



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Executive Director

November 26, 2024

Bernard Dean
Chief Clerk of the House
Deliver to: clerk.chief@leg.wa.gov

Sarah Bannister
Secretary of the Senate
Deliver to: senate.secretary@leg.wa.gov

Subject: RCW 36.28A.450, Therapeutic Interventions for Certain Criminal Justice System Involved Persons—Annual Report

Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Pursuant to Chapter 378, Laws of 2019, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is submitting its annual report on Therapeutic Interventions for Certain Criminal Justice System Involved Persons, more commonly known as the Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) Law Enforcement Grant Program. This report is submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

ARREST AND JAIL ALTERNATIVES LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM— ANNUAL REPORT (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature established the Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) Law Enforcement Grant program. The AJA Grant program is codified in [RCW 36.28A.450](#). The program supports local initiatives to properly identify criminal justice system-involved persons with substance use disorders (SUD) and other behavioral health needs and engage them with therapeutic interventions and other services. The efficacy of these programs must be demonstrated by experience, peer-reviewed research, or which are credible promising practices, prior to or at the time of jail booking, or while in custody. Since its inception, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has worked closely with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion National Support Bureau (LEAD NSB) and the Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) to administer the AJA Grant Program.

Integral to WASPC's approach the administration of the AJA program are:

- Steadfast support for the development and implementation of strategies to improve public safety.
- Commitment to good stewardship of public funds.
- Recognition that each community is unique and what is effective in one community may not be as effective in another for a variety of reasons. With that recognition comes a genuine effort to support solutions whose framework allows them to be adapted to meet the needs that are present in a specific community.
- A belief that we can have the greatest level of impact by engagement in meaningful partnerships that leverage existing resources whenever possible.

[RCW 36.28A.450\(9\)](#) requires WASPC to submit an annual report on the AJA Grant Program. This report highlights the AJA Grant Program at sites across Washington State. WASPC remains excited about the work of the AJA grantees. Grantees consistently report their programs have a profound and life-changing impact on the clients they serve. We hope WASPC's enthusiasm for this program and its commitment to expand the AJA Grant Program are evident in the information included in this report.

AJA Grant Process (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025)

WASPC recognizes the challenges faced by programs funded on a single fiscal year basis. We hoped two-year awards would allow each program to focus on service provision, rather than funding maintenance. Two-year awards also provide staffing stability and allows programs to be more competitive in recruiting. WASPC issued a request for applications (RFA) to award AJA funds for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. WASPC received eight applications for the initial RFA process that closed on May 26, 2023.

The WASPC AJA Grant Review Committee met in May and June 2023 and awarded four grants to the sites outlined in the report for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Grant Review Committee Members included: Everett Maroon (Blue Mountain Heart to Heart),

Sheriff Joe Kriete (Grant County Sheriff’s Office), Jolene Kron (Salish Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization), Chief Ken Seuberlich (Bothell Police Department), Chief Ron Harding (Poulsbo Police Department), Sheriff Paul Budrow (Okanogan County Sheriff’s Office), Siobhan Brown (Community Health Plan of Washington), Jamie Weimer (WASPC), Steven Briggs (WASPC), Malika Lamont (LEAD NSB), and Chelle Wilder (LEAD NSB).

With remaining unallocated funds, WASPC issued a second RFA process. WASPC received two additional applications for the second RFA process that closed on February 19, 2024. WASPC awarded grants to two additional sites outlined in the report for the period of April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

AJA Grantees (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart (BMHTH)

BMHTH first came to the AJA program as a subcontractor under the Comprehensive Healthcare award. Comprehensive Healthcare and BMHTH submitted competitive applications under the initial RFA for the funding period and the AJA Grant Review Committee ultimately recommended to fund BMHTH directly. BMHTH continues to work collaboratively with Comprehensive Healthcare to serve the greater Walla Walla community.

