



LPSCC

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

County continues work on strategies to ensure the right defendants are in jail

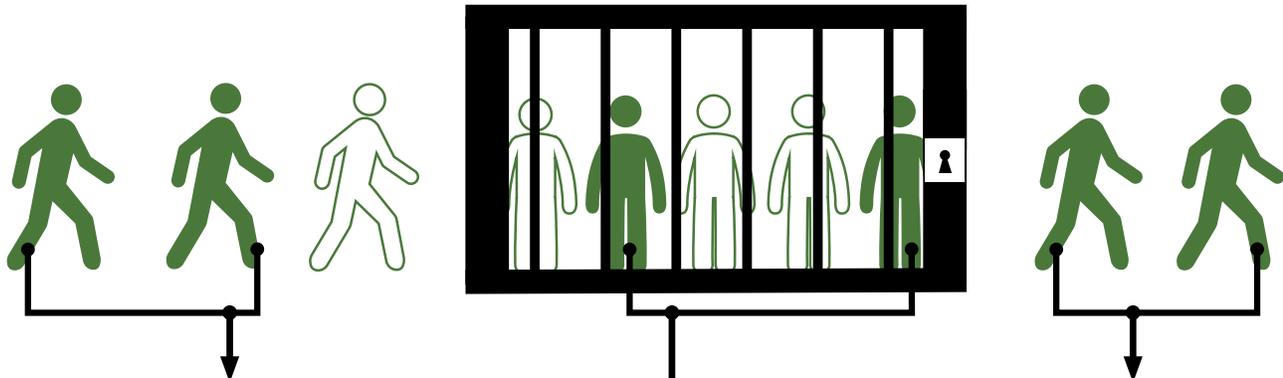
Multnomah County's public safety partners are working together to better address defendants with mental health and substance abuse disorders while ensuring that those people who genuinely pose a threat to public safety remain in custody.

Jail is meant to hold defendants awaiting trial who are a flight risk, those who pose a danger to public safety, and people serving short-term sentences. But too often, jail also is the de facto option for people struggling with mental health and substance abuse disorders, or homelessness. This can quickly fill all available jail beds, especially over long-holiday weekends when the courts are closed and no one is being released. That pressure has led the County and our Sheriff's Office to develop short and long-term solutions to prevent and mitigate emergency releases when the jail reaches capacity. Solutions include ramping up County pretrial services programs to safely supervise appropriate defendants in the community, ahead of court appearances, and hold those who should not be released. We are bolstering connections to mental health and addiction services and placing trained professionals with lived experience with addiction in the jail. These changes include **revisions to the County's Emergency Population Release plan** that exclude any inmate from emergency release who is facing serious charges such as Measure 11 or domestic violence charges.

But our public safety partners which includes **judges, district attorneys, law enforcement, public defenders, victims advocates and more** remain united in our effort to find better options for people who are neither a flight nor a public safety risk. Data shows that many in jail are struggling with addiction and/or a mental health crisis and are repeatedly arrested for nonviolent offenses. A **2016 Multnomah County Corrections Grand Jury report** indicates at least 40 percent of inmates have been diagnosed with a mental illness. And a **2015 report** shows a disproportionate number of those incarcerated are people of color. The jail is a revolving door of incarceration for people struggling with addiction and mental health challenges. This revolving door exacts enormous financial and social tolls – not only on those individuals and their families but the community at large – particularly communities of color.

Multnomah County is working to reduce mass incarceration and rethink the use of jails as part of the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge**. The County is part of a network of jurisdictions pursuing **strategies** to reduce overall jail use, make the system more efficient, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and better respond to individuals with behavioral health problems.

Explaining our strategies for ensuring our jails hold the right defendants



Before jail

Law Enforcement

Assisted Diversion (LEAD®)

LEAD® redirects people engaged in low-level drug activity from jail to services.

The Treatment First Program

Under the leadership of District Attorney Rod Underhill, this program allows people facing possession of a controlled substance (PCS) or drug charges the opportunity for treatment and services. Those who successfully complete the program avoid jail and have their charges dismissed or reduced.

Housing after jail

Stabilization for Treatment Preparation Transitional Housing Program

A dormitory-style program that serves men with behavioral health challenges. Participants come from the streets, jail, prison, the state hospital or county crisis center.

The Diane Wade House

A first-of-its-kind, Afrocentric transitional housing program for justice-involved women.

After booking

Multnomah County Pretrial Release Services

Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice Pretrial release program assesses and supervises defendants who can be safely released before pending court appearances.

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Close Street Supervision

Close Street is an intensive supervision program for defendants who can be safely released before court appearances.

Mental Health Diversion Program

Under the leadership of Sheriff Mike Reese, this program releases inmates on their own recognizance to mental health support and services. The Mental Health Diversion Program is slated to launch in February 2019.

Aid and Assist Docket

The courts have developed a specialized court docket for defendants unable to aid and assist in their own defense. Rapid psychological evaluations are now performed in the jail to help those defendants stabilize their mental health.

These strategies require continued commitment from all our public safety partners and a shared desire to change the status quo. We must use our limited public safety funds wisely and invest in efforts that not only leverage national funds but also make our community safer by ensuring the right people are in jail to begin with.

Watch or **read about the lives** changed through investments in public safety alternatives.