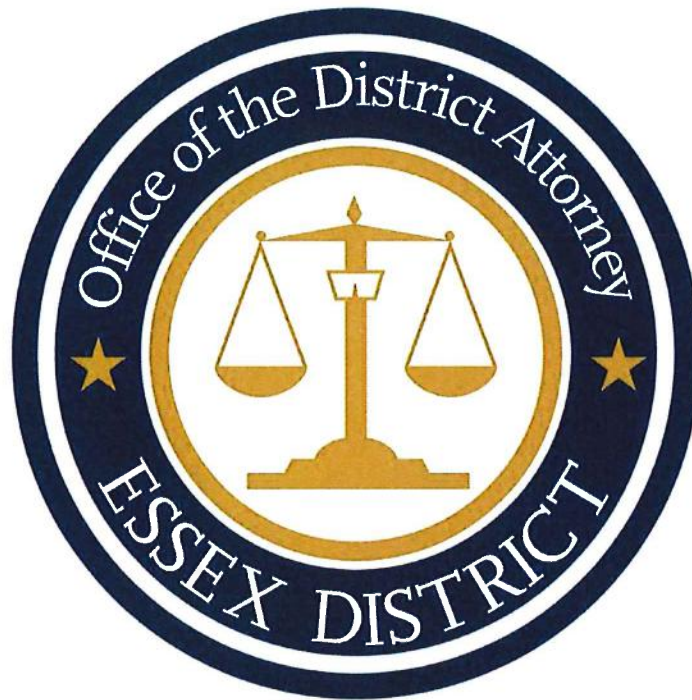


DISTRICT ATTORNEY JONATHAN W. BLODGETT

JUVENILE JUSTICE UNIT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE



JONATHAN W. BLODGETT
ESSEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TEN FEDERAL STREET
SALEM, MA 01970

Juvenile Justice Unit

Table of Contents

I. Juvenile Diversion Program

Juvenile Diversion is a proven program that provides services to certain first-time non-violent offenders in lieu of prosecution.

- a. Juvenile Diversion Abstract
- b. Standards and Procedures
- c. Contract
- d. Diversion Flowchart
- e. Prosecutorial Protocols for Juvenile Firesetters
- f. Contract for Juvenile Firesetters

II. Youthful Diversion Program

Youthful Diversion is a proven program that provides services to certain first-time non-violent offenders in place of prosecution.

- a. Youthful Diversion Abstract
- b. Standards for Acceptance
- c. Contract

III. Drug Diversion Program

Drug Diversion is a program for non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues.

- a. Drug Diversion Abstract
- b. Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program
- c. Standards for Acceptance
- d. Contract
- e. Connections App
- f. Connections App – Essex County Case Study

IV. Community Collaborative Initiative

The Community Collaborative Initiative meetings, as mandated by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 221 of the Acts of 2004, are regularly held in all school districts in Essex County. These meetings bring together schools, police, probation, and other state agencies to address youth violence and provide appropriate prevention and intervention resources.

- a. Community Collaborative Initiative Description
- b. Overview of Participating Agencies and Schools

V. Prevention Initiatives

- a. Summary of Prevention Initiatives

VI. Conferences and Initiatives for Schools, Police, and Community Agencies

- a. The All Stars Program initiated by the District Attorney in January 2016, continued throughout the year at the Breed Middle School in Lynn.
- b. Law Enforcement Responding to Addiction training in partnership with the Addiction Policy Forum.

The Juvenile Diversion Program



The District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program is a national model that works with certain first-time juvenile offenders age 12 to 17, and their families, by offering an alternative to the juvenile court system. Started in 1981, the program has effectively addressed juvenile delinquent behavior while allowing participants a second chance. The program provides first-time nonviolent offenders the opportunity to receive services in lieu of being prosecuted through the traditional court process.

A juvenile's participation in the Juvenile Diversion Program is voluntary. If the juvenile chooses not to participate in the program, the case will go forward through the court system.

Cases are referred to the Juvenile Diversion Program before the juvenile is arraigned in court. If a juvenile is appropriate for the program, the Juvenile Justice Coordinator will meet with the juvenile and his or her parents or guardian and execute a signed agreement for their participation in the program.

Once accepted into the program, the juvenile participates in appropriate counseling, education, and community service projects. If a case involves property damage, the juvenile may also be held responsible for restitution.

The juvenile's case is monitored by the District Attorney's Juvenile Justice Staff. The Juvenile Justice Coordinator is responsible for supervising the case and monitoring counseling, community service and restitution.

If the juvenile successfully completes the program, the District Attorney will dismiss the charges, and the juvenile will not have a delinquency record. If the juvenile does not successfully complete the program or voluntarily withdraws from the program, the case will go forward in court for prosecution.

Major components of the Juvenile Diversion Program

Counseling

The Juvenile Diversion Program is designed to identify and address high-risk behavior and to prevent further involvement of a juvenile in the juvenile justice system.

As part of his or her involvement in the Juvenile Diversion Program, a juvenile is required to participate in a counseling program. The Diversion Program requires a juvenile to receive a counseling evaluation from a licensed professional and attend recommended individual or group counseling. If, for any reason, counseling is not warranted, the juvenile would be required to participate in an education group, which may cover important topics including decision-making, high-risk behavior, and alcohol and substance abuse education. The number of sessions that are required will be determined by the counselor.

A list of counseling agencies that work with the program will be provided to families. However, families may choose an individual counselor by speaking to their primary care physician or health insurance provider.

Once a counselor has been chosen, the family must contact this office within one week with the counselor's name, address, and phone contact information and a referral will be sent to the appropriate agency. A Juvenile Justice Coordinator will also contact the counselor and provide them with information pertinent to the Diversion Program and the program's requirements. A Juvenile Justice Coordinator will maintain contact with the counselor until the juvenile has completed the program.

Community Service

As part of the Juvenile Diversion Program, juveniles are required to volunteer at a community agency or non-profit organization. Community service can provide juveniles with the opportunity to "give back" to the community.

Community Service has a value to the community and can also provide a juvenile with the understanding that it is important to be an active citizen.

During the intake, the Juvenile Justice Coordinator will discuss any potential volunteer experience and skills to help determine a potential community service site for the juvenile to perform their community service hours.

Juveniles are required to contact the Juvenile Justice Coordinator regarding their chosen community service site.

Restitution

The Juvenile Diversion Program follows the state guidelines and collects any out-of-pocket expenses and the replacement cost of damaged or stolen property. If this component is applicable, the Juvenile Justice Coordinator will inform the juvenile of how much money they will need to pay for restitution and where to send the bank check or money orders.

Preparing for the future

All cases entering Juvenile Diversion are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and sometimes require additional components. These additional components or conditions may include online educational programs, enrollment in GED, technical or college programs and access to job and career training.

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Standards and Procedures for Acceptance to the Essex District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program

The District Attorney's Juvenile Justice Program, established in 1981, is intended to balance appropriate prevention services with strong prosecution, thereby providing an effective response to each and every incident of juvenile crime in Essex County. Accordingly, Juvenile Justice Staff in each district court reviews all juvenile cases. In reviewing cases, all available information is taken into account including input from the arresting officer or police liaison and specific community needs and concerns. Based on a review by Juvenile Justice Coordinators and Assistant District Attorneys, juvenile cases are referred for Juvenile Diversion, Juvenile Prosecution, or Indictment as a Youthful Offender.

The Juvenile Diversion Program is offered to first-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders. Participants in the Juvenile Diversion Program are required to attend appropriate individual counseling or educational group, perform community service, and in certain cases pay restitution. Juveniles who complete the program successfully will not have a court record as a result of the incident. Those who fail to complete the program successfully will be prosecuted. The majority of cases referred to the Juvenile Diversion Program are referred at the pre-arraignment stage. However, occasionally there are cases that are accepted post-arraignment.

The ultimate decision of whether to divert a case, either at the pre-arraignment or post-arraignment level, or prosecute, shall be determined by the Juvenile Justice Coordinator in conjunction with an Assistant District Attorney who has prosecutorial discretion. No singular factor in itself is determinative of whether the juvenile is diverted, either pre-arraignment or post-arraignment, or prosecuted.

Standards for Acceptance to the Juvenile Diversion Program

- A juvenile, age **12 to 17**, may be referred.
- **First Offenses**, in most cases, may be eligible for the program. Prior involvement with the police and prior court involvement are considered and may be a basis for denial of entry into the program.
- **Delinquent acts of violence**, generally, are not referable. However, assaultive crimes may be eligible in certain circumstances. Victim input is taken into account in these matters. The ADA and JJ Coordinator will consult with supervisory staff regarding possible diversion.
- Crimes of a **group activity**, which may be gang related, are not referable. Crimes of a **group activity**, which are occasional, situational, and temporary, may be eligible.
- **Drug Offenses:** Referrals can be made on "possession" and "use" cases. Cases in which the District Attorney's Office would prosecute for "sale" are not eligible.