BMHTH uses an evidence-based, patient-centered, trauma-informed approach for supporting high-needs individuals living with substance use disorder, mental health issues, or co-occurring diagnoses. BMHTH closely follows the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)¹ model to deliver intensive outpatient case management programs, and its focus on harm reduction methodology supports both enrolled clients and community stakeholders who are themselves impacted by multiple behavioral health crises in their communities. Rigorous outreach and engagement practices help reach individuals appropriate for the diversion programs, and case managers then provide medium- and long-term support for people as they increase their wellness and autonomy. Case management is offered via pre- and point-of arrest, through social contact referrals, and community referrals. Clients are managed internally by BMHTH staff, but also through ongoing advice and consultation with operations work group and policy coordinating group partners, as is part and parcel of the LEAD model.

BMHTH braids AJA funding with additional funding sources to provide the Walla Walla LEAD program.

Program Stats (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$472,010.58
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$472,010.56
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	167
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	3,013
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	5

Each grantee was asked to submit an annual report highlighting their work under the AJA Grant Program. The following program highlight, partner perspectives, and take-aways are from BMHTH’s submission. Minor editing to improve readability has been performed.

¹ <https://leadbureau.org/#learn-more>

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

A female client was referred by a community recovery house due to mental health concerns. The recovery house hoped LEAD could help stabilize and add resilience to the client's life.

"When I first came to Walla Walla. I came here after being on a hold at a mental health facility in Yakima. Walla Walla was new territory for me, and I had been in a place of hopelessness feeling like I couldn't let go of these habits that were hurting me and others around me. I got involved with Blue Mountain Heart to Heart a few months after I arrived in Walla Walla, and I can truly say they have helped me find that hope again. Though I was in a new place I was isolated and still stuck in those negative thought patterns. My Case Manager made me feel special and helped me to see what my potential was in life. I not only got support with hygiene products, food, and help with transportation, but she also showed me how to maneuver through finding resources and gave me rides to appointments. I moved into a house, and she helped me get settled and get me important appliances and get my washer and dryer fixed so that I can live a healthy life. I think the most important thing that the LEAD program has provided me is companionship with somebody I can trust and feel safe knowing she has my best interest finding someone you can trust is priceless when you come from years of trauma and feeling like everyone is unreliable. I feel like I could talk to my Case Manager about anything and everything and that is the most valuable resource that I have been given through lead."

Walla Walla Diversion Client

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

"I loved the collaboration across fields in the county, all seeking a common goal of providing wrap around support to those individuals seeking recovery, and to end their connection with law enforcement and incarceration. Through our work we witnessed the multiple barriers many individuals face when seeking recovery. With this program's support we were able to provide many clients an opportunity to try again, but this time with a dedicated case manager, as well as advisements from city attorneys who represent them in court, mental health professionals, and healthcare representation when other chronic issues also needed addressing. With this change, I saw directly the positive impact it provided on the clients lives, and their health. I could trust that my referred patients would have a team they could rely on and that increased their trust which always led to increased participation toward recovery. An extra benefit may also involve clients mending relationships, finding housing and employment, establishing with a primary care physician, attending regular counseling, and even gaining access to Walmart again after years of being banned..."

Kristy Capps, BSN, RN

"[O]ur local LEAD team has flawlessly executed the program. They have done it with open hearts and open minds. They have done it with a keen eye for what is best for each and every individual AND for the criminal justice system and the community. In doing this, I have seen individuals who have spent years and sometimes decades within the criminal justice system just being a part of their everyday lives, break out of the cycle and lift themselves up to not only be able to care for themselves, but to contribute to their community AND help others who are in the same position they were..."

Rea Culwell, City Prosecutor



KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- 1 We have seen clients more challenged due to the housing crisis, changes in the drug supply, and the pressure COVID has put on individuals mentally and physically. These stressors and challenges have caused more behavioral health involvement for clients. In our region we have seen fewer providers available to the community as a whole. In response, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart has found other resources to support clients and building their own facility.
- 2 Housing instability has led to worse outcomes for clients. There is a shortage of affordable housing in the region and that has left a large number of individuals homeless. There are a small number of shelters in the Walla Walla area.
- 3 The flexibility of funds from the AJA program and the Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) have allowed us to respond to clients' needs and emergencies in a timely fashion.



Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCS)

CCS operates the AJA program, utilizing peer case managers and mental health professionals to assist Olympia community members facing challenges related to behavioral health, homelessness, and involvement with the criminal justice system. Peers draw upon their shared life experience in order to offer empowering, non-judgmental support to individuals who have been traditionally let down by systems of care. AJA employs a trauma-responsive and client-directed model based on principles of harm reduction and seeks to improve access to services such as housing and non-emergency treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. The program’s goals include reducing recidivism, financial strain on the criminal justice system, and inappropriate utilization of emergency services. CCS staff work closely with the Olympia Police Department, Crisis Response Unit, and providers of behavioral health treatment, housing, and other services, seeking to walk with each individual towards resilience, stability, and greater well-being.

CCS braids AJA funding with additional funding sources to provide the Olympia AJA Program.

Program Stats (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$623,739.83
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$623,739.83
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	59
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	3,665
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	7.42

Each grantee was asked to submit an annual report highlighting their work under the AJA Grant Program. The following program highlight, partner perspectives, and take-aways are from CCS’s submission. Minor editing to improve readability has been performed.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

“AJA staff assisted a participant in accessing financial resources for attending court-ordered domestic violence classes. The financial barrier would otherwise have made compliance with his judgment and sentencing impossible, and re-arrest an inevitability. His Peer Case Manager transported him to the weekly sessions as part of a structured plan to build his capacity and willingness to engage, with a long-term objective of independence and self-sufficiency. He was able to overcome the transportation barrier and complete the classes. Not long afterwards, he was able to reunite with his young daughter. While he and the daughter were together, he made a video call to the Peer Case Manager so that he could introduce them, indicating that AJA were responsible for his success and ability to be present in his child’s life.”

Neil Calmjoy, Site Director
CCS

“What I have learned in my 7 months here, is that meeting the basic needs of folks in physical ways has a huge impact on their lives. Where we really see the lifesaving impact is through the power of connection. While our participants express gratitude for the supplies we bring and the opportunity to sit down for a warm meal or coffee, what they really express deep gratitude for is that we simply just continue to show up for them and treat them with dignity and respect. We see the power of this connection play in really big wins, small goals being met, or just being there in a crisis. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to go out into the community and make these connections.”

Carissa Abbott
AJA Peer Case Manager

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

“Occasionally, you have the chance to collaborate with amazing people who help you work more empathetically, client-centered, and efficiently and expand your understanding of the measured and bounded approaches necessary to sustain your work; AJA gives this opportunity to providers. The entire AJA team offers wraparound support for our residents and staff that simply goes above and beyond and offers...”

David Portugal, Quixote Village Program Supervisor
New Horizons Communities

“As the Homeless Response Coordinator for the City of Olympia for the past 3 years, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that CCS’s Arrest and Jail Alternatives program has had on our wider community by caring for the most vulnerable unhoused individuals in our community. The care and attention given to each of their clients is what is needed to support our unhoused folks into a better situation. Though we don’t have data to show, it is very obvious to me that AJA has prevented hundreds (maybe thousands) of crisis calls to our emergency system by their calm presence and de-escalation skills. The team supports one another so they can be effective in the wider community, who fostering an environment of holistic wellness. I am grateful for such a kind and effective resource in our community and wish I could refer everyone we encounter to them.”

Kim Kondrat, Homeless Response Coordinator
City of Olympia

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

1

Olympia is making progress in tackling these major issues, but the need hasn't diminished. AJA is a critically important intervention in the community that is doing valuable work and changing lives—and it is happening within the larger context of dire national crises related to housing and substance use, at a time when communities across the county are reckoning with how the justice system should address chronic, low-level offenses. The work is not simple, and it is also not complete. The impact on individual lives that are saved and transformed by the support they receive from AJA is clear, and at the same time, it is apparent that this work will not be easily wrapped up in the near future through local efforts alone.

