

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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ADMINISTRATION – ADULT – COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES  
– ENHANCED RESIDENTIAL OUTREACH – FAMILY & YOUTH  
– PUBLIC HEALTH – VETERANS & DISABILITY SERVICES

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## Yamhill County Deflection Program Success

During the 2024 Legislative Session Oregon Legislature made changes to Ballot Measure 110 that was passed in 2020. These changes included recriminalizing possession of a controlled substance. It also allocated funding for counties to start deflection programs. Deflection is a collaboration between law enforcement, district attorneys, behavioral health treatment providers and the courts for people who have substance use or mental health disorders. Deflection provides pathway to treatment for individuals who might otherwise either enter the justice system or receive no assistance to address their needs.

Yamhill County's deflection program began in September 2024. This program diverts offenders to supportive services instead of jail. When cited, these individuals are required to get an alcohol and drug assessment within two weeks and then remain engaged in meaningful treatment for six months or engage in treatment with 90 days of negative UA's to be considered a successful deflection. If they do not adhere to the deflection program standards they are to appear in court and may face jail time.

When a person is found with small quantities of illicit drugs and there are no other crimes being committed a referral goes to Health & Human Services (HHS). HHS does active outreach to engage individuals which could include both phone calls and outreach in the community in an attempt to get them into treatment. HHS has created a walk-in model for people in need of alcohol and drug treatment, whether or not they have had a connection to law enforcement. As of April 2025, 93 people qualified for deflection. Of those who qualified, 27% received an alcohol and drug treatment assessment, 14% of those deflected remain in treatment and 2 people have successfully completed the program.

A large number of the individuals sent through the deflection program are deep in their addiction and may not be willing to accept the rehabilitative approach this provides. 14% remaining in treatment and 2 successfully completing the program may seem small but this is inspiring when considering the level of addiction these individuals are managing. The fact that 28% have come in for an assessment means many initial contacts have been made allowing treatment staff to continue building rapport and engaging people until they are ready to take the next step into treatment.