

# HOW DO BIOLOGICAL FACTORS INFLUENCE YOUTH BEHAVIOR: EMERGING PRACTICES

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# PROGRAMS WORTH CONSIDERATION

- Programs that assess youth first, then choose to divert based on assessment:
  - 1). Choose 180
  - 2). Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (“L.E.A.D.”)
  - 3). Enhanced Pre-Arrest Screening Unit (“EPASU”)

# CHOOSE 180

- Program was started in King County, Seattle, Washington.
  - Launched in July, 2011
- Program Issue:
  - One major concern was the labeling theory.
    - Youth who are arrested begin to behave as youth who are arrested.
  - Focus on youth who are participating in “gateway” activities that could lead to worse behaviors.
  - Goal is to keep youth out of the justice system.

# CHOOSE 180

## How Achieved:

- Referred from State Attorney Office
- Provides weekend workshop once a month.
  - Connects youth with community resources.
  - Part of the workshop is a presentation from a past youthful offender who was able to get their life back on track.
    - The goal is for the youth to hear from someone who has gone through what they're dealing with.
- Serves as an “emergency room” for youth.
- Links youth with primary care and specialty care providers:
  - Case Managers, Employers, Mental Health Resources, and Educational Assistance.

# CHOOSE 180



# CHOOSE 180

- Outcomes
  - A 2012 evaluation of the Choose 180 Workshop was conducted by Washington University
    - The evaluation found that the program was effective in reaching youth, inspiring them to change, and helping them identify the assets and liabilities in their lives that can help or hinder their desire to change.
    - A 2014 Survey by the King County Office of Strategy and Budget found that the program is more effective than traditional diversion in reducing recidivism and more effective than traditional diversion in having a positive impact on disproportionate minority contact.

# CHOOSE 180

- Outcomes
  - As late as September, 2017 this program diverts approximately 400 youth each year from the criminal justice system.
  - Financial savings were found in public defense, detention, and court costs.
  - Seattle does not keep juvenile recidivism records so there is an internal recidivism check done. Internal check showed 75% of youth from program do not re-offend within one year.
- More information can be found at:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/prosecutor/youth-programs/180-program.aspx>

# L.E.A.D

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (L.E.A.D.)
- Program development commenced in 2010, out of King County in Seattle, Washington.
- Brought a unique coalition of differing agencies including:
  - State Attorney, City Attorney Office, Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Mayor's Office, Department Of Corrections, Defender Association, ACLU, and community members.
  - This unique group worked together to design a pre-arraignment diversion program.
- Not created for juveniles, but a lot of good practices.

# L.E.A.D

- Program Issue:
  - Primary goal is to reduce recidivism.
  - Secondary aims are:
    - Reduction in criminal justice service utilization and costs
    - Improvements for psychosocial, housing, and quality-of-life outcomes.

# L.E.A.D

- How Achieved:
  - Re-directs low level offenders into community-based programs instead of jail or prosecution.
  - Law Enforcement led, so extensive role for law enforcement. Officers are trained to make determinations on:
    - Qualification for community based program
    - Eligible offense
    - Medical conditions
    - Mental Illness
    - Any court orders preventing subject from going to community based program
    - Interest of offender to participate in diversion.

# L.E.A.D

- How Achieved:
  - Diversion Process
    - Engagement from LEAD program staff working for social services
    - Perform Individual Assessment
      - Determine immediate needs
        - Includes shelter for the night.
    - In-Depth Assessment
      - Determine immediate cause of criminal activity
        - Includes substance abuse, mental health issues, lack of housing, lack of employment, and lack of education.

# L.E.A.D

- How Achieved:
  - Diversion Process
    - Individual Intervention
      - Case worker meets with participant to prepare the plan.
        - Once a case worker identifies any particular needs there will be a referral to appropriate programs.
      - When a mental health issue is identified, case manager will request a signed release of information to allow case manager to consult with other professionals and L.E.A.D. partners.

# L.E.A.D

- How Achieved:
  - Diversion Process
    - Officer still completes arrest report for review by prosecutor.
      - Even if participant does not qualify, the officer can submit a request for review by a sergeant with their reasoning.
      - Certain individuals who do not meet the initial criteria still may be accepted into program.
    - There can also be a social call referral.