2

Where barriers exist to needed services, the easiest solution is sometimes to just adapt and provide those resources ourselves. This is the case for the Adult Behavioral Health program—AJA staff determined that their participants were not receiving adequate, responsive outpatient mental health services that factored in the complex challenges in their lives, and decided that the best solution was for CCS to expand its operations to create its own program. This allows the agency to set policies and practices that consider the struggles of homelessness, poverty, chronic mental illness, substance use, and shame and stigma. In order to be effective, AJA programs need to be prepared to innovate and problem-solve in creative and enduring ways.

3

Relationship-building with law enforcement is a constant and iterative process. Individual officers rotate frequently between different roles within their agencies, and there is a need to have a working familiarity with many of them across a department rather than rely on deeper relationships with only a few. Beyond that, the timing matters greatly. Efforts to build awareness of AJA programming at times when the program is at capacity for new referrals will be ineffective, as the program is not situated in that moment to meet officers' immediate needs. Our partners in law enforcement are extremely practical, and focused on what is immediately in front of them. To be most successful, AJA needs to match that.

Gateway to Freedom (GTF)

GTF, a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, was created with the goal of supporting their local community members in mind. GTF has chosen to focus primarily on supporting the individuals in the community suffering from homelessness, as well as substance use or mental health disorders. GTF facilitates a re-entry program that provides clothing and toiletries for incarcerated individuals being released to inpatient treatment, as well as transportation to their inpatient facility.

The LEAD program in Jefferson County is a groundbreaking initiative designed to reshape the approach to non-violent, low-level offenses within the community. The mission is to foster a safer and healthier Jefferson County by diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive, community-based support services.

The primary mission of the LEAD program in Jefferson County is to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety by connecting individuals engaged in non-violent criminal activities, particularly those related to substance use and mental health issues, with appropriate resources and support. By addressing the root causes of their behavior, GTF aims to break the cycle of arrests and incarceration, promoting long-term stability and well-being.

Goals for the Community of Jefferson County:

1. **Reduced Recidivism:** By providing targeted interventions and access to social services, GTF strives to significantly reduce the rates of repeat offenses, empowering individuals to reintegrate successfully into society.
2. **Enhanced Public Safety:** Through diversion and rehabilitation, GTF aims to create a safer environment for all residents of Jefferson County. By addressing the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior, GTF mitigates potential risks to public safety.
3. **Community Empowerment:** The LEAD program focuses on empowering communities by fostering collaboration between law enforcement, social services, and residents. GTF promotes community engagement, education, and awareness to build a network of support and understanding.
4. **Resource Access:** GTF is dedicated to ensuring that every participant gains access to essential resources such as housing, mental health counseling, substance use treatment, education, and job training. These resources are vital for their personal growth and overall community well-being.
5. **Cost-Efficiency:** By diverting individuals from the traditional criminal justice system, the LEAD program aims to reduce the financial burden on our community. By investing in rehabilitation and support services, we create a cost-effective approach to addressing underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior.

One of the most notable successes of the Jefferson County LEAD program has been the strengthening of teamwork and coordination between various agencies. The increased interagency partnership has resulted in earlier interventions for individuals at risk and has significantly improved communication between law enforcement, justice agencies, and our program staff. This enhanced collaboration has not only streamlined the referral process but has also facilitated a more holistic approach to address the needs of GTF clients, ensuring that they receive comprehensive and coordinated care from the moment of referral through ongoing case management.

The LEAD program in Jefferson County is founded on principles of compassion, collaboration, and long-term community well-being. By focusing on diversion, support, and rehabilitation, GTF strives to create a safer, healthier, and more inclusive environment for all residents.

GTF braids AJA funding with additional funding sources to provide Jefferson County LEAD.

Program Stats (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$170,510.40
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$170,510.42
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	64
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	2,211
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	3

Each grantee was asked to submit an annual report highlighting their work under the AJA Grant Program. The following program highlight, partner perspectives, and take-aways are from GTF’s

submission. Minor editing to improve readability has been performed.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

“C was referred to LEAD for a pre-booking referral. C had struggled with substance use for years and had frequent police contact. “C” also had pending and prior felony charges. C and I worked together to get placement into detox and then inpatient. While there, C chose to extend the program to get as much help as possible. Since completing inpatient, C was able to get the pending felony charges into drug court, is engaged in the recovery community and has moved into a sober living house in a neighboring county. C states “I am grateful to LEAD to help guide and support me in the direction I wasn't sure how to take on my own.” C is now thriving in our community.”

