

Baltimore City **LEAD**

LEAD History

- Seattle began the first LEAD pilot in 2011
 - Followed a decade of litigation regarding racial disparities in arrests
 - Addressed need to respond to overt drug activity in the Belltown neighborhood without excessive arrests or unconstitutional policing
- Santa Fe's LEAD pilot began in April 2014 as a response to opioid driven crime and increasing overdose deaths.
- Albany's LEAD pilot began in Spring 2016
- Baltimore City launched LEAD pilot program in February 2017.
- Philadelphia's LEAD pilot began in December 2017
- LEAD now has a national network of cities collaborating and sharing experiences and best practices

LEAD goals

- **Reduce unnecessary criminal justice system involvement** for people with behavioral health disorders
- **Increase access** to community-based treatment and services
- **Reduce costs** to the criminal justice system by connecting individuals to support services instead of jail and prosecution
- **Improve public safety** and relations between police and community members

Law enforcement assisted diversion

- Diverts low-level drug and prostitution offenders to community-based treatment and support services
- Individuals referred to intensive case management and receive treatment and other support services
- Police, prosecutors, and case managers work closely to support LEAD participants
- Utilizes a harm reduction approach
- Pilot zone west side of downtown: Franklin St. to Pratt, St. Paul St. to MLK.

How LEAD Works

- At the point of arrest an officer refers individuals to LEAD. Eligibility is confirmed through a records check and verification by the State's Attorney's Office
- The officer takes the individual to a LEAD case manager at the Central District where they conduct an intake and begin offering assistance
- The case manager helps the client access community-based treatment and/or other support services
- Law enforcement, case managers, and key implementation partners meet weekly to discuss client progress and to monitor the status of the LEAD pilot
- Officers also have a **social contact referral** option. The social contact referral empowers officers to assist those in need, without an arrest, while addressing community concerns related to drug activity.

LEAD Program Eligibility

- Adults suspected of a low-level drug offense or prostitution are eligible, except when:
 - The individual is under supervision
 - The individual has a disqualifying criminal record (i.e. history of violent crime, sex offense) or presents a threat to public safety
 - The individual has an open case, or a open warrant.

LEAD Implementation Update

- All Central District patrol officers trained in LEAD, expanding to other units
- Over 60 individuals enrolled in the pilot; only two people re-arrested
- Evaluation underway with Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Cost Evaluation, Recidivism, Outcomes
- Broad support from residents, business community, and key institutions such as University of Maryland Baltimore, Lexington Market, Business Community
- Strong support and participation from public agencies including Public Defender, State's Attorney's Office, etc.

Seattle LEAD Evaluation Results

- LEAD participants were 58% less likely to be arrested than individuals arrested for similar offenses but not offered LEAD services
- LEAD participants' criminal justice costs and utilization declined by \$2,100, while control group participants' costs increased by \$5,961
- Participants were significantly more likely to obtain housing, employment and legitimate income in any given month subsequent to their LEAD referral

Staffing Structure and peer role

- Case Management Supervisor oversees team
- Each peer is paired with a case manager and a case load not to exceed 28
- Peer role
 - Build trust within a harm reduction framework
 - Not concerned with abstinence but with overall wellbeing
 - Accessing care and services
 - Not just treatment
 - Advocacy
 - Serving as a bridge between law enforcement and LEAD participants

My relationship with law enforcement

- Not enemies, compassionate
- Law enforcement as a tool to get people help
 - Whether we like it or not, they are the front line response for social issues and public safety concerns
 - They have no choice but to be there
 - LEAD (and peers) give them an extra tool to help people
 - Make the most of their interactions with citizens
- This hits close to home for many officers
 - We have much more in common than I would have thought

Questions?

Contact us!

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