

# Illinois Deflection Initiative

## Judicial Champion Discussion



Honorable Rodney G. Clark, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge

Scott Block, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, State Court Behavioral Health Administrator

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## **Overview of Illinois Deflection**

- Partnership between IDHS, Illinois State Police (ISP), and community leaders.
- Identify persons with substance use issues at risk of CJ involvement to implement services rather than risk arrest.
- Focus on public health and social determinants of crime vs. only “treatment” or incarceration.
- Build future focused partnerships throughout Illinois.

# What is Deflection?

Deflection is a collaborative intervention **connecting public safety and public health systems** to create **community-based pathways** to treatment and other services to address social determinants of health **without entry into the legal system.**



## DEFLECTION



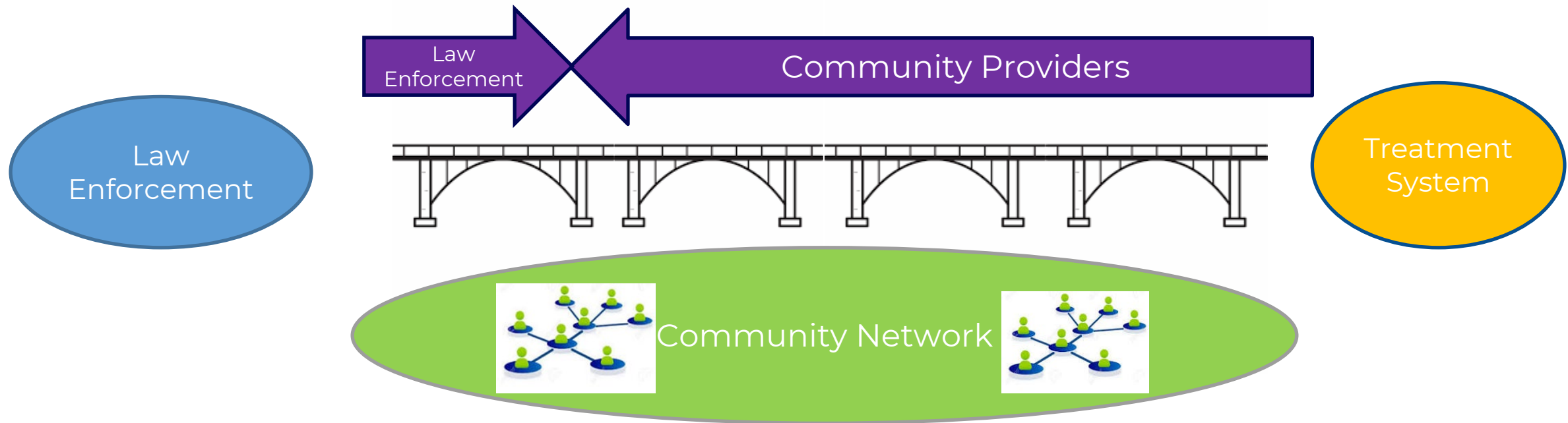
## DIVERSION



# Six Deflection Pathways

Self-Referral	Individual initiates contact with law enforcement for a treatment referral (without fear of arrest); preferably a warm handoff to treatment
Active Outreach	Deflection Team intentionally IDs or seeks individuals; a warm handoff is made to treatment, which engages individuals in treatment
Naloxone Plus	Engagement with treatment as part of an overdose response
<b>Officer/First Responder Referral</b>	Law enforcement/FR initiates treatment engagement from a call for service or “on view”; no charges are filed
Officer Intervention Referral	Law enforcement (only) initiates engagement due to a call or “on view”; charges are held in abeyance or citations issued, with requirement for completion of treatment
Community Response Referral	In response to a call, a team comprising community-based behavioral health professionals (e.g., crisis workers, clinicians, peer specialists, etc) engages individuals to help de-escalate crises, mediate low-level conflicts, or address quality of life issues by providing a referral to treatment, services, or to a case manager.

