Why Diversion from Jail?

- Lower cost—$6.2 million spent annually to house persons with mental illness in Oakland County Jail
- More Effective-- Appropriate mental health treatment = better long term prognosis and reduced chance for future involvement in the criminal justice system
- Enhances public safety-- frees up jail beds for violent offenders

Pre-booking jail diversion occurs at the point of contact with law enforcement officers before formal charges are brought. Persons who are accused of a non-violent misdemeanor and appear to have a developmental disability or mental illness may qualify for jail diversion.

This process links people with mental illness and developmental disabilities to community treatment services. Pre-booking jail diversion relies heavily on effective interactions between police and community mental health service providers.

Pre-Booking Jail Diversion Community Partners

Creating solutions, changing lives.