

Concurrent Session 7: Deflection and Overdose Fatality Review Synergy: Panel Discussion and Open Forum

Moderator: Hope Fiori, Treatment Alternatives for Safe
Communities' Center for Health and Justice

Speakers

- Precia Stuby, Hancock County, Ohio
- Sherry Sexton, Erie County, Ohio



2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Synergizing Overdose Fatality Reviews and
Deflection: Community Initiatives in
Erie and Hancock Counties, Ohio

March 6, 2024

Panelists

- Precia Stuby, Executive Director, Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services, Ohio
- Sherry Sexton, Public Health Educator, Erie County Health Department, Ohio
- Moderator: Hope Fiori, Director, National Deflection Technical Assistance (TA) Center, TASC's Center for Health and Justice

What is deflection?

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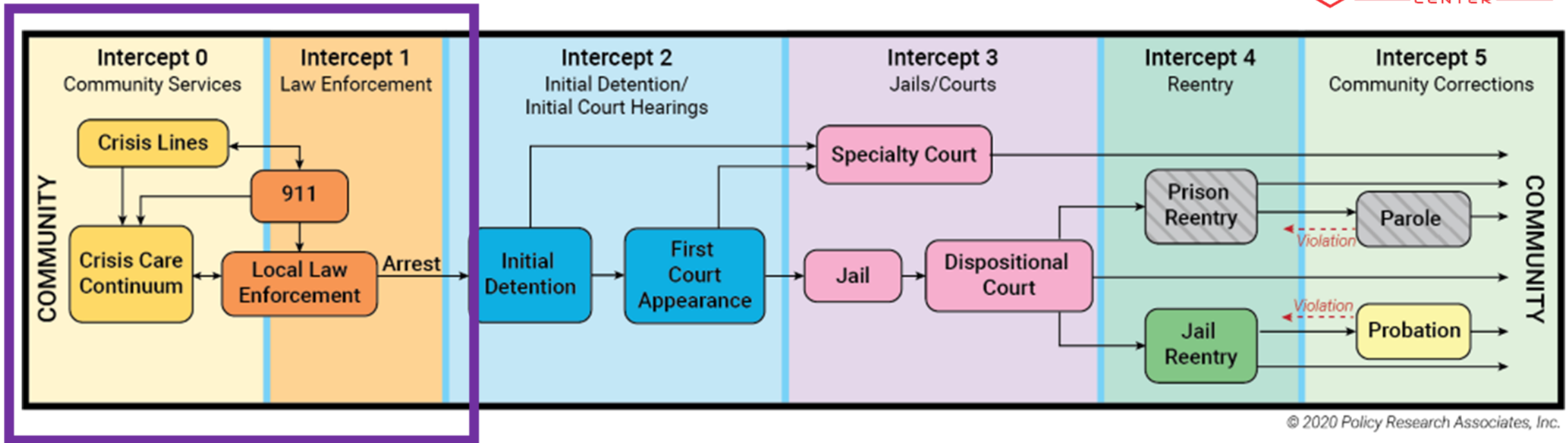
What is pre-arrest diversion?



- **Deflection** occurs when law enforcement officers or other first responders connect people to community-based treatment and/or services when an arrest would not have been necessary, or permitted, or instead of taking no action

- **Pre-arrest diversion** occurs when law enforcement officers connect people who would have been eligible for criminal charges to community-based treatment and services in lieu of arrest, thereby diverting them from the criminal justice system

Deflection & The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)



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DEFLECTION



The Need for Deflection: Turning Encounters Into Opportunities



- Substance use and mental health disorders are driving factors in justice involvement
 - Deflection = crime reduction
- 61.5M law enforcement encounters annually
 - 10M enter the justice system: detention, prosecutors, jail court
 - 6.9M reenter the community, and may be on probation or parole
 - 44.5M encounters do not end up in the justice system
- Address barriers to access to care
- Improve community-police relationships

Deflection Framing: The Six Pathways

- **Self-Referral:** initiated by the individual
- **Active Outreach:** proactive
- **Naloxone Plus:** post-overdose or crisis event
- **First Responder and Officer Referral:** alternative response
- **Officer Intervention (law enforcement only):** alternative to arrest
- **Community Response:** alternative to law enforcement, other first responders



The Five Critical Elements of Deflection



- Element 1: Partnership Building
- Element 2: Community Engagement/Buy-in
- Element 3: Standardize First Responder Deflection Within the Agency
- Element 4: Care Coordination and Case Management
- Element 5: Program Evaluation



