

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION (LEAD)



What is LEAD?

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is an innovative diversion program developed through a partnership between the Collier County Sheriff's Office and David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health (DLC). The LEAD program allows law enforcement officers to redirect certain drug-related activity to community-based treatment services, instead of jail and prosecution. By diverting eligible individuals to services, LEAD is committed to saving lives, and improving public safety and public order.

How does LEAD work?

The LEAD initiative allows law enforcement officers to exercise discretionary authority at point of contact to divert individuals to a community-based, harm-reduction intervention. LEAD holds considerable promise as a way for law enforcement to help our community respond to public order issues stemming from unaddressed public health and human services needs — such as addiction, untreated mental illness, and homelessness — through a public health framework that reduces reliance on the formal criminal justice system.

When law enforcement encounters an eligible individual with a substance use disorder*, the deputy will assist the individual in participating in a screening for treatment services. Screenings are available 24/7 and may be conducted by phone or in person. Some individuals may be eligible for immediate admission into inpatient detox, depending on clinical need and availability. Individuals not admitted immediately into detox are connected with an Outreach Specialist and the Collier County Sheriff's Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) to assist them with linking to recommended services.

*Individuals are eligible for free Narcan opioid overdose prevention kits.

For More Information:

- **Contact a Crossroads Outreach Specialist, at 239.354.1428, or the Collier County Sheriff's Office, at 239.252.9300, to be connected with the CCSO Mental Health Intervention Team.**