

INTERSECTING PATHS: DIVERSION AND CIT IN BERKS COUNTY, PA

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STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN THE SAME GAME

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program and the Forensic Diversion Program share the same overarching goal:

- Safely and effectively connect individuals with behavioral health needs to treatment instead of incarceration.



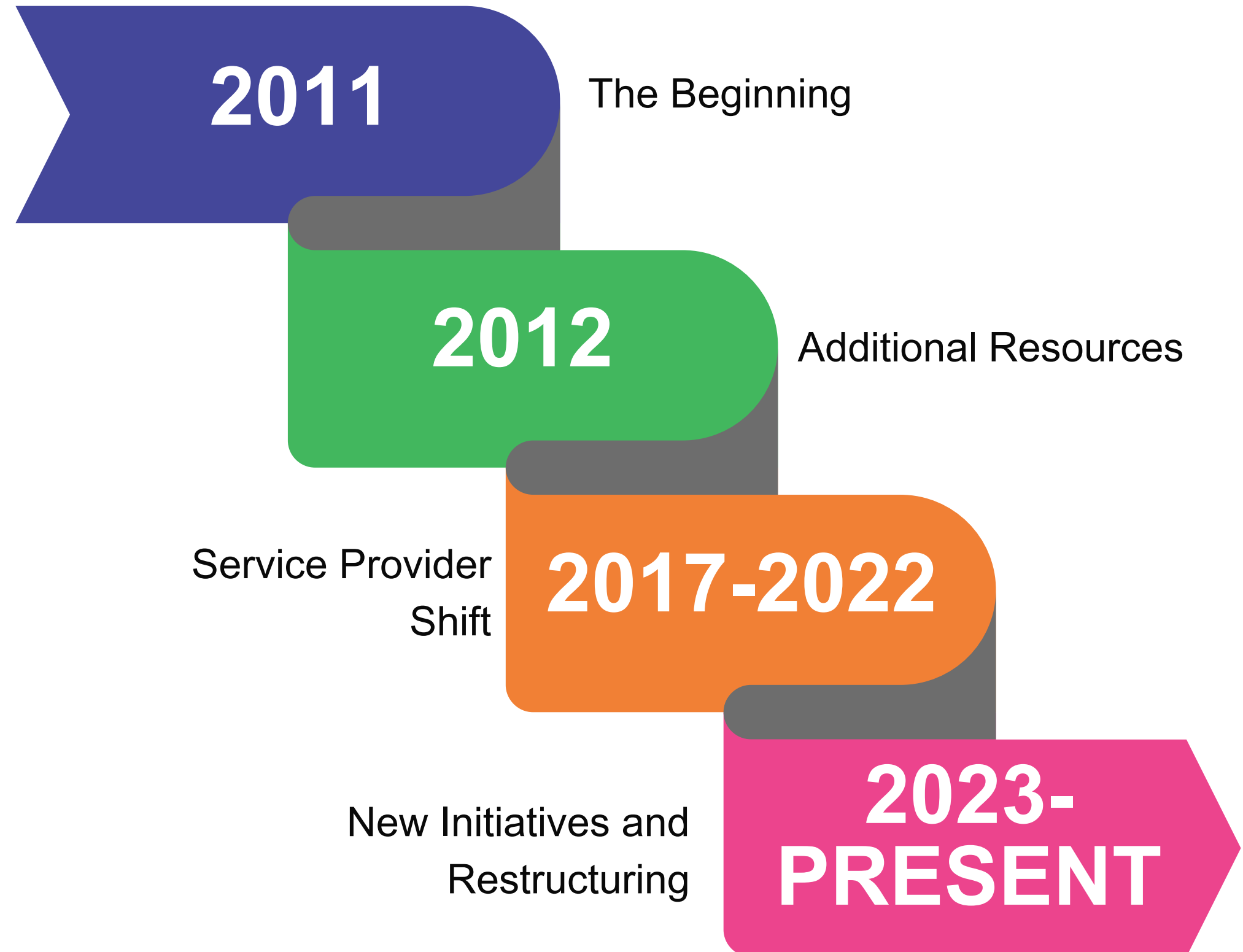
INTERSECTION

- COMMON POPULATION
- SEQUENTIAL COLLABORATION
- TRAINING & PHILOSOPHY
- SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Crisis → Intervention → Referral → Treatment → Stability

OUR STORY

Launched in 2011, the Forensic Diversion Program has steadily evolved- expanding its reach across additional intercept points, building collaborative relationships, and implementing various program initiatives to meet the complex needs of our community.



IDENTIFY



MENTAL HEALTH FORENSIC DIVERSION PROGRAM REFERRAL FORM



Name (Last, First): Last, First

Date of Birth: Month/Day/Year

Social Security #: XXX-XX-XXXX

Phone #: 555-555-5555

Address: House or Apt #, Street, City, State, Zip

Current Location: Enter text here

Primary Language: Enter language here

Alternate Contact Name:

Enter contact person here.