Critical Element #1: Partnership Building



Benefits of Systems Partnerships

- Consistent messaging
- Uniformity of action and response
- Fosters cross-system communication
- Alignment of training and application
- Creates continuum of interventions & services
- Shared performance measures & outcomes

COSSUP Deflection Resource Library



Program

Topics

Learn

Resource Library

Deflection Library

Case Management &
Peer Recovery

Community Outreach
& Education

Deflection Program
Documents

Research & Program
Evaluation

First Responder
Trauma Resources

Filter by Sub-Category:

All



Filter by Location:

All



Search



The Deflection Conversation Framework: A Community Engagement Tool for First Responders



Program

Topics

Learn

Resource Library

Course Description:

Within the last decade, the field and movement of deflection have grown rapidly. Deflection initiatives are being implemented nationwide to connect people with substance use disorders (SUDs) to needed community-based services without waiting for an overdose, a crisis, or an arrest. This course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of effective communication strategies for deflection. In this course, you will learn about the science of addiction, how drug treatment works, and that recovery from drug use is possible. You will also learn approaches for building strong community partnerships and practical, evidence-based strategies for engaging individuals struggling with SUDs.

This course, which includes three modules, was developed by TASC's Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) and the Addiction Technology Transfer Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and made possible by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). CHJ provides training and technical assistance for COSSUP grantees to create safe, healthy, and just communities. Working alongside criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and the community, CHJ provides practical solutions that reduce drug use and drug-related crime.

THE DEFLECTION CONVERSATION FRAMEWORK:
A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOL FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Deflection Mentoring Initiative



Program

Topics

Learn

Resource Library

COSSUP FIRST RESPONDER DEFLECTION MENTORING INITIATIVE

The First Responder Deflection Mentoring Initiative will provide communities interested in starting or enhancing a deflection program with the opportunity to learn from established or innovative programs that have shown success in supporting individuals with substance use disorder in their community. The mentor sites serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a program or for established programs interested in learning innovative practices.



For more information and to request TTA



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CENTER FOR
HEALTH & JUSTICE
AT TASC

Request TTA on the COSSUP Resources Website
<https://cossup.org/Program/TTA/Request>



2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Synergy of the Erie County Overdose Fatality Review Board and Drug Overdose Response Team (DORT)

