

**HATFIELD RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROJECT BRIEF**

**Multnomah County: Deflection & Sobering Project**

***Fellow Name: James Budd***

***Project Dates: November 2024 – July 2025***

**PROJECT GOAL**

Multnomah County’s Deflection Program connects clients who would otherwise be arrested for possession of a controlled substance to a behavioral health pathway toward recovery. The overall goal of the project was to provide public health and deflection review services to the Multnomah County Health Department’s Behavioral Health Division. The Hatfield Resident Fellow (HRF) was responsible for tracking metrics of other state’s deflection programs, researching facility transportation requirements for interdivision program overview, and applying our findings alongside the implementation of Phase’s 1, 2, and 3 of Multnomah County’s Deflection and Sobering Project. The HRF also assisted in developing a quarterly report for county service reviewal and collaborated with team members to create a comprehensive 1-page document that detailed deflection program findings.

**TAKE-AWAYS**

This project is still in process, however, the HRF will take-away the following things from their placement:

* The importance of consistently researching, collecting, and storing data on various projects for program overview. State tracking and comparisons of deflection programs are essential for determining program success and outcomes
* Divided team goals to assist in multiple facets of designing a successful deflection program. Provided interdivisional collaboration to guide our overview and implementation of Phase’s 1, 2, and 3

**CHALLENGES**

Multnomah County’s Coordinated Care Pathway Center is a unique center-based program that opened in October 2024 and is in a pilot phase. The main challenges the HRF faced during the first few months of the fellowship were mitigating public demands for deflection-related datasets and conveying program success through research outcomes. The deflection program is essentially brand new, making comprehensive data presentations and measures of success difficult to prematurely proclaim.

**STRATEGY**

The HRF, beginning in November 2024, and concluding through July 2025, conducted research on qualitative and quantitative metrics for other states deflection programs, investigated transportation requirements for other unique center-based programs, and assisted team members with implementing Phase’s 1, 2, and 3 of the Deflection and Sobering Project.

* The HRF synthesized research data into metrics that Multnomah County supports:
  + Tracking & reporting across states, gathering info from across the country for a State Deflection Tracker
  + Created internal metrics for division and interdivision program overview’s

**RESULTS**  At the completion of the fellowship (or by February 2025), the HRF will have achieved the following results:

* Researched current deflection program policies, well-known non-Oregon programs; an inventory of innovations and training materials; and detailed project plans for Phase’s 1, 2 and 3
* Assisted in the development of a county-wide quarterly report and collaborted with other HRF’s to create a 1-pager depicting deflection program procedures, findings and datasets
* Supported team members and oversaw a successful transition between each respective Phase of the deflection program