

# Recovery Navigator Program and the Path Forward

Washington State House of Representatives Public Safety Committee

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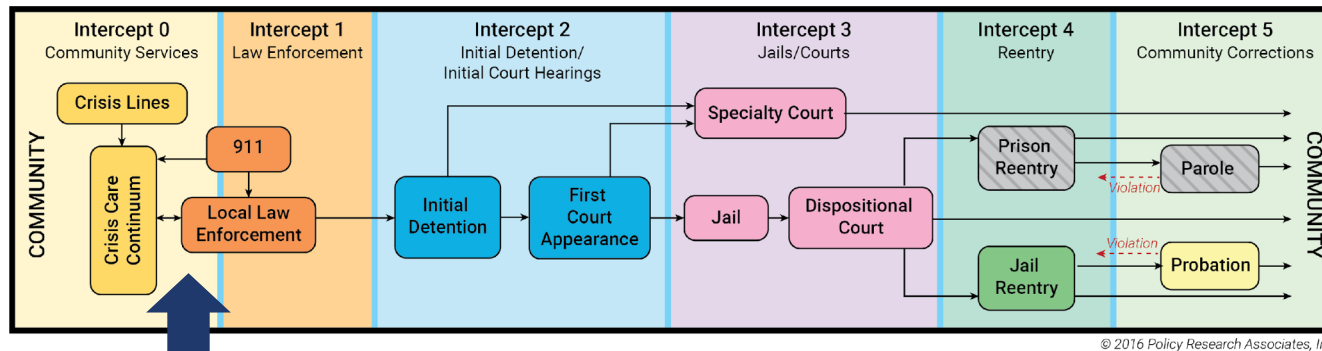
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# SAMHSA GAINS Center Intercept Model



## Optimal Intercept Point: At or Before Point of Arrest

- SB 5476
- Requires all jurisdictions to offer diversion instead of arrest for simple drug possession
- Amends RCW 10.31.110 to encourage diversion of additional offenses related to SUD
- Established the Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)
- RNP is based on LEAD core principles





# Washington State LEAD Technical Support Team



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# Transformation is Possible

## Research shows that community-based care is effective.

Problems associated with substance use disorder are best addressed outside the criminal legal system.

Diversion instead of arrest offers the greatest opportunity to foster public health, public safety, and racial equity.

Even very brief incarceration leads to adverse consequences.



**Sources:**  
Lowenkamp, C., VanNostrand, M., & Holsinger, A. (2013). *The hidden costs of pre-trial detention*, [https://craftmediabucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/PDFs/LJAF\\_Report\\_hidden-costs\\_FNL.pdf](https://craftmediabucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/PDFs/LJAF_Report_hidden-costs_FNL.pdf).  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2019), *Principles of Community-based Behavioral Health Services for Justice-involved Individuals: A Research-based Guide*. HHS Publication No. SMA-19-5097. Rockville, MD: Office of Policy, Planning, and Innovation. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma19-5097.pdf>.

# Evidence Favors Community-Based Care as the Primary Strategy for Recovery

SB 5476 recognizes the evidence that community-based care is preferable to criminal system involvement whenever possible.



REdisCOVERY participant has a conversation with Port Angeles Police Officer Swift Sanchez.

Court-based interventions have minimal effect on recidivism or recovery.

Community-based care improves results and reduces harm.

# Recovery Navigator Partners

The Washington State Health Care Authority

Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations

LEAD Support Bureau

We are now establishing the framework for a statewide network of care teams.

## Issues we're advising on:

- Developing geographic reach and responsiveness
- Identifying strong contractors & community oversight partners
- Law enforcement connections and diversion mechanisms
- Training on roles, principles, and practices
- Addressing workforce challenges



Port Angeles Police Officer Jackson VanDusen and REDisCOVERY Program Director Amy Miller meet with participants.



NATIONAL SUPPORT BUREAU



SB 5476 is only the beginning,  
a huge opportunity to do better,  
and an innovative solution that can grow.



# We're here to help.



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