

Adams County CJAB Diversion Committee
Friday, February 20, 2026

On Friday, February 20, 2026, the first meeting for the CJAB Diversion Committee meeting was held at 1:00pm in the Adams County Human Services Building Conference Rooms

In attendance:

Warden Hileman
Chief Hansen
Christopher Snyder

Kristi Fields
Billy Smith
Neil Burkholder

Welcome:

Neil Burkholder called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and then Neil reviewed the goal and purpose of this committee.

Objective/ Goal:

Using the Adams County Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping, identify points within the system where individuals may be safely diverted or discharged from criminal justice involvement. Once these points are identified, develop and recommend alternative programs or practices for the Court's consideration, including potential specialty court options.

Action Steps:

- Establish a CJAB Diversion Committee.
- Review the Adams County SIM map to identify system bottlenecks, recurring behaviors across intercepts, and potential diversion opportunities.
- Research how other Pennsylvania counties have implemented diversion initiatives, including exploring possible site visits.

Expanded Action Steps:

- **Leverage Existing System Mapping:**
Build on the existing SIM work and incorporate input from key entities - including Judges, the District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, and Magisterial District Judges - to create a comprehensive picture of current diversion opportunities and gaps.
- **Department-Level Identification of Needs:**
Ask each major department to identify potential diversion programs or procedures that could be implemented in Adams County. Each submission should include a short description, its position within the SIM, and the population served.
- **Individual Outreach if Needed:**
If certain departments have limited participation, conduct individual meetings with department heads to gather necessary information.
- **Consolidation of Findings:**
Combine department submissions and group similar ideas, recognizing that many issues may overlap across criminal justice partners.
- **Creation of a Unified List of Prioritized Options:**
Refine the grouped topics into a single prioritized list based on feasibility, operational capacity, financial considerations, and broader community impact.
- **Data Identification and Collection:**
Determine what data is needed to quantify affected populations and justify the need for diversion initiatives. Identify clear, meaningful metrics for each priority.
- **Development of Concept Papers:**
Prepare concise (approximately one-page) concept papers for each top priority, including the target

population, proposed service or program, supporting data, and preliminary implementation considerations.

- **Presentation to Decision Makers:**

Present findings and concept papers to the CJAB Board and other relevant decision makers to guide next steps and potential implementation.

Neil explained that when the term “Diversion” is used in the criminal justice system, it is inevitable that everyone has their own definition and thoughts on what it means. Diversion within the Criminal Justice system (when it originated) was meant as alternatives to traditional criminal justice processing. These programs/processes can mean focusing on addressing underlying issues that led to the offense (such as substance abuse or mental health problems), alternative sentencing and/or it may require a combination of education or counseling to assist the individual avoid further run-ins with the law. The primary objective of Diversion is to minimize log jams within the system, thereby facilitating more efficient utilization of staff time and enhancing the quality of services provided to the individuals we assist.

Neil and Katy gave a brief overview of the updated Sequential Intercept Model – mostly just Intercept numbers and their titles. Beginning at our next meeting we will begin to review detail each Intercepts and the gaps that were identified.

A discussion on the types of statistics to gather was held. Due to COVID most statistics from 2020 and 2021 are skewed. Even 2023 can be a little distorted because we were not quite back to our new normal. The group decided that for the most realistic data we may just want to concentrate on 2024 and 2025 to see exactly where we are at. For the first few meetings we will review some basic statistics from different parts of the Criminal Justice systems to then decide areas that we would like to take a deeper look.

The group decided that 1:00pm on Friday is a good time to meet for future meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2027, at 1:00pm.

Meeting adjourned.