- **JOL:** Any offenses that violate the Junior Operators Law may be eligible for Juvenile Diversion but require Main Office approval.
- The following crimes will **NOT** be diverted unless there are exceptional and mitigating circumstances and **with the approval of the Main Office**.
 - Any/all major felonies
 - Any sexual assault or sexual related offense
 - Any serious drug cases alleging:
 - Possession w/intent to distribute
 - Distributing a controlled substance
 - Misdemeanors or felonies identified by the District Attorney's Office, the police, schools or community in general, which have been determined to be of particular concern to that community.
- **Restitution** is determined pursuant to the policies and procedures of the Victim Witness Assistance Program. Indigent juveniles will not be excluded from participation in the Juvenile Diversion Program solely because of an inability to pay restitution. The program will attempt to make longer payment schedules when appropriate. The juvenile and parent(s) or guardian(s) are informed that fulfillment of the restitution component of the Juvenile Diversion Program contract does NOT render them immune from civil action.
- The juvenile must acknowledge responsibility for their behavior in the offense.
- The juvenile and parent/guardian must be **amenable to all the terms and conditions of the contract and treatment program** established by the JJ Coordinator and ADA. Juveniles who do not agree to attend counseling and complete community service projects shall be denied entry into the program.
- The juvenile and parent/guardian are informed that their **participation in the program is voluntary** and that the case may be brought forward in court at any time upon their request.

Standards for Compliance

Upon termination for non-compliance, the case will be brought forward and the usual juvenile court process shall resume in a non-prejudiced manner. The following conditions are in violation of a juvenile's contract with the Diversion Program and may result in the termination from the program for non-compliance:

- Failure of the juvenile to attend counseling on a regular basis.
- Failure of the juvenile to complete assigned community service projects.
- Commission of a subsequent offense.
- Failure to pay restitution.

Successful Program Completion

When a client successfully completes the goals of the Juvenile Diversion Program, the termination process begins. The JJ Coordinator will monitor the follow-up procedure for each client that successfully completes the program.

- The JJ Coordinator will contact each family by letter within a sixty (60) day period after program completion.
- If additional services are requested, the JJ Coordinator will assist in securing the needed services.

Juvenile Diversion Post-Complaint Procedure

- Juvenile is arraigned on delinquent charges.
- ADA informs the court that the case may be accepted into the Juvenile Diversion Program and requests a status date. At this point, the JJ Coordinator and ADA review facts and discuss with police. Where appropriate, the VWA becomes involved.
- If a case is to be accepted to the Juvenile Diversion Program post-arraignment, the juvenile must appear before the Court and declare their intention to enter the program.
- The ADA shall ask for a 4 month status/review date.
- At the review date, the JJ Coordinator shall report to the Court. If the juvenile has completed the program successfully, then the ADA requests that the case be dismissed.
- In the event that the JJ Coordinator requests the case be brought forward, the Coordinator will inform the juvenile by written correspondence and the case will proceed through the usual court process.

**Office of Jonathan W. Blodgett
Essex District Attorney
10 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970**



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE ESSEX DISTRICT
SALEM NEWBURYPORT LAWRENCE

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FAX (978)744-2049
TTY (978)741-3163

Essex County Juvenile Diversion Program Contract

TO: Jonathan W. Blodgett, District Attorney for the Eastern District

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: Voluntary request for acceptance into Juvenile Diversion Program

1. I have been informed that the police of _____, **Essex County**, have sufficient evidence to seek a complaint against me on charges of _____.
2. I have been informed that the court process against me will be suspended if I agree to participate in and successfully complete the District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program. Successful completion of the Juvenile Diversion Program requires that I agree to the following:
 - A. That I acknowledge responsibility for my behavior in this offense.
 - B. That I will be truthful and cooperative with the Juvenile Diversion Program.
 - C. That I fully participate in recommended counseling services.
 - i. That I meet with a qualified counselor approved by the Juvenile Diversion Program for a specialized assessment. Based on the assessment, I will be referred to appropriate counseling.
 - ii. If, as a result of the specialized assessment, individual counseling is found not to be necessary, I will be referred to an educational group dealing with high risk behavior.
 - iii. That I will follow through with any additional treatment recommendations made by the counselor during the course of this Program.
 - iv. The length of time involved is a minimum of 4-6 months.
 - v. I will assume all costs incurred for counseling.
 - D. That I keep all scheduled appointments.
 - E. That I will not commit other offenses. In addition, any further involvement with the police, whether or not it rises to the level of a criminal offense, may result in expulsion from the Juvenile Diversion Program.
 - F. That I will make appropriate restitution for any property damage.

- G. That I will participate in community service or complete an equivalent project if deemed necessary.
3. I understand that acceptance and participation in the Juvenile Diversion Program, including restitution, if deemed appropriate, does not render me immune from civil action.
 4. I understand that any information I release to personnel involved in my treatment program, contract, or the Juvenile Diversion Program in general cannot be used against me in court as evidence of guilt for this offense.
 5. I understand that I may be expelled from the program if I fail to complete the program successfully as determined by the District Attorney's Office, or commit a subsequent offense. Additionally, I understand that I may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time. **Should I be expelled or voluntarily withdraw, I understand it may result in prosecution of existing charges and/or new charges as deemed appropriate by the Essex County District Attorney's Office.**
 6. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM, I WILLINGLY AND KNOWINGLY SUSPEND MY RIGHTS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE A CLERK MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE, TO HAVE A SPEEDY TRIAL, TO CONFRONT MY ACCUSERS, AND TO HAVE MY GUILT OR INNOCENCE DETERMINED IN COURT. SUCH RIGHTS MAY BE REASSERTED AT ANY TIME BY MY VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL, OR IF I AM UNSUCCESSFULLY TERMINATED FROM THE PROGRAM. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY. THE JUVENILE COURT WILL APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO ME AT NO COST SHOULD I DECIDE THAT I WISH TO SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR I MAY HIRE MY OWN ATTORNEY.
 7. Information concerning this offense may be shared with the school.
 8. If I successfully complete my contract, I understand I will not be prosecuted for the offense set out herein. **I have been advised, however, that if I am charged with a subsequent 6 month misdemeanor, this case may be used only to establish that I previously committed another offense.**
 9. In consideration for my acceptance into the Juvenile Diversion Program, I agree to abide by the general provisions of the Juvenile Diversion Program outlined in paragraphs 1-8 above, in particular sub-paragraph 2, A through G, and the specific provisions of my contract.
 10. Formal and final acceptance into the Juvenile Diversion Program will be granted only after an Assistant District Attorney has reviewed all intake forms, including this contract, which have been filled out and signed by the Juvenile, his/her parent or guardian, and the Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator.

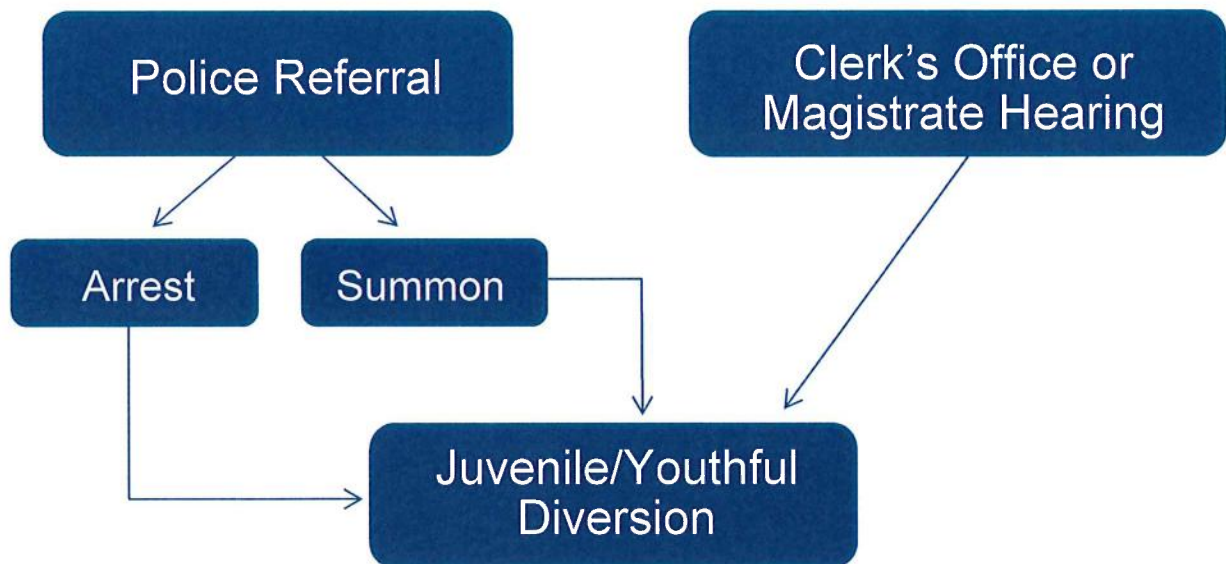
Client: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