Alternate Contact Phone #:

Enter contact phone # here.

Mental Health Dx:

Enter MH Dx.

Co-Occurring SUD (if applicable):

Enter co-occurring SUD information

Current Medications: Enter current medications.

Current Symptoms or behaviors impacting functioning or contributing to legal issues:

Enter text here

Charges/Pending Charges:

Enter charge information.

Reason for Referral/Why Diversion is Appropriate:

Enter text here

Specific Treatment/Intervention Needs that may be most helpful:

Enter text here

Name/Title of Individual Submitting Referral:

Your name and title

Date of Referral:

Month/Day/Year

Name of Community Provider: Agency Name

Email Referral and Any Supporting Documents to: Diversion@ConnectionsWork.org

MENTAL HEALTH FORENSIC DIVERSION PROGRAM RAPID REFERRAL

WHEN TO REFER:

- You have concerns about an individual's mental health.
- The individual is NOT an immediate threat to self or others
- The individual is facing non-violent charges or is at risk of future charges if behavior persists.
- Alternatives to arrest may be more appropriate.

HOW TO REFER:

- Call 484-260-3860 x3001
 - Leave a voicemail message
- Scan QR Code



If imminent threat to self/others, contact
Holcomb Crisis Services
Holcomb (24/7): 610-279-2007

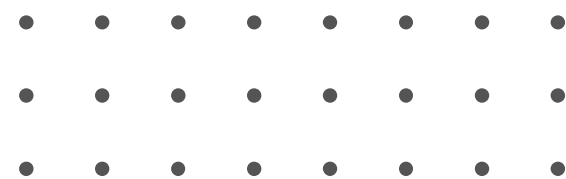


SCREEN & ASSESS



- Antisocial Personality Disorder
- Autism
- Bipolar Disorder
- Borderline Personality Disorder
- Intellectual/Developmental Disability
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Panic Disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Schizoaffective Disorder
- Schizophrenia

- Facing non-violent charges or at risk of being charged with non-violent offenses if behavior persists
- Individual's behavior is likely influenced by their mental health disorder



ENGAGE & CONNECT

- Discuss services available
- Initiate linkage to services
- Maintain communication and collaboration with referral source

