

Homeless Arrest Diversion Initiative

The Homeless Arrest Diversion Initiative (HADI) is a collaboration between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) and Urban Ministry Center's Outreach and Engagement (UMC Outreach) team in conjunction with Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS).

WHAT IS A DIVERTIBLE OFFENSE?

For the purposes of this initiative a "divertible offense" is defined as an offense in which an individual's situation of homelessness was a factor and an offense in which there was no victim. Such offenses include but are not limited to:

- Drinking in public, public intoxication
- Trespassing
- Urinating in public
- Loitering
- Littering

THE PROCESS:

When an officer makes contact with an individual experiencing homelessness and they are committing a divertible offense the process is as follows:

1. Give the homeless subject a choice of arrest/citation or a referral for outreach services
 - a. If an arrest or citation is most appropriate for the situation a referral can still be made for outreach services.
2. If the officer makes a referral in lieu of an arrest or citation the officer can transport the subject to the appropriate destination: mental health, shelter, detox, etc.
3. The UMC Outreach Team will follow up with the referral using the information provided
 - a. The Outreach Operations Manager will assign an Outreach worker to follow up with the referral within 48 hours
 - b. The Outreach team member responsible for processing all community referrals, the Outreach Operations Manager, will make contact with the referring officer to let them know the outcome of the referral
 - c. If necessary, the UMC Outreach Team case manager can coordinate a plan with CMPD and service providers to prevent future offenses
 - d. If an Outreach worker is unable to find the individual referred for services after five attempts they will be placed on "stand by" – the Outreach worker will no longer actively try to find this individual – and the referring officer will be alerted
4. Once the Outreach Team has made contact with the individual referred they will attempt to offer him or her the following services: (This is a non-exhaustive list and will depend on the individual's needs)

- a. Access to Mental Health services by scheduling appointments and potentially transporting the individual to scheduled appointments
- b. Complete all necessary assessments for the housing process
- c. Assist with basic needs like getting a North Carolina photo ID or food stamps
- d. Discuss options for income (through disability income, employment, etc.)
- e. Assist individual in accessing substance abuse treatment if desired