



WASHOE COUNTY

PUBLIC DEFENDER

350 S Center St.
Reno, NV 89501-2103
(775) 337-4800
(800) 762-8031
FAX: (775) 337-4856
www.washoecounty.gov/defender

February 24, 2025

To: Chair Scheible

From: Angela Knott, Government Affairs Liaison & Deputy Public Defender

Re: SB17

Dear Chair Scheible,

In anticipation of tomorrow's Committee Hearing on SB17, we are providing the following summary, and exhibit, of our support for SB17.

First, SB17 provides a clearer avenue for requesting predisposition diversion in both district court and justice court. Instead of a blanket rule denying predisposition diversion for any prior criminal conviction, SB17 provides more tailored exclusions to predisposition diversion. This will allow more deserving individuals to participate in treatment programs before being dragged further into the criminal justice system.

Second, SB17 clarifies that district courts, justice courts and municipal courts all have the authority to establish a program for the treatment of alcohol or other substance use disorders. This distinction takes away any confusion as to whether a court has the power to order a predisposition diversion program.

Third, SB17 expands a court's power to refer a defendant into a substance abuse program while awaiting a formal assessment. It may take weeks or months for an individual to be formally assessed. While they are waiting for their assessment, they are subject to prolonged incarceration, which can have a detrimental impact on the individual, the county, and the detention facility.

Predisposition diversion is an essential step in helping an individual before they get swallowed up in the criminal justice system, which could have devastating and lasting implications. Helping an individual at the early stages of the criminal justice system can benefit not only the individual, but the community as a whole. This early intervention can best be demonstrated with the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

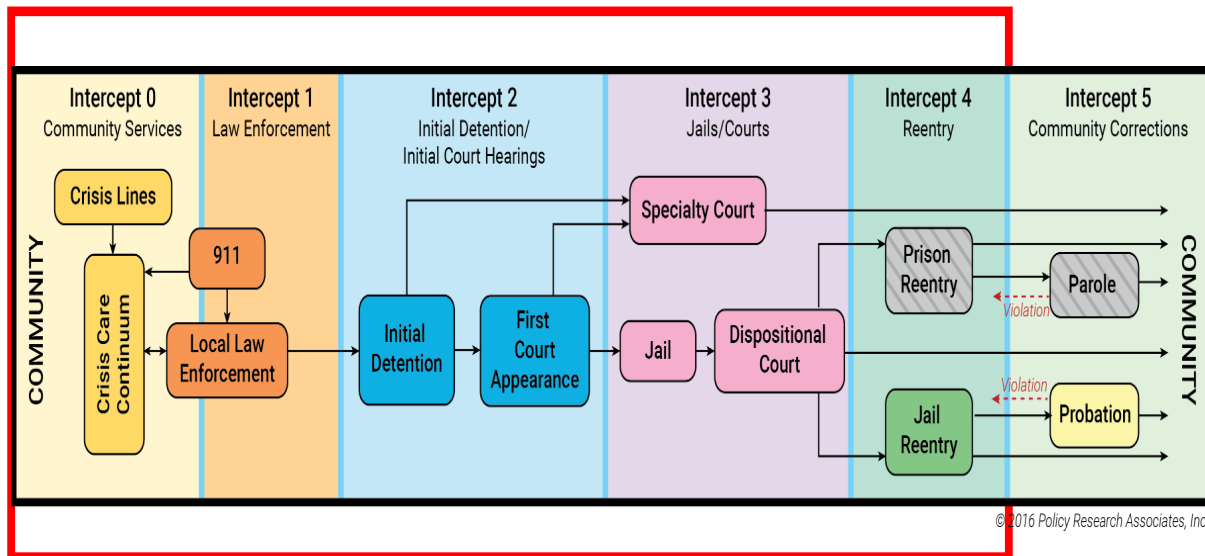
The SIM, diagramed below, "details how individuals with mental and substance use disorders come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system.

The SIM helps communities identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept and develop local strategic action plans. The SIM mapping process brings together leaders and different agencies and systems to work together to identify strategies to divert people with mental and



substance use disorders away from the justice system into treatment.”¹

Sequential Intercept Model



WCBC, Strategic Planning Session, 1/28/25, SIM presentation, slide 3

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Intercept 0: Community Services

- Involves opportunities to divert people into local crisis care services. Resources are available without requiring people in crisis to call 911, but sometimes 911 and law enforcement are the only resources available. Connects people with treatment or services instead of arresting or charging them with a crime.

Intercept 1: Law Enforcement

- Involves diversion performed by law enforcement and other emergency service providers who respond to people with mental and substance use disorders. Allows people to be diverted to treatment instead of being arrested or booked into jail.

Intercept 2: Initial Court Hearings/Initial Detention

- Involves diversion to community-based treatment by jail clinicians, social workers, or court officials during jail intake, booking, or initial hearing.

Intercept 3: Jails/Courts

- Involves diversion to community-based services through jail or court processes and programs after a person has been booked into jail. Includes services that prevent the worsening of a person's illness during their stay in jail or prison.

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¹ [The Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\) | SAMHSA](#)

Intercept 4: ReEntry

- Involves supported reentry back into the community after jail or prison to reduce further justice involve of people with mental and substance use disorders. Involves reentry coordinators, peer support staff, or community in-reach to link people with proper mental health and substance use treatment services.

Intercept 5: Community Corrections

- Involves community-based criminal justice supervision with added supports for people with mental and substance use disorders to prevent violations or offenses that may result in another jail or prison stay.²

To simplify, intervening at early stages in the criminal justice system can help reduce recidivism, can help an individual build their life back together with proper treatment and resources, and helps prevent a lifetime of unnecessary interactions with the criminal justice system.

Sincerely,



Angela Knott
Deputy Public Defender

² [The Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\) | SAMHSA](#)