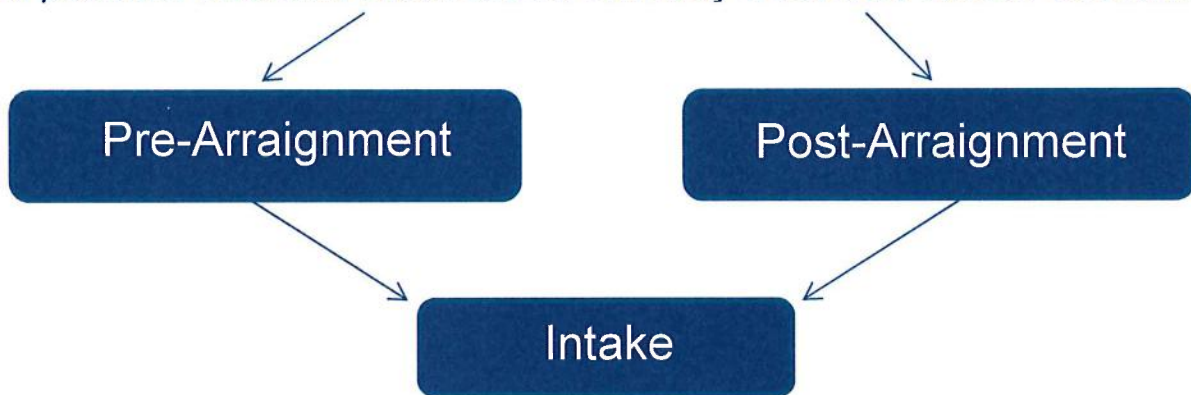
Date: _____

Coordinator: _____

Diversion Flow Chart



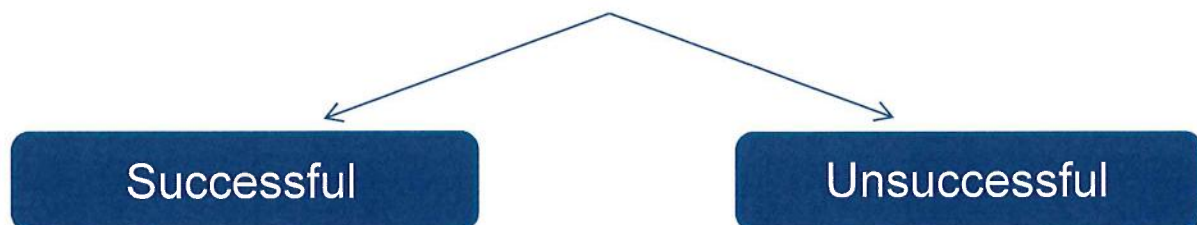
All potential Diversion cases are screened by a Juvenile Justice Coordinator.



A contract is signed by the youth and a parent (if under 18) that outlines the requirements and expectations of the Diversion Program.

Case Management

The Juvenile Justice Coordinator monitors the case and receives updates from service providers. The youth must provide documentation once requirements are complete.



Case dismissed, not prosecuted.

Case brought forward for prosecution.

Office of the Essex District Attorney Protocol for Juvenile Firesetters

All juvenile cases involving arson, burning of personal property, burning of woods and other fire-related offenses are reviewed to determine eligibility for the Fire Safety Program. The Fire Safety Program, a component of the Juvenile Diversion Program, is offered to certain first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders age 12 to 17 charged with a fire setting offense.

Juveniles and their parent(s)/guardian(s) meet with a Juvenile Justice Coordinator for an intake. The juvenile will sign a contract to:

1. Agree to an assessment by a counseling professional specially trained in the treatment of firesetters;
2. Participate in appropriate counseling and community service; and,
3. Successfully complete a 10-week Fire Safety School targeted at juvenile firesetters.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinator will:

1. Collect restitution, if applicable;
2. Provide the referring police department with monthly updates on the progress of the juvenile; and
3. Monitor the case for six months to one year.

If a juvenile fails to complete the Fire Safety Program requirements, the case will be brought forward for prosecution.

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**Juvenile Diversion Contract
Juvenile Fire Safety Program**

TO: Jonathan W. Blodgett, District Attorney for the Essex District

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: Voluntary request for acceptance into the Juvenile Diversion/Firesetter's Program

1. I have been informed that the police of _____, Essex County, have sufficient evidence to seek a complaint against me on charges of _____

2. I have been informed that the court process against me will be suspended if I agree to participate in and successfully complete the District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program. Successful completion of the Juvenile Diversion/Firesetter's Program requires that I agree to the following:

- A. That I acknowledge responsibility for my behavior in this offense.
- B. That I will be truthful and cooperative with the Juvenile Diversion Program.
- C. That I fully participate in recommended counseling services.
 - That I meet with a qualified counselor approved by the Juvenile Diversion Program for a specialized assessment. Based on the assessment I will be referred to appropriate counseling.
 - If, as a result of the specialized assessment, individual counseling is found not to be necessary, I will be referred to an educational group dealing with high-risk behavior.
 - That I will follow through with any additional treatment recommendations made by the counselor during the course of this Program.
 - The length of time involved is 6 months to a year.
 - I will assume all costs incurred for counseling.

- D. That I will keep all scheduled appointments.
 - E. That I will not commit other offenses. In addition, any further involvement with the police, whether or not it rises to the level of a criminal offense, may result in expulsion from the Juvenile Diversion Program.
 - F. That I will make appropriate restitution for any property damage.
 - G. That I will participate in community service or complete an equivalent project if deemed necessary.
 - H. Specific conditions:
Attend 10 week Firesetter's Program at:
-

3. I understand that acceptance and participation in the Juvenile Diversion Program, including restitution, if deemed appropriate, does not render me immune from civil action.

4. I understand that any information I release to personnel involved in my treatment program, contract, or the Juvenile Diversion Program in general cannot be used against me in court as evidence of guilt for this offense.

5. I understand that I may be expelled from the program if I fail to complete the program successfully as determined by the District Attorney's Office or commit a subsequent offense. Additionally, I understand that I may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time.

Should I be expelled or voluntarily withdraw, I understand it may result in prosecution of existing charges and/or new charges as deemed appropriate by the Essex District Attorney.

6. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM/FIRESETTER'S PROGRAM, I WILLINGLY AND KNOWINGLY SUSPEND MY RIGHTS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE A CLERK-MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE, TO HAVE A SPEEDY TRIAL, TO CONFRONT MY ACCUSERS, AND TO HAVE MY GUILT OR INNOCENCE DETERMINED IN COURT. SUCH RIGHTS MAY BE REASSERTED AT ANY TIME BY MY VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL, OR IF I AM UNSUCCESSFULLY TERMINATED FROM THE PROGRAM. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY. THE JUVENILE COURT WILL APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO ME AT NO COST SHOULD I DECIDE THAT I WISH TO SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR I MAY HIRE MY OWN ATTORNEY.

7. Information concerning this offense may be shared with the school.

8. If I successfully complete my contract, I understand I will not be prosecuted for the offense set out herein. **I have been advised, however, that if I am charged with a subsequent six (6) month misdemeanor, this case may be used only to establish that I previously committed another offense.**

9. In consideration for my acceptance into the Juvenile Diversion Program, I agree to abide by the general provisions of the Juvenile Diversion Program outlined in paragraphs 1-8 above, in particular sub-paragraph 2, A through H, and the specific provisions of my contract.

10. Formal and final acceptance into the Juvenile Diversion Program will be granted only after an Assistant District Attorney has reviewed all intake forms, including this contract, which have been filled out and signed by the youth, his/her parent or guardian and the Juvenile Justice Coordinator.

Client: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Coordinator: _____

Youthful Diversion Program



The District Attorney's Youthful Diversion Program offers first-time nonviolent offenders age 18 to 21 services in lieu of being prosecuted through the traditional court process. Started in 1995, the Youthful Diversion program is based on the same principles of our Juvenile Diversion Program.

Cases are referred to the Youthful Diversion Program before the youth is arraigned in court. If a youth is appropriate for the program, the Juvenile Justice Coordinator will meet with the youth and execute a signed agreement for their participation in the Program. Participation in the Youthful Diversion Program is voluntary. If the youth chooses not to participate in the program, the case will go forward through the court system.

Once accepted into the Program, the youth participates in appropriate counseling/education and community service projects. If a case involves property damage or theft, the youth may also be held responsible for restitution.

Each case is supervised by the District Attorney's Juvenile Justice Staff. The Juvenile Justice Staff is responsible for monitoring counseling, community service, and restitution.

If the youth successfully completes the program, the District Attorney will dismiss the charges, and the youth will not have a court record. If the youth does not successfully complete the program or voluntarily withdraws from the program, the case will go forward in court for prosecution.

Major components of the Youthful Diversion Program

Counseling

The Youthful Diversion Program is designed to identify and address high-risk behavior and to prevent further involvement of a youth in the criminal justice system.

As part of his or her involvement in the Youthful Diversion Program, a youth is required to participate in a counseling program. The Diversion Program requires a youth to receive a counseling evaluation from a licensed professional and attend recommended individual or group counseling. If, for any reason, counseling is not warranted, the youth would be required to participate in an education group, which may cover important topics including decision-making, high-risk behavior, and alcohol and substance abuse education. The number of sessions that are required will be determined by the counselor.

A list of counseling agencies that work with the program will be provided to the youth. However, the youth may choose an individual counselor by speaking to their primary care physician or health insurance provider.

Once a counselor has been chosen, the youth must contact the District Attorney's Office with the counselor's name, address, and phone contact information and a referral will be sent to the appropriate agency. A Juvenile Justice Coordinator will also contact the counselor and provide them with information pertinent to the Diversion Program and the program's requirements. A Juvenile Justice Coordinator will maintain contact with the counselor until the youth has completed the program.

