



Multnomah County Deflection Program

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Presentation Overview

- Current Program Requirements
- Significant Program Changes to Date
- Program Data
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps



Program Elements: Eligibility and Referrals

Eligibility

- 18+
- Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (+ camping ordinance violation co-charge, if applicable)
- No active warrants

Referrals

- Officer Intervention Pathway
- 24/7 warm hand off at the Pathway Center
- Piloting additional referral pathways



Program Elements: Engagement



90-Day engagement window

Clients have three months to satisfy program completion requirements



Participation required at the time of deflection

Clients receive medical and Substance Use Disorder screenings, care coordination, peer support, and referrals



Access basic needs and sobering on site

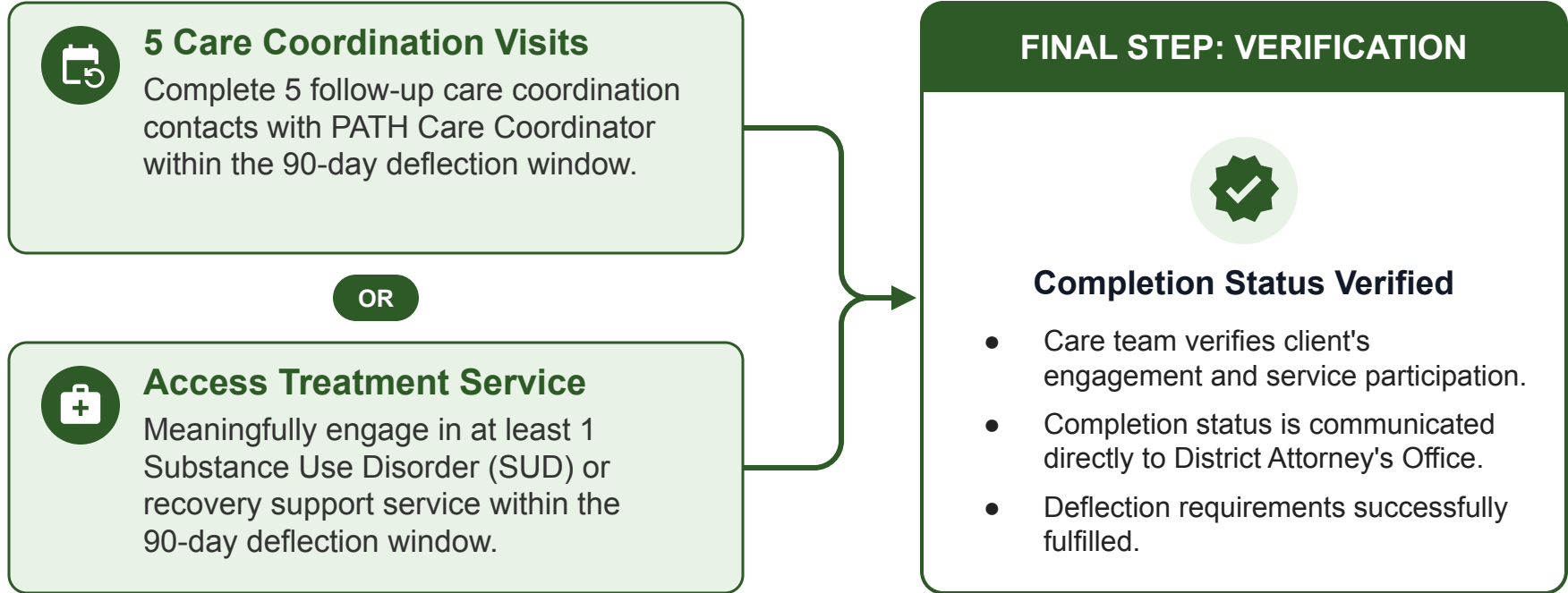
The Center offers showers, food, and laundry. Sobering is also available.