Danielle, LEAD Case Manager
GTF

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

“Jefferson Associated Counsel is an independent non-profit law firm that provides public defense services to Jefferson County Courts. All of our clients are low income and many of them suffer with SUD and mental health issues. Prior to the establishment of LEAD far too many people were charged with petty crimes in a misguided effort to get them help or to plain punish them for their underlying SUD or mental health struggles. The trouble with running them though the criminal legal system is that it was not set up to address client's underlying issues. In the last several decades efforts have been made within our local court system to address those issues - like the establishment of a drug court and mental health court - with varying success, but always adjacent to a legal process not well suited to deal with them. The LEAD program on the other hand was conceived as a way to prevent people from entering the system. It is client centered, harm reduction oriented and provides real support for people in need, whether it is being unhoused, lacking resources, or struggling with SUD and/or mental health issues. The support clients receive in the LEAD program far exceeds what is available in the criminal legal system. There have been several notable positive outcomes for LEAD participants that the criminal legal system could not and did not provide. Moreover, when clients participate in LEAD, they are generally not appointed an attorney (because they have not been charged with a crime) which saves the county and city money and reduces our caseload.”

Richard Davies

“The program has definitely changed the way law enforcement interacts with people with substance abuse disorders and the partnership that JCSO has built with [the Jefferson County LEAD] team is priceless...”

Undersheriff Andy Pernsteiner
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

1

Building Trust with Law Enforcement: Over the past fiscal year, efforts to foster collaboration with local law enforcement have been instrumental in the program's

success. By prioritizing transparency, mutual respect, and regular communication, we have built a strong partnership that enables seamless referrals and support for participants. Establishing trust with law enforcement officers has facilitated their active participation in the program, leading to more effective pre-booking diversions. Conducting training sessions has enhanced mutual understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, promoting a cohesive approach to participant care. Regular coordination meetings with law enforcement have ensured that any issues are promptly addressed, and strategies are continually refined for better outcomes.

2

The Importance of Comprehensive Support Services: A holistic approach, which includes assistance accessing supportive services like housing assistance, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and access to basic necessities, has proven to be effective in fostering rehabilitation and reducing recidivism. Addressing the broad spectrum of participants' needs through a wide range of services has led to more sustainable and impactful outcomes. Partnering with various community organizations has expanded our service network, ensuring that participants receive the necessary support in all areas of their lives. Personalized care plans developed by case managers have been crucial in meeting the unique needs of each participant, facilitating their journey toward recovery and community reintegration.

3

Data-Driven Program Evaluation: Utilizing data to drive program evaluation and improvement has been critical to measure our success and identify areas for growth. Continuous monitoring and analysis of program outcomes have enabled us to make informed decisions and adapt strategies to better serve participants. Tracking key metrics, such as the number of unique individuals served and total contacts made, has provided valuable insights into program reach and engagement levels. Gathering qualitative feedback from participants and stakeholders has helped the team understand the real-world impact of services and identify opportunities for enhancement. Using data to guide adjustments and innovations has ensured that our program remains effective and responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC)

OPCC operates the peer-led, peer-driven REdisCOVERY program, which meets participants where they are, providing access to needed services before circumstances lead to an arrest or hospitalization. OPCC outreach and co-response specialists are embedded with the Port Angeles Police Department, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, and the Port Angeles Fire Department Community Paramedicine program, while also coordinating with other law enforcement and social service agencies across Clallam County. The OPCC team responds to mental health crises in the field, proactively conducts outreach in the community, and provides intensive case management, braided with medical and behavioral health care, for community members who are working to make positive changes in their lives. OPCC services are based on a housing-first model, utilizing harm-reduction principles, while always maintaining a participant-centered, trauma-informed approach.

