



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Effective Partnerships: Maximizing Capacity through Police-Community Collaboration

June 27, 2024 | Jennifer Styles, Program Manager, International Association of Chiefs of Police
Nicholas Capriglione, Inspector, New Jersey Transit Police Department

Presentation Outline

I. Organization Overview

II. What We Do

III. Discussion on Community Partnerships to Help Mitigate Crisis

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

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How We Work

- We bring people together
- We drive the criminal justice field forward with original research
- We build momentum for policy change
- We provide expert assistance

Our Goals

- Break the cycle of incarceration
- Advance health, opportunity, and equity
- Use data to improve safety and justice

Equity and Inclusion Statement



The Council of State Governments Justice Center is committed to advancing racial equity internally and through our work with states, local communities, and Tribal Nations.



We support efforts to dismantle racial inequities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems by providing rigorous and high-quality research and analysis to decision-makers and helping stakeholders navigate the critical, and at times uncomfortable, issues the data reveal. Beyond empirical data, we rely on stakeholder engagement and other measures to advance equity, provide guidance and technical assistance, and improve outcomes across all touchpoints in the justice, behavioral health, crisis response, and reentry systems.

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Welcome



Jennifer Styles

Program Manager, International Association
of Chiefs of Police



Nicholas Capriglione

Inspector, New Jersey Transit
Police Department

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

The IACP is a non-profit organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

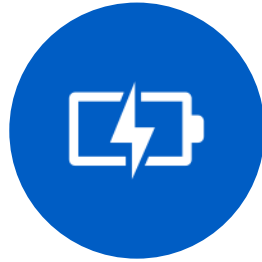
The IACP works to enhance policing globally through advocacy, research, outreach, and education, ensuring safer communities worldwide.

Since 1893, the Association has been advocating for law enforcement and promoting leadership and professionalism in policing globally.

Benefits of Partnerships



**IMPROVED
OUTCOMES**



**INCREASED
CAPACITY**



**INCREASED
ACCESS TO
SERVICES**



**STRONGER
COMMUNITY
RELATIONSHIPS**

Community Partnerships

Mental Health
Services

Substance
Use Services

Disability
Services

Basic Needs
Services

Housing
Services

Starting a Partnership



Understand the Problem and Goals

Listen First
Remove Barriers



Resource Mapping

What do you have?
What do you need?



Engage the Agencies

What agencies can meet the need?



Define Roles and Expectations

What MOUs will you need?
How will you share information and data?

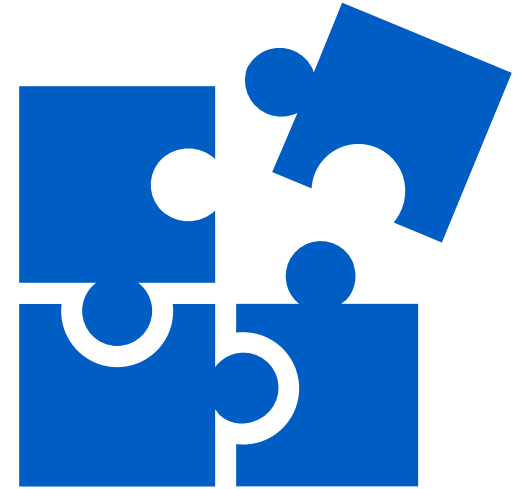
New Jersey Transit Police Outreach Unit



Inspector Nicholas Capriglione

The Beginning

- NJ TRANSIT and the NJ Transit Police Department (NJTPD) recognized that responding to homelessness would require a coordinated response between:
 - Law enforcement
 - Social services
 - Other agencies and organizations
- The Outreach Unit Collaborates with social service providers to deliver effective outreach and compassionate enforcement to people experiencing homelessness



Areas of Responsibility

The Outreach Unit consists of five full-time police officers positioned in NJ TRANSIT's main transportation hubs across New Jersey.



PO Sean Pfeifer
Newark Penn
Station



PO Bob Furlong
Trenton Transit
Center



PO Kayla Young
Camden/
Walter Rand
Transportation
Center



PO Chris Veniero
Hoboken
Terminal &
Secaucus
Junction



PO Jim
Ludzieski
Atlantic City Bus
Terminal

Mission

- To help people experiencing a variety of social service problems and without a permanent residence find care, support, and shelter
 - Connecting individuals directly with services
 - Offering direct linkage to services
 - Meeting them where they are at — active outreach
- While keeping New Jersey's transportation system safe for everyone.



