



# Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

## MEETING SUMMARY

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**Meeting date | time** *Wednesday, December 17, 2025, | 3:00 pm |*  
**Meeting location** *Microsoft Teams*

### ATTENDEES

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**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, Katey Houck

**DMHHS:** Sakina Thompson

**OAG:** Brian Kim

**DC Council:** Anaiah Mitchell

**DCSC:** - Linda Castro

**DMPSJ:** --

**Community Connections:** --

**Unity Health Care:** --

**Community Bridges:** --

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### 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 chair explained that to add a new voting member to the task force, the D.C. Council would need to pass new legislation. The task force voted unanimously to add an individual with lived experience to the task force. The task force is asking the D.C. Council to pass legislation that will allow the addition of a representative from DHS and an individual with lived experience to the task force.



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## **Lived Experiences Roundtables**

The Lived Experiences roundtable is still in the recruitment phase of planning, working with DBH, DHS, and community organizations on the task force to identify individuals with lived experiences in behavioral health issues<sup>1</sup> who have previous criminal justice involvement. Since the meeting will need to be public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the roundtable will be refocused to center on identified individuals who will provide feedback from their perspective in the community on how they believe an effective prearrest diversion program could and should be implemented in D.C. Next steps include setting a location and time for the roundtable.

## **Philadelphia Site Visit**

The task force has a scheduled site visit with the Philadelphia Prearrest Diversion (PAD) program on January 20, 2026, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Unlike the Baltimore LEAD visit, there are no limitations on the number of individuals who can attend the site visit. Task force members who are interested in attending will reach out to CJCC to confirm attendance.

## **Prearrest Diversion – Law Enforcement Structure**

The task force continued their conversation from the previous meeting about building out the law enforcement structure of the prearrest diversion program. The chair continued her presentation with a reiteration about social referrals which occur when law enforcement refers an individual who is not necessarily committing a crime but is presenting a behavioral health or substance use disorder. While arrest is a tool that law enforcement can use, it is not the only tool that law enforcement uses. A successful prearrest diversion program will need to make sure there is clear and consistent communication between law enforcement and DBH.

Task force members discussed what training and programs currently exist in D.C. Around 1,000 law enforcement officers receive 40 hours of training from DBH to become certified as crisis intervention officers (CIOs). These officers are most likely to respond to OUC's 911 calls if there is an identified behavioral health concern. DBH will only receive these behavioral health calls if it is clear that there is no immediate danger or threat for DBH to respond. Currently, co-responder teams exist where an officer and DBH specialist respond to crises together after an MPD officer on the scene identifies the need. While the program opted for 5 officers and 5 DBH specialists to participate, currently there are 4 officers and 2 DBH specialists available to respond to co-response calls.

The chair presented data from the past two years covering hotspots and popular times for arrests of low-level crimes that may be eligible for the prearrest diversion program. These charges included

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<sup>1</sup> Behavioral Health encompasses mental health and substance use disorders (SUD)



disorderly conduct, alcohol violations, narcotics violations, unlawful entry, and theft. Many of the identified crimes occurred between 4 pm and 8 pm and took place in certain areas like Columbia Heights and Starburst Plaza. One consideration for the task force is when effective hand-offs between law enforcement and DBH can be made. To meet the need of the timing these low-level offenses are committed, staff may be required to work non-traditional hours.

The scope of any prearrest diversion program will need to be clearly defined. MPD and DBH expressed interest in piloting any prearrest program in a few neighborhoods first due to the need for personnel, training, and logistical implementation. There is concern that if an initial launch citywide is unsuccessful in implementation, confidence in agencies and from the community will be lost, harming potential future efforts. Creating a plan that incorporates key components including communication systems, data systems, coordination processes from the beginning will be essential to developing a realistic scaling timeline. It is also a way for the task force to acknowledge that an initial program can start smaller in scope but grow in the long term.

The task force will continue to consider different models for prearrest diversion. This includes models where police will identify individuals out on the street who appear to have behavioral health issues and also ones that focus on “high utilizers,” individuals who have repeated contact with the behavioral health space and criminal justice system. The CJCC and DBH will comb through their data to provide further information on where it may be most appropriate to target an initial prearrest diversion program.

**Closing**

The next prearrest diversion task force meeting will take place in person on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 3 p.m. Meetings will return to their normal schedule of 3 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

**DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Decisions:** The task force voted to include an individual with lived experience with behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorder to join the task force pending new legislation from the D.C. Council.

**Actions:**

Item	Agency
Collect data on “high utilizers” of health and criminal justice resources	CJCC, DBH
Determine the date and time for the Lived Experiences Roundtable.	CJCC, DBH, DHS, community organizations
Notify CJCC if you plan to attend the January 20, 2026, Philadelphia Site Visit	ALL