Community Service

As part of the Youthful Diversion Program, participants are required to volunteer at a community agency or non-profit organization. Community service provides participants with the opportunity to "give back" to the community.

A list of community service sites will be offered. However, the youth may choose another site or project; subject to approval by the Juvenile Justice Coordinator.

Restitution

The Youthful Diversion Program follows the state guidelines and collects any out-of-pocket expenses and/or replacement cost of damaged or stolen property. If this component is applicable, the Juvenile Justice Coordinator will inform the youth of how much money they owe for restitution and where to send the bank check or money orders.

Preparing for the future

All cases entering Youthful Diversion are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and sometimes require additional components. These additional components or conditions may include online educational programs, enrollment in GED, technical or college programs and access to job and career training.

Standards for Acceptance to the Essex District Attorney's Youthful Diversion Program

In 1995, the District Attorney's Office expanded the diversion concept to include youth (age 18 to 21). Cases are reviewed by Juvenile Justice Coordinators to determine eligibility. In this way, young people who have committed non-violent offenses are offered a second chance. By intervening and providing services the first time a young person is charged, it is hoped that they will have no further involvement in the criminal justice system.

Youthful Diversion requires first-time offenders to participate in an educational group and/or counseling, perform community service, and pay any applicable restitution in lieu of going through the court system. Successful completion of the Program will result in the youth not having a court record for the offense which brought him/her to the attention of the court.

Most participants in the Youthful Diversion Program are referred pre-complaint by a police officer, a Clerk Magistrate, or a probation officer. The program also accepts cases referred post-complaint and post-arraignment. Eligibility is determined by a Juvenile Justice Coordinator on a case-by-case basis following certain basic criteria. However, the ultimate decision of whether or not to divert a case at the pre-complaint level shall be determined by the Assistant District Attorney. No singular factor in itself is determinative of whether the youth is prosecuted or diverted.

Standards for Acceptance

- A first-time offender, age 18 to 21, may be referred.
- Eligible offenses to the Youthful Diversion Program may include:
 - Minor in possession of alcohol
 - Possession of class D
 - Disorderly conduct
 - Public drinking
 - Disturbing the peace
 - Minor purchasing or attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages
 - Shoplifting
 - Trespassing
- Drug Offenses: Referrals can be made on "possession" and "use" cases. Cases in which the District Attorney's Office would prosecute for "sale" are not eligible.
- Youth charged with OUI are NOT eligible for the program. These cases must be docketed and go through the regular court process.
- The youth must acknowledge responsibility for his/her behavior in the offense. The youth must successfully complete counseling and perform community service.
- The youth is informed that his/her participation in the program is voluntary and that the case may be brought forward in court at any time at his/her request.

Standards for Compliance

Upon termination for non-compliance or voluntary withdrawal, the complaint will be issued against the youth and the usual court process shall resume. The following conditions are in violation of the client's contract with the Youthful Diversion Program and may result in termination from the Program for non-compliance:

- Failure to attend educational groups and/or counseling.
- Failure to complete assigned community service projects.
- Commission of a subsequent offense.

Successful Program Completion

When a youth successfully completes the requirements of the Youthful Diversion Program, his/her case will be closed and not prosecuted.

**Office of Jonathan W. Blodgett
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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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Essex County Youthful Diversion Program Contract

TO: Jonathan W. Blodgett, District Attorney for the Eastern District

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: Voluntary request for acceptance into the Youthful Diversion Program

1. I have been informed that the police of _____, **Essex County**, have sufficient evidence to seek a complaint against me on the charges of _____.
2. I have been informed that if I do not wish to go through the court process, the District Attorney's Youthful Diversion Program requires that I agree to the following:
 - A. That I acknowledge responsibility for my behavior in this offense.
 - B. That I meet with a qualified counselor for an initial assessment. Based on that assessment, I will be referred to an educational group and/or appropriate counseling services. I agree to follow through with any additional treatment recommendations made by the counselor during the course of this program.
 - C. The length of time involved is a minimum of 4-6 months.
 - D. That I keep all scheduled appointments.
 - E. That I will not commit other offenses. In addition, any further involvement with the police, whether or not it rises to the level of a criminal offense, may result in expulsion from the Youthful Diversion Program.
 - F. That I will make appropriate restitution for any property damage.
 - G. That I will participate in community service.
3. I understand that acceptance and participation in the Youthful Diversion Program, including restitution, if deemed appropriate, does not render me immune from civil action.
4. I understand that any information I release to personnel involved in my treatment program, contract, or the Youthful Diversion Program in general cannot be used against me in court as evidence of guilt for this offense.

5. I understand that I may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time, and that I may be expelled from the program if I fail to complete the program successfully, or commit a subsequent offense. Should I voluntarily withdraw or be expelled, I understand that the Police Department or the District Attorney may seek to have a complaint issued, and may prosecute me for the offense specified herein, and on new charges, as deemed appropriate.
6. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE YOUTHFUL DIVERSION PROGRAM, I WILLINGLY AND KNOWINGLY SUSPEND MY RIGHTS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE A MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE, TO HAVE A SPEEDY TRIAL, TO CONFRONT MY ACCUSERS, AND TO HAVE MY GUILT OR INNOCENCE DETERMINED IN COURT. SUCH RIGHTS MAY BE REASSERTED AT ANY TIME BY MY VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL, OR IF I AM UNSUCCESSFULLY TERMINATED FROM THE PROGRAM.
7. Information concerning this offense may be shared with the school.
8. If I successfully complete my contract, I understand I will not be prosecuted for the offense set out herein.
9. In consideration for my acceptance into the Youthful Diversion Program, I agree to abide by the general provisions of the Youthful Diversion Program outlined in paragraphs 1-6 above, in particular sub-paragraph 2, A through G, and the specific provisions of my contract.
10. Formal and final acceptance into the Youthful Diversion Program will be granted only after an Assistant District Attorney has reviewed all intake forms, including this contract, which have been filled out and signed by the Youth, his/her parent or guardian and the Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator.

Youth: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Juvenile Justice Coordinator: _____

The Drug Diversion Program



The Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program is designed for non-violent offenders with substance use disorder. This program seeks to address substance use and improve public safety by offering evaluation, treatment and intensive case management. This program is currently operating in all Essex County District Courts

The program provides eligible candidates the opportunity to receive comprehensive substance abuse treatment services in lieu of being prosecuted through the traditional court process.

Bridgwell clinicians conduct all evaluations develop and manage individualized treatment plans. Treatment options include a range of inpatient and outpatient services, and support designed to help participants maintain sobriety. No one is denied services based on an inability to pay. When available, a participant's insurance will be billed.

Offenders identified by the District Attorney's Office as eligible to enter the Essex County Drug Diversion Program will:

- Obtain a clinical evaluation followed by immediate access to treatment.
- Receive intensive treatment planning and treatment options, based on the clinical evaluation.
- Be subject to strong case management and follow up.

Compliance is recognized as consistent and confirmed participation in appropriate treatment modalities, weekly case management with a Diversion Clinical Case Manager, and the consistent maintenance of sobriety from all illicit, non-prescribed substances and alcohol. If a participant fails to adhere to their treatment plan, they will be prosecuted. However, in the event of a relapse, the participant is offered an amended treatment plan that provides needed support to allow them to continue in recovery.

2021

**Office of Jonathan W. Blodgett
Essex District Attorney
10 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970**

Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program

The Philosophy of Diversion

The Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program is a pre-arraignment and post-arraignment program for non-violent offenders with substance use disorders. The program provides eligible offenders the opportunity to receive comprehensive substance abuse treatment services in lieu of being prosecuted through the traditional court process. Cases involving possession of drugs may be eligible; however, offenders charged with possession with intent to distribute, distribution of controlled substances, or drug trafficking will be prosecuted and are not eligible for the program.

The clinical evaluations and treatment plans are administered by Bridgewell. Treatment includes appropriate inpatient and outpatient services, and support designed to help maintain sobriety.

Offenders identified by the District Attorney's Office as eligible to enter the Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program will:

- Obtain a thorough clinical evaluation.
- Receive intensive treatment planning and treatment options.
- Be subject to strong case management, including drug screening when applicable.

Compliance is recognized as consistent and confirmed participation in appropriate treatment modalities, weekly case management with a Diversion Clinical Case Manager, and the consistent maintenance of sobriety from all illicit, non-prescribed substances and alcohol. If a participant fails to adhere to their treatment plan, they will be prosecuted. However, in the event of a relapse, the participant is offered an amended treatment plan that provides needed support to allow them to continue in recovery.

Role of the Clinical Intake and Assessment Coordinator

The Clinical Intake and Assessment Coordinators conduct intakes at the district courts throughout Essex County for clients referred by the District Attorney's Office. The Clinical Intake Coordinator is responsible for assessing and implementing the immediate safety needs of newly referred clients, including the coordination and referral to a medical detox, emergency psychiatric evaluation, an intensive outpatient program, or residential program. Other services may include addressing homelessness, an unsafe home life, and/or any other concerns impacting immediate safety needs. Following the initial intake, the case is assigned to a Clinical Case Manager.