Connecting Individuals Directly with Services

- Outreach officers meet unhoused individuals wherever they may congregate and connect them to local service providers who can aid with the following:



Housing



Mental
Health
Care



Medical
Care



Substance
Abuse
Treatment

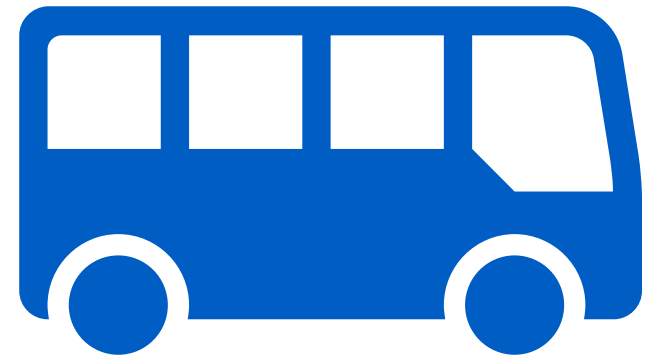


Other
Services

- Outreach Unit partners with local and regional providers who can offer a supportive environment designed to meet an individual's needs with a wide array of services

Direct Linkage to Services

- A key component of the NJTPD outreach unit's success comes from offering an immediate transportation connection to the local social service facilities using a dedicated shuttle van.
- This immediate connection significantly increases successful outcomes by reducing failures to follow up on service opportunities.



Assistance Pathway



It Takes a Village

Outreach Officers:

COLLABORATION

Meet regularly with various social service providers

OUTREACH

Conduct proactive outreach efforts and events in partnership with service providers at their transit locations

APPEARANCE

Wear a more casual khaki pants and polo shirt uniform

ENGAGEMENT

Walk the stations to engage people in need and direct them to immediate services available at satellite locations via the outreach van

Basket Approach

- Partner organizations come to stations and meet with officers from NJTPD to engage, encourage, and support individuals to reach their goals.

Partnership Examples:

- Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
- Bridges Outreach (Newark and Summit)
- North Jersey Community Research Initiative
- Newark Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)
- Project Live
- Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris Co.
- Volunteers of America
- Jewish Family Services (JFS)
- Solstice Counseling & Wellness Center



Drop-in Centers

Individuals can obtain:

- Food and clothing
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use treatment
- Identification services
- Welfare-related needs
- Shelter/housing placement
- Employment assistance
- Help with relocation



Mental Health Partnerships and Interagency Collaborations

- The NJ TRANSIT Outreach Program also partners with mental health services in transit hub communities.
- Trained mental health screeners partner with outreach officers to identify individuals who may be in or near a crisis.



Arrive Together Initiative

NJ Transit Police Department partnered with Beth Israel Medical Center's Psychiatric Emergency Screening Service

- First location at Newark Penn Station
- Officer and certified mental health screener
- 2 days/week, 8-hour shifts
- Since June 2023: 367 engagements
- Over 18% of total New Jersey State Arrive Together engagements over a 2-year period
- 36% of engagements result in linkage to services
- Expanding to Paterson and Camden



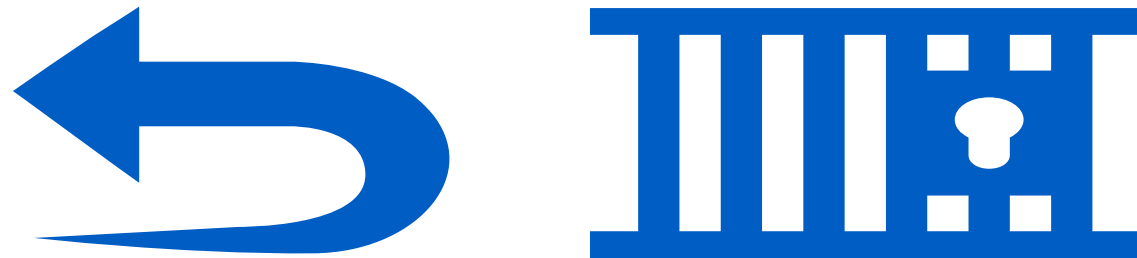
Operation Helping Hand

- Outreach Unit is part of Operation Helping Hand
- Attorney General's Office program that partners law enforcement with peer counselors with lived experience with substance use disorder (SUD)
- By virtue of their own recovery journeys, peer counselors can offer individuals:
 - Emotional support
 - Practical advice
 - Guidance on how to access treatment and recovery services



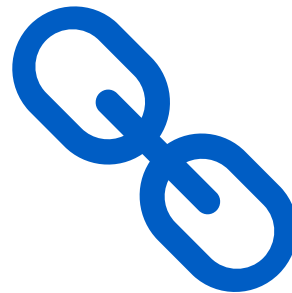
Diversion from Traditional Sanctions

- The Outreach Referral Program allows officers to offer low-level offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation, connection to appropriate social service providers, or referral to the Social Service Outreach Court as an alternative to fines or jail time.



