



Deflection Engagement and Coordination

Presenter Q&A Notes and Deflection Success Stories

Q&A portions are not recorded in the posted videos after presentations to preserve the learning collaborative atmosphere, but key points from Q&A are described here. If you are following along and not enrolled in the ECHO, please start with watching the recorded ECHO presentation and then explore these Q&A notes for more detail.

Session Number: 7

Date of Session: 2/5/25

Presenter: Carolann Van Wert, Deflection Coordinator Yamhill County

Q&A Notes:

Who is eligible?

- A person arrested for single PCS unclassified misdemeanor (UCM) or low level non-victim crime
- A person arrested for a single PCS UCM and they have other warrants (example: failure to appear)

What is the model?

- 90 days clean monitored by urine analysis
- Moving towards 6 months of meaningful engagement and participation
- There will be an option for accelerated graduation with sobriety, clean UA for 90 days
- Yamhill tries to remain flexible with deadlines in order to best help the client, and offer to as many people as possible

Where is Yamhill's deflection set up?

- The deflection is brought to the coordinator at the Sheriff's office
- The deflection is also presented to partner at HHS who contacts the client, does the initial assessment and assigns them to a treatment provider at HHS
- DA's office takes over after no engagement within 14 days

What are your referral numbers?

- There have been 101 referrals
- 91 of those referrals went to the DA's office
- 13 were duplicate referrals (the same client getting more than one)

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Can people still come into the program with an FTA?

- This is a new conversation for Yamhill county: they have begun discussing how to pull people back out of the system, and keep them eligible for deflection versus conditional discharge

Follow-up: Deschutes county goes through daily jail rosters in the mornings after a client has been picked up on a warrant, then discuss with assigned prosecutor whether deflection is appropriate. While it may vary county to county an administrative lieutenant at the jail would likely hold that information and would be a good person to contact.

Once a client is already in jail and in the court system how do you begin deflection?

- One county works very closely with both the DA's office and defense attorneys
- Eventually the arrest record will be sealed upon notification of a successful deflection

How are you tracking clients when waiting on the DA's office to review their case?

- The navigators get the same deflection notification as the coordinator, the DA's office never sees it until filing
- The only time there is a waiting period is when the navigator cannot get ahold of the client

Would it be better to just have all clients go through court first in order to ensure everyone gets a warm hand off?

- If a navigator is available at the time of contact it can be less frightening, less traumatic for the client
- The goal of deflection is to keep people from ever even entering the justice system
- Avoiding arrest and jail can be a point of change for clients
- Using arrest and jail time can be reserved for clients who have crimes that are too high, too justice involved, or are just not ready for this type of program

Comment: Marion county uses an additional program called restore court on clients who are not appropriate for a warm hand-off in the field because of conflicting legal issues.

What is part of the assessment process when a client is brought for deflection? Who is doing the UA?

- HHS identifies what the client's needs are
- Clients go through a mental health assessment, SUD assessment
- Providers through HHS complete UAs and determine what course of treatment is appropriate for each client
- Providers aim to be flexible when deciding care to best assist the client in completion of deflection

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How do you navigate “after hours” deflection clients?

- Marion county has someone on call for a week at a time, having all phone calls forwarded to their phone, must have 4-6 people for this to run well
- Lincoln county instead has a on call phone that employees take for one month, calls initiated by law enforcement
- Clatsop county has a peer working night shift shifts 2-11pm, 4 days a week

Deflection Success Story:

- Yamhill county will be awarding their second client completion of deflection including their 90 day clean period. This client was initially very resistant but kept coming back to treatment. The team at HHS figured out a way to work with the client and his schedule in a way that would keep him at home

Follow up: There will be different ways to communicate with different people within the deflection team as well as varying clients.

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