COORDINATE & EXIT

- Complete referrals
- Confirm admissions/appointments
- Warm hand-off





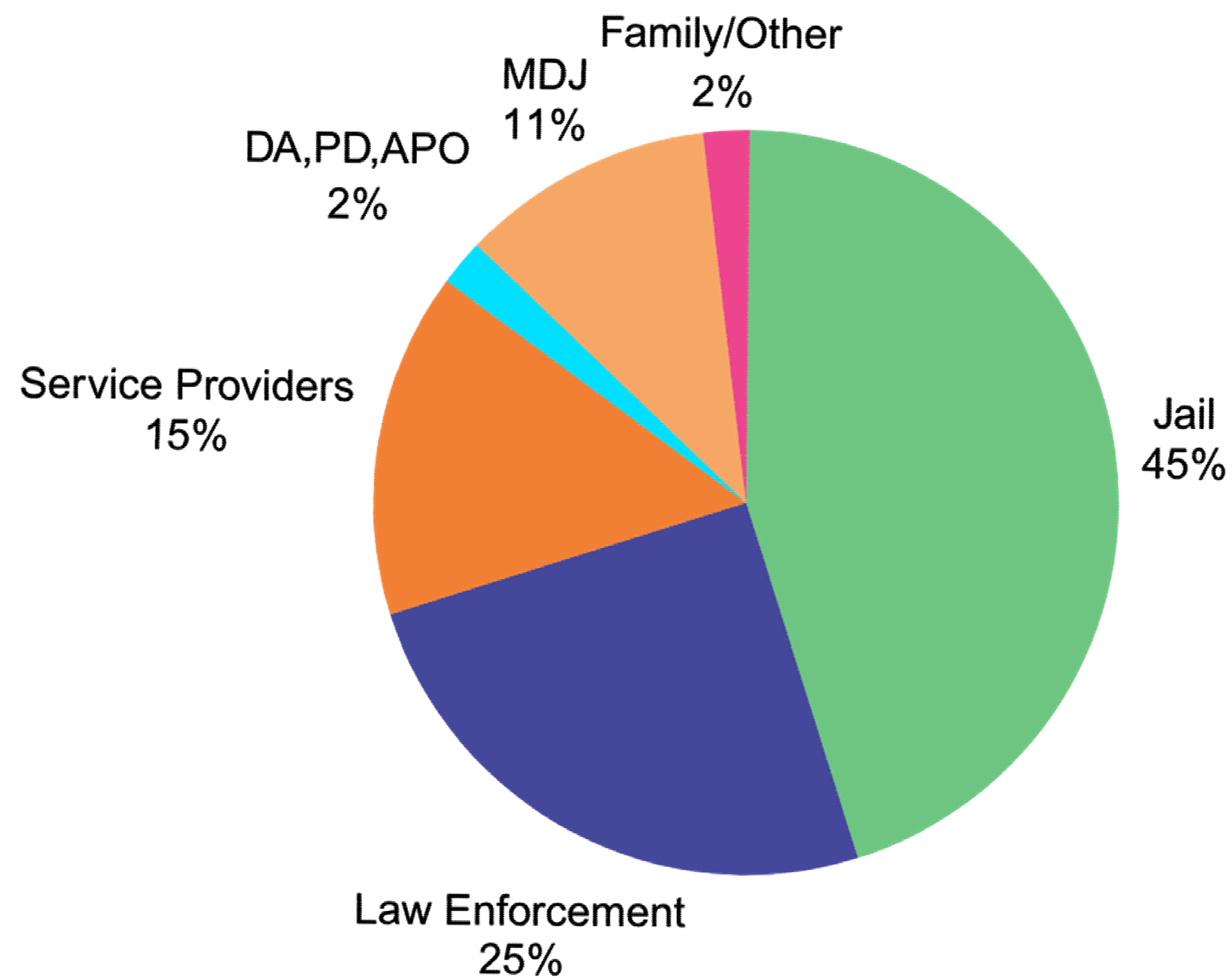
- **REFERRALS**

- 2011-June 2025: **2,412**

- **ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

- 2011- June 2025: **2,084**

REFERRAL SOURCES



BERKS COUNTY CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM



- Law Enforcement Officers: 52
(24 Departments)
- College Students: 8
- Behavioral Health Providers: 4
- Social Work: 2
- Chaplains: 2
- Probation/Parole: 3
- Parks & Rec: 3
- Community Service Provider: 1
- Hospital Security: 6
- EMS: 1
- Stakeholders: 1

connections
work
changing lives.
improving communities.



CIT WEEK



BERKS COUNTY

Introduction to CIT Concepts and Best Practices

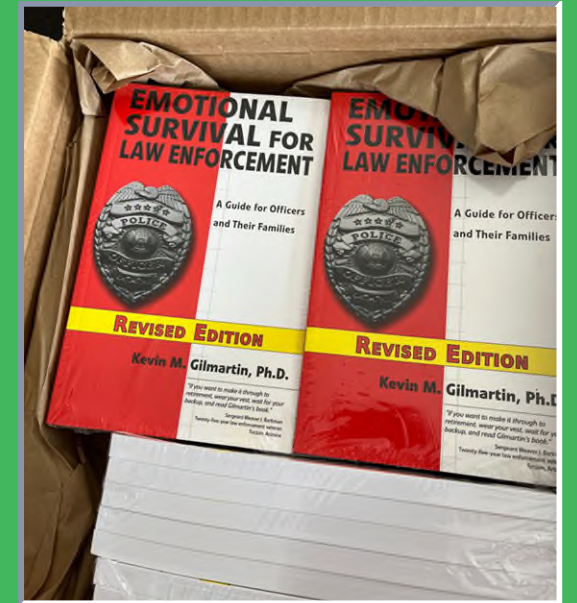
Services & Supports in Berks County

Information on Mental Health Disorders

Site Visits: Community

Immersive Training Experiences

Legal Perspectives and Lived Experiences



BERKS COUNTY
STEERING COMMITTEE

Law Enforcement/
Emergency Services

- Brecknock Township PD
- Caernarvon Township PD
- Douglass Township PD
- Exeter Township PD
- Mt. Penn Fire Company
- Muhlenberg Township EMS
- Muhlenberg Township PD
- PSP- Troop L- Reading
- Reading PD
- West Reading PD
- Western Berks EMS/Fire

Service Providers

- Chimes/Holcomb
- Connections Work
- Haven Behavioral Health
- Hope Rescue Mission
- NAMI Berks
- Reading City Police Dept.
Chaplains
- Tower Health
- Penn State Health

Stakeholder

- Adult Probation/Parole Office
- Berks County Court System
- Council on Chemical Abuse
- District Attorney's Office
- Mental Health/Developmental
Disabilities Office
- Public Defender's Office

Memorandum of Understanding

1 Formalizes
roles,
responsibilities
and protocols

2 Helps align
goals across
agencies

3 Streamlines
referral
processes

4 Reinforces
shared
commitment to
divert
individuals in
crisis

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- CIT AND DIVERSION ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME SYSTEM RESPONSE
- COLLABORATION IS THE FOUNDATION
- EARLY INTERVENTION CHANGES TRAJECTORIES
- SYSTEM INTEGRATION CREATES IMPACT
- BERKS COUNTY IS BUILDING MOMENTUM
- THE WORK CONTINUES

DIVERSION TEAM

 484-260-3860

 Diversion@connectionswork.org

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 www.connectionswork.org

Thank
you!