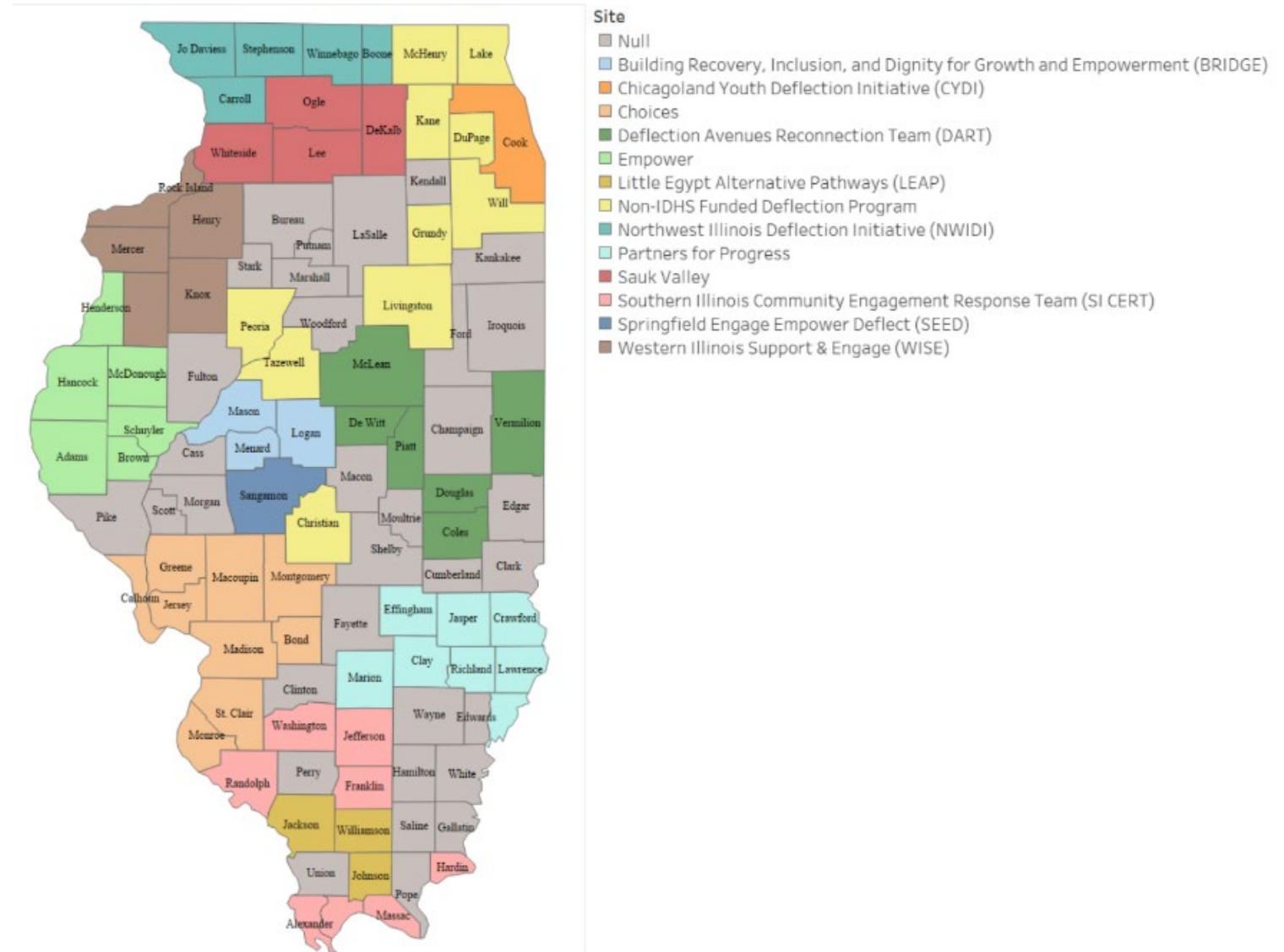
# The Deflection Bridge: Connecting Systems



**Everybody Doing Their Best  
Work**

# Current Illinois Deflection Office Locations

- Chicago
- Rockford
- Rock Island
- Carthage
- Springfield
- Champaign
- Marion
- Belleville
- Edwardsville



- **Building Recovery Inclusion and Dignity for Growth and Empowerment (BRIDGE)**
  - Logan, Mason, Menard
- **Chicagoland Youth Deflection Initiative (CYDI) & Cook County Deflection**
  - City of Chicago (Youth) and the following areas in Cook County: Harvey, Justice, Schiller Park, and Dixmoor
- **Choices (North and South)**
  - Calhoun, Green, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe
- **Deflection Avenues Reconnection Team (DART)**
  - Douglas, Coles, Vermillion, McLean, DeWitt, Piatt
- **Empower**
  - Henderson, Hancock, McDonough, Schyler, Adams, and Brown
- **Little Egypt Alternative Pathways (LEAP) & Southern Illinois Community Engagement Response Team (SI CERT)**
  - Effingham, Marion, Clay, Jasper, Richland, Lawrence, Crawford, Wabash, Jackson, Johnson, and Williamson
- **Northwest IL Deflection Initiative (NWIDI)**
  - Jo Davies, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll
- **Partners for Progress**
  - Effingham, Marion, Clay, Jasper, Richland, Crawford, Lawrence, Wabash
- **Saulk Valley Deflection**
  - Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, DeKalb
- **Springfield Engage, Empower, Deflect (SEED)**
  - City of Springfield
- **Western Illinois Support and Engagement (WISE)**
  - Rock Island, Mercer, Henry, Warren, Knox