Coordinated Care

Pathway Center



Program Elements: Successful Completion

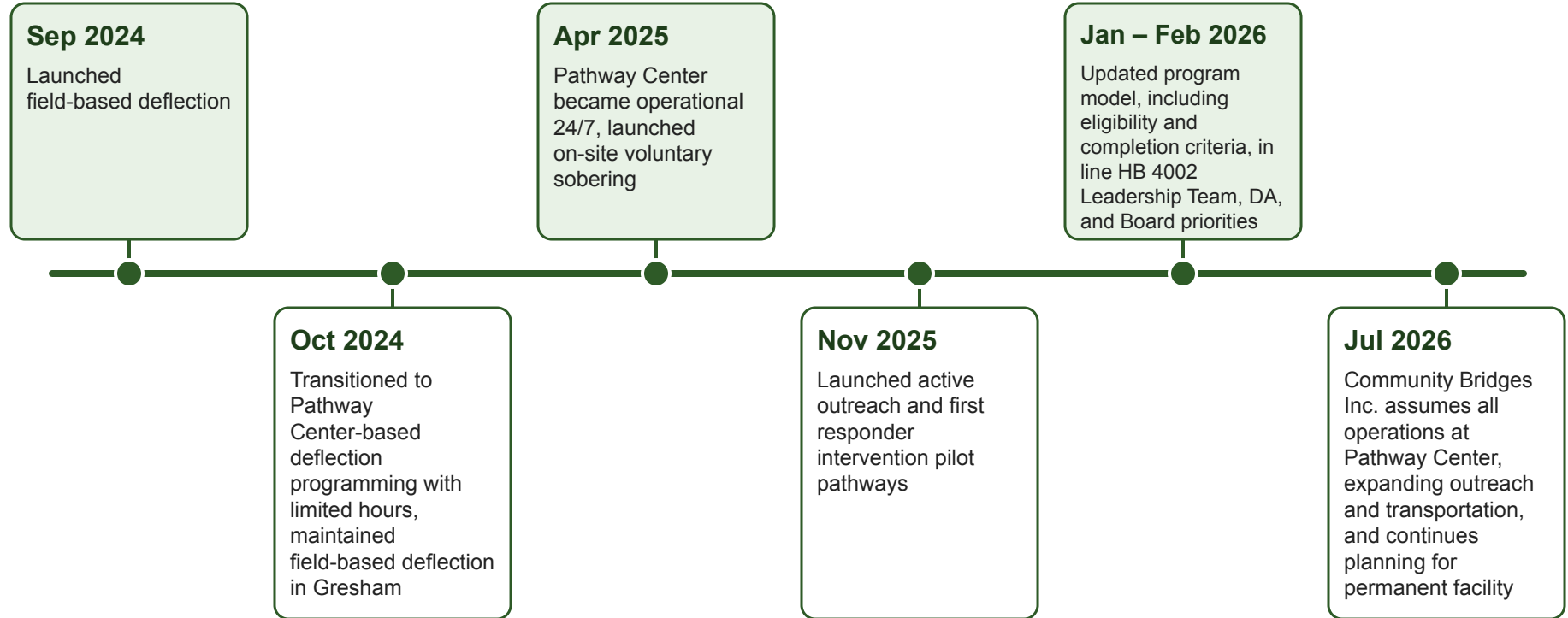


New Pathway Center Operator

- [Community Bridges Inc \(CBI\)](#) assumed operations in July 2026
- Staffed with nurses, peers, and outreach workers
- Expanded services include outreach efforts, field-based follow-up for deflection clients, and increased transportation capacity
- Provides referrals directly into sobering for clients at the center for deflection and those identified through outreach
- Will provide on-site withdrawal management and medication assisted treatment services in permanent facility beginning fall 2027
- Neighborhood engagement



