

# PAARI: Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative

An introduction to PAARI, deflection  
programs, and resources



# Police & Public Health Partnerships

- Police and public safety have had a front row seat to the opioid and addiction crisis
- Community Policing 101 - smart policing is implementing new ways to increase the safety and health of the community. Deflection and diversion into treatment and recovery can support those goals.
- Police and Public Health partnerships are vital to developing and implementing programs
- Public health emergencies are still being responded to by public safety
  - Estimated 20% police calls for service involve a mental health or substance use crisis<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup><https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/913229469/mental-health-and-police-violence-how-crisis-intervention-teams-are-failing>



# History of the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI)

After several local overdose deaths in 2015, the Gloucester, MA Police Chief posted a message on his local police department Facebook page that promised to help anyone suffering from substance use disorder into treatment. The chief called it the “Angel Initiative”

This was the beginning of a nationwide movement that quickly expanded to include overdose outreach, involvement of peer support, and active outreach initiatives across the country

Today more than 650 police & public safety agencies across the country are apart of our network and working on community solutions that address the substance use and co-occurring disease



# PAARI Mission & Impact

- Distributed nearly 17,000 doses of naloxone and more than 2800 fentanyl test strips to first responders, construction workers, and commercial fisherman, free of charge
- Testified at the Massachusetts State House, at the White House, and before members of Congress, and helped enact the Federal 21st Century Cures Act, which includes \$1 billion in funding
- Host Annual National Law Enforcement Summits to connect and empower hundreds of law enforcement leaders with tools to address the overdose crisis
- Piloted COVID-19 Reentry Survival Kit Program with the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health and 6 sheriffs departments to provide lifesaving resources to people being released from incarceration amid COVID-19
- National Recovery Corps program has served 8,200 individuals directly and indirectly and secured \$1.1 million for departments and organizations



# Deflection v. Diversion

Diversion programs include pending criminal charges to elicit treatment initiation and compliance

Deflection programs include no criminal legal system involvement beyond the interaction with an officer in the field. These are true non-arrest pathways to treatment, recovery, mental health, and other social resources.

Program Components	Deflection	Diversion
Avoids a formal jail booking	Yes	Sometimes
May include a formal arrest citation	No	Yes
Arrest on individual's criminal legal record	No	Yes
Pending charges during treatment process	No	Yes
Includes warm hand off to a community provider	Yes	Sometimes
Requires completion of court ordered programming to drop charges	No	Yes
Legal consequences for program non-participation or completion	No	Yes
Prior arrest history makes you ineligible for future opportunities with the program	No	Sometimes

\*Graphic and information from The Safety and Justice Challenge

<https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SJC-ISLG-DeflectionSynthesisReport.pdf>



# Self-Referral and Officer-Referral Models

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## SELF-REFERRAL

- Walk-in/Angel Program
- Original Gloucester model
- Often first step for police/public safety
- Hope Not Handcuffs - MI & NY
- Anne Arundel Co. Safe Stations MD
- Operation HOPE - ME
- A Way Out - Lake County, IL

## FIRST RESPONDER / OFFICER REFERRAL

- Often combined with self-referral
- First responder assists in deflection during calls for service and everyday activities
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion/Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD)
- Many departments have informal pathways





# Incident Based/Post-Overdose Response & Active Outreach

## INCIDENT-BASED / POST-OVERDOSE RESPONSE

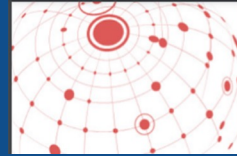
- Overdose has occurred, teams respond to provide services
  - Lucas County, OH DART
  - Arlington MA Outreach
  - Colerain Township QRT
  - Plymouth County MA Outreach

## ACTIVE OUTREACH

- Targeted outreach before incident/at-risk individuals
- Addiction, mental health, housing, and other social issues addressed
- Morris Co. NJ Hope One & Hub Situation Tables



# Hub Situation Table Model



Saskatchewan, Canada: The Hub Model  
for Community Safety

- Started in Saskatchewan, Canada in 2011 and the model has spread across Canada
- Initial goal was to reduce crime by providing an integrated response to at-risk and vulnerable populations
- Chelsea Massachusetts started the first US Hub
- Massachusetts now has Hubs in several of the major cities
- Plymouth County Massachusetts was first county-wide hub in the US in 2020
- Hubs have also been launched in KY and PA, with more planning to launch over the next year





# How a Hub Works

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Weekly collaborative meetings are held with public safety and community resource partners to identify individuals or families that meet criteria for high level of need across multiple areas. The purpose of these meetings is to provide linkages to services grounded in the community in order to reduce and prevent the risk of harm.

The Hub also records certain data that can reflect the needs in the community and the gaps in resources.



# Deflection Models: Pre-Arrest and Community Based interventions

- COMMUNITY RESPONDER MODEL
  - 911 call center deflection with civilian-led crisis response
  - Community Responder Model, LEAP
  - Denver Support Team Assisted Response (STAR)
  - CAHOOTS - Eugene, OR
- OFFICER INTERVENTION
  - Pre-arrest diversion - charges held in abeyance
  - Communities for Restorative Justice and Civil Citation Network examples
- Programs may look different depending on community needs, regulations, resources, etc & often a combination of pathways.



# Xylazine Pilot Project

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PAARI, Thomas Jefferson University and Brandeis University collaborated on this project to help PAARI partners address the emerging threat of xylazine, an animal sedative that is being mixed into opioids and other stimulants.

Due to the high demand of further xylazine information, PAARI has created a xylazine panel for their 2023 National Law Enforcement Summit in December.



# Xylazine Pilot Project

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## Three Steps:

1. Thomas Jefferson University led focus groups, in Philadelphia, PA, where over 90% of illicit opioids tested contain xylazine, with people who use drugs and clinicians who support these individuals.
2. PAARI, Brandeis, and Thomas Jefferson conducted three Xylazine 101 webinars that were attended by public safety officers and community members with the aim of informing them about xylazine, its history, and the correct overdose response for the drug.
  - a. You can watch one of the Xylazine 101 webinars [HERE](#).
3. PAARI, Brandeis, and Thomas Jefferson conducted workshops with 10 communities in the Northeast dedicated to crafting customized community interventions to xylazine. PAARI then hosted the Xylazine 102 webinar event to ensure that PAARI partners are well-informed and equipped with best practices to address the growing presence of this substance in their respective communities.
  - a. You can watch the Xylazine 102 webinar [HERE](#) or read more about the event [HERE](#).



# PAARI National Recovery Corps

Full-time volunteers who help build, strength and sustain any public safety programs that aim to reduce overdose deaths and help more people with SUDs access treatment and recovery.

## Tasks for a VISTA member could include but are not limited to:

- Developing a project plan for increasing awareness and participation
- Creating community assessments
- Expanding and strengthening partnerships
- Developing financial resources
- Developing program marketing materials
- Creating policies and procedures
- Developing data collection systems and processes
- Volunteer recruitment and more!



# Opioid Settlement Funds Office Hours

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## When?

- First Friday of every month at 1PM EST

## What will be covered?

- Overview of the settlement
- Approved uses of settlement money

## Why attend?

- State-specific guidance (written guide by state is also available)
- Opportunity to ask questions



# PAARI Police/Public Safety Partnerships

Partnership with PAARI is free!

Your organization can join PAARI to network with other police and public health agencies doing deflection and access educational webinars and materials.

Sign up here



or email [brittney@paariususa.org](mailto:brittney@paariususa.org) for more information





# **PAARI 2023 NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT**

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2023**

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