OPCC utilizes volunteer medical providers and mental health practitioners to provide the REdisCOVERY

Program in Clallam County.

Program Stats (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$904,925.90
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$904,925.93
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	279
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	4,449*
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	8.5

*2,549 case management contacts and 1,900 medical encounters.

Each grantee was asked to submit an annual report highlighting their work under the AJA Grant Program. The following program highlight, partner perspectives, and take-aways are from OPCC’s submission. Minor editing to improve readability has been performed.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

“I have been working with a guy at the rest stop for over a year. Every day I would stop and ask if he was ready for treatment and every time I would get the answer “Not Yet”. I eventually took him in for an assessment for treatment. He finished treatment and went into an oxford house, which did not work out well. He ended up relapsing, but I still checked on him daily and encouraged him to try again. One day he had some really bad seizures and was taken to the hospital. When he got discharged he went right back to using. Later we were able to get an assessment done and he went to treatment. He now has 60 days clean and doing great. He called me to thank me for bugging him all those days because that is what helped him get clean. I will be his case manager and look forward to working on some achievable goals and celebrating success with him. This really makes my heart happy!!!!!!” The individual is still in recovery and has been doing well and is working full time.”

Case Manager
OPCC

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

“As a former City Council member and current County Commissioner, I’ve seen firsthand how impactful this funding has been, and the need for programs like this is increasing. In the face of that need, it’s been encouraging to see how these programs from OPCC are working with other local resources, such as our County’s Mental Health Court or the Jamestown Healing Clinic. The resources that are available to people struggling with OUD or mental health challenges are changing outcomes in really meaningful ways, and it’s encouraging to provide law enforcement personnel with those positive outcomes instead of them just dealing with the same folks over and over with no solutions available. These programs have been much needed force multipliers and I believe have provided cost savings to our County and City, which is a secondary benefit to the actual lifesaving effects we’re seeing, but an important benefit to note. Being a rural jurisdiction, providing services across a large geographic area can be a huge challenge, so these kinds of force multipliers and budget multipliers are crucial if we want to actually provide public safety services in a way that meets our public’s expectations.”

Commissioner Mike French

Clallam County

“Due to our efforts in implementing AJA, we have seen a decrease in our incarceration rates, necessity for criminal enforcement and a reduction in emergency medical response. We have observed, first-hand, community members engage in substance use treatment, become housed, and become medically compliant and even gain employment. Suffice to say, AJA has proven to be impactful and lifesaving. Arguably, it has also provided an opportunity for our local law enforcement to feel hope when before it did not seem like there were any solutions to address many of the complex societal issues we were faced with on patrol...”

Chief Criminal Deputy Amy Bundy
Clallam County Sheriff’s Office

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

1

The importance of consistent communication with community partners and stakeholders. This year we have adopted a renewed focus on increasing our communication with our community partners/stakeholders by attending more community meetings and inviting more community partners to our operational work group (OWG).

2

The importance of clinic visibility in the community. We have been able to increase clinic visibility in the community by having our entire team attend community volunteers events. Through this effort we have been able to talk to other agencies we normally wouldn't have contact with and describe what our clinic does in the community.

3

Our geographical location in relation to resources and services for our participants. We have noticed this past fiscal year just how much of our resources are going to out of county transports for our participants. Most specialty medical care and behavioral health care (detox, substance use treatment, etc.) requires our case managers to take our participants hours out of our region to receive the care they need.

PROMISING INTERVENTIONS



OPCC has incorporated two medical interventions in their service model that have demonstrated positive impacts on individuals with unmet behavioral health needs and/or substance use disorder.



OPCC has incorporated the use of Sublocade² for some individuals with SUD. The medication continuously releases over a month at a sustained level, meaning the individual does not experience daily ups and downs as experienced in the cycle of opioid addiction. Paired with counseling, Sublocade has shown to be a promising intervention.