# L.E.A.D

- Outcomes
  - In 2015 the L.E.A.D. program underwent a analysis to compare L.E.A.D. participants to offenders who were arrested.
  - In comparison to offenders who went through the normal arrest and arraignment process, L.E.A.D. group had 58% lower risk of at least one arrest.
  - L.E.A.D. group had 52% reduced risk for a subsequent felony where offenders that went through normal process who were only charged had 18% reduction.
- More information can be found at:
  - <http://leadkingcounty.org/>

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- Program started in New York City Jail in 2015.
- Program Issue:
  - Government concerns with assessment tools and meeting appropriate needs of population.
  - Outdated medical screening (only relied on self-reports)

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- Level 1 Screening
  - Patient Care Associate gives a preliminary health screening under supervision of registered nurse.
  - The purpose of this level is to identify anyone who may require a more thorough examination.
- Level 2 Screening
  - Nurse Practitioner can perform more thorough exam to determine whether individual needs hospital care.

## \*\* Increased Clinical Capacity

- Nurse practitioner and licensed social worker are part of staff.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- How Achieved:
  - 1). Implementation of a New Electronic Screening Tools
    - Wider-range questionnaire to detect behavioral and physical health needs.
    - Program also web-based so users are able to share information with healthcare providers.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- How Achieved:

## 2). Access to Electronic Health Records

- Program has two databases for healthcare records
  - Clinicians can review the jail’s electronic health record system; and
  - Can gather information from medical records through web-based program.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- How Achieved:
  - 3). A Diversion Liaison placed at the jail:
    - Licensed social worker identifies individuals with behavioral needs
      - Liaison can view mental health history of jail
      - Liaison has ability view the State Mental Health Psychiatric Services System
        - This includes records of diagnosis and services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.
    - This allows clinicians and care providers to make informed treatment decisions, triage medical services with the community providers and correctional services, and make diversion decisions

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- How Achieved:
  - 3). A Diversion Liaison placed at the jail:
    - Licensed social worker identifies individuals with behavioral needs
      - With consent shares this information with defense counsel before arraignment.
      - Any evidence of mental health history triggers discussion regarding patient treatment, housing status, health insurance, and any other indicators of instability.
      - Defense counsel is able to use this information with consent to discuss diversion options with the State and Court.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

- How Achieved:

## 4). Systematic Medical Triage

- Allows for medical staff to share their information throughout the community
- Allows community providers to be aware when their patient and/or client has been arrested.
  - Gives them the ability to start making arrangements prior to the moment of arraignment.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

## Outcomes:

1). Identified physical and behavioral needs, which allows for medical staff to share their information throughout the community.

## 2). Information Sharing:

- One-third of defendants had prior health records already in jail system.
  - Of this group 23% had prior mental health services.
  - 12% had prior diagnosis of mental health disorder
  - 2/3 of the health record group had prior substance abuse disorders.

# ENHANCED PRE-ARRAIGNMENT SCREENING UNIT (“EPASU”)

Outcomes:

## 3). Diversion

- 35% of patients had prior health records in jail system.
- Clinicians were able to identify community-based health programs and social services for patients.
- Feedback from clinicians was that there was an even greater need for more social workers to connect individuals to community programs.
- More information can be found at:

<https://www.vera.org/publications/the-enhanced-pre-arraignment-screening-unit>

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Key Focus of program should be on assessment of behavioral issues and appropriate diversion:
  - All programs are similar in that they want to more rapidly connect with existing services.
  - There is a large body of research empirically supporting the process of treatment and prevention through programs that assess and address risk factors.
  - Balance against the social concern to sufficiently address crime.
  - Research continues to show, however, that treatment is a much stronger factor in reducing recidivism and deterrence.

# WHERE TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION:

- Choose 180: <http://choose180.org/>
- L.E.A.D.: <http://leadkingcounty.org/about/>
- Enhanced Pre-Screening Alternative Unit:  
<https://www.vera.org/publications/the-enhanced-pre-arraignment-screening-unit>
  
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