



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Youth Deflection to Take Center Stage at the 2024 PTACC International Summit

Annually, PTACC selects a special population or topic to feature during the International Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit and throughout the following year. In previous years, PTACC has created a platform to elevate Community Collaborations, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Veterans Deflection. At the Summit in Seattle, October 29th to November 1st, 2024, PTACC, as the definitive voice of the field of deflection and pre-arrest diversion, will launch a campaign for **Youth Deflection**.

The campaign for Youth Deflection aims to equip communities with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively implement youth deflection strategies. The campaign will include special engagement and education sessions during the Summit, written guidance to the field, and additional opportunities to lift-up existing Youth Deflection initiatives and lean into growth opportunities nationally and internationally.

Summit Education and Engagement on Youth Deflection

Aligning with Youth Justice Action Month, Youth Deflection will be a featured plenary session at this year's Summit and will include a distinguished panel of national deflection experts who will delve into innovative strategies for supporting at-risk youth. The panel will be moderated by Rachel Sottile (President and CEO of the Center for Youth and Health Justice) and will feature Peria Duncan (Chair of the PTACC Youth Deflection Strategy Area and Director of the Civil Citation Diversion and Deflection Network), Tom Olk (Founder and Executive Director of the Civil Citation Diversion and Deflection Network), Logan Seacrest (Resident Fellow at R Street Institute), Denise Bertin-Epp (CEO of NACOA), and Hector Balderas (Former New Mexico Attorney General).

This plenary panel will offer a comprehensive exploration of the dynamics of youth deflection and pre-arrest diversion initiatives. Topics will include:

- Prevention, Assessment, and Connection to Services
- Family Engagement and Youth Programming
- Wrap-Around Services

- Pathways for Youth

In addition to the plenary session, several workshops throughout the Summit will focus on Youth Deflection related issues.

Official Launch and Guidance Release

The campaign will include PTACC’s first-ever guidance to the field on Youth Deflection. The guidance will provide a comprehensive framework for prevention, assessment, and connection to services for young people. This framework is designed to act as a proactive measure, helping to divert youth away from potential justice system involvement and towards positive, supportive outcomes. The guidance on Youth Deflection will be released at the Summit.

The Importance of Youth Deflection

Youth deflection and pre-arrest diversion initiatives are critical for providing early, “upstream” support to young people who are either displaying behaviors associated with delinquency, at risk of engagement with the criminal justice system, or have already committed minor offenses. Unlike traditional approaches, youth deflection does not wait for an arrest or crisis to intervene, making it a proactive measure in preventing deeper entanglement in the justice system. This approach is vital as the consequences of delinquency, arrest, and conviction can have long-lasting effects on a young person’s life, impacting opportunities such as military enlistment or college scholarships.

Join Us in Seattle

The PTACC International Deflection & Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit offers a unique platform for professionals to network, learn, and share best practices in deflection and pre-arrest diversion. Registration rates for the summit increase September 30th, 2024, so register now to secure your spot and benefit from discounted pricing.

For more information on the summit and to register, visit <https://ptaccollaborative.org/conference>.

About PTACC

The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) is an alliance of practitioners in law enforcement and first response, behavioral health, community, advocacy, research, and public policy, whose mission is to strategically widen community behavioral health and social service options available through deflection and pre-arrest diversion. The purpose of the Collaborative is to provide vision, leadership, advocacy, and education to facilitate the practice of deflection both nationally and internationally.

Contact ptaccsummit@ptaccollaborative.com for additional information.