

LEAD Program



2024 Year in Review

Building a Stronger Community Together

2024 has been a year of change for the MCSO LEAD Program and the state of Oregon as a whole. Over the course of the last twelve months, the LEAD program has had the honor of conducting trainings both for leaders in the criminal justice field here in Oregon and across the country, including acting as key note speakers during the House Bill 4002 Symposium and during a webinar hosted by the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program in May. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our team and the sheriff's office, the Marion County Sheriff's Office LEAD program has become a model for deflection programs in 28 separate Oregon counties. We continue to offer guidance and support for many of these counties through our now quarterly Statewide Coordinator Meetings, in which representatives from around Oregon are able to come together in a common forum to discuss success and challenges with the implementation of their own deflection programs as well as learn from key community partners that contribute to our own LEAD program's success.

All the while, our Navigators continue the ongoing efforts to best meet our clients where they are at and prioritize top tier resource coordination and care. The LEAD Program received 51 qualifying referrals in 2024, with 26 of those individuals following through with LEAD enrollment. Our Navigators also successfully assisted 12 clients in reaching self sustainability. Of our current 64 active clients, LEAD has been able to navigate 30 into a personal residence, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing and 15 into finding full time or part time employment. They have also successfully worked with 30 of these individuals in gaining or maintaining sobriety.

None of what has been accomplished would have been possible without the work of our community partners in the service provider community and the criminal justice system. We at the LEAD program are thankful for the efforts of the Marion County Community, and will continue to strive to uphold the standards set upon us, provide a beacon of hope for those affected by substance use disorder, and present alternative solutions to incarceration that benefit both the community and the clients we collectively serve.

Respectfully,

The MCSO LEAD Team



Looking to the Future: Marion County's Deflection Initiative

Thanks to House Bill 4002, Marion County has received funding to expand upon the existing LEAD model and increase the ways in which the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Health and Human Services Department are able to offer services to community members in need.

Recognizing the co-morbidity of substance use disorder and mental health issues, LEAD will not only be using this funding to bring on additional Navigators for increased case management but also creating the CARES team in conjunction with Marion County Behavioral Health. CARES, which stands for Crisis Assistance and Recovery Engagement Support, will consist of a Marion County Deputy, a LEAD Navigator, and a Qualified Mental Health Associate who will be conducting full time outreach in support of connecting individuals with both mental health and substance use disorders with the treatment and care they need to address whichever issues are facing them, be that connecting them with further LEAD Case Management, Behavioral Health, or other community partners.

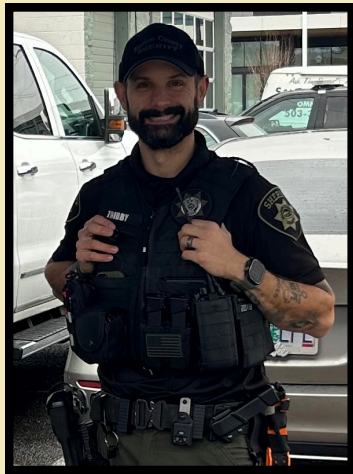


Furthermore, the LEAD program has worked with our partners to expand upon our existing enrollment criteria to serve more individuals while still balancing the needs of the community and the rights of victims. With our increased capacity, LEAD will now be able to enroll clients whose violent offenses occurred over ten years prior to the date of their intake as long as they have been out of prison for those offenses for at least five years. While this still excludes individuals with domestic violence crimes demonstrating power and control over the victim, convictions involving the use of firearms, and sexual assaults, it creates opportunities for individuals who do not have a history of recent violent crimes to receive the support and services that many desperately need in order to change their life circumstances.

Finally, LEAD and the Marion County Sheriff's Office are excited to continue our support of the Marion County District Attorney's office Restore Court Program, which allows for individuals whose charges have the potential to result in restitution the means to receive treatment and support through Marion County Health and Human Services instead of proceeding through the traditional criminal justice system. If individuals successfully complete this program, not only are their charges sealed in accordance with House Bill 4002, but any restitution owed is paid directly to the victim by the Restore Court Program. This process results in more victims being made whole, less strain on the court system, and more individuals receiving help.



LEAD Team Highlight: Deputy Joshua Tribby



As part of LEAD's ongoing efforts to further build community relationships and expand upon our goal of meeting individuals where they are at, LEAD is in the process of creating a full time outreach team to reach individuals in our community in new ways. Deputy Tribby is the first full fledged member of that taskforce! Deputy Tribby recently came from the Marion County Sheriff's office patrol team, where he demonstrated a passion for helping those in the community obtain access to the treatment and resources necessary to assist them in the road to recovery and sustainability. Already though his efforts LEAD has made great strides in expanding our outreach capacity as he has consistently gone above and beyond to provide top tier service for new candidates and clients by building relationships on and off the streets. We welcome Deputy Tribby and are excited to see where both he and this team go in the next year.

