

Alternatives to Incarceration

Glossary of Terms

Purpose

The purpose of this Glossary of Terms is to define and utilize terms consistently throughout the ATI Work Group’s recommendations. The glossary is not a policy directive, but rather a supportive resource that will continue to evolve as the ATI implementation process continues.

The ATI Chair and Planning Team facilitated a process to reach consensus on three values to guide the work of the ATI Work Group: (1) equity and racial justice, (2) inclusion of many voices, and (3) human-first language. The terms featured in this glossary are reflective of the values that guided the ATI Work Group, the Opportunity Agenda’s Criminal Justice Phrasebook, and the many discussions of Ad Hoc Committees and Implementation Teams.

Intercept Title Definitions and Boundaries

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Alternatives | One of two or more available possibilities; in the context of incarceration, an alternative to incarceration would avoid and/or minimize justice system involvement |
| Behavioral Health | Includes individuals who have a mental health disorder or need and/or a substance use disorder, and/or a co-occurring disorder; and the promotion of mental health, resilience and wellbeing; the treatment includes the support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions, along with their families and communities. ¹ |
| Community Based System of Care | A decentralized network of non -profit, government and other community based providers who deliver a full continuum of accessible services (health, social services, housing, healing, etc.) to community members |
| Diversion | In the context of ATI, diversion refers to alternative services, care, and/or programming offered instead of traditional justice system processing, potentially resulting in no criminal arrest, no charges or reduced charges filed, and no jail booking. |
| Reentry | A broad term including but not limited to: the preparation for and transition between incarceration and community supervision, the preparation for and experience of community reintegration post-incarceration including regaining/gaining access to legal documents, housing, family reunification, employment, rebuilding social support networks, access to health care (inclusive of mental health and/or substance use treatment), etc. |
| Release | Point in time in which a person is freed from incarceration to return to the community; includes conditional releases, people on community supervision, and/or GPS monitoring. |

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-behavioral-health-integration.pdf>

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| Substance Use Disorder | Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes a clinically significant impairment including health problems and disability. The recurrent use can also impact social responsibilities at work, school, or home. |
| Community Supervision | The possible outcome of criminal justice charges whereby an individual is under law enforcement supervision (County Probation, state parole, and federal parole). This may occur as the outcome of a court case or after jail or prison custody. ² |

Key Terms within the Intercepts

| Terms | Definitions |
|------------------------------|--|
| Alternative Clinical Setting | Decentralized clinical and accessible places to bring and/or refer people experiencing behavioral health crises outside of jail settings. An example of this would be to bring someone with an emerging behavioral health crisis to a mental health urgent care or sobering center. |
| Caregiver | Someone, usually an adult over the age of 18, who provides care for another person. Caregiving may or may not be financially compensated. |
| Cisgender | Refers to a person who identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth. This person does not identify as being transgender, non-binary, or other gender-expansive identity. |
| Cisgender Women | The term “cisgender women” used throughout the ATI documents refers to people who identify as women and were assigned female at birth (i.e. their gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth). |
| Comprehensive Assessment | An examination of varying factors that contribute to an individual’s holistic wellbeing, including but not limited to health, mental health, substance use, housing, food security, family connections and social networks, employment, education, legal assistance, etc., to create tailored care plans for people in need of services. |
| LGBQ+ | ATI documents use the acronym LGBQ+ to denote people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or queer. This acronym is meant to be inclusive beyond the listed identities. This reflects the spirit of the Gender and Sexual Orientation Ad Hoc Committee’s work in affirming all gender identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations. |

² Types of supervision available at <https://roadmap.rootandrebond.org/parole-probation/introduction/what-are-the-main-types-of-supervision-in-californ/>

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| MET (Mental Evaluation Team) | Co-responder team staffed by a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputy and a Department of Mental Health clinician that work together to assist patrol deputies responding to situations involving persons with mental health issues. ³ |
| PET (Psychiatric Emergency Team) | Mobile response team based in and operated by psychiatric hospitals approved by the Department of Mental Health to initiate applications for Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 ⁴ and 5585 ⁵ evaluations. Team members are licensed mental health clinicians. PET operates similar to PMRT (see next term) and provides additional resources in specific geographical regions. ⁶ |
| PMRT (Psychiatric Mobile Response Team) | Team of Department of Mental Health licensed clinical staff assigned to a specific Service Area in Los Angeles County. Teams have legal authority per Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 and 5585 (see footnotes 4 and 5) to respond to service calls and to initiate applications for evaluation of involuntary detention of individuals determined to be at risk of harming themselves or others or who are unable to provide food, clothing, or shelter for themselves as a result of a mental disorder. ⁷ |
| Postpartum (or Postnatal) | Refers to the period immediately following birth, as the birthing person's body, including hormone levels and uterus size, returns to a non-pregnant state. Commonly refers to the first six weeks following childbirth. |
| System Actor | In ATI documents, this refers to a person employed by the government agencies or departments involved in the health, social services and/or criminal justice systems. |
| TGI | ATI documents use the acronym TGI to denote people who identify as transgender, gender-non-conforming, and/or intersex. This acronym is meant to be inclusive beyond the listed identities, accounting for Two-Spirit community members and all other gender expansive identities. |
| Contact | Types of law enforcement contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Consensual contact</u>: strictly voluntary; person must feel free to be able to leave or not cooperate at any time during the "contact"; law enforcement officer does not need legal authority for a consensual encounter • <u>Detention</u>: requires reasonable suspicion; reasonable and innocent person would believe he is not free to leave or otherwise disregard the law enforcement officer • <u>Arrest</u>: requires probable cause; person is taken into custody (physically restrained or has submitted to authority) |

³ <https://coc.lacounty.gov/Our-Work/Mental-Evaluation-Teams>

⁴ <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/welfare-and-institutions-code/wic-sect-5150.html>

⁵ <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/welfare-and-institutions-code/wic-sect-5585.html>

⁶ <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/countywide-services/eob/>

⁷ <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/countywide-services/eob/>

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| Warm Handoff | In-person warm transfer of care between parties including directly introducing the patient/client/person to all involved parties to ensure accountable care between those involved. |
| Cross-Functional Team | A system whereby people from different areas of an organization, or different organizations, work together as a team. ATI documents typically intend this team to include clinicians, case workers, the individual client or patient, family members and/or other advocates, and whichever additional representatives from health and/or social service agencies are needed for the individual. |

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