

The David O'Quin PRE-TRIAL Diversion & Recovery PROGRAM

*We impact the lives of those
who need support, recovery,
and opportunity—not jail.*

PROBLEM:

People with mental health and/or substance use challenges who are charged with non-violent felony and misdemeanor crimes have limited access to resources that rehabilitate and restore their lives while incarcerated.

PLANNING/DESIGN:

A Case Manager and Resource Coordinator assess and present eligible candidates to a dedicated Judge, Prosecutor, and Public Defender for approval into the Program. Once approved, the participant is released from jail to complete a specialized case plan.

OUTCOMES:

Participants are required to complete their specialized case plan, maintain contact with program staff, and attend monthly status hearings. Successful completion results in graduation from the program with a clean record and tools to lead a sustainable life.



A Chance for Change

PROGRAM HISTORY:

East Baton Rouge Parish received an Innovation grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 2017 to begin implementation of the Pre-Trial Diversion & Recovery Program. Since 2018, the Program has been fully funded by City-Parish Government. The Program is housed under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to maintain key partnerships with criminal justice, municipal, and community members. This Program is the only specialty court in Louisiana designed for pre-adjudicated individuals.

BENEFITS:

- Meaningful resource connections
- Support and tools to sustain sobriety
- No program fees
- No fines or court costs
- Dismissal of charges upon completion

"This program showed me a way to live without drugs and alcohol, and that life is a whole lot easier without them."

— Larry M., 2019 Program Graduate

"I didn't want to go down that same path. Other people's stories motivated me to change."

— Gerald T., 2019 Program Graduate

"The power of this program is in the positive transformation of our participants' lives when they find their meaning and purpose."

— Lisa B., Case Manager

