

DALLAS DEFLECTS!

**Diversion From Jail To Treatment
of Mentally Ill Low-Level Offenders**



Purpose of Presentation

- ☐ What is the Deflection Center
- ☐ Why we want it
- ☐ How it works

Past & Present Police Policy

- **Criminal Trespass**

Under Texas Penal Code Section 30.05, criminal trespass includes the following elements: the person enters or remains on or in property of another; without effective consent and the person; and, when the person had notice that the entry was forbidden or received notice to depart but failed to do so.

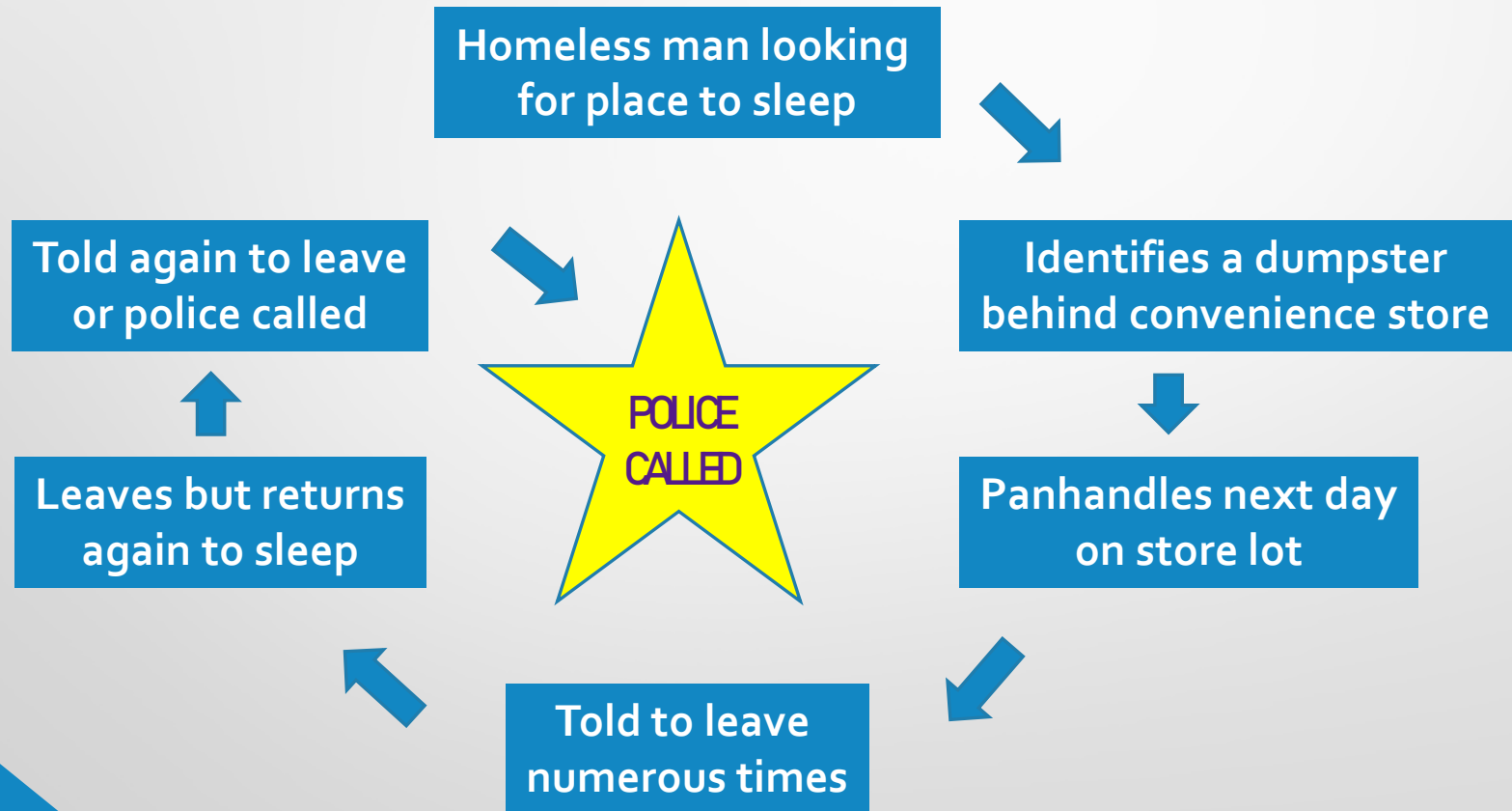
Past & Present Police Policy

- **Criminal Trespass**

Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor crime. In most cases, it is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by fines of up to \$2,000 and a jail sentence of up to 180 days.

Usually, people spend 3-4 days incarcerated & are released after that without a fine. *No mental health or substance abuse evaluations are done during that time.*

Endless Cycle of Incarceration



Fiscal Results of This Policy

- **\$67.20** per day cost to house an inmate in general population
- **\$95** per day cost to house an inmate in general population *receiving medication assistance*
- **\$188** per day cost to house an inmate in the *Jail Mental Health Behavioral Observation Unit*

Fiscal Results of This Policy

- Total cost of processing single Criminal Trespass case, including Law Enforcement, District Attorney's Office, County Court of Law, & County Jail is **\$1,474**
- In 2021 there were **1,701** arrests for only Criminal Trespass
- Doing the math, that is **\$2,507,274** tax-payer dollars essentially wasted

Three Key Elements Needed

- Technology to provide workable co-occurring treatment
- Strong Political Will
- Sufficient funding to produce the project
- *Simultaneous Confluence of these 3 elements breathed life into the project*

Why Jail Diversion?

- Reduce **time** officers spend handling mentally ill low-level offenders
- Reduce community **cost** to police, emergency rooms, EMTs, county jail by providing behavioral health services & discharge case management
- **Texas CCP 16.23** states law enforcement shall make a good faith effort to divert an individual suffering a mental health crisis or the effects of substance abuse to a proper treatment facility if certain criteria are met

