



The Lantern Project

What to Expect

The Lantern Project, a partnership between Freedom House Recovery Center and OC CJRD, works to provide access to harm reduction and care for individuals with substance use histories who are intersecting with the criminal legal system.

Diversion Participants

- No admission of guilt is requested or required.
- If the individual doesn't contact the Diversion Coordinator after 72 hours of referral, the Diversion Coordinator will reach out to community partners to see if they can establish connection with the individual.
- An initial intake is completed, and a Diversion/Deflection Service Plan is created.
- The Diversion/Deflection assessment and service plan may include behavioral health treatment, peer support, vocational and housing referrals, and harm reduction materials.
- The Diversion Recovery Coordinator will provide ongoing case management and support until successful completion of the program or until discharge. Participant engagement will be shared with Law Enforcement or the District Attorney and could result in a positive disposition (no formal charge, no conviction, or a reduction in charge). Importantly, lack of engagement will not result in a more severe consequence, per the DA's office.
- If the individual does not complete the Diversion Plan in the allotted time frame, the Diversion Coordinator will notify the Law Enforcement Liaison and/or the District Attorney. Charging may be pursued at their discretion.

Recovery Diversion Coordinator:

Megan Pickard, CPSS, 336.264.9084



Reentry Participants

- The Reentry Recovery Navigator will meet with the participant to complete an intake.
- After the initial intake, treatment goals and needs will be discussed.
- The plan may include a Comprehensive Clinical Assessment, medication management, peer support, and treatment referrals while incarcerated or upon release.
- The Reentry Recovery Navigator will provide ongoing case management and support until successful completion of the program or until discharge.

Reentry Recovery Navigator:

Jennifer Cole, MS, CADC, CPSS, 919.969.322

Diversion AND Reentry Participants

- Release of information must be signed to participate.
- While the participants are actively engaging with the Lantern Project team and/or with treatment, the participants may receive one gift card per month for up to 3 months. Additional incentives and harm reduction materials are provided at the discretion of the Lantern staff.
- The Reentry Navigator and Diversion Coordinator may provide support to the Law Enforcement Liaison, District Attorney, and/or the Defense Attorney.



www.orangecountync.gov/LanternProject