

## Sample Facebook Biography & Posts

### Care first...Jail last

The goal of this policy is the implementation of more funds to support jail diversion programs across the state. A jail diversion program will help reduce recidivism and improve access to mental health for users in the community. In addition, this policy can have a greater impact on community resources by allowing counties to have the ability for funding a community crisis response program. One example can be the development of a 911 crisis team that includes a mental health clinician accompanying law enforcement when responding to certain 911 calls. This policy will make way for many possibilities for counties to develop programs to help support mental health and substance abuse needs.

The purpose of jail diversion programs (JDP) is to reroute arrestees away from the justice system and into partnership programs. JDPs are an alternative that prevents arrestees from being incarcerated and receiving a criminal record and instead receives some kind of rehabilitation service. JDPs offer arrestees with qualifying charges the option to receive rehabilitation services for mental health, substance abuse, housing, employment, and/or developmental needs.

Follow us on Facebook for updates and coming events.

[www.carefirstjaillast.org](http://www.carefirstjaillast.org)

**1 in 4**  
Offenders will be reincarcerated within 3 years after their release

Jail diversion programs have been shown to decrease recidivism by providing treatment for mental illness.

Support the passing of Tennessee bill HB2841/SB2500 to increase jail diversion programs across the state

Visit [carefirstjaillast.org](http://carefirstjaillast.org) for more information

Source: Collins, S. E., Lenczak, H. S., & Crawford, S. L. (2018). Seaside's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (SEAD) program effects on criminal justice and legal system utilization and costs. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 33(2), 201-225. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-018-09382-7>  
State Records Tennessee. (n.d.). Tennessee Private Records. <http://tncourts.gov/state-records>

**Care First...Jail Last**

Jail Diversion Programs provide an alternative option to incarceration by allowing those with a mental illness that commit nonviolent crimes to receive treatment instead of serving time.

**44%**  
Of the U.S. jail population has a mental illness

For more information visit [carefirstjaillast.org](http://carefirstjaillast.org).

Please Join us in support of bill SB2500/HB284 to provide more funding for jail diversion programs in Tennessee

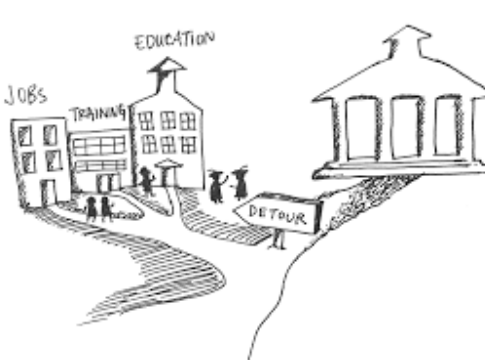
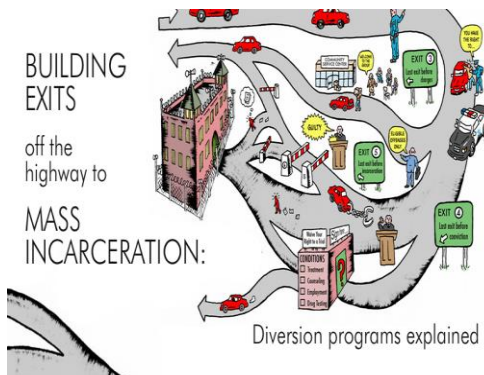
Source: Brennan, J., & Berrisford, M. (2012). *Juvenile indicators of mental health problems reported by prisoners and jail inmates*, 2011-13. Office of Justice Programs. <https://www.govinfo.gov/openfulltext/1214.pdf>

**DRUG POSSESSION HAS BEEN THE LEADING CAUSE FOR ARREST IN TENNESSEE SINCE 2003**

1\$ not invested in rehabilitation costs \$7 in crime cost

To learn more about how Jail Diversion Programs can help visit [carefirstjaillast.org](http://carefirstjaillast.org)

Source: Cahill, K., Stone, H. D., Trautwein, J., Moore, K., Dienerhoff, R., Hart, J., & Tournelle, J. (2021, May 19). Substance misuse and incarceration in Tennessee: The University of Tennessee System. <https://smart.sjs.tennessee.edu/smart-policy-network/policy-briefs/substance-misuse-incarceration/>



## Sample Phone Script

Hello [name],

My name is [name] from [city/town], I am calling to ask [State Official] for support of HB2841/SB2500 for the implementation of state-funded jail diversion programs as well as community crisis response teams across the state. This means that non-violent offenders with a diagnosed mental illness could be diverted from the traditional incarceration route to a treatment center for care. A similar jail diversion program was initiated in Oklahoma State. Their jail diversion programs were found to help prevent recidivism and decreased state costs. Currently, there aren't any state-funded jail diversion programs. If there are any, they are funded by the county. They have limited capacity to serve the needs of the entire state. This bill would allow for jail diversion programs to be implemented in all Tennessee Counties under the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. We hope that you will support this bill being reintroduced at the January 2023 General Assembly Meeting.

Thank you,

[name]

## Sample Email Script

Dear [name of representative],

My name is [name] from [city/town], I am emailing to ask for support of HB2841/SB2500 for the implementation of state-funded jail diversion programs as well as community crisis response teams across the state. This means that non-violent offenders with a diagnosed mental illness could be diverted from the traditional incarceration route to a treatment center for care. A similar jail diversion program was initiated in Oklahoma State. Their jail diversion programs were found to help prevent recidivism and decreased state costs. Currently there aren't any state funded jail diversion programs. If there are any, they are funded by the county. They have limited capacity to serve the needs of the entire state. This bill would allow for jail diversion programs to be implemented in all Tennessee Counties under the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Care First...Jail Last needs your support to vote for policies that would improve Tennessee's justice system to provide more options to address substance abuse and mental illness. We hope that you will support this bill being reintroduced at the January 2023 General Assembly Meeting.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,

[Name]