



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *Wednesday, August 27, 2025 | 3:00 pm* |
Meeting location *Microsoft Teams*

ATTENDEES

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

Attendees:

CJCC: Adam Schutzman, Kristy Love, Niloufer Taber

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O'Meara

DBH: Anthony Hall, Dr. Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katie Sessa

DMHHS: Sakina Thompson

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: Linda Castro

DMPSJ: --

DHS: --

Community Connections: Mary Costello, David Freeman

Unity Health Care: Dr. Richard Bebout

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 Introduction of New Members

The chair conducted a roll call vote and determined that a quorum was present. New community organization members with expertise in behavioral health and housing from Community Connections and Unity Health Care were introduced. Next, the meeting minutes were considered and approved by the task force.



Goals and values for the task force

Representatives from MPD and DBH discussed the philosophy and goals of the 2018 prearrest diversion program. This included four core principles: implementing a wellness-focused approach; meeting people where they are, understanding participant values, and understanding treatment as a process. Task force members recommended incorporating a component focused on interagency and interdepartmental communication to ensure smooth processing of any program. Also highlighted is the importance of ensuring the voices of those with lived experience are included in the task force.

Program goals centered on reducing arrests, addressing underlying conditions, and increasing access to various health and support services. Task force members recommended including a goal about improving agency communication to improve the experience for those engaging with prearrest diversion.

Project timeline

The chairperson presented a tentative timeline for what the prearrest diversion task force will consider over the next year. The chairperson noted that the focus of the next two sessions intentionally is around issues related to the behavioral health care and social services community because this is the crux of any successful prearrest diversion program. Throughout the next year, the committee will also discuss the criminal justice side of the program, resources available, existing barriers, and create a report to send to the D.C. Council.

There was a brief discussion of a potential site visit to an existing prearrest diversion program prior to the end of 2025.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

Item	Agency
Select one community organization with expertise in substance use disorder issues	Chairperson, Kelly O’Meara
Consider goals and/or values to be added to existing prearrest diversion guiding principles document	ALL
Fill out the scheduling form for future site visit	ALL