North Carolina Experience

Pre-Arrest Diversion & Partnerships & Opportunities
Counties with Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)*
as of August 31, 2019

7 active LEAD programs

*LEAD is a pre-bookmark diversion program that allows Law Enforcement Officers to redirect low-level offenders engaged in drug or sex work activity to community-based programs and services, instead of jail and prosecution.

Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
North Carolina Experience: Why Pre-Arrest?

• Addressing mental health issues within CJ system
• Recognized the value of partnerships (harm reduction, mobile crisis)
• Interest in reducing crime, primarily those associated with drug use
• Let’s do something different!
Addressing behavioral health issues within CJ system

Success in jail diversion for those with serious and persistent mental health illness
Recognizing the value of partnerships

• Partnership with mobile crisis
• Officers carry naloxone
• Laws protect syringe exchange services
• Existence of Jail-Based services like MAT, overdose education, navigators
• Existence of other diversion programs

No Silo Zone
Reducing Crime

Reduction in criminal justice involvement pre and post LEAD engagement:

- 80% in LEAD participant criminal justice involvement
- Majority are engaged in harm reduction services
- Increased likelihood to engage in traditional treatment services such as MAT and out-patient
What Agencies are finding

• Reduced criminal justice activity
• Increased officer awareness/knowledge about services
• Improved health outcomes
• Reducing impact on judicial system
• Improved police/community relationships
What If They Aren’t Ready for LEAD?

Find an intercept that presents an opportunity for partnership
What Can You Do? Let’s Create Buy-In

• Understand where the level of readiness is within your community and within your law enforcement agencies

• Talk about harm reduction and alternatives to arrest again and again

• Ask: is anyone doing post-overdose?

• Find champions
What Can You Do? Let’s Create Buy-In

- Find ways you can partner (ODMap info, injury & death data)
- Find the small wins
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