



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 26, 2025

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CHICAGO** – TASC’s (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) Center for Health and Justice is kicking off the Chicagoland Youth Deflection Initiative on May 28, 2025 by bringing together organizations and leaders to learn more about the emerging [field of deflection](#). Deflection partners law enforcement, treatment, and the local community in a shared approach to responding to people with substance use disorder and behavioral health issues. This initiative will focus on the Chicagoland area.

**WHAT:** TASC’s Center for Health and Justice launches the Chicagoland Youth Deflection Initiative. Leaders will Gather May 28, 2025 to promote collaborative approaches to behavioral health and public safety. The event will include remarks from deflection leaders, a moderated discussion, and media interview opportunities.

**WHO:**

- Jac Charlier, TASC’s Center for Health and Justice, Executive Director
- Koren VanderWeele, TASC’s Center for Health and Justice, Senior Program Manager
- Guy Schingoethe, TASC Deflection Operations, Director
- Lisa Hampton, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Youth Services Division, Prevention and Intervention Director
- Stephanie Frank, Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, Deputy Director of Planning, Performance, Assessment, and Federal Projects
- Lt. Colonel Jason Bradley, Illinois State Police, Patrol Operations Command

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
5–6 p.m.  
(Media are invited to the end of the training event at 3:30 p.m. for b-roll opportunities.)

**WHERE:** Grace Episcopal Church  
637 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago

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