



LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sheriff Joseph Lombardo

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Officer L. Ruiz P#12894



What Is LEAD?

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- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a pre-booking diversion program developed with the community to address low-level drug and prostitution crimes.
- The program allows law enforcement officers to redirect low-level offenders engaged in drug or prostitution activity to community-based services, instead of jail or prosecution.
- By diverting eligible individuals to services, LEAD is committed to improving public safety and public order and reducing the criminal behavior of people who participate in the program.
- LEAD moves individuals away from the justice system without having entered it.



What LEAD is **NOT**

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- LEAD is not a “get out of jail free” card.
- Arrest warrants will be completed by OCE/LEAD officers after 30 continuous days of a participant failing to cooperate with the program. Officer discretion will be used when filing arrest warrants on a case by case basis.
- Each participant’s involvement with the program will be reviewed bi-weekly with the case manager and the LEAD officers.



The Need for LEAD

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The Need for Diversion: Practices in Modern Policing **Policing in vulnerable Populations (IACP - International Association of Chiefs of Police Publication, 2016)**

Embrace Alternatives to Arrest (Page 20)

“Criminal arrest and prosecution are appropriate remedies for criminal acts. Law Enforcement agencies should empower police officers and deputies in circumstances [for those with minor offenses and non-criminal behavior] to use alternative remedies such as drug and alcohol treatment, hospitalization, and other diversionary programs, when appropriate, as these outlets can simultaneously help citizens, save money, and reduce recidivism.”



The Need for LEAD

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- The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world
- Substance use and mental health disorders are driving factors in justice involvement
- With LEAD, law enforcement initiates treatment engagement from a call for service; charges are held in abeyance with requirement for completion of treatment. It provides a tool for officers on patrol to respond to addiction and mental health when charges are present.
- Where there are no charges to be filed, a social referral is available for officers. The same treatment and resources are available for those individuals suffering with addiction disorders and/or mental health issues or both.



What's the purpose of LEAD

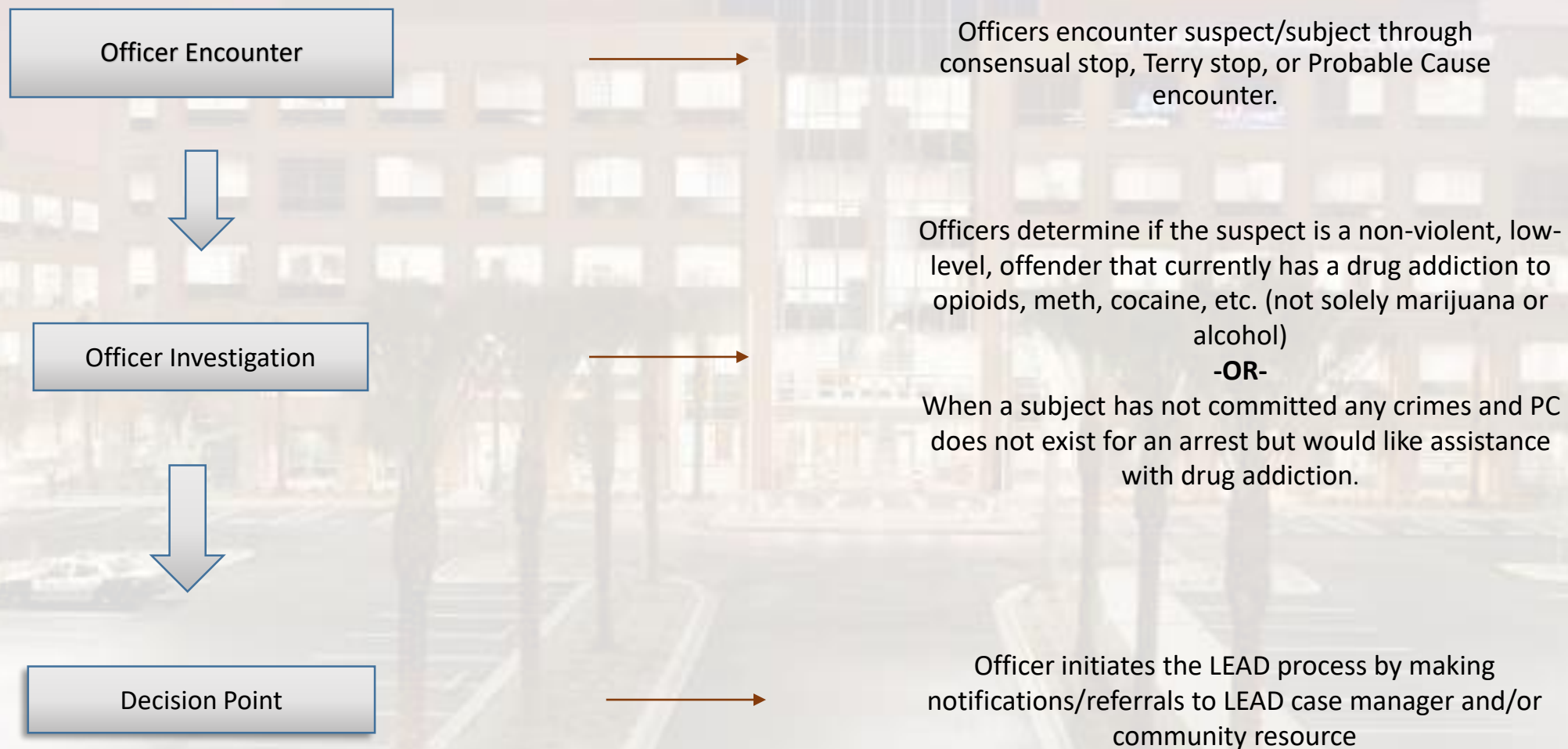
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- **Save Lives** and **rebuild families**
- Reduces the amount of time Officers are in the jail
- Reduce the inmate population in the jails (saving tax dollars)
- Reduce the number of lab requests submitted for narcotics testing
- Decrease the caseload at the District Attorney's Office
- Reduces criminal activity (**recidivism**)
- Public health solution to better public safety – Crime Reduction!



