



## Co-LEAD: adapting LEAD for the COVID-19 crisis

Co-LEAD is a temporary adaptation of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program in Seattle and Burien, during the COVID-19 emergency period. “Co-“stands for both COVID and Co-Responder.

### Presentation by the Public Defender Association

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## Questions for discussion

- How do people enter the Co-LEAD program?
- What population does Co-LEAD best serve?
- What restrictions are placed on people in Co-LEAD? Can they enter and leave hotels freely?
- How much will it cost from Co-LEAD's current budget?
- What budgetary restrictions exist if Co-LEAD is not doing diversion work?
- What happens if there is damage to hotel rooms?
- What happens if hotels no longer want to participate or rates change?
- How are we going to measure if it is working?
- What happens when the money runs out?



Co-LEAD: Born in Burien

# What is Co-LEAD?



- Co-LEAD has a team of temporary team of **intensive outreach responders** and case managers, along with a medical provider. Outreach responders work the following **shifts** *Each shift has a shift lead who supervises the team of outreach responders assigned to geographic region (based on hotel locations)*

- M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm & 1pm to 9:30pm
- Sat & Sun: 10 am to 4:30 pm
- Overnight on-call supervisor availability



- Co-LEAD uses **three hotels** in the City of Seattle to place participants to shelter in place and reduce (five hotels county-wide—not included in Seattle Co-LEAD budget). An additional hotel room for staff use/client supply storage is available and utilized during each shift.
  - Each participant signs the **Co-LEAD Lodging Agreement** which defines the rules of the lodging and participant requirements

## What is Co-LEAD (cont'd)



- Co-LEAD reduces crime and helps stabilize vulnerable individuals by addressing the **basic needs** of Co-LEAD participants, using gift cards, providing cell phones, access to food, sanitation supplies, and crisis management needs
- Co-LEAD provides **intensive case management** connecting participants to Apple Health, entitlements/benefits (DSHS/SSA), obtain ID, and connect to other social services available (behavioral health, primary care, employment)
  - Co-LEAD focuses on the temporary nature of the lodging and works to support participants for longer-term housing and support plans



- Co-LEAD medical provider provides **Covid-19 testing** on demand upon program entry and if symptoms occur
  - Rapid connection on-site to primary care clinics for Medication Assisted Treatment
  - Assessment of healthcare needs and related care including prescription and pharmacy coordination

## Co-LEAD--a variant of LEAD



- Co-LEAD is running in parallel with standard LEAD operations, which have been constrained under COVID conditions affecting all partners—while need has only increased
- Co-LEAD participants sign the same Release of Information that LEAD participants do, allowing **coordination and information-sharing** with law enforcement, jail, courts and prosecutors as needed to facilitate planning and good decision-making
- Co-LEAD provides **viable channels** to intercept the population LEAD is intended to serve—people exposed to enforcement and the criminal legal system—while courts are closed, jail booking restrictions are required to keep jail population down, & law enforcement officers are limited in how they can engage in response to public order issues
- Co-LEAD applies LEAD core principles of coordination, information-sharing, field-based engagement, Housing First, harm reduction and crime reduction



**Co-LEAD participant: Ricky**

(photo credit: David Ryder)



Co-LEAD participant Ricky with Co-LEAD staff Mike & Dana  
(photo credit: David Ryder)



## Co-LEAD target population

- People who are releasing or need to be released from the King County Jail but lack a place to stay or sufficient support to stabilize in the community
- People already released who are violating conditions of release but ought not to return to the jail
- People who, due to extreme poverty, lack of lawful income source, &/or substance use issues, present public order issues for neighborhoods, and there is a legitimate expectation of enforcement (not viable to allow the situation to continue)

# Budget & Sustainability

BUDGET APRIL-JULY: \$1,072,165

- Using staffing lines already budgeted for second LEAD case management agency
- Adds include PPE costs, client basic needs costs, sanitation & harm reduction supplies (e.g., fentanyl test strips), oximeters, staff transportation, hazard pay, all within expected budget variance
- Hotels: \$303,944, offset by \$70K Pearl Jam donation

SUSTAINABILITY:

- Possibility of tapping FEMA funds (75% reimbursement) for hotels as this population otherwise is at risk for COVID transmission in congregate shelters or unsheltered
- Solicit philanthropic support
- Re-organize LEAD staffing model for heightened support under current conditions, based on findings from current program review (June decision by LEAD Policy Coordinating Group)

## Tracking/Measurement for Co-LEAD

A team of researchers led by Dr. Katherine Beckett (UW) who were already conducting research on the LEAD model are closely monitoring Co-LEAD developments to provide a program review, and will be interviewing participants about needs & efficacy of Co-LEAD approach using tool developed for people releasing from Rikers (NYC)

- PDA is using a new case management system (Kaleidacare) to track all data, which includes:
  - **Screening demographics** (same as are reported to City and County for LEAD, e.g homelessness/housing status, last known zipcode, recent institutional stays)
  - Full **intake history** including behavior health, medical, employment/education, family and financial
  - **All staff contacts with participants** are noted as well as all care coordination activities
    - Including Apple Health enrollments, DSHS food and entitlements, SSA)
    - Coordination with external providers
    - Coordination with other social services including housing, food bank, stimulus check
    - Coordination with criminal legal system partners including law enforcement, prosecutors, and any existing probation or DOC supervision
  - Ongoing criminal involvement will be tracked in the same fashion as with LEAD participants