

This email discussion between Burien resident Jen Scaman and LEAD program director Lisa Daugaard began on September 11, 2018, the day the LEAD program was announced in Burien, and continued through the late evening of the next day. In this exchange, Daugaard seems to be confused as to whether the LEAD program requires an actual crime to trigger it or not. Her last word on that is that it does require a crime, but this contradicts what Daugaard, Burien City Manager Brian Wilson and others have been telling the public.

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From: Lisa Daugaard
To: Jen Scaman
Cc: info@leadkingcounty.org
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 12:15:14 AM PDT
Subject: Re: LEAD Program

In all cases, LEAD is a response to known law violations. It is a crime reduction/crime prevention program. Not everyone who is homeless or mentally ill commits law violations, certainly, but when there are law violations that arise from or related to these conditions, LEAD is available as a response where officers and community members perceive that jail and prosecution are not going to meaningfully resolve the situation.

Once referred to LEAD, case managers use best practices to engage people with trauma history, behavioral health issues or other barriers, and develop an individual intervention plan for each person. Services and support vary depending on each person's situation, as does duration of time in the program. When participants need follow up/after care if they face challenges or falter down the road, they may seek ongoing situational support from case managers.

Thanks for writing.

Lisa Daugaard

On Tuesday, September 11, 2018, Jen Scaman wrote:

You mentioned 'A medium sized city near us is currently planning LEAD implementation primarily to engage people committing law violations related to homelessness and/or mental illness' and 'likely related to behavioral health needs or extreme poverty.'

Why is the LEAD Program being used for the homeless/mentally ill? There is no low-level crime engaging in drugs or prostitution and the whole reason for the program is to keep them out of jail. Which homeless never go to jail to begin with?

So what are the guidelines/rules that the homeless/mentally ill have to follow in this program?

What will be the benefits/living situation be offered to them?

Will they have to agree to work on becoming employable and have daily schedules?

What is the maximum time frame to be in the program?

Who will be paying for this program for the homeless?

So technically, no crime, no drugs, no police required. Why use the LEAD Program then?

On Sep 11, 2018 7:11 PM, Lisa Daugaard wrote:

> Hi--thanks for your interest and your excellent questions.

>

> LEAD can be structured differently according to the different needs and dynamics in different communities. In the Seattle flagship LEAD program, we have recently expanded arrest diversion eligibility to include crimes that a population with high acuity mental health needs are more likely to be charged with than drugs or prostitution (the original divertable offenses). In LEAD programs around the country, divertable offenses and the population intended to receive LEAD services can vary, from opioid-related drug charges only in some places, to no felonies in other places, to drug related property crime in other jurisdictions. A medium sized city near us is currently planning LEAD implementation primarily to engage people committing law violations related to homelessness and/or mental illness.

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> Built into the design of LEAD is the idea that people who are under arrest related to behavioral health issues or extreme poverty shouldn't have to be booked into jail and prosecuted if there is a better response; but also, that people shouldn't have to be arrested to get help. Officers led the way in recognizing that, if they know someone commits crimes due to addiction, mental illness or homelessness, it makes no sense to withhold action until and unless they develop probable cause to make an arrest. That isn't consistent with a crime prevention/reduction approach. Thus, officers can also refer individuals to LEAD on a "social contact" basis, where the connection to case management is entirely voluntary and not based in an initial coercive interaction.

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> To your other question, yes, partners other than officers can initiate a LEAD social contact referral. Those now come from neighborhood leaders, prosecutors, defense lawyers, drug court (for after-care or for people whose needs are assessed to exceed the capacity of drug court), and sometimes even family members. Social contact referrals ultimately have to be vetted and approved by law enforcement who verify that they have a basis to believe the individual does commit law violations in a LEAD catchment area, likely related to behavioral health needs or extreme poverty.

>

> I hope that answers your questions, but feel free to reply if not. Thanks again for connecting.

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> -- Lisa Daugaard

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> On Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 5:53 PM, [Jen Scaman](#) wrote:

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>> This program is specifically only for officers to refer someone to LEAD program when they come into contact with someone who has committed a drug related crime, correct?

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>> Can a city or county change the LEAD Program guidelines to make it that anybody in their community can refer someone to the LEAD Program and there does not need to be a crime committed or be drug related?

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>> For instance, if there is a homeless person sleeping in the doorway of a business, can the business owner refer that homeless person to the LEAD Program? There is no crime and no drugs involved?

>>

> --

> Lisa Daugaard

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