² <https://www.sublocade.com/>



OPCC has incorporated GeneSight³ testing to for some individuals with unmet behavioral health needs. GeneSight testing analyzes DNA to determine how an individual’s body will metabolize certain behavioral health medications. The results provide medical professionals with an analysis of which behavioral health medications will have the best chance of success for that specific individual.

AJA Grantees (April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024)

Airway Heights Police Department

LEAD West Plains provides new pathways to long-term community-based care for people who commit or are at high risk of committing law violations related to their behavioral health challenges and /or income instability. LEAD West Plains has built a non-punitive, community-based system of response for people living in Airway Heights, Cheney, Medical Lake, and the surrounding area who are ready to receive support services to meet their individual needs and goals towards stability.

Program Stats (April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$83,720.83
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$32,506.33
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	0
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	0
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	0

LEAD West Plains is in the process of implementing their AJA program. The Airway Heights Police Department and partner agencies worked extensively with the LEAD NSB to develop their program. LEAD West Plains expects to serve clients starting in Fall 2024.

City of Poulsbo

The North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center is a walk-in, no-cost resource center for anyone interested in drug or alcohol recovery in the North Kitsap area. They offer peer support, substance use, mental health, and job placement services along with support groups that run six days a week. Staff is able to assist with housing placement and court obligations. The Center operates on a membership model. Membership is free and available to anyone with an interest in recovery. They also welcome friends and family members of people struggling with substance use.

Program Stats (April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024)	
Funds awarded during reporting period:	\$83,842.60
Funds utilized during reporting period:	\$37,481.83
Unique/unduplicated participants served during reporting period:	38
Total contacts with participants served during reporting period:	190
Full Time Employees supported by AJA funds:	1

The City of Poulsbo braids AJA funding with additional funding sources to provide the North Kitsap

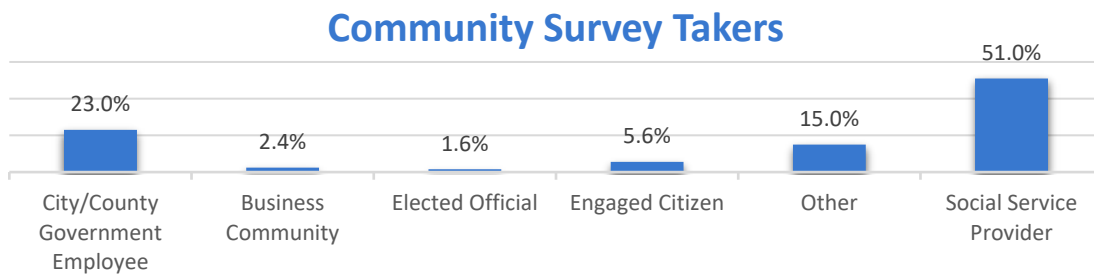
³ <https://genesight.com/>

Recovery Resource Center. During this reporting period, the North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center focused on policy development and program design. The North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center looks forward to expanding its service delivery in the upcoming fiscal year.

Community Stakeholder Perspectives

Every October and April, AJA grantees are required to distribute stakeholder surveys.

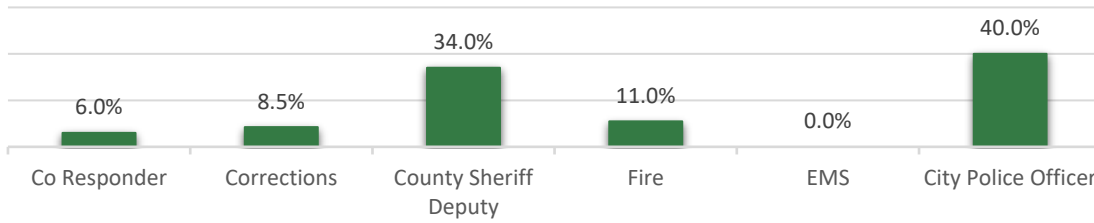
For the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, 125 survey responses were received from community stakeholders.