LEAD Team Highlight: Navigator Judith Nix



Judy's journey with the LEAD program first began not as a Navigator, but as a MCSO LEAD Client. Prior to enrolling into the LEAD program, Judy had been living on the streets of Salem since 2015. Upon learning she was pregnant in January of 2021, she knew she had to make a change and began treatment at Her Place before being referred into the LEAD program as a Social Referral by Officer Perez with Keizer Police Department.

Throughout her journey, the LEAD program assisted Judy with moving into an Oxford house and helped her seek employment in addition to working with her to help regain custody of her two other children who lived out of state.

After a year and a half clean, Judy was able to move out of the Oxford house and into her own apartment with her children, and by the time she reached two years clean she was completely self sustaining.

Judy was grateful for her second chance in life, and decided to use it to help serve the community and the people she cared about by employment in the recovery field as a Certified Recovery Mentor through Bridgeway. However, she remained passionate about LEAD, and when the opportunity arose for her to switch to employment in the Sheriff's Office she jumped at the chance. While still in her training phase, Judy is eager to take on clients of her own as soon as possible to help share her story and assist others on their journey of recovery.

Client Success Stories: Jessen Hudnall, in his own words,

My Journey to Recovery from Fentanyl

A Letter of Hope and Renewal

Dear Friend,

I want to share my story with you—not as a tale of woe, but as a testament to the power of resilience, hope, and the human spirit. My journey through the depths of fentanyl addiction and back to the light of recovery is one that I hope will inspire and encourage others who may be facing their own battles.

The Descent into Darkness

My struggle with fentanyl began like many people, underlying depression. First it was partying. Alcohol, cocaine, and then came the Meth. Slowly but surely my judgement was impaired, and decisions became blind. The lack of contemplation and impulsivity was a toxic recipe for disaster. Fentanyl, with its potent effects, soon became my crutch. I found myself prioritizing it over everything else—my health, my relationships, my career. The drug promised an escape from pain and reality, but it delivered only temporary relief, followed by an overwhelming sense of despair and hopelessness. I lost sight of who I was and what I valued most.

The Turning Point

There came a moment when I realized that I was on a path of self-destruction. Withdrawal in jail had me contemplating every decision and recounting every guilty action I am responsible for. I began to see the toll that fentanyl was taking on my body, mind, and soul. The mirror reflected not just physical decline but a loss of spirit and purpose. It was then that I made the most important decision of my life: to seek help. Admitting that I needed assistance was not easy. It meant facing my demons head-on and acknowledging my vulnerability. But it also marked the beginning of my journey to reclaim my life.

The Path to Recovery

Four months of jail, and 36 months of prison looming over my head was a huge motivator. Hank Crapser from the LEAD program helped me take some crucial steps such as seeking out a comprehensive treatment program that included medical supervision, counseling, and support groups. Finding healthy sober living with the Iron Tribe Network was a huge key to my success. The detoxification process was grueling, but it was a necessary step to rid my body of the toxins that had held me captive. The physical withdrawal symptoms were challenging, but with mental strength I just took it day by day.

My attorney told me 36 months in prison was my only option, but I had other ideas. I decided to show the legal system that I am no longer a threat to society. Found solid employment, balanced daily outpatient treatment, and becoming the manager of my sober living house. When it came to my court date Hank from LEAD appeared there in court with me and fought for me to stay out of prison by standing up and showing the judge all the effort I had made and all the things I had accomplished. The judge upon hearing all of this granted me a suspended sentence to serve probation rather than time in prison. This was the day my life truly felt like I had moved on to a new chapter.

Rebuilding my Life

Recovery is not a destination but a continuous journey. As I began to regain control of my life, I focused on rebuilding the relationships that had been strained or broken by my addiction. I sought forgiveness from those I had hurt and made amends where possible. Reconnecting with loved ones reminded me of the value of human connection and the importance of nurturing those bonds.

I also rediscovered my passions and interests. Engaging in activities that brought joy and fulfillment helped me create a new, healthier identity. Whether it was through hiking, music, exercise, or even just enjoying a football game with my friends, I found ways to channel my energy and creativity into positive outlets.

The Power of Hope

As I reflect on my journey, I am filled with gratitude for the second chance at life that recovery has given me. The path was not easy, and there were moments of doubt and temptation. But each step forward, no matter how small, was a victory. I learned to celebrate progress rather than perfection and to approach each day with a sense of hope and determination.

To anyone who is struggling with addiction, know that there is a way out. Recovery is possible, and you are stronger than you realize. Reach out for help, surround yourself with supportive people, and believe in your ability to overcome. The road may be long, but it is worth every effort.

