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# Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

## MEETING SUMMARY

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Meeting date | time *Thursday, February 26, 2026, | 3:00 pm |*  
Meeting location *441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW 715N Washington, D.C. 20001*

### ATTENDEES

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

**Attendees:**

**CJCC:** Adam Schutzman, Kristy Love, Niloufer Taber, Bailey Maryfield, Sara LaPlante

**PSA:** --

**MPD:** Kelly O'Meara

**DBH:** --

**USAO:** Katie Sessa, Katey Houck

**DMHHS:** Sakina Thompson

**OAG:** Brian Kim

**DC Council:** Anaiah Mitchell

**DCSC:** --

**DMPSJ:** --

**Community Connections:** --

**Unity Health Care:** Richard Bebout

**Community Bridges:** David Freeman, Mary Costello

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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.

**Progress Check-In**

As the task force is five months away from the due date for the report to council, CJCC provided a reminder about the core duties and functions of the task force and opened the floor to discussion about



outstanding questions. One question existed about section 1507. (f)(7) of Secure DC, which states that the task force shall “[identify] individuals who frequently interact with police, are frequent mental health consumers, or have suffered from chronic homelessness, and ensure that those individuals are connected with social services.” The question was whether it is the intent of Council for these individuals to be the focus of the prearrest diversion program. The representative from D.C. Council stated she would confirm this information with Council. It was also noted that in the past, something that limited the ability to analyze high utilizers of services in the District is data sharing between DBH and MPD. Working with DOC, which conducts intakes and assessments, could be a workaround, though, legislation may be necessary to ensure the required level of data sharing.

### **Resource Assessment**

CJCC conducted a resource and gap assessment of behavioral health resources in the community. This assessment consisted of interviews with task force members and additional agencies and service providers as well as an analysis of existing behavioral health data. The presentation, which is included with the meeting minutes, consisted of an overview of existing behavioral health providers for mental health, substance use disorder, and co-occurring services. There were also takeaways about navigating the complex criminal justice and behavioral health ecosystems in D.C.

A task force member expressed concern about the lengthy process of signing up for services, especially with consumer choice forms<sup>1</sup> and the lack of evening and weekend services. To be successful, a prearrest program will need to be able to connect participants to mental health and substance use disorder services as quickly as possible. One possible solution is that a prearrest program would create a preferred provider network that streamlines access for participants. Alternatively, DBH has the ability to modify regulations and workflow to expedite their processes. Many service providers and DBH are adjusting to the implementation of consumer choice forms, which currently slow the process of service delivery.

Another point of discussion took place around government-issued ID acquisition. Most behavioral health providers will not accept referrals without government-issued ID. The process and cost for obtaining identification is often a barrier for the justice-involved population. USAO noted that the drug and mental health court providers are able to accept participants without an ID, a model that is likely facilitated by contractual language with specific providers. Alternatively, a prearrest diversion program could include

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<sup>1</sup> In the District of Columbia, the Consumer Choice Form is a document primarily used by the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) for individuals to select or change their provider for mental health or substance use disorder services



case managers and funding for ID stipends to help participants navigate the process of acquiring the needed identification.

The meeting closed with a conversation on what information is still needed to vote on the recommendations for a prearrest diversion program. For the next meeting, the task force will be presented with options for many of the required elements and have the opportunity to add additional elements of components that they would prefer to consider. USAO would like to see a list of suggestions for eligible offenses in advance to provide proper feedback. A member also suggested that complex issues like information sharing be at the top of the discussion since they may be less clear for an eventual vote than something like eligible offenses.

While the task force can make recommendations that utilize existing behavioral health system resources, they also can make recommendations on how to create a completely new program if they so choose.

### Closing

There are two upcoming events for the task force including a virtual meeting with the Seattle Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2 – 4 pm. There will be a site visit with the Philadelphia Prearrest Diversion (PAD) team either March 24<sup>th</sup> or March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The next prearrest diversion task force will take place in person on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 3 p.m. The meeting may last 90 minutes in order to accommodate time for member’s feedback.

### DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

**Decisions:** CJCC will draft a list of options for prearrest diversion program elements that will be considered at the next meeting and voted on at the April meeting.

**Actions:**

Item	Agency
Draft list of options for prearrest diversion program elements	CJCC
Notify CJCC for preference of Philadelphia Prearrest Diversion site visit.	All
Consider what information would be beneficial to assist in making an informed vote on prearrest diversion program elements.	All