Initial Intake to Case Management

The Clinical Case Manager will contact the client the same day and support the client in their treatment program. An initial case management session will be scheduled within a

week of the clinical intake. A client's ongoing treatment plan is developed and implemented by the Clinical Case Manager; however, a client's input is also part of the process to determine what could be most beneficial to their recovery. Relapse is not always a basis for returning a client to court for prosecution and a treatment plan may be amended at any time based on an enhanced level of care needed. All treatment plans are based on the needs of the individual.

Role of the Clinical Case Manager

The Clinical Case Manager provides weekly clinical case management for clients referred by the District Attorney's Office. The Clinical Case Manager is responsible for implementing individualized treatment plans based on a client's addiction and mental health needs. They also are responsible for coordinating and securing treatment modality appointments for the client. Based on a client's needs, this may also include enrolling for MassHealth, identifying a Primary Care Physician, securing services through the Department of Transitional Assistance, accessing job placement services, and other supportive services that could contribute to stability.

The Clinical Case Manager will provide support and supervision for participants, and will act as the liaison among the client, treatment providers, and the District Attorney's Office. Treatment plans may be amended and enhanced at any time based on a shift in the client's needs. If a client struggles to follow their treatment plan, they may be allowed to remain in the program if they are willing to recommit to their recovery and sobriety. The Clinical Case Manager will work to secure appropriate services so that a client will meet treatment goals and, when appropriate, will work with a client's family to better understand the disease of addiction, and support the client in a therapeutic way.

Client Need

The needs of all clients are complex and unique. Therefore, success cannot be measured in the same manner for all. For some, maintaining sobriety even for one day is a success. The needs of opiate dependent clients are often the most complex. Many of the heroin dependent clients face similar challenges in confronting their addiction.

These challenges include:

- The chronicity of their disease. Many clients have been heroin dependent for over a year. Some may have been sporadically involved in treatment and some clients may have received no treatment at all. As a result, these clients must become educated about the disease of addiction and must accept that it can successfully be managed long-term.
- The illegal behaviors that brought the clients to the attention of the court system. In many cases, these illegal offenses are acts of desperation to support their addiction.

The Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program seeks to support all clients to achieve their goals of recovery and sobriety. Completing Diversion requires participation

in a continuum of treatment interventions and case management for a period of at least six months consistent with these program goals.

Clinical Interventions

Research shows that with appropriate clinical interventions and treatment, recovery is possible. The comprehensive interventions utilized may include:

- Intensive outpatient (IOP) day programming
- Professionally facilitated groups including Early Recovery and Relapse Prevention
- Opiate replacement therapy
- Individual therapy to address addiction and/or mental health needs
- Psychiatric evaluations
- Long and short-term residential treatment
- Detoxification and maintenance
- Self-Help: Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings/identifying a sponsor
- Vocational and rehabilitation services
- AIDS/HIV testing and support

The longer a client is involved in ongoing treatment, the greater the chance of that client being able to maintain long-term sobriety and recovery.

After-care

Clients are provided with a continuum of care. When a Diversion client completes the program, they can expect to have their housing, employment, and educational needs addressed with a concrete plan of continued addiction and mental health treatment. The Clinical Case Manager will make recommendations and referrals to meet a client's anticipated needs for the six months following Diversion. Bridgewell is always available to former clients should they need additional support after leaving the program.

5/11/21

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Standards for Acceptance to the Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program

- A non-violent offender of any age may be referred. A full review of an offender's criminal history will be necessary to determine potential eligibility.
- Crimes of a group activity that may be gang related are not referable.
- Crimes of violence are not referable.
- Sexual assaults are not referable.
- Operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not referable.
- Drug Offenses: Referrals can be made on "possession" and "use" cases. Distribution or intent to distribute and/or trafficking are not referable.
- Offenders who have cases still pending in court or in diversion, or have lengthy records must be sent to the Main Office for referral.
- The ultimate decision and approval of a candidate for the Essex District Attorney's Diversion Program rests within the sole discretion of the Essex District Attorney's Office.
- The offender must be amenable to all the terms and conditions of the contract and treatment program established by the District Attorney's Office.
- The offender is informed that their participation in the program is voluntary and that the case may be brought forward in court at any time upon their request.
- Upon termination due to failure to successfully complete the program, or voluntary withdrawal, the complaint will be issued and the offender will be prosecuted.

5/11/21

**Office of Jonathan W. Blodgett
Essex District Attorney
10 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970**



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE ESSEX DISTRICT
SALEM NEWBURYPORT LAWRENCE

JONATHAN W. BLODGETT
District Attorney

Ten Federal Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

TELEPHONE
VOICE (978)745-6610
FAX (978)744-2049
TTY (978)741-3163

Essex County Drug Diversion Program Contract

TO: Jonathan W. Blodgett, District Attorney for the Eastern District

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: Voluntary request for acceptance into the Drug Diversion Program

1. I have been informed that the police of _____, **Essex County**, have sufficient evidence and have obtained a complaint against me on the charges of: _____.
2. I have been informed that if I do not wish to go through the court process, the District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program requires that I agree to the following:
 - A. That I acknowledge responsibility for my behavior in this offense.
 - B. That I meet with a qualified Case Manager from Bridgewell for an initial assessment. Based on that assessment, I will be referred for appropriate treatment and counseling services which may include random testing for drugs and alcohol, and inpatient and/or outpatient treatment. The type and length of treatment will be determined by the Case Manager. I agree to follow through with any additional treatment recommendations made by the Case Manager during the course of this program.
 - C. That I keep all scheduled appointments.
 - D. That I will not commit other offenses.
 - E. That I will make appropriate restitution for any property damage.
 - F. The length of time involved is a minimum of 6 months.
3. I understand that acceptance and participation in the Drug Diversion Program, including restitution, if deemed appropriate, does not render me immune from civil action.
4. I understand that any information I release to personnel involved in my treatment program, contract, or the Drug Diversion Program in general cannot be used against me in court as evidence of guilt for this offense.

5. I understand that I may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time. Further, I understand I may be expelled from the program if I fail to complete the program successfully, or commit a subsequent offense, as determined by the District Attorney's Office.

Should I voluntarily withdraw or be expelled, I understand that the Police Department or the District Attorney will seek to have a complaint issued and will prosecute me for the offense specified herein, and on new charges, as deemed appropriate. If I have already been arraigned (formally charged before the court), I understand that the prosecution of my case will continue.

6. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM, I WILLINGLY AND KNOWINGLY SUSPEND MY RIGHTS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE A MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE, TO HAVE A SPEEDY TRIAL, TO CONFRONT MY ACCUSERS, AND TO HAVE MY GUILT OR INNOCENCE DETERMINED IN COURT. SUCH RIGHTS MAY BE REASSERTED AT ANY TIME BY MY VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL, OR IF I AM TERMINATED DUE TO MY FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PROGRAM.
7. If I successfully complete my contract obligations, I understand I will not be prosecuted for the offense set out herein and/or the District Attorney's Office may seek to have the charges against me dismissed.

Special Conditions: **Comply with Bridgewell**

8. In consideration for my acceptance into the Drug Diversion Program, I agree to abide by the general provisions of the Drug Diversion Program outlined in paragraphs 1-7 above, in particular sub-paragraph 2, A through F, and the specific provisions of my contract.

Client: _____

Juvenile Justice Coordinator: _____

Parent/Guardian (if applicant is under 18): _____

Date: _____



YOUR GUIDE TO THE CONNECTIONS APP



ADDICTION
POLICY FORUM



CHESS HEALTH
Real Evidence. Real Recovery.

SETTINGS & PROFILE

PROFILE

Your profile is visible in Teams and allows you to share as much or as little as you wish with your peers. You can upload a profile picture or choose an avatar; as well as share interests and photos to name a few options.

HIGH RISK LOCATION

This is one feature that you must enable in permissions in order for it to work. If there are locations that are risky for you, you can identify these here so that the Connections App will alert you if you are getting too close! You are the only person who knows these locations. The Connections App does not track you or report your location to anybody at any time. Your care team will only be told when you are alerted.

SOBRIETY DATE

You can set your sobriety date here which will be used to congratulate you as you achieve recovery milestones. Certain responses, such as self-reported relapse, will cause this date to reset to keep you honest with yourself!

SECURITY QUESTIONS

These questions will ensure only you can reset your password to protect your account.

CONTACTS

Add just a few people to your contacts here who are supportive of your recovery! Calling them will become an easy option if you find yourself struggling or in need of support.

