



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

An Overview of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

**December 6, 2021
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a program that offers individuals who have repeated contact with law enforcement due to low-level criminal conduct driven by unmet behavioral needs the opportunity for referral to treatment and recovery services in lieu of arrest. LEAD is a partnership between public safety and public health officials that gives law enforcement officers discretion to divert individuals who commit low-level offenses driven by substance use, mental illness, and/or poverty directly into long-term, community-based harm reduction and case management programs. The LEAD model stemmed from recognition of the historical racial disparities resulting from law enforcement officers arresting those impacted by substance use, mental health issues, and poverty. It creates a cultural shift among law enforcement officers by encouraging them to recognize that individuals whose low-level illegal conduct is driven by substance use and/or mental health issues need recovery services and treatment rather than criminal consequences. The presenters will provide an overview of the LEAD program and insight into the ways that LEAD has advanced police reform and tackled systemic racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Eligibility

Registration for this program is limited to LPS attorneys in the Divisions of Criminal Justice, Law, and Alcoholic Beverage Control, assistant prosecutors, and selected attorneys in the Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Health invited to attend.

Faculty

Najja Morris is the Director of the LEAD National Support Bureau. She provides national technical assistance and support to jurisdictions in all phases of the implementation of local LEAD programs; focusing on the areas of harm reduction, case management and direct services. Prior to joining the LEAD National Support Bureau, Ms. Morris served as a Case Manager, then as Direct Services Supervisor with the LEAD pilot program in Seattle, Washington. Before joining LEAD, Ms. Morris worked within the urban areas of Seattle with/on behalf of a wide array of marginalized and disenfranchised communities; including foster-care/homeless youth, those struggling with mental health and substance abuse, chronically ill/homeless persons and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from City University.

Brendan Cox is the Director of Policing Strategies at the LEAD National Support Bureau. He retired as Chief of the Albany, New York Police Department after 23 years of service in multiple capacities. Under Chief Cox's leadership, the Albany police department was recognized by the Department of Justice as one of the top 15 police departments in the country as part of the COPS Advancing 21st Century Policing Initiative. This was a direct result of community policing strategies and procedural justice platforms aimed at building positive relationships with the community. These strategies included implementation of a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiative, a Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents protocol, and implicit bias training for both police employees and community members. Chief Cox is a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and an Executive Fellow with the Police Foundation. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton and a Master of Public Administration from Marist College.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.2 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.