



PTAC Collaborative Leadership
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ADVANCING COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, & LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVERSION FOR SAFER AND HEALTHIER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

OUR MISSION: *The mission of the PTAC Collaborative is to strategically widen community behavioral health and social service options available through law enforcement diversion.*

LEADING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The **Police, Treatment, and Community (PTAC) Collaborative** is the nation's knowledge leader in the field of pre-arrest diversion. Practitioners in criminal justice, behavioral health, research, advocacy, and public policy are joining with community leaders and stakeholders from across the nation to provide national vision, leadership, voice, and action on pre-arrest diversion as part of the PTAC Collaborative. Recognizing that pre-arrest diversion is a type of front-end justice intervention, the PTAC Collaborative champions the widespread adoption of this promising approach. The PTAC Collaborative encourages community leaders to come together through cross-sector collaboration to employ pre-arrest diversion initiatives that best address the needs of their communities and their citizens.

THE NEED FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Law enforcement officers often encounter generally law-abiding citizens who may commit non-violent, low-level offenses or citizens suffering with substance use and/or mental health disorders whose behavioral health status puts them at risk for chronic involvement in the criminal justice system. When responding to these individuals, an arrest may be an officer's only option. A single arrest can enmesh an individual, especially a vulnerable individual, in a cycle of costly justice system involvement. Housing instability, unemployment, and reduced economic mobility are only some of the long-term, steep collateral costs of justice involvement on individuals, taxpayers, and community systems.

AN ALTERNATIVE PATH: PRE-ARREST DIVERSION

Pre-arrest diversion is a powerful tool that unites law enforcement officers, behavioral health service providers, and other community stakeholders in a shared goal: to redirect eligible individuals away from the criminal justice and into community-based behavioral health treatment and recovery support services. Pre-arrest diversion offers significant benefits including:

- Breaking the costly cycle of justice system involvement for eligible individuals;
- Increasing cross-sector collaboration to create new pathways to community-based behavioral health services;
- Enhancing relations between community members and law enforcement;
- Decreasing crime, incarceration, and recidivism rates;
- Lessening the burden on justice systems;
- Improving public health and safety;
- Reducing the burden on individuals who commit non-violent, low-level offenses;
- Ensuring equal access to pre-arrest diversion regardless of race, income, gender identity, or geography; and
- Saving taxpayer dollars

PTAC COLLABORATIVE OFFERS VISION, LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Launched in 2017, the PTAC Collaborative unites more than 90 leaders in the fields of criminal justice, behavioral health, research, advocacy, and public policy with community leaders and stakeholders from across the nation. Working together, these visionaries and innovators offer vision, leadership, and technical assistance to communities learning about and implementing pre-arrest diversion initiatives.

Contact the PTAC Collaborative today to join the pre-arrest diversion movement!
Email: jcharlier@tasc.org or Phone: 312.573.8302

