

# Summary of Adult Deflection/Diversions Programs Dane County

Presented to the CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee

May 2023

Colleen Clark Bernhardt, Manager, Policy and Practice Innovation

Coordinator, Dane County Community Justice Council

# Deflect to What????

Alternatives to traditional criminal justice system responses

# Deflections/Diversions

- What is the difference?
- Diversion is a criminal justice term for policies and practices related to those individuals who have already entered the justice system. In deflection, inclusive of the term prearrest diversion, a person does not move into the justice system beyond the initial contact with police.

## National changes-May 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced the release of the Model Law Enforcement and Other First Responders Deflection Act, a resource for states that encourages the development and use of deflection programs across the country. These programs are needed because first responders, including law enforcement, often do not have good options when encountering people with substance use and/or mental health disorders. In a growing number of states, public safety and public health partnerships “deflect” people with these disorders away from traditional criminal justice programs and connect them to evidence-based treatment, harm reduction, recovery and prevention services.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION

## MODEL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDER DEFLECTION ACT

SEPTEMBER 2021



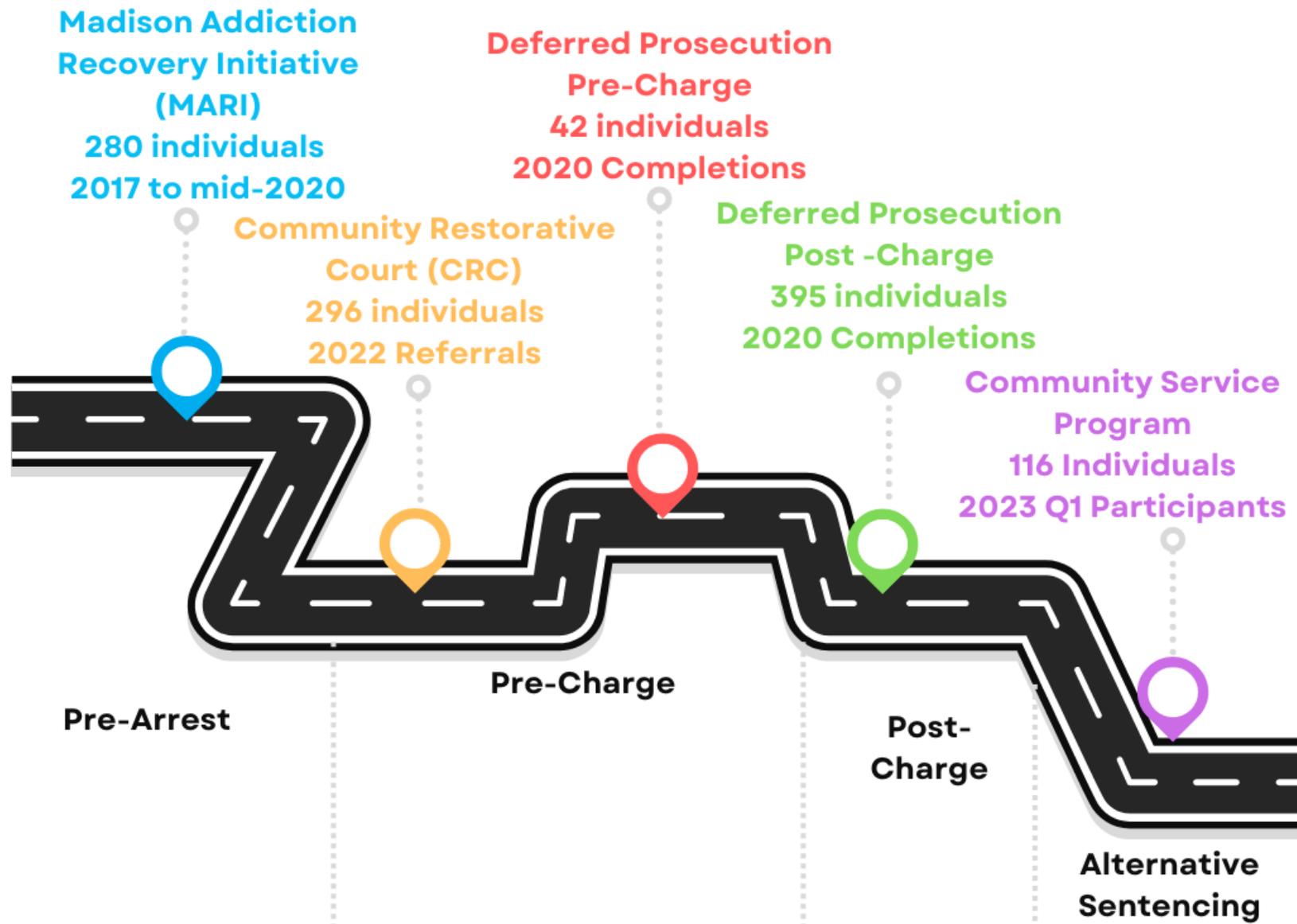
This project was supported by Grant No. G19990NDCP03A awarded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office of National Drug Control Policy or the United States Government.

# Deflection is not *ONLY* occurring with system actors

Deflection from criminal justice can stem from upstream action, including community service supports, strong education, economic opportunities, and opportunities for personal and family growth and health.

Example of public health model





Current Dane County Deflections/Diversions from the traditional criminal justice system



What is missing?

# Restorative and Effective options for the people who we currently cannot serve in other diversions

Community driven, public safety focused, results  
engaged, and whole person valued.

