

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 27, 2026

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas County Jail Reduction Update**

This memorandum provides an update on the Dallas County jail reduction task force's efforts to explore the Miami-Dade County model and to develop crisis stabilization centers in Dallas County. Crisis stabilization centers are designed to direct individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders to treatment rather than jail for low-level offenses. Currently, Dallas County operates one deflection center, which offers an alternative to arrest and incarceration for individuals with mental illness accused of certain nonviolent, low-level misdemeanors; however, this center is not equipped to address substance use disorders.

The task force, which includes county and city officials, mental health and substance abuse professionals, judges, and other stakeholders, was established to study a model implemented in Miami-Dade County, Florida, two decades ago. This model emphasizes pre- and post-arrest diversion programs that connect individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders to treatment through partner agencies instead of incarceration. The group is currently evaluating how to better integrate substance use disorder treatment with mental health services in the deflection center model.

The task force has met multiple times to discuss strategies for diverting individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders from jail. Recent meetings have focused on how this approach could help alleviate jail overcrowding in Dallas County. A central element of the Miami-Dade model allows police to transport individuals with low-level misdemeanor offenses who need mental health treatment, substance use treatment, or related services directly to the center, bypassing jail intake.

The task force is considering expanding the deflection centers model across Dallas County, including at the Austin Street Center. Key challenges include securing sustainable funding and establishing agreements with partner service providers. Next steps include Dallas County engaging an expert to advise the group on adapting this model to local needs. Dallas County will also begin reviewing potential program costs and share findings with the group.

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We will continue to keep you updated on these efforts and at the appropriate time, schedule a full City Council briefing with County officials.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at [dominique.artis@dallasfire.gov](mailto:dominique.artis@dallasfire.gov) with any questions or concerns.

**Service First, Now!**



**Dominique Artis**  
**Chief of Public Safety**

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager  
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billieae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)  
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager

M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
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