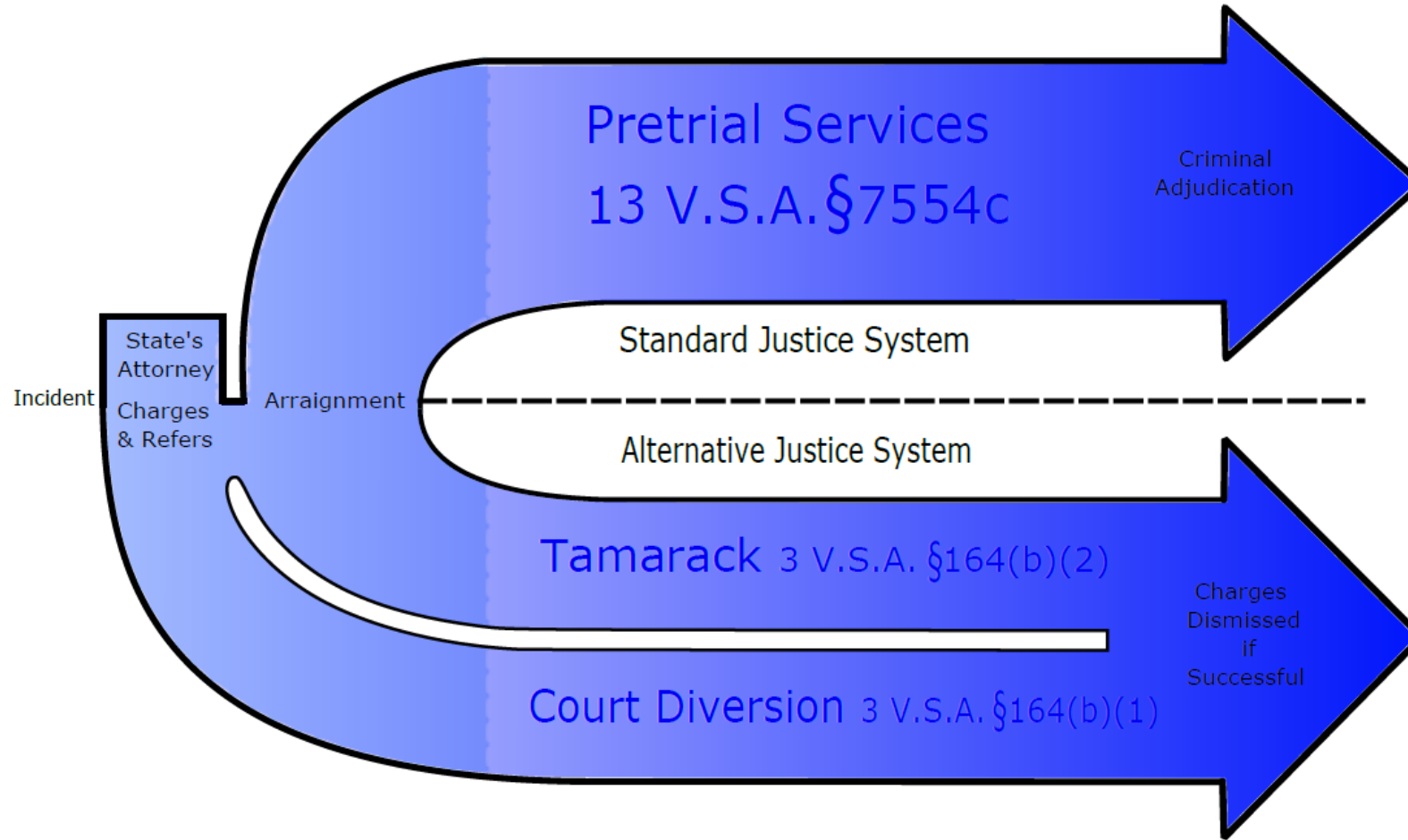


# Attorney General's Office Community Justice Programs

August 2017

# VT Attorney General's Office Community Justice Programs



# Court Diversion Program

- **Purpose:** to assist adults who have been charged with a first or second misdemeanor or a first nonviolent felony
- **Process:** referred by the State's Attorney, participants take responsibility for their unlawful actions and engage in a restorative process aimed at repairing the harm. Typically support services are offered, but are not necessarily required as part of a contract. Successful completion of the Diversion Program results in a dismissal of the criminal charge.
- **Funding & Structure:** the Court Diversion Programs receive their funding from the Vermont Attorney General's Office in the form of a county-based grant. Participants receive case management from a Court Diversion Case Manager.

# Tamarack Program

## New in 2017

- **Purpose:** to assist adults with substance abuse or mental health treatment needs regardless of the person's prior criminal history record. Programming for these persons is intended to support access to appropriate treatment or other resources with the aim of improving the person's health and reducing future adverse involvement in the justice system.
- **Process:** referred by the State's Attorney, participants are required to engage in mental health and/or substance use treatment. A restorative process may occur if appropriate, but is not the primary focus. Successful completion of the Tamarack Program results in a dismissal of the criminal charge.
- **Funding & Structure:** participants receive case management from a Pretrial Services coordinator. More about Pretrial Services structure later.

# Pretrial Services Program

**Updated in 2017**

**Purpose:** to assess treatment needs of individuals awaiting trial and to connect them with needed services, including substance abuse and mental health treatment. Service coordinators can assist individuals in meeting their court-ordered conditions of release. The program may also assess risk of nonappearance.

## **Pathways to Entry:**

- Statutorily mandated outreach from pretrial services—limited to those who are lodged and unable to post bail within 24 hours
- Self-Referral
- Court Order

# Pretrial Services Program

## **Services:**

- Needs screenings—to measure substance abuse or mental health needs
- Risk assessments—to measure risk of nonappearance
- Connecting individuals to clinical assessments by a substance abuse or mental health treatment provider
- Connecting the person with community-based treatment programs, rehabilitative services, recovery supports
- Supporting the person in meeting conditions of release imposed by the court, including the condition to appear for judicial proceedings

# Pretrial Services Program

## **2017 Statutory Changes to Encourage Participation:**

- Provides that refusal to participate, or failure after initial engagement, cannot result in any criminal legal liability
- Restricts information a pretrial services coordinator may share with prosecutors and the court to the following: whether there is a risk of nonappearance, whether treatment is indicated, whether an individual participated in an assessment, and whether further engagement with pretrial services is recommended
- Enhances confidentiality provisions regarding communications between defendants and pretrial services coordinators
- Ends potentially confusing early outreach to defendants who have not had a chance to speak with a defense attorney

# Pretrial Services Program

- **Funding & Structure:** the Vermont Attorney General's Office contracts with Lamoille Restorative Center, which subcontracts with local agencies to provide pretrial services. Lamoille Restorative Center and the Attorney General's Office supervise and assist the local agencies.