DAILY CHECK-IN

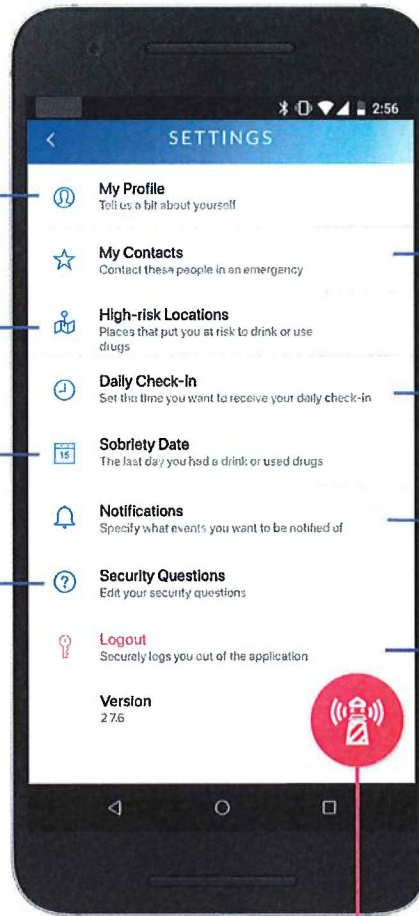
Set a convenient time each day to be prompted to take your daily, one question survey here. This can be changed at any time!

NOTIFICATIONS

Go here to turn on/off the notifications that are pushed to your phone homescreen.

LOGOUT

Logging out is not necessary and not recommended, especially if you have your phone protected with a password. If you get a new phone we recommend you logout on your current device and then log in on the new one. Some features will be lost with logout including journals, goals, motivations and contacts and will need to be restored.



RECOVERY HELP

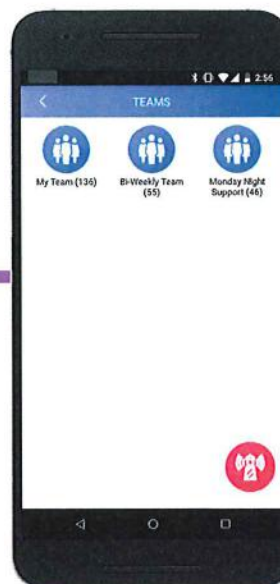
Press this button when you are very stressed or otherwise need urgent help in your recovery. (Always call 911 if it is a medical emergency!)

TEAMS



YOUR TEAMS

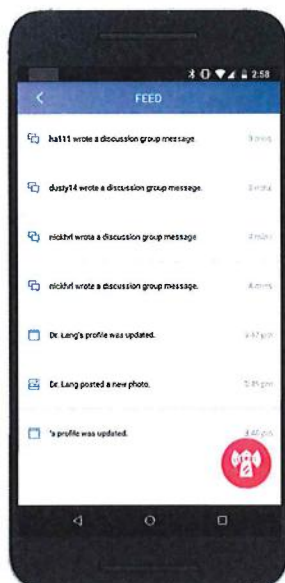
A Team is a grouping of people. Your provider will create Teams based upon their treatment approach which sometimes reflects groups that meet in person, and other times reflects people with similar needs or interests. Once you are assigned to a Team you will have the ability to reach out to anyone in that Team directly via Connections.



TEAM FEED

Once you tap on a Team to enter it and tap again at the top on the bar with the megaphone, you will see the Team feed. This is a great summary of all of the good news your teammates have to share like sobriety milestones, and also lets you know that someone has posted new information to their profile. In one easy glance you will get to know your team better.

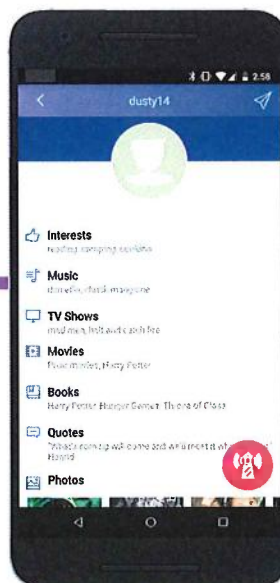
TEAMS
=
SOCIAL



PEER PROFILES

To learn more about your teammates simply tap on Team and then tap on an individual to see his/her Peer Profile. It's nice to find someone who shares common interests outside of recovery such as music, movies, or TV shows; or simply get to know more about who they are by looking at their photos.

Hint: At the bottom of a profile is where you can send someone a message, view their wall posts, or post on their Profile wall.



PURPOSE

Connections is a safe, convenient way to forge new friendships with people who are walking a similar recovery path. Teams is the section in the App that allows you to begin making these personal connections.

PURPOSE

Messaging connects you with peers and your care team, for support and fun. Send a message or join a conversation today.



MESSAGES
=
CONNECTIONS

INBOX

Your inbox allows you see all messages sent to you in Connections. Some messages are from individuals within your Team and are easily spotted with a Peer Profile picture beside them. Others are related to discussion groups and have the airplane icon to the left. You can answer either directly from your inbox by tapping on that message and entering your response at the bottom of the screen and sending.



GROUP MESSAGES

From your inbox you can catch up on what everyone is sharing on within a discussion group! These discussion groups are created by your provider based on specific topics or needs. You and other peers in recovery are then added to these discussion groups by the care team.

Hint: The discussion groups you are invited to participate in may have different peers than are currently in your Team. You can interact with them through the discussion group but will not be able to send them any individual messages.



CREATE MESSAGES

To send a new message, tap on the + sign, choose whether you want to message an individual or a Discussion Group, write your message and press "Send".



PURPOSE

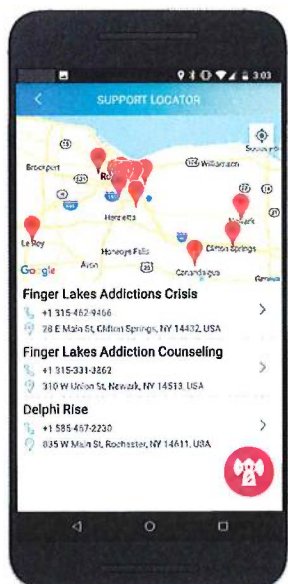
Sometimes you just need that extra reminder about why you are working so hard. The Discover Section holds your key motivations for sobriety, and also gives you access to support no matter where you may be traveling with a resource library at your fingertips and support locator.



LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN

This library contains addiction-related materials that are there to help you whenever you need it. Resources like music, meditation, talks, stories, and a lot more.

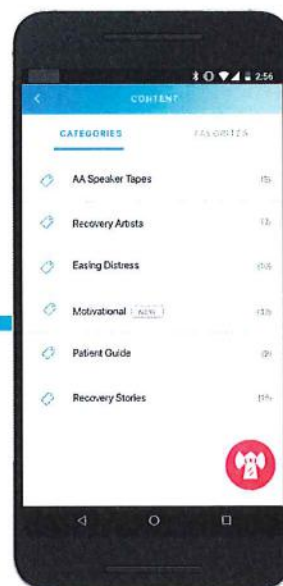
Hint: Certain resources in the library allow you to "favorite" them by tapping on the heart in the upper right-hand corner. It will then go into your "favorites" category.



MY MOTIVATIONS

Everyone has personal motivations for staying clean and sober. Adding photos, videos or text that is special to you will help to remind you of why you are in recovery.

Hint: To choose a Main Motivation, tap on the item. Then tap on the three dots in the top right of the screen. After selecting "Set as Main", the item will then have a blue star on it to identify it as your Main Motivation. Your Main Motivation is the first thing you will see when pressing the RECOVERY HELP button.



SUPPORT LOCATOR

You can find addiction-related supports anywhere with the Support Locator. When you tap it, a map will appear showing resources that are located within 50 miles of where you are currently. By tapping on a resource, you can call them, go directly to their website or see where they are on a map.

Hint: Let's say you are traveling and find yourself in a situation where you feel you need support but do not know the area well. By tapping on the Support Locator, you will be instantly connected to a list of resources that are there to assist you.



SURVEYS

The "Daily Check-in" is a one question survey that gives you a chance to reflect on your sobriety confidence each day.

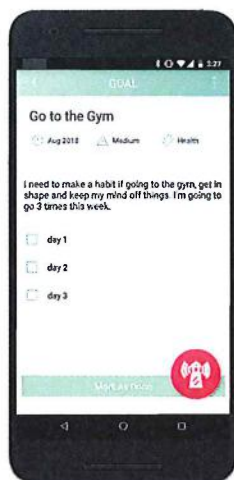
The "Weekly Survey" encourages you to answer the same set of questions each week related to important aspects of your recovery including sleep, relationships, and meeting attendance. This will help you and your care team to identify areas of strength and also those areas where you may need additional support. Results are shown in a graph over time so you can see your patterns of recovery.



GOALS

This is where you can set your short term and long term goals related to any area of your life from exercise and finances, to career and recovery.

Hint: The goals from your treatment plan can be built into this section so you always have your plan at your fingertips.



PLAN



JOURNAL

Journaling is a very effective recovery tool that allows you to express yourself and later reflect on where you have been, how far you have come and what you have learned. This is a private place for your thoughts and is not shared with anybody else.

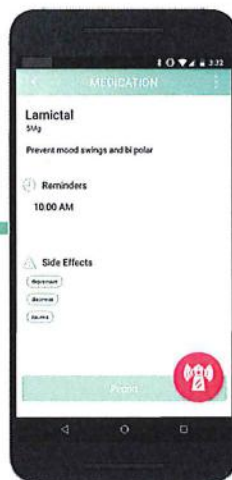
Hint: You can handwrite journal entries and add photos as well!



MEDICATIONS

Your care team can assign medications and reminders to you here!

Connections will alert you to take your medications and also let your care team know if you miss several doses so they can help to keep you on track.



