutzman, Kristy Love, Bailey Maryfield, Sara LaPlante

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O'Meara

DBH: Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katie Sessa, Katey Houck

DMHHS: Sakina Thompson

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: - Linda Castro

DMPSJ: --

Community Connections: --

Unity Health Care: Richard Bebout

Community Bridges: David Freeman, Mary Costello

MEETING DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Prearrest Diversion Task Force is to review and assess best practices around prearrest diversion and to make recommendations for implementing prearrest diversion of certain misdemeanor crimes in the District of Columbia.

Roll Call and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The chair conducted a roll call vote and determined that a quorum was present. Next, the meeting minutes were considered and approved by the task force.

Community Roundtable

The task force received a brief summary about the Community Roundtable including the focus of participants on peer support specialists, long term services, barriers to entry, law enforcement training,



and program structure types. Task force members highlighted how participants appeared interested in a program model that supported the highest utilizers of behavioral health and criminal justice resources. MPD provided an explanation of available training for law enforcement officers including the mandatory 20-hour mental health training and the voluntary 40-hour Crisis Intervention Officer (CIO) training, which around one third of officers have taken. Based on the feedback from the community roundtable, the task force is interested in ensuring those with lived experiences have a significant role in any prearrest diversion program.

Action Plan

The CJCC presented an “Action Plan” to the task force to highlight expectations, priorities, and deadlines over the next six months as the task force works toward developing a report to submit to the D.C. Council. The action plan includes three core components: information gathering, decision making, and report writing. For information gathering there is now a schedule for site and virtual visits to ensure task force members have the opportunity to engage with a variety of program structures and models across the country. Task force members will also work on identifying available resources, capacity, and gaps. After the information gathering phase is completed, the task will vote on the relevant points of what to recommend to the Council. MPD and CJCC will take the lead on writing a first draft of the report, but all task force members will have the opportunity to review, edit, and approve the document.

Prearrest Diversion – DHS available services

DHS presented to the task force to provide information about the availability of housing services. Currently there are shelter options for participants who would need immediate housing support including low barrier shelters, transitional housing, and bridge housing. In terms of longer term housing, there are existing programs like Rapid ReHousing, targeted affordable housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), though it was noted that these programs have extremely limited availability due to financial and resource constraints. DHS provides support beyond housing by connecting individuals to resources like mental health, substance use, physical health, benefit connections, and document readiness.

Outreach efforts currently engage with unhoused individuals including those with substance use and/or mental health issues. Many have been offered a connection to further services but have declined. Access to any long-term housing solutions will take assessments, waiting periods, and could be limited depending on availability. For accepting housing referrals and general supports, individuals have autonomy and can decline. With a prearrest diversion program, if the task force decides, a case could be held in abeyance while an individual participates in programming.



Task force members asked about the availability of resources including housing opportunities directly available for returning citizens.

Closing

The next prearrest diversion task force will take place in person on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3 p.m. The meeting is moved to Thursday to accommodate the schedule of task force members who have Council performance hearings in the month of February.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

Item	Agency
Resource, capacity, and gap assessments	CJCC, DBH, DHS, community organizations
Site and virtual visit planning, notify CJCC if you can attend the February virtual visit (once virtual visit date is confirmed)	CJCC, All