



October 31, 2023

Dear Governor Lombardo,

From January to July of 2023, a multi-agency team from Nevada participated in the *Learning Collaborative on Strategies to Support the Growth and Development of State-Level Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion (DPAD) Initiatives*. DPAD is a practice used by law enforcement or other first responders to direct individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) away from the criminal justice system and instead connect them with treatment programs or other forms of community support. This Learning Collaborative was hosted by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA), in partnership with the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC), and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As part of the Learning Collaborative, your cross-disciplinary team attended several events. In January, state teams attended an in-person two-day kick-off meeting, where they learned from national experts and developed a state-specific action plan. Following this meeting, the Nevada team met monthly with NGA and PTACC facilitators to review progress towards the action plan objectives. They were also convened for several cross-team meetings and informational webinars to discuss state implementation of 988 programs and the strategies for growing a statewide deflection program. Throughout the duration of the Learning Collaborative, the team, led by Jennifer Tongol, has made tremendous strides to advance Nevada's efforts to develop a state-level DPAD initiative. These efforts resulted in a series of important outcomes, including:

- Creating an inventory of programs to set standards for deflection initiatives in Nevada. Existing programs include Mobile Outreach Safety Teams (MOST), Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team (FASTT), and Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT).
- Presenting an award for the 'Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Officer of the Year' at the most recent Nevada Sheriff and Chiefs meeting. This award recognizes the role of police officers as community-based leaders in deflection.
- Expanding services and treatment options with the Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS) network.
- Raising awareness for the benefits of deflection programs by connecting with members of state administrative and executive offices, including the Attorney General's Office and the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association.

Just as your commitment was crucial to initiate this project, so too is it important for keeping Nevada on track to ensure that public safety and public health officials have the tools and support they need to direct individuals with SUD away from the criminal justice system and towards treatment programs and other forms of community support. In furtherance of that goal, NGA will continue to provide you and your state team with technical assistance around improving and expanding DPAD initiatives and access to treatment, as requested.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill McBride  
Executive Director  
National Governors Association