

Law Enforcement Questions to Ask Treatment Providers to Build Public Health/Public Safety Partnerships

As a companion resource to the video on “Police and Treatment: Shared Goals” we are providing this cue card to assist officers who are interested in meeting with their local substance use treatment provider to learn more about their services and potentially develop a law enforcement referral process for individuals who would benefit from such treatment.

- What type of substance use treatment do you provide? Do you do detox? Do you do outpatient or inpatient? Do you provide services for individuals who have both substance use and mental health disorders?
- What are your admissions policies? Do you take walk-in referrals?
- What can our officers do to make an effective referral?
- Will you take referrals who are currently under the influence of a substance but don't pose a safety threat?
- Could referrals from law enforcement be given a priority to be seen quickly?
- Do you provide case management services?
- Do you assist clients with obtaining health insurance?
- What is the best way to stay in touch with you about somebody I drop off?
- Are there opportunities for law enforcement to participate in meetings with your staff?
- Would your staff be willing to visit our police station to meet the other officers?
- How can our officers support the work you do in the community?

Law Enforcement Questions to Ask Individuals with Suspected SUD

*Taken from the CAGE SUD Screening Tool

- Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking or drug use?
- Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking or drug use?
- Have you felt bad or guilty about your drinking or drug use?
- Have you ever had a drink or used drugs first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover (eye-opener)?

Two or more “Yes” answers indicate a candidate for referral to a treatment provider for further substance abuse assessment.