Multnomah LEAD® Year Two Evaluation Executive Summary

LEAD® Overview

Multnomah County is working to create a fairer and more effective local justice system, with particular emphasis on reducing demand on our jails. Multnomah LEAD®, inspired by the successful program in Seattle, is one of many programs designed to positively impact our justice system. Launched in March 2017, the Multnomah County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD®) program is a pre-booking, harm-reduction diversion program designed to meet the needs of individuals with behavioral health needs. The program allows police officers to redirect those engaged in low-level drug activity to services and resources instead of jail and prosecution. LEAD® is implemented by a multidisciplinary team including: the Portland Police Bureau, Metropolitan Public Defenders, Central City Concern, and Multnomah County's District Attorney's Office, Department of Community Justice and Health Department. Participation in LEAD® is voluntary, and participant recruitment occurs in the high pedestrian traffic zone in downtown Portland and Portland's industrial inner east side.

LEAD® Goals

The overall goals of the LEAD® program are to:

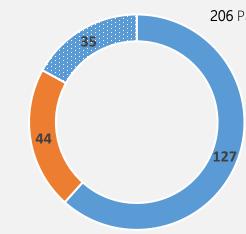| GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3
Reduce recidivism rates for people engaged in low-level offenses	Decrease the number of persons of color prosecuted for Possession of a Controlled Substance (PCS)	Reduce the harm that drugs cause to the user and the surrounding community

LEAD® Evaluation Data & Methods

Year Two LEAD® Analysis Sample Description

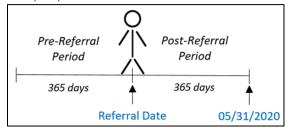Participants were referred and/or enrolled between 3/1/2017 and 2/28/2019

206 Participants were included in the year two LEAD® analysis sample

- 127 Entered Into LEAD® and Were Continuously Engaged
- 35 Entered Into LEAD® and Were NOT Continuously Engaged
- 44 Did NOT Enter into LEAD®

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of key findings from the second LEAD® jail evaluation. The evaluation questions addressed were designed to assess the impact on the program's first goal – to reduce recidivism rates for persons engaged in low-level offenses. The second and third LEAD® goals will be address in future analyses.

LEAD® participant data used for the evaluation includes demographic, program referral, and program contact (i.e. dosage and need) data from Central City Concern and the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. The only available outcome data for participants was booking data collected by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. The evaluation focuses on the 206 people referred to and/or enrolled in LEAD® in the first two years of implementation (3/1/2017 - 2/28/2019). Booking data among this population focused on two time periods: pre-LEAD® and post-LEAD® referral.

Pre-Referral Period — 365 days | Post-Referral Period — 365 days
Referral Date   05/31/2020

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Has the frequency of jail bookings, and overall use of jail, changed for LEAD® participants before and after referral?

Are LEAD® participants having their needs met, and does that have an impact on jail use?

Is LEAD® having the same impact on participants based on Gender and Race?

Does program dosage have an impact on jail use?

LEAD® Evaluation Key Findings

LEAD® participants who frequently meet with their case managers and have their needs met **use less jail**.

Men were referred and entered into LEAD® **more frequently** than women.

Men and women engaged in LEAD® experienced similar **reductions in post-referral bookings**.

Black participants experienced a greater overall **reduction** in total jail use than White participants.

Booking reductions become more pronounced as age increases.

Participants who met at least one need had **fewer bookings** than those with no needs met.

Meeting **medical needs has had the greatest impact** on participant jail use.

Among engaged participants:

16% decrease in total number of jail bookings

21% decrease in total number of jail days