A Brighter Future

Today, I stand here as a testament to the power of recovery. My journey from the depths of fentanyl addiction to the light of a new beginning is a story of resilience, transformation, and hope. I am committed to using my experience to help others who are facing similar challenges. By sharing my story, I hope to inspire others to embark on their own paths to recovery and to believe in the possibility of a brighter future.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,
Jessen Hudnall

Participant Success Rates

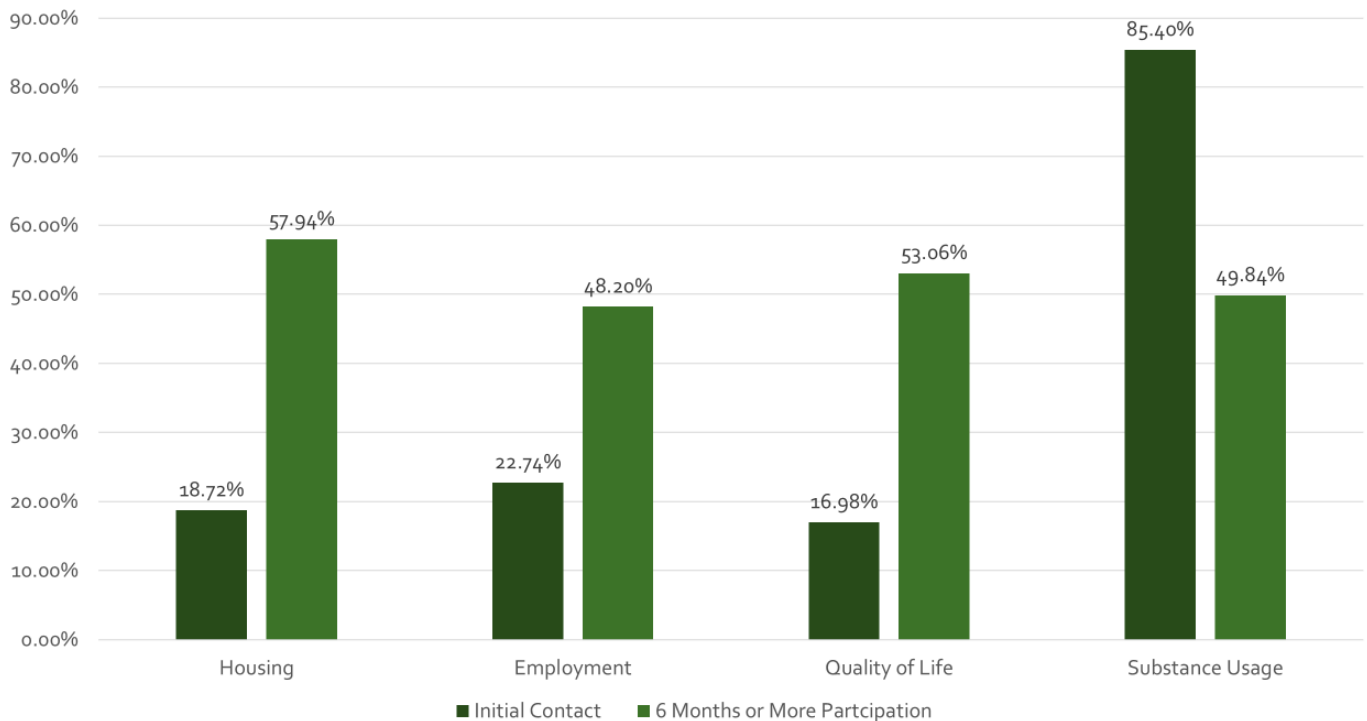
As part of our ongoing partnership with the Criminal Justice Commission and dedication to the adherence of public transparency, the LEAD Program is proud to announce our latest Criminal Justice Contact and Client Stability Statistics. In order to meet our goals of increasing reducing harm to the individual as well as making our communities a safer place, the LEAD program tracks rates of client arrests, citations, and other types of law enforcement contacts, evaluating the averages of these events two years prior to LEAD intervention and two years post LEAD intervention. So far, our first three LEAD Cohorts have demonstrated a staggering 63% decrease in arrest rates, a 66% decrease in citations, and a 70% decrease in all other forms of contact. LEAD also collects data for around rates of client housing, employment, quality of life, and drug usage (excluding methadone). The data demonstrates that with six months or more of active LEAD participation, there is improvement in all of these metrics across the board. For more information, see the Criminal Justice Commission reports on our website at leadmarioncounty.com.

63%
Decrease
in Arrests

66%
Decrease
in
Citations

70%
Decrease
in all
Other
Contacts

Assessment Measures



Shows results for 99 client reassessments as of 1/8/25