



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *Thursday, November 20, 2025, | 3:00 pm |*

Meeting location *441 4th St NW 715N*

ATTENDEES

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

Attendees:

CJCC: Adam Schutzman, Niloufer Taber, Kristy Love, Bailey Maryfield

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O'Meara

DBH: Dr. Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katie Sessa, Katie Houck

DMHHS: Sakina Thompson

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: --

DMPSJ: --

DHS: William Kuenner

Community Connections: --

Unity Health Care: --

Community Bridges: John Hogeboom

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. The task force discussed potentially adding a new member with lived experience to join as a voting member but tabled the conversation pending a confirmation from BEGA that the task force has the authority to do so.



Baltimore LEAD Site Visit

Members of the Prearrest Diversion Task Force visited Baltimore to learn about the city's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which diverts individuals involved in low-level offenses linked to behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system and into supportive services. A brief description of the program was provided including that it launched in 2017, as a collaboration among law enforcement, public health agencies, and community organizations where officers can refer individuals either in lieu of arrest or through a "social referral" when someone is in crisis to receive support services. Referrals are vetted, and if accepted, LEAD staff respond quickly to begin intake and connect participants with case managers and peer support specialists.

The Task Force discussed how there were unique elements that made LEAD successful. Baltimore is under a consent decree, and, in some ways, this has incentivized different partners to come to the table to work on LEAD. It was noted that the integration of a LEAD app has made it easier for law enforcement, administrative staff, and case managers to work together on streamlining new cases, something the D.C. Task Force can consider implementing. Task force members emphasized the importance of a short response time for LEAD staff, around 15 minutes, which ensured that potential participants in the program remained engaged at the site.

The Task Force debated the kinds of referrals that may be accepted for a prearrest program. In Baltimore, there is a third type of referral called "community referrals" where individuals in the community including businesses and nonprofits can refer people to LEAD without contacting law enforcement. Some Task Force members felt that this referral would not fit the goal of a prearrest diversion program. LEAD staff also transferred participants to the program location, something that the D.C. pilot program did not do in the past. While the number of total participants in the Baltimore LEAD program appeared low, the staff described a high level of engagement from existing participants. The Task Force plans to follow up with Baltimore staff about any future questions on effective design and implementation of a prearrest diversion program.

Lived Experiences Roundtables

To comply with the Open Meetings Act, all actions taken by the Prearrest Diversion Task Force must be conducted in public forums. The proposed forum includes 7–10 participants and 1–2 roundtable discussions, with recruitment focused on individuals from community organizations already involved in the Task Force, and others as needed. The roundtables will use non-invasive, open-ended questions designed to inform program development while allowing participants to share personal experiences if they feel comfortable. The task force aims to finalize plans and begin implementation before the next meeting. A subcommittee or small working group of community organizations and health-oriented



agencies can help develop the roundtable structure, participant recruitment strategy, and question framework. This subcommittee will report back with a proposed plan for approval and launch.

Prearrest Diversion – Law Enforcement Structure

The task force is in the initial stages of forming the law enforcement side structure of the prearrest diversion program. The chair began a presentation emphasizing what prearrest diversion programs can and cannot do while highlighting the existence of other structures like mental health and drug courts. Based on the 2018 pilot program, law enforcement would use their experience and training (crisis intervention or academy mental health) to identify individuals with behavioral health crises. Identified individuals would either have a history of criminal justice involvement, be at risk of interacting with law enforcement, or be in the act of committing a low-level criminal offense.

One consideration for the task force centers on what types of referral pathways to include or exclude in the program. Task force members highlighted the importance of a prearrest diversion program including law enforcement related encounters either through arrest or law enforcement contact. While no vote has been taken, task force members will consider whether to also include a community referral option for the program or if this would fall outside the scope of this program.

Closing

Due to the Christmas holiday, the next prearrest diversion task force meeting has been moved up a week and will take place on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 11 am. The next meeting will continue the conversation about the law enforcement side of a prearrest diversion program.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

Item	Agency
Determine ability of prearrest diversion task force to incorporate new voting members	CJCC, D.C. Council
Determine a date and recruit participants for the Lived Experiences Roundtable.	CJCC, DBH, DHS, community organizations
Select eligible and ineligible crimes for the prearrest diversion program.	ALL