

## Joint Community Advisory Board (JCAB)

### WHAT IS THE JOINT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD?

The Health Department facilitates a Joint Community Advisory Board (JCAB) to support both the Harm Reduction Syringe Services Program (HRSSP) and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program for Howard County residents. An important aspect of both programs is community engagement. The purpose of the Board is to get community input, build support for LEAD and HRSSP throughout Howard County, review policies and procedures from a community perspective, and provide community education about LEAD and Harm Reduction, as needed.

### TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF HARM REDUCTION SSP AND LEAD?

Found across the country, Harm Reduction and Syringe Services Programs are comprehensive community-based prevention and intervention programs that provide services such as: linkage to substance use and mental health counseling services, HIV, STI, and hepatitis testing and treatment, naloxone (Narcan) access and education, and access to and disposal of syringes and injection equipment. The Harm Reduction SSP program began offering services at the Health Department in September of 2020.

LEAD is a pre-booking diversion program that targets low level, non-violent offenses and offers case management and referrals to behavioral health support, before an individual is arrested and charged. The program is a national program that began in Washington state and has taken hold across the country. In Maryland, there are eight locations that have a LEAD program or are planning to implement one within their law enforcement departments. Howard County launched the LEAD initiative in the summer of 2021.

### WHO MIGHT WANT TO JOIN THE BOARD?

Broad community representation is needed on the JCAB; including people with lived substance use experience, business associations, faith groups, civil rights groups and behavioral health providers. If you have a passion for harm reduction and community advocacy, please consider being a part of the JCAB.

### WHAT WOULD I DO?

The time commitment is bi-monthly meetings that are one hour long. You would review documents and policies and provide feedback between meetings. There may also be an event to participate in or outreach to do with other organizations on a voluntary basis.