# Sample Deflection Program Referral and Contact

## Deflection - Officer Referral Form

Please complete the form and email to:

[nwideflection@tasc.org](mailto:nwideflection@tasc.org)

**Phone:** (815) 987-0489, x2

*(If you are leaving a message, please include your department or agency name.)*

REFERRAL DATE:

OFFICER INFORMATION	Name:	Phone:
	Badge #:	Email:

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Name:	Birth Date:
Address:	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
City:	Race: <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Multi-racial</u>
Zip Code:	General Stability check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless <input type="checkbox"/> At risk of homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Stably Housed <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Phone #	Served in the Military? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email:	
Emergency Contact Name:	
Relationship to participant:	
Phone #	

Referral Issue (Check all that apply):

☐ Substance Use ☐ Mental Health ☐ Housing Services ☐ Food Resources

☐ Other (If applicable - Please note - Deflection Specialist will do a screening with participant to identify needs as well):

Additional Comments/ Physical Description:

## Deflection Program Director:

Guy Schingoethe  
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## IDHS Program Manager:

Matthew Grey  
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## Deflection Specialist Service Referrals

- Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS)
  - Education Resources
  - Food
  - Housing
  - Substance use treatment
  - Employment
  - Case Management
- 
- Additionally, NARCAN is regularly distributed

## **Evolving Initiatives**

- Veterans Deflection
- ECHO Meetings
- Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS)
- Re-entry Possibilities
- Judicial Champions

## Data FY25 (July 2024- June 2025)

- Program Referrals: 1462
- Program Enrollments: 670
  - **45.83% agreed to Program enrollment**
- Law Enforcement Referrals: 845
  - **57.80% were LE referrals**
- Substance Use Treatment Referrals: 219
- Substance Use Treatment Enrollments: 109
  - **49.77% of those referred were enrolled**
- Mental Health Treatment Referrals: 81
- Mental Health Treatment Enrollments: 33
  - **40.74% of those referred were enrolled**
- Supportive Service (e.g., food, housing, etc.)
  - Referrals: 1,711
  - Enrollments: 682
  - **39.86% of those referred were enrolled**

## Data FY26, thus far, (July 2025- October 2025)

- Law Enforcement Referral % Rate is **UP to 75.04%**
- Substance Use Treatment Enrollments are **UP to 52.94%** of those referred
- Mental Health Treatment Enrollments are **UP to 58.33%** of those referred

# What are the Results of Deflection?

- Reduces Recidivism
  - Studies show that individuals connected to services through deflection are significantly less likely to be re-arrested compared to those processed traditionally.
- Improves Outcomes
  - Deflection is linked to higher rates of engagement in treatment, improved housing stability, and better health outcomes.
- Addresses Root Causes
  - Unlike a jail stay, deflection attempts to solve the underlying problems that lead to criminal justice contact.

# What is in it for the Courts?

- Reduces Caseloads and Docket Congestion
  - Stops low-level "revolving door" cases from ever reaching the prosecutor's desk or the judge's docket.
  - "Clears the calendar" and reduces the administrative burden on clerks, bailiffs, and court staff.
- Optimizes Court Resources
  - Frees up limited and valuable court time—for judges, prosecutors, and public defenders.
  - Reduces time and money spent on competency, pre-trial supervision, etc. on individuals who don't pose a public safety risk.
- Reduces Recidivism and Future Court Contact
  - By addressing causes of crime, it reduces likelihood of re-offending and reappearance in court.
  - Breaks the cycle of "arrest-release-repeat" that plagues dockets and drains resources.
- Cost-Effectiveness
  - Community-based treatment costs far less than arrest, jail, and court processing.
  - Saves taxpayer dollars by investing in solutions (treatment) rather than a temporary fix (jail).
- Improves Public Trust and System Fairness
  - Demonstrates the justice system is capable of a "smarter," more proportional response.
  - Reduces damaging impacts (e.g., loss of housing, employment, etc.) for low-level offenses.
  - Shows the community the court system is a partner in public health and problem-solving.

# The Judicial Role: The “Champion” and “Convener”

- System Leadership
  - Judges are respected leaders in the justice system. Their public support is critical for getting other stakeholders on board.
- Convening Power
  - Judges are uniquely positioned to bring all parties to the table:
    - Law Enforcement (Police, Sheriff)
    - Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys
    - Community Treatment Providers
    - County/City Leadership
    - Public Health Officials
- Understanding Pathways
  - When Judges understand and engage with their local deflection program, they can strengthen processes to help route community members to the appropriate services.



# Thank you!



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