



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *April 24th, 2026 | 1:00 pm- 4:00pm* |
Meeting location *441 4th St NW 715N*

ATTENDEES

Meeting Facilitators: Chairperson Kelly O’Meara, MPD, Adam Schutzman, CJCC

Attendees:

CJCC: Kristy Love, Adam Schutzman, Evan Douglas Niloufer Taber,

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O’Meara, Dr. Candace Willett

DBH: Dr. Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katie Sessa, Katey Houck

DMHHS: Sakina Thompson

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: -

DMPSJ: -

Community Connections: Mary Costello, David Freeman

Unity Health Care: Dr. Richard Bebout

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.

The purpose of this Prearrest Diversion Task Force meeting was for the taskforce to make determinations about what elements of a prearrest diversion program they would like to recommend to the D.C. Council.

Roll Call and Introductions

The chair conducted a roll call vote and determined that a quorum was present. The chair began the meeting with a moment of gratitude, thanking the taskforce members for all their hard work and continued dedication to the project. Next, the meeting minutes were considered and approved by the



task force. Lastly, the chair went on to explain Robert's Rules of Order and how the voting process for the meeting will work.

Gathering Additional Community Voices

The first topic of discussion from the chair was whether the prearrest diversion taskforce had time to gather more public input for the development of their recommendations to DC Council on a prearrest diversion program. This discussion was prompted by an email that the chair received from four community organizations. The task force members highlighted the existing community voices on the task force as well as the community roundtable held in January as sources of public input. Furthermore, the task force members discussed whether the task force was the appropriate venue for public feedback or if in front of the city council would be more appropriate. The task force emphasized there will be more opportunities for community feedback after recommendations have been made to DC Council. This was weighed against the value of gathering further information and expertise at this time and ensuring that community members felt heard and included in a process intended to produce policy changes that directly affect them, which was discussed as an end in itself.

The task force also considered the pros and cons of revising the timeline for the development of the report to accommodate gathering and incorporating additional community input. The biggest consequence of revising the current report timeline would be delaying the report development by 3 weeks, which would create a tight draft and review period with the July 31st deadline. A vote was held and the majority of the task force voted to move forward with developing the recommendations for the prearrest diversion program with the community input they have already collected.

Specific Recommendation Determinations:

The following determinations were made for the pre-arrest diversion program:

1. Should individuals under the age of 18 be eligible for the program?
The committee voted that the program will be **only for adults (18 years of age and older)**. The committee highlighted specific concerns about the inclusion of parents, additional agency involvement, and risks involving youth would create too many nuances for program eligibility.
2. What referral types (arrest, social, familiar faces, etc.) are included in the prearrest diversion program?
The committee voted that **Arrest Referrals, Social Referrals, Familiar Faces, and Community Referrals should be the referral pathways**.



- **Arrest Referral-** If an individual commits an eligible offense, an MPD officer offers diversion instead of arrest. If the individual declines to participate, the officer has the discretion to determine if the arrest will proceed.
- **Social Referral-** If an individual is known by MPD, based on previous encounters, to have a criminal history and behavioral health challenges, an officer does not have to wait to witness the individual committing a crime to make a referral. An officer should suspect that this individual will come into contact with the criminal justice system in the future if an intervention does not take place. An officer can engage the individual to encourage their participation in the program
- **Familiar Faces-** Officers identify and divert individuals who are known as high utilizers of behavioral health and criminal justice resources instead of arresting them. A familiar faces program can also conduct proactive outreach to identify and support high utilizers without waiting for them to face an arrest.
- **Community Referral-** Community partners can refer people who are known to chronically engage in problematic, unlawful behavior related to behavioral health issues or poverty by contacting the prearrest diversion team directly.

The taskforce emphasized the need to develop the protocol for individuals that frequently encounter the criminal justice system who are living with a mental health or behavioral health concern. CJCC identified that the [Prearrest Diversion Task Force legislation](#) requires that a recommendation is made for the following statute:

“(7) Identifying individuals who frequently interact with police, are frequent mental health consumers, or have suffered from chronic homelessness, and ensure that those individuals are connected to social services.”

The taskforce agreed that the Familiar Faces pathway would satisfy the statute but emphasized the need to create a more comprehensive protocol. MPD stated that officers already try to connect familiar individuals to services but identifying specific services is necessary.

3. Does the program rely on existing behavioral health resources either as an open referral program or with a preferred provider network, or does it create an entirely new program?

The task force voted to return to this conversation later on in the meeting. Some themes that came up during the discussion were whether to strictly work with existing DC government agencies and contractors or should they contract out? DBH highlighted



that they have 74 organizations they currently work with. Finding a way to create a direct pathway to a few key organizations would be helpful.

4. What misdemeanor offenses should be eligible for arrest referrals for a prearrest diversion?
 - a. Disorderly conduct? YES
 - b. Alcohol violations
 - i. Drinking in public? YES
 - ii. Purchasing for a minor? NO
 - iii. POCA? YES
 - iv. Intoxication? YES
 - c. Narcotics violations
 - i. Public consumption of marijuana? YES
 - ii. Misdemeanor possession? YES
 - iii. Paraphernalia possession? YES
 - d. Prostitution
 - i. Sex workers? YES
 - ii. "Johns" or clients of sex workers? NO
 - e. Theft
 - i. Shoplifting? YES
 - ii. Taking property? NO
 - iii. Second degree theft? NO
 - f. Unlawful entry? NO
 - g. DUI? NO
 - h. Simple Assault? NO

The taskforce discussed concerns whether a prearrest diversion program that includes sex workers would be able to appropriately screen and provide services for victims of human trafficking, or if a different encounter with the criminal justice system would be needed to identify such victims. There are human trafficking services and resources that can help them get to safety but also hold their trafficker accountable. Secondly, USAO emphasized the importance of consulting the victim when considering diversion. For offenses such as unlawful entry and simple assault, those cases would need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis which led to the task force excluding those offenses from the eligibility list. Lastly, domestic violence offenses and hate crimes offenses will be excluded from eligibility despite having the possibility of being a misdemeanor. Domestic violence and hate bias are offense enhancers which can lead to additional penalties.



5. If an individual is charged with an arrest referral eligible crime that includes a victim, the victim must consent.

The taskforce voted to pass this motion to have the victim’s consent. The taskforce agreed that having the victim’s perspective is essential to upholding restorative justice.

6. All arrest referrals must include an individual with a behavioral health (mental health or substance use disorder) concern.

The taskforce voted to pass the motion to have all referrals include a mental health or behavioral health concern.

Closing

The task force was unable to complete the agenda in the allotted time and will find time to reconvene to determine the rest of the recommendations.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Recommendations for the D.C. Council on eligibility requirements and referral types were determined by the task force.

Item	Agency
Update and distribute the revised list of options for prearrest diversion program elements	CJCC
Fill out survey for scheduling of next prearrest diversion task force voting meeting	All