

Illinois Deflection Initiative

Judicial Champion Discussion



Honorable Rodney G. Clark, 9th Judicial Circuit Judge

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

Matthew Grey, IDHS Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Criminal Justice Program Administrator

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



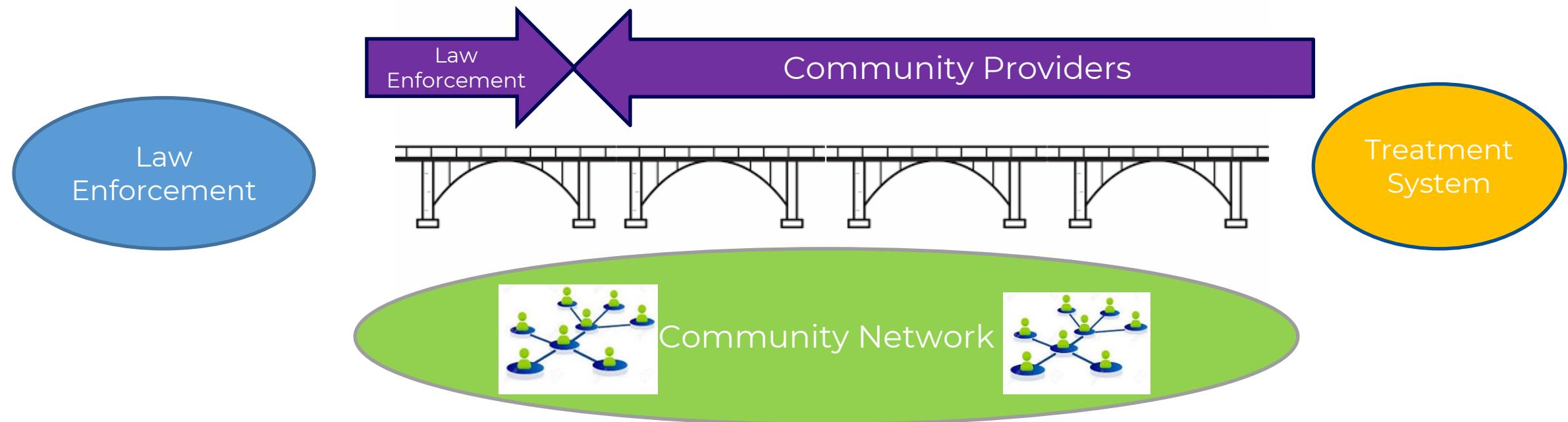
DIVERSION



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 |
| Officer/First Responder Referral | 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. |

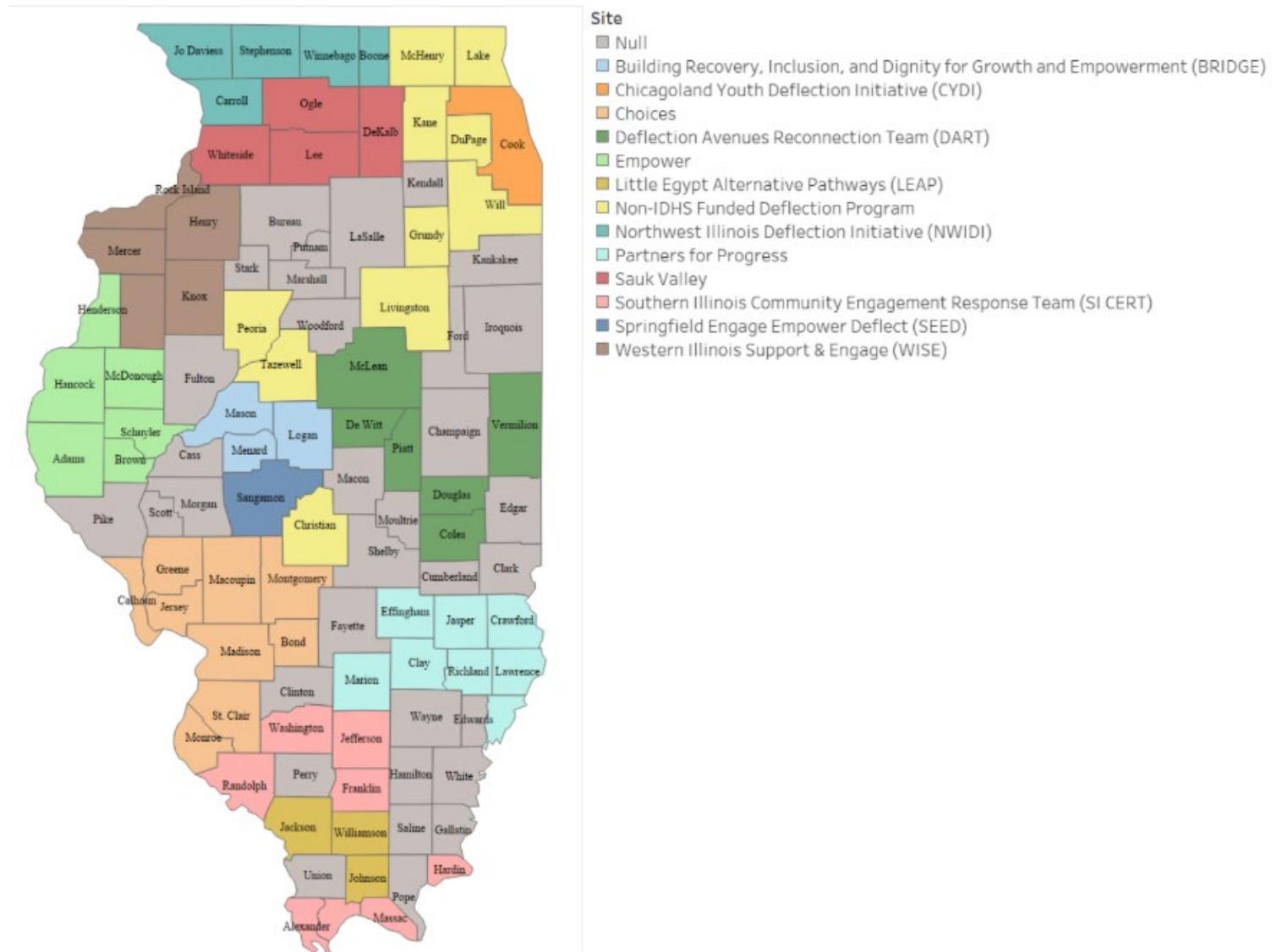
The Deflection Bridge: Connecting Systems



**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, Schuyler, 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

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"/> Multi-racial |
| Zip Code: | |
| Phone # | |
| 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
gschingoethe@tasc.org

IDHS Program Manager:

Matthew Grey
matthew.grey2@illinois.gov



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 “Convene”

- **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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Matthew Grey: Matthew.grey2@illinois.gov