

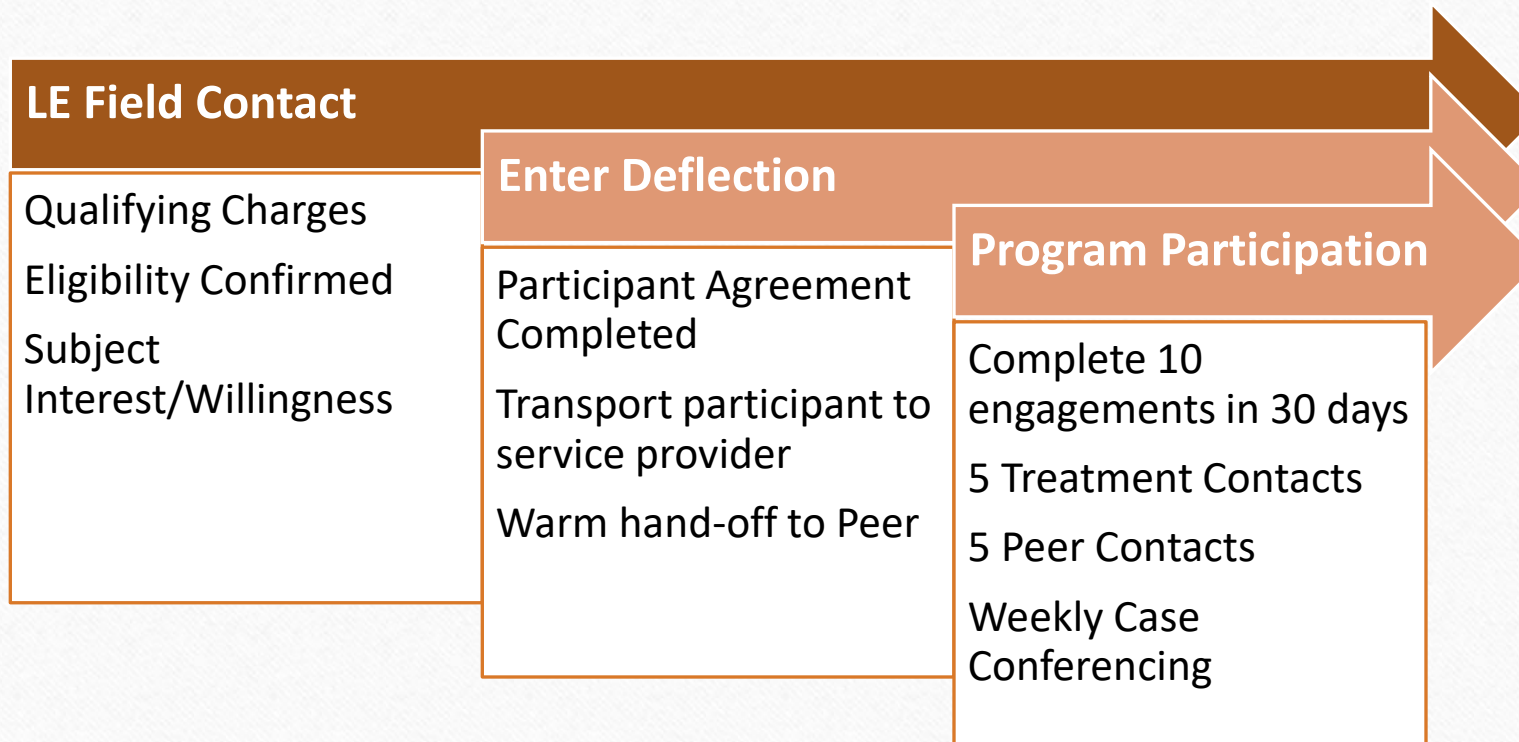
Jackson County Deflection Program

Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

March 19, 2025

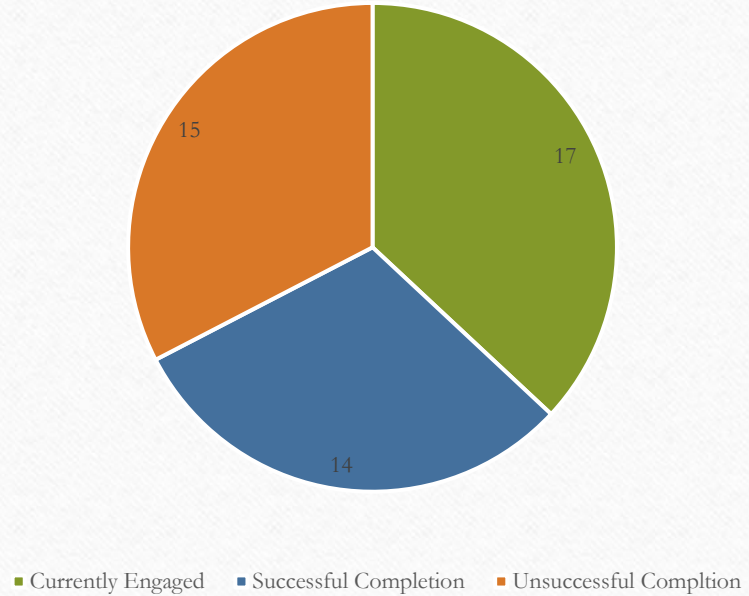
Lt. Rebecca Pietila, Medford Police Department
Capt. Josh Aldrich, Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Vicky Armstrong, Deflection Coordinator

Program Overview

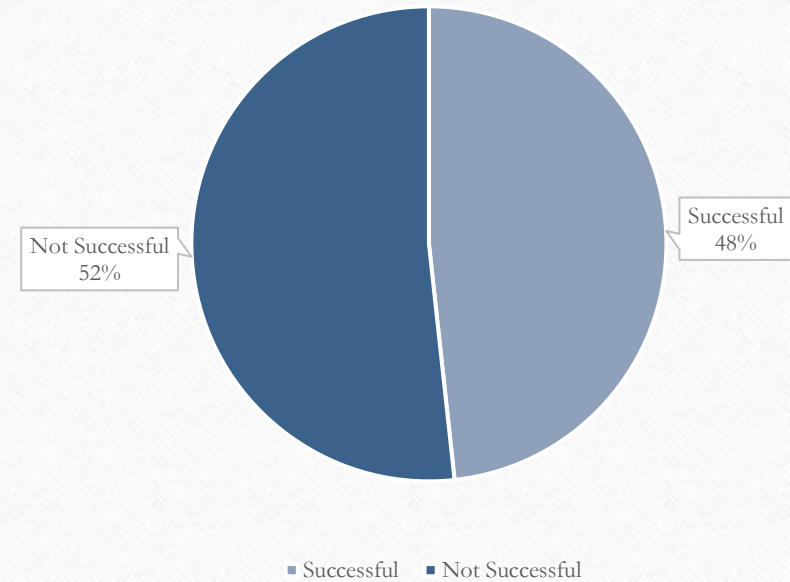


Program Outcomes

Deflection Program Status



Program Completion



As of 2/19/2025

Law Enforcement Contact

Eligible Individuals

Adults, 18 and up

Not currently on supervision*

**Eligible with PO contact and consent*

Not currently in deflection

Willing to engage in the program

Eligible Crimes

Drug Enforcement
Misdemeanor (DEM)

Trespass 2

Disorderly Conduct 2

Offensive Littering

Law Enforcement Perspective

Thoughts from the Field...

- Offers of Deflection are triggered by a field contact where enforcement action is applicable.
- Outreach is done twice weekly where no criminal charges need be present and subjects are connected with service providers in the field or referred to organizations for assistance.
 - * This is not Deflection in Jackson County
- Deflection is a Behavioral Health program, so all participants must have a SUD nexus.

Programmatic Reflections...

- There are fewer eligible participants than anticipated.
- We are seeking pathways to ensuring accountability while connecting people to services
- Engaging with the LE challenges of this program coming on the heels of decriminalization; how do officers balance accountability for criminal activity with treatment opportunities?
- There is a recognized need to develop creative approaches to gain LE buy-in.
- Barriers to expanding eligible charges – DA staying away from crimes with a victim.

Lessons Learned, Opportunities, and Concerns

- Our program is only as good as the relationships between providers and criminal justice partners
- Deflection expectations for success should be driven by Behavioral Health experts
- We must get buy-in and understanding from our Law Enforcement partners
- Definition of “Deflection” seems to have changed which has led to new opportunities, but also generated confusion and frustration for the team with long-term investment in program development
- Lack of committed funding has made long-term planning/development difficult
 - Permanent Deflection Coordinator
 - Deflection Center
- Expansion of participation will benefit from extended hours
 - 24-Hour Center
 - Jail Deflection Opportunities
 - Referral Programs