

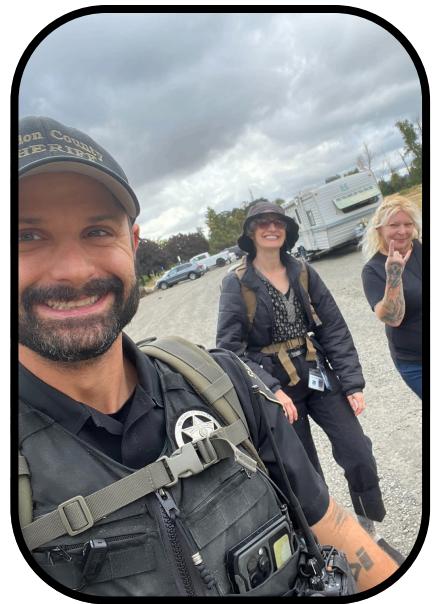
MCSO LEAD Program



2025 Year in Review

Building a Stronger Community Together

This year the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program launched the Crisis Assistance and Recovery Engagement Support (CARES) Team. This team is built with a MCSO Deputy, LEAD Navigator and a Qualified Mental Health Associate. The goal of the CARES Team is to be proactive in the community and be able to address the whole person, by addressing mental health, substance abuse and potential law enforcement contacts by working with them short term and connecting them with resources in the community. With the launch of this program in July 2025, the team was able to assist 28 people by connecting them with resources and possible long term case management, and of those 9 were referred into LEAD to provide that long term case management.



LEAD Team Highlight: Navigator Mareis Dickerson



Mareis joined the LEAD Team in March. She brings both lived experience and professional commitment to her work in community mental health and public service. Prior to entering the foster care system, Mareis grew up alongside family members affected by severe mental illness and domestic violence who were treatment resistant—shaping her understanding of how deeply these challenges impact individuals, families, and communities.

After working as an NDT radiographer, she made a deliberate career change to serve her community directly. She is deeply committed to supporting individuals living with mental health and substance use disorders, as well as the families and communities impacted by these challenges. Her work is grounded in compassion, accountability, and practical, person-centered solutions.

LEAD Team Highlight: Program Coordinator Mariah Fairman



Mariah joined the LEAD Team as the Program Coordinator in May of this year. We are thrilled to have her join the team with her background in program management, human development and public health. Mariah came to us from the non-profit world and while she loved the work, she wanted to focus her career more on helping those in her community and using her education to support others.

Participant Success Rates

During 2025, LEAD, our long term case management services, assisted 19 individuals in achieving a significant reduction or total elimination in substance usage, achieving housing stabilization, and the procurement of stable resources to meet all of their basic needs while they focus on their long term goals. Additionally, 7 clients achieved total self-sustainability with an absolute elimination of illicit substance usage, without any law enforcement contact for at least six months, residency in either permanent or transitional housing, and the procurement of a stable income which meets their needs!