**PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

# An Overview of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) in New Jersey

**March 12, 2024**
**12:00 p.m. –1:00 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*

This program is open to attorneys in the Department of Law and Public Safety and county prosecutors' offices.

### *Faculty*

**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 his 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. The department's community policing strategies and procedural justice platforms 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. Director Cox is a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and an Executive Fellow with the Police Foundation. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton, a Master's of Public Administration from Marist College and is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police.

**DAG Kelly Levy** is the Acting Director of the Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies ("NJ CARES"). NJ CARES oversees addiction fighting efforts across the Department of Law & Public Safety and creates partnerships with other agencies and groups that are committed to identifying and implementing solutions to the opioid crisis and drug addiction. DAG Levy joined NJ CARES shortly after its inception, and has worked on the administration and management of several law enforcement-led outreach efforts, including facilitating proactive collaboration between law enforcement officers and addiction professionals to link individuals suffering from substance use disorder with treatment services. She has also worked with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to expand access to harm reduction services, including naloxone. Before joining NJ CARES, DAG Levy worked in the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, where she investigated and prosecuted insurance fraud and other related offenses, and the Division of Law, where she represented the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in child abuse and neglect matters. She holds a J.D. from Rutgers-Newark School of Law and a B.A. from Hunter College.

**Lesly Guzman** is a case manager for the LEAD program in Elizabeth. She is also employed by Prevention Links, a recovery resource organization. Before that, she was an intern at the New Jersey State Parole Board, where she attended FBI panels and observed and worked with agents in the Narcotics Unit. Ms. Guzman holds an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Seton Hall University and is enrolled in Rutgers University's CRJ Master's Degree Program.

**Anthony Doran** is the Outreach and Intake Coordinator for the Philipsburg LEAD. He is a Licensed Social Worker, a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. He has worked as a clinician at Alina Lodge long-term substance use facility and maintained a clinical private practice for individuals struggling with SUD issues. Mr. Doran is in long-term recovery from substance use. He has lived experience with inpatient treatment from both VA and civilian programs and has been involved with the justice system. Mr. Doran obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Centenary University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Rutgers University.

### 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, 1.2 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category.

### 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.