GOALS + ACTIONS = RECOVERY SUCCESS



APPOINTMENTS

Your care team can send appointments directly to this calendar to keep you on track for individual / group counseling and other key appointments. Feel free to add items here that support your recovery; such as court dates or meetings with your Sponsor.



PURPOSE

To get from Point A to Point B, it is helpful to see the steps you need to take! Surveys provide critical, visual information to you and your care team. The rest of this section allows you to put plans in place through schedules, journaling and goals to take the right next steps for you.



RECOVERY HELP

Press this button when you are very stressed or otherwise need urgent help in your recovery. (Always call 911 if it is a medical emergency!)

When you press the Recovery Help button, this screen below appears.

MAIN MOTIVATION

When you press the Recovery Help, the first thing that will display is a picture, video or phrase that is your Main Motivation to stay in recovery. Sometimes this reminder is all you need!



MY CONTACTS

Contacts are a few, key people in your life who know about your recovery and are fully supportive. By placing them in your Contacts they will become immediately accessible here if you press the Recovery Help.



MY TEAM

You can connect with your assigned Team to seek help from a trusted peer! They are on a similar recovery journey and can offer suggestions as to what helps in their times of need.



HELPLINE

This is a 24x7 hotline for those who feel they need it and it particularly helpful outside of standard clinical hours.



GET RELAXED

Connections hosts some relaxation audio which may be all you need to help you through a difficult time. When you press the Recovery Help, this option is immediately available to you.



CALL & CHAT

If you feel you need clinical help rather than the support of family or friends, select the Call Counselor option. When you select it you will be connected with a clinician assigned to you.

If you don't need a voice to voice conversation but just some guidance, this is an alternative to placing a phone call. Counselor Chat lets you reach out to get started on the best next steps.
[Not available for all patients]



RECOVERY HELP

Essex County District Attorney's Office

Telehealth Services to Support Addiction Recovery During the Pandemic

COVID-19 and Addiction

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for those struggling with addiction. Justice-involved patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) are particularly at-risk, and COVID-19 presented further challenges and disruptions in care. The continuous stress, changes to program and recovery support availability, and isolation during the pandemic resulted in increases in relapses and overdoses nationwide.

ESSEX COUNTY PILOT



To provide safety net support and services during the pandemic, the Essex County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Addiction Policy Forum and Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE), expanded telehealth support to justice-involved substance use disorder (SUD) patients during the pandemic.

The Essex County telehealth pilot served 16 individuals with substance use disorder during the pandemic, providing an evidence-based smartphone app for recovery support; CBT4CBT, a digital therapeutics platform that delivers cognitive behavioral therapy; proactive engagement of highest-risk clients; and recovery support services from Addiction Policy Forum that included weekly forum, support groups, and peer/social worker sessions.

Pilot Overview

16 Participants



11 individuals accessed recovery services and programs



7 participants accessed digital therapeutics

35

Average Age

50%

Previously participated in treatment



43% Male
57% Female



Digital
Therapeutics



Recovery
Services



Cognitive
Behavioral
Therapy

OUTCOMES



Individuals on the app were offered a weekly survey to gauge their progress. One client from Essex County completed the survey multiple times over the course of the project, this client reported significant improvements in work, school, and volunteering participation, and increased time spent around supportive people.

Improved Protective Factors

| | |
|--|---------|
| Improved Participation in Work, School, Volunteering | 200.00% |
| Increased Supportive People | 50.00% |

Reduced Risk Factors

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Reductions in Depression / Anxiety | 16.67% |
| Reductions in Relationship Troubles | 25.00% |

In risk categories, the client reported improvements in depression/anxiety, and in their relationships.



"This app is the best thing that's helped me throughout my road to recovery."

- Program Participant

Connections App

To support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, CHES Health created Connections, a smartphone app that is scientifically proven to support patients in recovery by reducing relapse and promoting pro-social engagement. The pilot provided the Connections App to 230 participants.

The digital therapeutics platform allows participants to:

- Track sobriety,
- Connect with trained counselors and peers through messaging,
- Track treatment plan and set reminders,
- Add medication and appointment reminders,
- Journal daily, and
- Access videos, testimonials and more through the resource library.

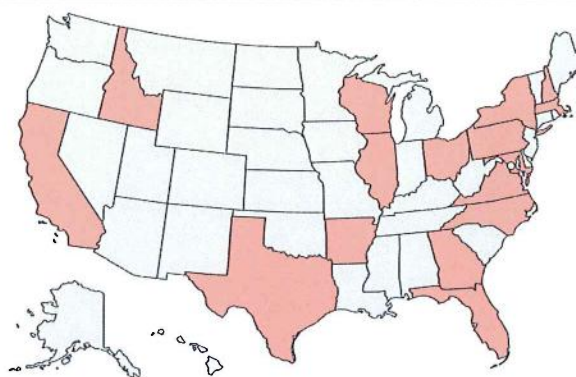
CBT4CBT

CBT4CBT teaches cognitive and behavioral skills that can help people gain control over their use of drugs or alcohol. Developed by a team of researchers and clinicians at Yale University led by Kathleen Carroll, CBT4CBT has been tested and validated in randomized clinical trials.

Skills taught to participants include:

- Recognizing and changing patterns of use
- Coping with craving and urges to use drugs or drink
- Challenging and changing negative thoughts
- Improving decision making skills
- Learning how to say NO effectively
- Improving problem-solving skills

A NATIONWIDE PILOT



Essex County District Attorney's Office was one of 21 criminal justice agencies selected for the pilot project across 16 states. The pilot provided services to a total of 634 justice-involved individuals with a substance use disorder, including 16 participants referred by the Essex County District Attorney's Office.

RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES



Addiction Policy Forum (APF) provided recovery services that included included 1) peer support sessions; 2) online support groups; 3) weekly forums; and 4) case coordination with criminal justice agencies.



Peer Support Sessions

APF conducted 61 peer support one-on-one sessions led by social workers and peer navigators.



Online Support Groups

46 online support groups meetings were held, led by APF social workers and peer navigators.



Weekly Forums

Weekly forums of resources included support connecting to vaccines, gratitude modules, self care, and how to access support groups.



Case Coordination

Case coordination sessions with criminal justice agency staff helped with client matters ranging from housing needs to mental health services.

TESTIMONIALS

"There was no place to go because of COVID restrictions and lockdowns and after being on the app for a while I learned there was a recovery meeting on Thursday night, which was great. I met a lot of really cool, genuine and honest people and they helped me open up about my alcoholism...and I wasn't alone anymore."

- Program Participant

PROJECT PARTNERS

The Addiction Policy Forum and the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) partnered to expand telehealth support to justice-involved substance use disorder (SUD) patients during the pandemic in 16 states nationwide. For more information, visit addictionpolicy.org.



**Foundation for
Opioid Response Efforts**



**ADDICTION
POLICY FORUM**

Chapter 221 of the Acts of 2004

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a pilot program in Essex and Hampshire counties, subject to appropriation, to establish a community based juvenile/youthful justice program for the purposes of insuring the safety and security of the public and private schools of said counties, addressing the problems of juvenile and youthful violence, improving the services available to school-aged youth, insuring the effective use of resources by state and local law enforcement and social service agencies, and promoting collaboration among schools, local and state law enforcement agencies, private industry, municipalities, the probation department, and the departments of social services, youth services, mental health and public health. Said program shall assist in the development of school and community based programs that are designed to prevent violence and delinquency, develop techniques for the early identification of at-risk youth, divert non-violent youthful offenders from the juvenile or criminal justice system, and insure the availability of and access to community based rehabilitative services including, but not limited to, substance abuse services for youthful offenders when appropriate.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of establishing, implementing, or carrying out said pilot program, employees and representatives of the following agencies and departments may discuss and exchange information concerning court records, investigations, court proceedings, and care, custody, education and treatment plans of juveniles and school-aged persons under the age of 21 who attend elementary, junior high, or high schools in Essex or Hampshire county, public or private school systems designated by the superintendent of schools including but not limited to registered nurses employed by the schools, the probation department, the office of the district attorney, state or local police departments, the office of the sheriff, the department of youth services, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the department of public health, and other social service providers. In no instance shall any aspect of an individual's confidential communications with a sexual assault counselor, as defined in section 20J of chapter 233 of the General Laws or otherwise, be shared among the aforementioned parties. Employees and representatives of the department of social services, the department of mental health, and the department of public health may share information regarding the existence of services, treatment plans, and the identity of providers; but said employees and representatives shall share privileged information only when authorized by order of the juvenile court in requests involving a child under the age of 18* and the district court for requests concerning adults. Finally, any privileged communication made to a psychotherapist, as defined in section 20B of said chapter 233, or the results of a court-

ordered psychiatric examination shall be shared only when authorized by order of the juvenile court in requests involving a child under the age of 18* and the district court for requests concerning adults. The appropriate court shall notify the parent or guardian of a person whose privileged information is requested of his right to appear at the hearing regarding the request for access to said privileged information. Any agency or employee or representative thereof who, without authority, discloses or disseminates such information or uses such information for purposes not described in this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5000.

*Effective September 18, 2013, the Legislature extended the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court to include those up to their eighteenth birthday.