Social Services Court

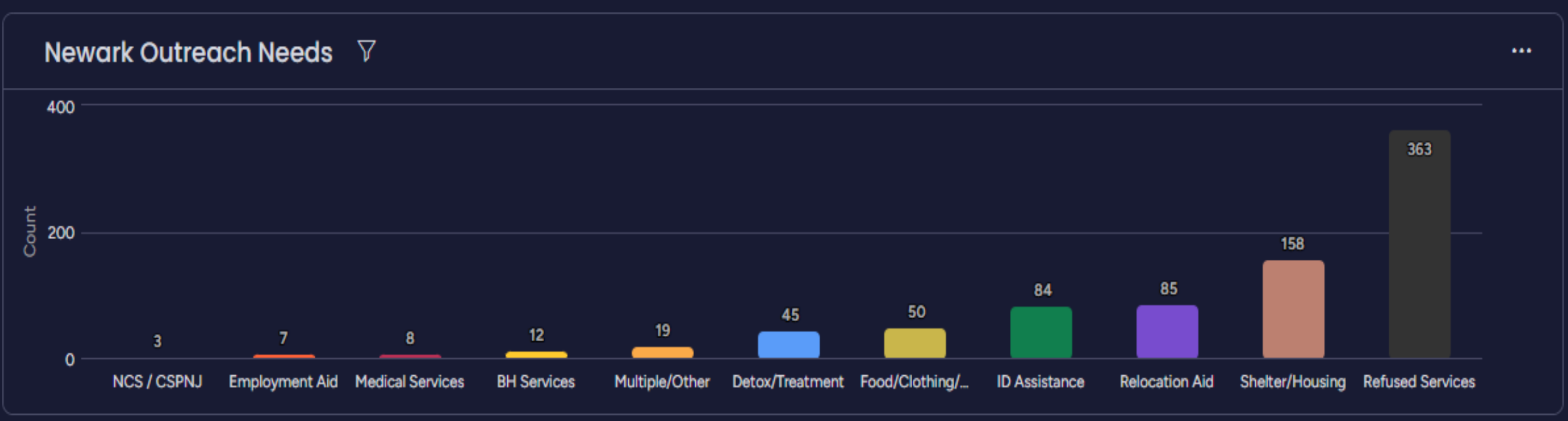
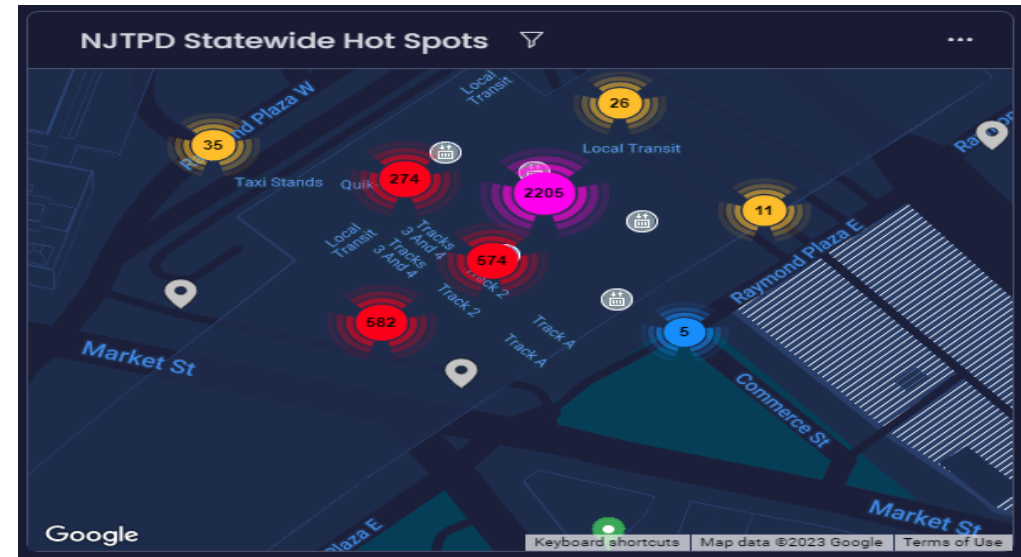
- Monthly video court via Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
- Individuals can access various social services and connect with staff from Newark Community Solutions Program
- Has helped numerous individuals get connected to services and multiple who have moved into housing



1	Deflection outreach w/peer counselors and partners prior to LE patrol interaction
2	Pre-arrest/summons attempt at connection to services (Blue card provided with service providers info, no strike rule)
3	At point of arrest, attempt connection to services (Blue card filed with charges and sent to court)
4	Post-arrest/summons, continued attempts at connection to services through deflection outreach and Social Service Court
5	During incarceration, attempt at connection to services with Essex County Jail connected providers (CJS and CJR)
6	Post-release follow-up attempt at connection to services

Data Collection

- >9,600 documented engagements since 2022
- Majority with partner providers employing the co-responder model of outreach



Lessons Learned



- Incentives/giveaways
- Need for offsite services
- Importance of direct services offer
- Consequences for behavioral issues - but not as a barrier to services
- Value in peer counselor engagement
- Overall shift in law enforcement
- Consistency is key in building trust
- Importance of knowing a name

Q&A Session



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IACP Resources—Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT)



CRIT Training and
Technical
Assistance



CRIT
Curriculum



Comprehensive Opioid
Stimulant, and
Substance Use
Program (COSSUP)



IACP Policy Center

Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Joseph W. Arnett at jarnett@csg.org

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