



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *May 8th, 2026 | 1:00 pm- 5:00pm* |
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

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O’Meara, Candace Willett

DBH: Dr. Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katey Houck

DMHHS: Sakina Thompson

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: -

DMPSJ: -

Community Connections: David Freeman, Mary Costello

Unity Health Care: Dr. Richard Bebout

Community Bridges: John Hogeboom

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.

MEETING DISCUSSION

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 requested language in the meeting minutes be changed to accurately reflect MPD officers’ role in the various referral mechanisms for a prearrest program.



After these changes, the meeting minutes were approved by the taskforce. Lastly, the facilitator went on to explain Robert's Rules of Order and how the voting process for the meeting would work.

Specific Recommendation Determinations

Eligibility & Exclusion Criteria: The taskforce approved several exclusion criteria for participation in the diversion program, including the exclusion of participation from any individual with an open case or previous conviction in the following crimes:

- Felony-level offenses
- Violent crimes
- Sexual offenses

The taskforce made the following determinations as well:

- Individuals with outstanding warrants will not be eligible for the prearrest diversion program
- Warrants discovered during screening will still be processed.
- Exclusion data will be tracked to assess whether exclusion criteria is overly restrictive.
- If someone is under supervision or a diversion agreement, notice will be provided to the relevant prosecuting and supervisory agency.

Discussion centered on balancing public safety concerns while ensuring the program still reaches individuals that are "falling through the cracks." All the exclusions were approved but will be reevaluated once the pilot program is launched to ensure the eligibility criteria is not too strict.

Program Structure & Services

The taskforce determined that a **targeted referral-based model** was the best model to implement in the District. The targeted referral-based model means the program would contract with selected providers rather than operate as a fully standalone program or engage with all service providers in the District.

The group approved inclusion of wraparound services as a core priority for a program, including:

- Behavioral health assessments
- Case management
- Peer support
- Service linkage/navigation
- Housing support
- Substance use and mental health treatment referrals
- Assistance with benefits and identification documents acquisition



The taskforce highlighted that addressing the basic needs (ex. food, clothing, shelter) of an individual should be a high priority when they are entered into the program. Individuals will not be able to successfully complete the program if they do not have basic necessities. The taskforce voted that services should ideally be in one centralized, accessible location to limit any barriers.

Program Length

Discussion focused on balancing meaningful engagement with realistic staffing capacity. The taskforce did not determine the program length, but the discussion raised several key themes. It is important to identify program goals and benchmarks, so individuals are not in the program for an extended period of time. The taskforce also highlighted the need for rapid connection to services, and that stabilization and recovery timelines may vary. Taskforce members discussed at length the difference between establishing a concrete program ending versus having no date which would leave the opportunity for services to be received.

Staffing Recommendations

The taskforce approved inclusion of core staffing positions:

- Program Manager
- Case Managers
- Peer Support Specialists
- Licensed Clinicians

Additional positions such as wellness coordinators, benefits specialists, outreach specialists, and legal services providers should be staffed according to the services needed to run a prearrest diversion program.

Transportation & Accessibility

The group approved recommendations that:

- The program should provide transportation for non-arrest referrals
- The program facility should be metro and/or bus accessible

Pilot Program Approach

The taskforce voted to recommend launching the diversion initiative as a **pilot program** first and then conduct an evaluation before expanding citywide. The taskforce members emphasized the importance of testing and refining operations before scaling.

Additional Votes:



- Legislative changes will be made by prearrest diversion staff for the report to be approved by the task force
- Funding options the D.C. Council should consider include city funding, opioid settlement funds, federal grants, and private philanthropy, an all of the above approach.
- Data evaluation is required to ensure the city can track the effectiveness of a prearrest program
- An operation workgroup should be established to ensure the program runs effectively
- Required training will be drafted by prearrest diversion staff for the report to be approved by the task force

Next Steps

The chair and facilitator will begin drafting the prearrest diversion program recommendations report for the D.C. Council. The task force will have the opportunity to review and make edits to the report following this initial draft.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Recommendations for the D.C. Council on the prearrest diversion program were completed by the task force.

Item	Agency
Draft initial Prearrest Diversion program report	MPD, CJCC