Sherry Sexton, Public Health Educator, Erie County Health Department,
Ohio

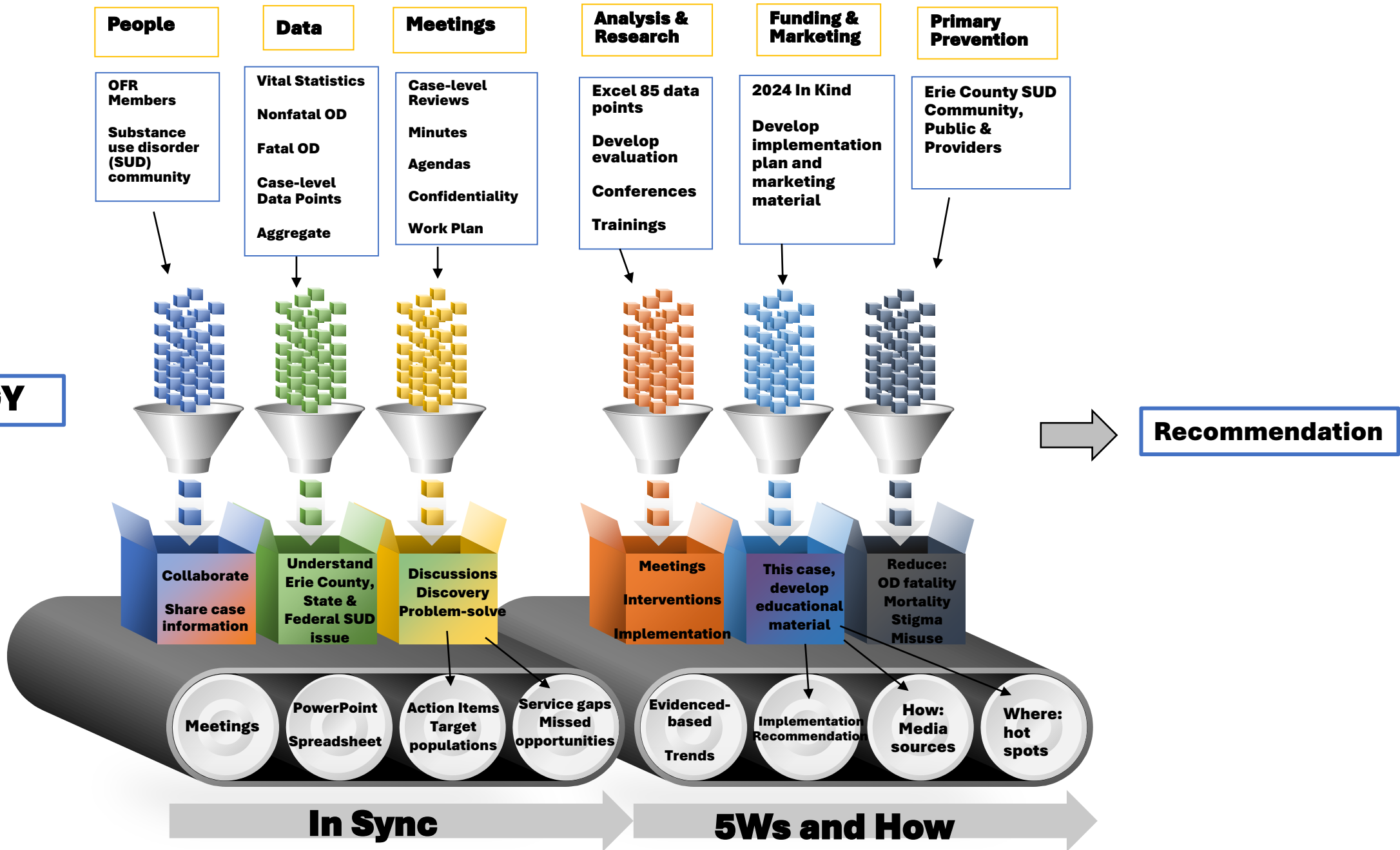


Erie County Overdose Fatality Review Board



- Erie County
- Sandusky, Ohio
- First case-level review: November 2021
- Six-year average/overdose deaths: *25
- 75,000 county population
- Funding sources:
 - 2023 OFR funding: Ohio Department of Health Overdose Prevention grant ended 8/2023
 - 2024 OFR funding: In-kind; not supported directly by a grant.

*2017–2022





Outputs



Formulation of Action Items

- Missed opportunities, gaps in service and new touchpoints
- Subcommittee

Trends Identified in 2022 for 2023

- Most nonfatal and fatal overdoses; most Naloxone administration in zip code 44870
- Over 54% of fatalities have a body mass index of 30 or over (obese)
- New drugs found toxicology: one case xylazine; no nitazine
- From 2021 to 2022, increase race Black from 15% to 25%; 2023 thus far, no Black cases
- 86% cases' toxicology reports involve fentanyl

2023 for 2024

- Most trends identified for 2023 continue being tracked and analyzed/remain same



Description Recommendation- Primary Prevention



2023 Campaign

- Target populations
- Most fatal and nonfatal overdoses – 44870 zip code
- 86% cases involved fentanyl
- Three-month campaign
- Static billboard, electronic billboard, radio, social media, and print material distribution
- Messages: Fentanyl and naloxone education; alternative prescription for opioids, as well as advocating for treatment and recovery

2024 Campaign

- Infographic/one-page prevention education recommendations within targeted hot spots



2024 Campaign



EDUCATIONAL
PREVENTION OUTREACH
RECOMMENDATIONS

ONE-PAGER AND
INFOGRAPHIC BEING
DEVELOPED

TARGETED HOT SPOTS
WITHIN 44870 ZIP CODE

Don't Use Alone!

Get Narcan!

Fentanyl is in the pill!



Connection Deflection Pathway: #3–Naloxone Plus



- OFR
- COSSUP Grant Subaward
- Drug Overdose Response Team (DORT)
- First Responder Grant



Final Metrics Educational Campaign



2023 Campaign

- ❖ 16 Facebook posts that reached 1,034 accounts
- ❖ Static billboard, Route 2, Sandusky, Ohio, showed 42,750 views
- ❖ 168 – 30-second radio spots that reached 92% of 75,000 of Erie County residents
- ❖ Three electronic billboards had 875 – 8-second spots per day showing 1,425 impressions
- ❖ Delivery of print material directly to primary care and behavioral health providers: 17 provider posters and 23 patient posters (awareness of alternative pain management)

Outcome and health impact evaluation will be ongoing to determine the effectiveness of the educational outreach for reduction of fatal overdoses. Thus far for 2023, 12 fatalities*, 10 confirmed overdose fatalities (2 pending), 14 less than the 26 confirmed overdose fatalities in 2022

*2023 preliminary data



2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Deflection & OFR Synergy in Hancock County, Ohio
Presented by Precia Stuby, LISW

Site Information



- County: Hancock
- City, state: Findlay, Ohio
- Year started: 2015
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 19 (We have been reviewing deaths since 2015. A total number of 175 cases have been reviewed.)
- Highest number of deaths was 30 in 2017; there were 9 deaths in 2023 (first time in single digits since 2013)
- Size of jurisdiction: 76,000
- Funding sources: Federal Opiate and Stimulant Response Funds

Recommendation



The addition of a peer outreach team, with a primary focus on criminal justice at our Adult Recovery Support Center, FOCUS Recovery and Wellness Community. The program is called LPSS (Leveraging Peer Support Services). This program is funded through a COSSUP grant.

