



# Multnomah County Deflection Program

2/26/25

Presentation to the Joint  
Committee on Addiction and  
Community Safety Response

# The Multnomah County Deflection Model

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- Center based model - Coordinated Care Pathway Center operated by Tuerk House
- Twin goals of deflection success and progress towards recovery
- Deflected individuals receive medical screenings, brief substance use disorder screenings, connection to a peer, and a care plan with referrals to services
- 30 days to access referrals for successful completion of deflection
- No prosecution of individuals referred to deflection



# Eligibility & Referrals to Deflection

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- Eligibility - Determined by law enforcement during encounter involving possession of a small amounts of a controlled substance. Individual must not have committed any other offense, is not a danger to themselves or others, does not have warrants or other pending charges, and has not failed to complete deflection in the prior 30-days.
- Referrals to Deflection - from law enforcement only



# Connection to Services - Process

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- Individualized care plan with customized referrals
- Referrals are to a range of services available in the community
- Tuerk House Case Managers and Multnomah County Deflection Care Coordinators help individuals access referrals
- Multnomah County Deflection Care Coordinators can continue to work with clients who access services through deflection even after their deflection period closes



# Connection to Services - Referrals

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- Referrals are based on individual's unique needs
- Each care plan includes multiple referrals to services
- Highest numbers of referrals are to detox and outpatient treatment



# Program Expansion - Considerations

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- Deflection Leadership Team establishes eligibility criteria
- Not currently expanding eligible charges, but are weighing options to allow for greater referrals into the program for eligible individuals, including by other first responders and outreach teams that would work with law enforcement



# Challenges and Lessons Learned So Far...

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- Greater access to deflection - including increasing referrals to deflection, transportation options to the Coordinated Care Pathway Center, and field-based options in East County
- Improvements to care - The program is challenged by limitations to service availability outside daytime hours and lack of capacity in the existing continuum of care. Addressing this will include identifying new pathways for deflection clients to access services, launching sobering next quarter, and working towards a County facility that would offer other services onsite in the coming biennium, including withdrawal management
- Transportation to services for easier access to referrals - exploring options to have transport based at the Pathway Center to take people to services
- Addressing data gaps - Gather information on those eligible, but not offered deflection/decline deflection, by developing new data collection and sharing processes



# Thank You