Jail Diversion

- **GOAL**

Provide basic understanding of the benefits of diversion of mentally ill low-level offenders from jail to appropriate treatment:

1. Reduce the number of mentally ill low-level offenders in the County Jail
2. Reduce the recidivism rate for low-level misdemeanor offenders, initially Criminal Trespass
3. Create a positive option to arrest & incarceration by providing individual treatment plans & behavioral health services to people brought in

Parameters to Enter Diversion Center (DC)

Initially will be open to persons who:

- Police find are committing *criminal trespass*
- 18 or older
- Don't have outstanding warrants
- Are not experiencing a medical crisis
- Are not menacing nor acting in an aggressive manner
- Would be better assisted through community-based services as opposed to incarceration

Diversion Center Role of Police



CONFIRM THE ONE STOP
SHOP DROP OFF FACILITY
TO BE USED AT THE TIME OF
INTERVENTION BY LAW
ENFORCEMENT



TRANSPORT PERSON TO
DEFLECTION CENTER IN
LIEU OF INCARCERATION (IF
PERSON AGREES TO JAIL
DIVERSION)



ENROLL PERSON INTO
FACILITY – GOAL IS **15**
MINUTE PROCESSING TIME.
NO CRIMINAL CHARGE WILL
BE FILED

Post-Release Services

- Harm reduction: permanent supported housing (identified Sec 8 apartments, boarding homes, etc)
- Follow up individualized treatment plans & case management
- Community support programs & connection to qualified federal programs

Summary

- Officers can divert eligible individuals who commit Criminal Trespass offenses to a treatment facility instead of jail - No criminal charges will be filed
- Officers are then free to return back into service
- Individuals will be assessed & given the necessary treatment & follow up to re-enter society
- Eligible people will receive housing & wrap-around outpatient services



Engaged Service Agencies

- North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA)
- Dallas Police Department (DPD)
- Parkland Hospital – HOMES Outreach Clinic
- Dallas County District Attorney's Office
- Homeward Bound, Inc.



Financial Contributors

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Questions

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