- When recommendation was identified: 2019
- When recommendation was implemented: October 2021

Local Commitment: No Death in Vain

- 2015: Efforts initiated to complete reviews
- 2017: Institutional Review Board signed (University of Findlay, Pharmacy Program)
- 2018: Reviews initiated
- 2021: Ohio Revised Code approved Fatality Review Boards under the auspices of the Health Department for Suicide and Overdose Reviews

The reviews have influenced the development and/or expansion of multiple programs; interventions; and public awareness messages.

Common Themes



- Criminal justice involvement
- High adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) scores
- Highest number of deaths in the 18–24 age category (closely followed by 35–44)
- More males than females
- Generally, individuals are single and have a high school diploma
- Often an associated anniversary date of a death or major event
- Several with a history of chronic physical pain as a result of injury

What is Leveraging Peer Support Services (LPPS)?



- Context is recovery-oriented system of care
- Third-floor intervention
- Outreach team focused on criminal justice and rural areas (53 reached in the first year)

Contact Information



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Finding Synergy: Deflection and Overdose Fatality Reviews

Public Health & Safety Partnership Takeaways



- Initiatives complement/inform each other and can also be used for quality improvement
- Look at existing governing structures in your community to implement these initiatives: Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST), Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Opioid Task Forces, Behavioral Health Committees, etc.
- If currently doing one of these initiatives, that can be catalyst for implementing others
- Incorporate these processes into a governing continuum (see graphic)

Synergy: PHAST – OFR – Deflection Continuum



- **Lead Agency:** Serves as key convener of the PHAST-OFR-DEFLECTION processes
- **Governing Committee:** Supports and provides resources to implement recommendations systems-wide
- **OFR Team:** Multidisciplinary team that reviews a series of individual deaths to identify system-level missed opportunities for prevention and intervention
- **Deflection:** Consists of key law enforcement and behavioral health leaders

Q & A



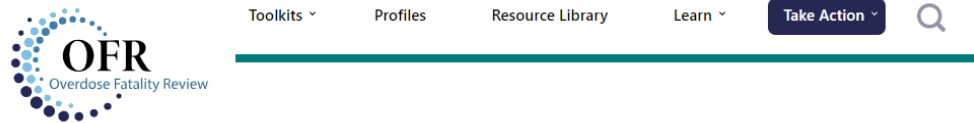
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Additional Support Available!



OFR Email Exchange

- Great way to network with your peers!



OFR Message Exchange Sign-Up

The OFR message exchange is a platform for those involved in Overdose Fatality Reviews to engage with one another. Enrollment in this message exchange is by permission only, and the [terms of use](#) apply.

The fields marked with the * are required.

First Name*

Last Name*



Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Request

- Expertise is available to support your OFR efforts
- We are here to help you troubleshoot day-to-day challenges as they arise



Training and Technical Assistance Request

Regardless of funding source, anyone can request OFR training and technical assistance. Expertise is available to support the expansion and development of overdose fatality review (teams) through a variety of formats, including but not limited to:

- Host one-on-one calls to troubleshoot day-to-day challenges
- Identify available resources and materials
- Connect TTA requestor to peers in the field
- Present to team or meeting attendees
- Convene professionals to address a need
- Facilitate virtual meetings and workshops



OFR Mentor Site Opportunities



- The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR promising practices while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers
- Interested sites can apply here

A flyer titled "Overdose Fatality Review Peer Mentor Site Opportunities". The flyer includes a photograph of a diverse group of people standing in a circle with their hands raised. The text on the flyer describes the purpose of the OFR Peer Mentor Program, which is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR best practices. It also details the "OFR Peer Mentee Application" process, which includes a one-hour introductory call, a two-hour OFR observation, a one-hour post-review discussion call, facilitated discussions with OFR members, and feedback to the IR by both mentor and mentee. A note states that in-person virtual site visits are on hold during the COVID-19 response. At the bottom, there is a link to request a virtual site visit: http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite_Visit. The flyer also features the OFR logo and the BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program logo.