- 93%** • Indicated that they support the idea of allowing police officers to divert some people with mental illness and substance use disorders to case management.
- 30%** • Indicated that they have noticed a reduction in crime and public disorder since the implementation of the AJA Program (23% selected "too early to measure" and 38% selected "unknown").
- 21%** • Indicated that they have noticed less visible signs of drug use/addiction since the implementation of the AJA Program (23% selected "too early to measure" and 39% selected "unknown").
- 68%** • Indicated that they have noticed positive social and health outcomes for AJA participants since the implementation of the AJA Program (19% selected "unknown").
- 50%** • Indicated that they have noticed stronger links between their police department and community members since the implementation of the AJA Program (36% selected "unknown").
- 98%** • Indicated that active and ongoing collaboration with other service organizations across systems is a metric of program success.

For the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, 47 survey responses were received from public safety partners.

Public Safety Survey Takers



- 91%** • Indicated that they support the idea of allowing police officers to divert some people with mental illness and substance use disorders to case management.
- 47%** • Indicated that they have seen a positive change in behavior by people who are active AJA participants (26% selected "too early to measure" and 17% selected "unknown").
- 36%** • Indicated that involvement of an AJA case manager or peer has changed the way they interact with AJA participants (21% selected "too early to measure" and 19% selected "unknown").
- 72%** • Indicated that involvement of an AJA case manager or peer has had a positive impact in the way they interact with community members.
- 62%** • Indicated that involvement of an AJA case manager or peer has had a positive impact in the way they interact with other service providers (23% selected "unknown").
- 87%** • Indicated that they would like to see the AJA services offered to more people.

Moving Forward

WASPC remains excited about the work of the AJA grantees, and their partners, in each of their respective communities. We are pleased to have received funding to support an evaluation of the AJA Program as established in [RCW 36.28A.450\(8\)\(a\)](#). WASPC contracted with Washington State University’s Department of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) and the Department of Health and Social Service’s Research and Data Division (RDD) for an evaluation plan and subsequent evaluation of the AJA Program. A mixed-methods program Evaluation Plan was delivered to WASPC on June 30, 2022. The final evaluation was expected to be completed by June 30, 2023. Unexpected and ongoing delays have pushed the expected completion date to 2025. WASPC looks forward to sharing the final evaluation in a subsequent AJA report. WASPC notes that the unexpected and ongoing delays are not a result of the effort put forth by the evaluation team; rather, data share agreements between state agency data partners has proved to be a dauntingly bureaucratic process.

WASPC previously reported a significant gap between available and needed funding to support and expand the AJA Grant Program. WASPC realized a sizable increase in funds in the 2023-2025 biennium, mostly related to the adoption of Senate Bill 5536 (2023), expanding use of the AJA and other diversion programs for drug possession related criminal justice system involvement. With these funds, WASPC has expanded capacity in existing AJA programs and added new AJA programs. Please note, WASPC received eight applications under the original RFA for the 2023-2025 biennium. Requests for funds far exceeded

coordinating groups when law enforcement agencies are adequately staffed.

5

Treat individuals with SUD and/or unmet behavioral health needs with respect and dignity. The AJA program helps people, not problems. **The collective “system” must be ready to meet people where they are and when they are ready to break the cycle.**

AJA sites continue to report that early intervention and engagement with resources can help a person with complex needs completely avoid contact with the criminal justice system. **Washington State has made historic investments in providing diversion opportunities to individuals with behavioral health needs and substance use disorder, attention should now focus to ensure meaningful resources can be found at the other end of diversion program referrals.**

Additional Information



Learn more about
REdisCOVERY



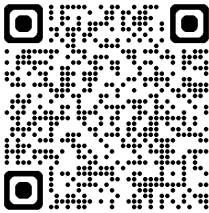
Learn more about Olympia
AJA



Learn more about
Jefferson County LEAD



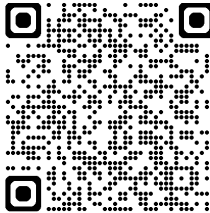
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Walla LEAD



Learn more about West
Plains LEAD



Learn more about North
Kitsap Recovery Resource
Center



Learn more about the AJA
Program



Learn more about WASPC