



Prearrest Diversion Task Force |

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time *Wednesday, September 24, 2025 | 3:00 pm* |
Meeting location *441 4th St NW 715N*

ATTENDEES

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

Attendees:

CJCC: Adam Schutzman, Kristy Love, Niloufer Taber, Dante' Daniel, Bailey Maryfield

PSA: Tiffany Manley

MPD: Kelly O'Meara

DBH: Anthony Hall, Dr. Chad Tillbrook

USAO: Katie Sessa

DMHHS: -

OAG: Brian Kim

DC Council: Anaiah Mitchell

DCSC: Linda Castro

DMPSJ: --

DHS: Jerod Lee

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.

Roll Call and Introduction of New Members

The chair conducted a roll call vote and determined that a quorum was present. A new community organization member with expertise in substance use disorder from Community Bridges was introduced. Next, the meeting minutes were considered and approved by the task force.



Incorporating the voices of those with lived experiences

Representatives from Community Connections and Unity Health Care discussed the importance of incorporating the voices of those with lived experiences including how doing so increases the ability of the task force to connect with relevant issues on the ground in the community and ensures the work remains humanized. “Lived experiences” was defined as any experience with substance use disorder or serious mental or behavioral health issues. Family members of those who have suffered from these issues will be considered as well.

Multiple pathways for inclusion were debated including:

- Adding individuals with lived experience or their family members to the task force
- CJCC hosting a public meeting where those with lived experiences can share their opinion of how a prearrest diversion program should be run
- Ensuring peer specialists are part of any prearrest diversion program
- Creating a work group or client advisory board for those with lived experience

The task force agreed to continue considering the best ways to include these voices. A motion was introduced and the task force voted for CJCC to prepare and propose a public meeting for those with lived experiences.

Program Structure – Behavioral Health and Human Services

The task force discussed how the prearrest diversion program could be set up to ensure that those participating have access to the resources and support they need to avoid criminal justice involvement. DBH provided background information on how the prearrest diversion program operated during the pilot phase in 2018. This included an explanation of arrest and social referral types, and when service delivery was provided, which was often held during police “power hours.” Multiple members expressed the importance of working with agencies that have the flexibility to adjust as new needs or program operations are identified.

DHS highlighted the importance of ensuring that participation and case management are geared toward housing, which is often a top issue for those suffering from substance use disorder or behavioral health problems. The task force noted that the District will need to establish eligibility criteria, capacity, and referral process systems in order to fully form a program. In the 2018 pilot, offenses that were eligible included disorderly conduct, unlawful entry, “survival theft”, solicitation of prostitution, and drug possession, among others. Task force members will consider if there are other offenses that should or should not be included in the eligibility criteria.



One new area of focus not originally included in the 2018 prearrest diversion pilot is pre-arraignment diversion. Pre-arraignment diversion occurs after an individual has been arrested and often detained for a crime but prior to a formal charge. With limited resources available, the task force debated whether there is room for both a prearrest and pre-arraignment diversion program. No decisions have been made at this time.

Closing

The next pretrial diversion task force meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams on October 22, 2025. Task force members will need to fill out a survey to move the dates for the November and December prearrest diversion meetings due to conflicts with the holidays. Currently CJCC is in conversation with the Baltimore LEAD program to set up a site visit for the task force.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Decisions: CJCC will plan and propose a public meeting for those with lived experiences to expression their preferences about a prearrest diversion program

Actions:

Item	Agency
Prepare and propose a public meeting for those with lived experiences to express their preferences and thoughts about a prearrest diversion program	CJCC
Fill out scheduling form for November and December meetings	ALL
Consider what offenses should be eligible for a prearrest diversion program	ALL