School Districts...

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Amesbury | Lawrence | Peabody |
| Andover | Lynn | Pentucket |
| Beverly | Lynnfield | Rockport |
| Danvers | Manchester- | Salem |
| Georgetown | Essex | Saugus |
| Gloucester | Marblehead | Swampscott/ |
| Hamilton- | Masconomet | Nahant |
| Wenham | Methuen | Triton |
| Haverhill | Newburyport | Whittier |
| Ipswich | N. Andover | |



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE (CCI)

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 221 of the Acts of 2004

Reducing youth violence and crime requires a multifaceted, multidisciplinary, and coordinated approach that views prevention and early intervention as critical components.

A partnership comprised of schools, police and state agencies, whose function is to address violence prevention and school violence, is mandated by MGL Chapter 221 of the Acts of 2004.

The Juvenile Justice Staff from the District Attorney's Office coordinate this Community Collaborative Initiative and facilitate meetings in all school districts in Essex County.

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The Mission...

- To facilitate communication among agencies concerning at-risk youth as well as those youth currently involved with the court system.
- To develop a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all collaborating agencies.
- To develop innovative strategies for violence prevention and early intervention.
- To promote and implement intervention tools aimed at addressing and enhancing public safety.

At each meeting, CCI participants may provide suggestions and feedback on an appropriate course of action.

Who Attends...

The District Attorney's Office

Juvenile Justice Coordinators facilitate the CCI meetings on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. The Juvenile Justice Coordinators provide information regarding ongoing cases of concern to the school and community and help coordinate prevention efforts.

Essex County Juvenile Probation

Certain youth discussed at CCI meetings are involved in the Juvenile Court system either through Child Requiring Assistance petitions or delinquency cases. A juvenile probation officer attends the CCI meetings on behalf of the Juvenile Court system.

Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) representative handles information or inquiries about specific cases, forwards that information to the proper caseworker, and then provides follow-up information at the next CCI meeting. The representative also informs CCI participants about available resources and programs in addition to instructing how to file 51A Reports, the investigation process, and possible outcomes.

Department of Youth Services

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) sends a representative to CCI meetings in the communities where youth have been committed to their custody. The DYS representative attends the CCI to share information with the other agencies in an effort to provide coordinated services to families of committed youth.

Department of Mental Health

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) sends a staff person to attend the CCI meetings. If mental health concerns about a youth are raised, the representative will explain the voluntary application process, eligibility criteria, and additional services available.

Police

The police representative attending CCI meetings may be a juvenile officer, a school resource officer, a truancy officer, or a court liaison. The police provide updates on serious cases and address any concerns raised at the meeting. In addition, the police provide information regarding community concerns such as group related activities, crime trends among youth, and safety issues.

Schools

Representatives consist of elementary, middle, and high school administrators, and guidance counselors. Concerns raised range from truancy issues, possible criminal conduct, substance abuse, family issues, and behavioral matters.



Overview of Participating Agencies and Schools

M.G.L. Ch.12, §32 mandates that District Attorney's Offices establish, implement and coordinate a partnership of schools, police and state agencies to address violence prevention and school violence. This initiative in Essex County is called the Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI). The following agencies participate in these meetings by sharing information to provide better services for youth. The goal of these meetings is for all agencies, schools and police to build stronger communities by fostering better communication and relationships. Agency representation, and the information shared, varies depending on the needs of the CCI participants and the community.

The District Attorney's Office

Juvenile Justice Coordinators facilitate the CCI meetings on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. The Juvenile Justice Coordinators provide information regarding ongoing priority prosecution cases and diversion cases involving school-based incidents. Coordinators provide an overview of the court system and help plan prevention efforts.

Essex County Juvenile Probation

Many youth discussed at CCI meetings are involved in the Juvenile Court system either through CRA applications or delinquency cases. A juvenile probation officer attends the CCI meetings on behalf of the Juvenile Court system. Often, the representative attending the meeting is assigned to that community and is familiar with the youth population and their families. In addition, probation officers provide information for interventions or about available resources in the community.

Department of Children and Families

A supervisor or caseworker represents the Department of Children and Families (DCF) at the CCI meeting. The DCF representative records information or inquiries about specific cases, forwards that information to the proper caseworker, and then provides follow-up information at the next CCI meeting. The representative also informs CCI participants about available resources and intervention information in addition to instructing on when and how to file 51A Reports, the investigation process, and possible outcomes.

Department of Youth Services

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) sends a representative to CCI meetings in the communities where youth have been committed to their custody. While the DYS representative typically communicates with the school department on a regular basis, it is important that they attend the CCI to share information with the other agencies in an effort to provide better services to families of committed youth. Oftentimes, a family may be involved with the DCF or DMH, there may be younger siblings in surrounding school systems, or the police may have community concerns related to a committed youth.

Department of Mental Health

Representatives from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) are invited to attend CCI meetings. If a name is raised with mental health concerns, the representative will explain the voluntary application process and eligibility criteria.

Police

The police representative attending CCI meetings may be a juvenile officer, a school resource officer, a truancy officer, or a court liaison. The police representative is able to provide information regarding community concerns such as group related activities, crime trends among youth, and safety issues. The police serve in a reactive capacity when concerns may arise that lead to a criminal investigation.

Schools

School representation at CCI meetings varies depending on the needs of the community. Representatives usually consist of elementary, middle and high school administrators, and sometimes guidance counselors. The majority of names raised at the meetings are by school representatives. Concerns range from truancy issues, possible criminal conduct, substance abuse, family issues, and behavioral matters. Depending on the issue, other participants are able to then provide feedback on a course of action, whether there is an ongoing matter with the youth, or whether any of the agencies present have any involvement with the youth or family.

Prevention Programs and Informational Brochures



Drugs 101

This updated brochure includes specific strategies for parents to use when speaking to teens about the risks of abusing alcohol and drugs. It also gives parents important information and resources about teen substance abuse.



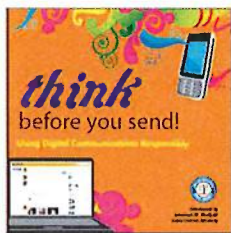
Prescription Drugs

This brochure outlines the most commonly abused prescription drugs, discusses why young people abuse them, and provides parents with important information and resources.



The Drug Diversion Program

The Essex District Attorney's Drug Diversion Program is designed for non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues who are charged with drug-related offenses. The program seeks to reduce drug abuse and improve public safety by offering evaluation, treatment, and intensive case management. The program provides eligible candidates the opportunity to receive comprehensive substance abuse treatment services in lieu of prosecution through the traditional court process.



Think Before You Send

This PowerPoint presentation informs students about how their use of technology could violate the law and about other dangers associated with digital communication. The program covers privacy/disclosure of personal information, cyberbullying, digital dating abuse, sexting, online predators, and associated legal consequences.



Choose to Refuse: Middle School

The District Attorney's "Choose to Refuse" program has been updated and redesigned for middle school students to learn about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs, and heroin. This program helps youth understand the consequences of substance use and empowers them to refuse drugs and alcohol, and make better decisions. Funded in part by the Attorney General's Office through the Youth Opioid Grant.

All Stars Program

The All Stars Program is a substance abuse prevention program for at-risk middle school youth. Initiated by the Essex County District Attorney's Office in January 2016, it is a collaboration of the Lynn Public Schools, Lynn Police, and Bridgewell. The program usually meets twice a week after school at Breed Middle School in Lynn. As with all schooling this year, the All Star Program started the year on Zoom and resumed in person activities in the spring. As always, the All Star staff offered a vibrant program that kept the students engaged.

The Program is designed to be a high-interest program comprised of a highly-rated, evidence-based curriculum, academic support, physical recreation, and a meal served each day. To date, over 350 young people have been through this program.

Stella, the comfort dog brought on last year, played an especially important role re-acclimating students to the school building as well as helping them cope with the added stress due to the pandemic.

DA Blodgett also provided funds to the Gloucester Public School Dept. to initiate a similar program at the O'Malley Middle School in partnership with the Gloucester Police Dept.



DA Blodgett attended the 6th All Stars Graduation celebration in June. Among those in attendance, former LPS Supt. Cathy Latham, Lynn Police Chief Chris Reddy, Breed Middle School principal Julie Louf, Breed Middle School guidance counselor Lauren Phelps and Stella the All Stars Comfort Dog.

Law Enforcement Responding to Addiction

A comprehensive training for law enforcement professionals on the latest in science and advancements to address addiction.

Tuesday, December 14th
9:30am - 11:30am

Register



**ADDICTION
POLICY FORUM**

Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, in partnership with Addiction Policy Forum, invites you to Law Enforcement Responding to Addiction, a comprehensive training for law enforcement professionals on the latest in science and advancements to address addiction.

Tuesday, December 14 | 9:30-11:30 AM

Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, MA

As the addiction and overdose crisis reaches troubling milestones -- 100,000 overdose fatalities last year alone -- all leaders in the community and key stakeholders are needed to address the crisis. The Law Enforcement Responding to Addiction training is designed to increase knowledge and literacy around addiction, develop skills and strategies to help your community, and promote officer health and wellness.

With questions, contact Haley Tenney at htenney@addictionpolicy.org.

