

# THE POLICE, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



## It's Happening Right Now – Is Your Community Ready to Be Part of it?

Communities across the country are launching police diversion initiatives (pre-arrest/pre-booking) designed to better address low-level non-violent offenders and people encountered by law enforcement who need assistance in responding to the challenges of drug use and mental health. These initiatives enable law enforcement officers, where appropriate, to divert eligible individuals away from the criminal justice system and into community-based behavioral health interventions and social services. In this way, law enforcement becomes a new and sizable pathway to treatment and social services that never before existed.

Simultaneously, federal, state and local governments and organizations are advocating for increased attention to the understanding and implementation of police, treatment and community partnership diversion efforts, abbreviated as PTAC diversion. The reasons for growth are simple: PTAC diversion programs hold many promises including crime reduction, improved community/law enforcement relations, reduction of the treatment burden on the justice system, restored lives, and cost savings.

What's missing from the conversation about this newly emerging movement is a forum where national police, treatment and community leaders can join together *...until now!*

## What is the PTAC Collaborative?

The Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative (“the PTAC Collaborative”) was launched in April 2017 with a mission to strategically widen behavioral health and social service options available through law enforcement diversion. The purpose of the PTAC Collaborative is to provide national vision, leadership, voice and action to reframe the relationship between law enforcement and treatment.

The PTAC Collaborative is organized in five strategic areas. We welcome the participation of representatives from law enforcement, behavioral health, research, community advocacy, and related organizations in any of the strategic areas.

- **Big Idea/Big Tent** – the PTAC Collaborative leadership team looking at partnerships, resources, roles, message, policy and strategy
- **Think Tank** – for behavioral health (drug treatment, mental health) and social services to ensure their equal and critical seat at the table
- **Informing the Field** – for practitioners already considering or implementing PTAC diversion
- **Research** – including researchers in academia, government, and the justice community interested in developing standard metrics for PTAC Diversion evaluation
- **Community** – for our citizens and communities to add their voices and perspectives

The PTAC Collaborative resulted from a consensus decision made at the Spring 2017 Inaugural National Pre-Arrest Deflection Summit held at the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Summit was co-convened by the Center for Health and Justice at TASC and the Civil Citation Network. Around the same table were 45 leaders representing 39 organizations from across the nation including Summit organizers from AdCare Criminal Justice Services, C4, George Mason University and Western Carolina University.

The next event will be the Inaugural Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative National Conference to be held in March 2018.

### **What Will the PTAC Collaborative Actually Do?**

1. Educate the public, communities, practitioners, policy makers, police, and treatment leaders about PTAC diversion.
2. Equip the field with an inventory of existing programs and practices to aid in understanding and implementation of all the PTAC diversion models.
3. Analyze the current research to establish standard metrics of PTAC diversion practices that will build future collaborative research efforts.
4. Build a learning and mentoring community to support existing and new PTAC diversion efforts.
5. Motivate funding organizations to expand and shore up existing PTAC diversion efforts and to support community-based solutions for behavioral health problems.
6. Create critical principles for police and treatment models that are easy to implement.
7. Provide business models to grow behavioral health community capacity.
8. Develop a cadre of leaders able to speak and present on all aspects of PTAC diversion – community, behavioral health and law enforcement; policy and practice; research.
9. Deconflict the varying messages for decision-makers and practitioners in order to provide clarity on how to proceed with the PTAC Diversion initiative that best suits their needs.

### **What are the Next Steps You Can Do?**

1. Sign-up to be part of the Collaborative and stay informed on what's going on around the country.
2. Join one of the five strategic areas to add your voice to the conversations about how this movement moves forward in the country and in your community.
3. Invite others to join the Collaborative by sharing this PTAC Diversion Collaborative Brief.

### **How Do I Contact the PTAC Collaborative?**

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