



Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

What is LEAD?

- Developed & launched in 2011 in Seattle, WA.
- Harm reduction approach to responding to low-level, non-violent offenses
 - Drug possession
 - Drug sales (depending on the state)
 - Sex work
- Moving away from the previous approaches & the War on Drugs paradigm
- Pre-arrest programs & relies on LEO's to divert individuals from jail to a community based, harm reduction intervention.

Core Principles of LEAD



1. REORIENT

government's response to safety, disorder, and health-related problems



2. IMPROVE

public safety and public health through research based, health-oriented and harm reduction interventions



3. REDUCE

the number of people entering the criminal justice system for low level offenses related to drug use, mental health, sex work, and extreme poverty



4. UNDO

racial disparities at the front end of the criminal justice system



5. SUSTAIN

funding for alternative interventions by capturing and reinvesting justice systems savings



6. STRENGTHEN

the relationship between law enforcement and the community

St. Louis County - LEAD

- Pre-arrest diversion program
- Piloting with St. Louis County PD & four other municipalities
 - Village of Hillsdale
 - Jennings
 - Wellston
 - Affton
- Utilizes Certified Peer Specialists (a person w/ lived drug use experience)
- Supply individual with naloxone
- Case managers to develop individual intervention plans & refer them to appropriate community support

St. Louis County - LEAD

LEO comes in contact w/ individual who committed a non-violent drug related crime & has no previous history of violent crime

LEO will contact a CPS & arrange to meet CPS for initial intake

CPS does brief intake w/ individual to address any immediate needs, distribute naloxone & set up appointment for a full biopsychosocial assessment w/ case manager

LEAD Case manager will complete assessment w/ individual, create an IIP, work to refer them to resources & the case will be closed.

This LEAD program will...

- **Promote risk reducing techniques** at each touchpoint with participants including providing naloxone & educating them on safe drug use.
- **Embrace & support all MAT options** including comfort medications by providing evidence-based information of the different pros & cons of each medication, & allowing the client to choose the option they think is best for them.
- Support a client's decision to indefinite MAT use **or** tapering by presenting **evidence-based information** on all treatment options, allowing the client to make an **informed decision & connecting** the client to treatment providers that best fit the client's expressed treatment desires.

LEAD Program Goals

- The main goal of LEAD is to prevent overdoses & save lives.
- LEAD's secondary goals include:
 - **Improve multi-sector collaboration &** increase the **knowledge, attitude & skills** of LEOs, other criminal justice stakeholders, & diversion partners on the benefits of a risk reduction approach for interacting with individuals with opioid use disorder.
 - **Improving outcomes** for participants by increasing access to treatment, connecting clients to recovery support, peer support, & increasing access to MAT when desired.
 - **Improving public safety** by diverting non-violent drug-related offenders from the criminal justice system & connecting them with resources and services that address criminogenic needs.
 - **Decrease** the number of non-violent individuals with opioid use disorder in the jail population.