LEAD Process

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LEAD Criteria

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- *Persons who have a known history of drug use will be eligible for diversion into LEAD when probable cause exists that the individual committed any of the following offense(s):*
 - *Non-violent misdemeanors;*
 - *Non-violent drug-related felonies, not to include:*
 - *PCS with intent to sell,*
 - *Sale or transport of controlled substance; or*
 - *Trafficking related offenses*
 - *Non-violent county/city codes and/or ordinances; and*
 - *The individual committed the offense(s) in relation to drug abuse*
 - *In cases where a victim exists, they must be willing to decline prosecution in order to allow the individual access to LEAD.*
- ****If a subject has an outstanding Misdemeanor warrant at the time of contact, the subject is eligible to participate in the LEAD program. Any Gross Misdemeanor or Felony warrants, at the time of contact, will disqualify the individual from participating in the LEAD program. Officer discretion is to be utilized when dealing with individuals with outstanding warrants. ****



Don't LEAD this person:

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- If the following exceptions exist, the individual will not be considered to be a LEAD participant:
 - The individual does not appear amenable to diversion;
 - The individual is unable to give consent;
 - The suspected drug activity includes the sale of drugs and it is believed to sale for profit above a subsistence level;
 - The individual exploits minors or other individuals;
 - There is probable cause to believe the individual committed a violent offense;
 - There is probable cause to believe the individual violated an order of protection;
 - There is probable cause to believe the individual committed a domestic violence related offense;
 - There is probable cause to believe the individual was driving under the influence when contact was made
 - The individual is suspected of promoting prostitution;
 - The individual is a registered sex offender;
 - The individual needs acute emergency care due to being a danger to themselves or others;
 - Without any time limitation, the individual has been convicted of any of the following offenses (including attempts):
 - Murder;
 - Arson;
 - Robbery;
 - Any form of assault/battery which would constitute as a Felony;
 - Any violent crime that would constitute as a Felony;
 - Any sex crime.



What happens next?

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- After the police encounter, the LEAD participant will go through an initial screening where a LEAD case manager will gather basic information about the person and identify any immediate needs. The case manager will try and meet those immediate needs, such as shelter, food or safety strategies
- After the initial screening, the LEAD case manager will set up another meeting as soon as possible with the individual to get much more information about the individual , their needs and their goals. (Social contact referrals have the same intake process)
- Once the immediate needs have been addressed, the LEAD case manager, together with the client will design an Individual Intervention Plan



LEAD Resources

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The Individual Intervention Plan may include assistance with:

- Housing
- Treatment
- Family Reconnection
- Mental Health Care
- Education
- Job Training/Placement
- Child Care
- Birth Certificate/State Identification, etc.



Our vision for LEAD's future

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- Expand the LEAD program department –wide
- Have a full staff of clinicians and case managers for 24/7 coverage
- Have more detox/residential facilities available for LEAD clients
- More LEAD officers/ civilian personnel to sustain the program



Behavioral Health Unit

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- Dedicated LVMPD unit where the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the LEAD program are housed.
- Resources, community partners and service providers will be shared.
- More communication between teams regarding same clients to avoid duplicating efforts.



Questions

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- Contact LEAD officers if you have any questions
 - L. Ruiz (SSM) L12894R@LVMPD.COM 702-828-1994
 - M. Hines (FSS) M14609H@LVMPD.COM 702-828-2428
 - Sgt. J. Santos J8910S@LVMPD.COM 702-828-5762