Significant Iterative Program Changes

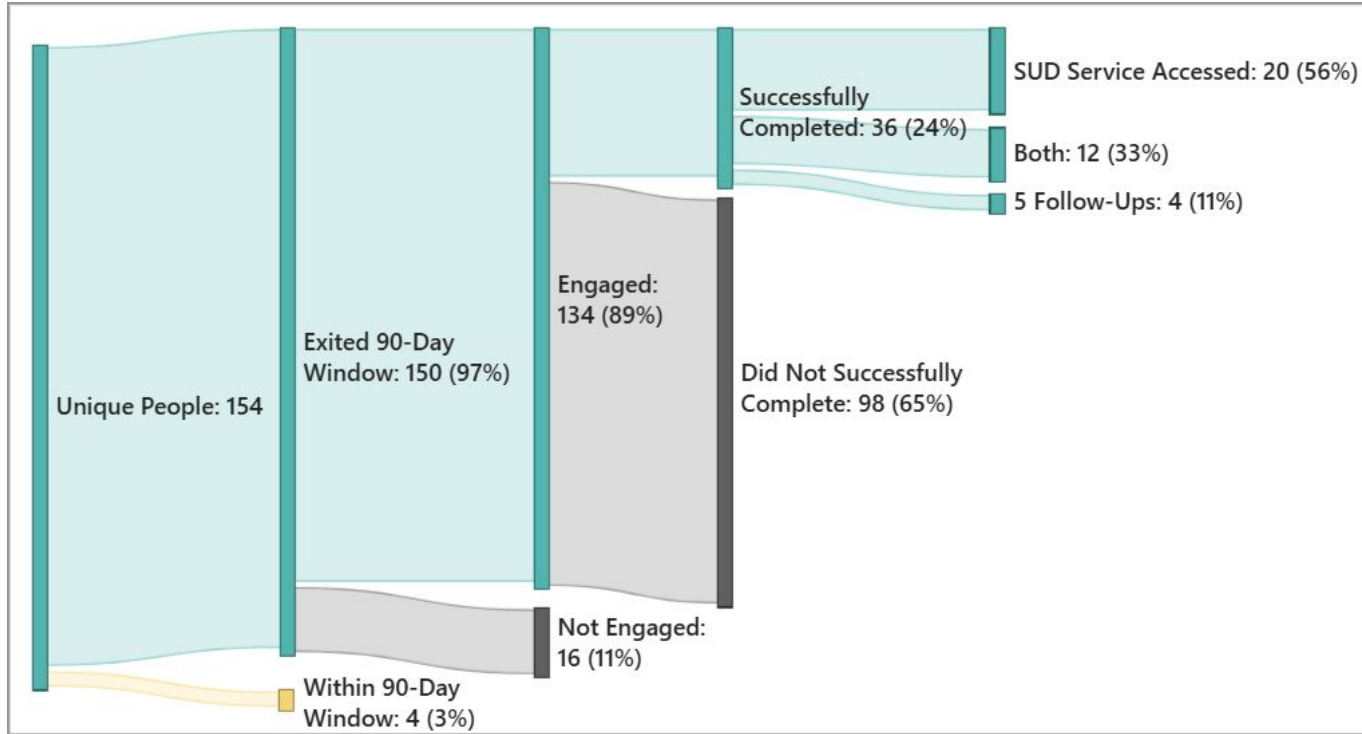


Program Data Snapshot

Metric	Old Criteria 1/1/25 – 6/30/25	New Criteria 1/1/26 – 6/30/26	Totals to Date 9/1/24 – 6/30/26
<i>Referrals to Deflection</i>			
Number of referrals by law enforcement	293	166	972
<i>Deflection Engagements and Completions</i>			
Number of people that have exited their completion window	250	150	737
Number (%) of people that have exited their completion window and <u>engaged</u> i.e. received medical and SUD screenings and a custom care plan at the Pathway Center	160 (64%)	134 (89%)	543 (74%)
Number of people that are active in the deflection program (i.e. within their completion window)	0	4	4
Number (%) of people that have exited their completion window and <u>successfully completed deflection</u>	51 (20%)	36 (24%)	181 (25%)



Client Progress - 1/1/2026 - 6/30/2026



Early Signs of Program Change Impacts

- **Engagement rate has increased**
 - Preliminary data shows that engagement has increased since program changes took effect, rising to 89% between 1/1/26 and 6/30/26, up from 64% in the same period last year
- **Successful Completion rates have increased**
 - Preliminary data from 1/1/26-6/30/26 shows successful completion rate is up by 4% over the same period last year despite more stringent engagements and completion requirements
 - Trend is emerging despite stricter completion criteria



What We've Learned

- **What the population we serve needs** and the challenges they face
- **What program adjustments** can meet those needs
- **Removing barriers** to referrals is critical
 - Using data to identify options to expand eligibility criteria and referral pathways
 - Finding ways to support law enforcement buy-in and to make the program easy to refer into



What's Next

Recovery Pathways Center (permanent facility) slated to open **Fall 2027**

- Pathway Center programming (deflection, sobering, outreach) will transfer
- Will add **24/7 withdrawal management and medication assisted treatment (MAT) services**, along with additional capacity for sobering



Client Story

Client was referred to Pathway Center, reporting a brief lapse into substance use after a long period of sobriety. Client was married with young children that had disabling conditions. The family was living out of a vehicle.

The deflection Care Coordinator found that an entry in the Homeless Management Information System did not capture the client's family and vulnerabilities. The information was corrected and the client was helped to register the older children for school. A community organization also got the youngest children access to "Preschool for All". The client was connected to housing case management for families.

Since completing deflection, the client's family moved to a shelter, began receiving meal assistance, and has ongoing support from a housing coordinator to obtain long-term housing. The client is now also temporarily employed, seeking long-term employment, and receiving Medication for Opioid Use Disorder through a local provider.



Thank You

multco.us/info/deflection-program

