

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Off Site Drug Testing

Question (from Columbia County)

I'm wondering if any county currently utilizes any type of mobile lab or off-site drug testing services? We are looking for something to possibly free up Officer time to do more supervision in other areas. Of course, we would still do some random testing for quality assurance but if anyone has any ideas please share.

Allegheny County

Allegheny County also uses Averhealth but only their shipped lab testing and confirmation option that is reported back into our case management system. The majority of our in-house tests are conducted by our community probation monitors to ease the burden on officers. However, officers may conduct field drug testing at their discretion and preference and use the Averhealth system for shipping and confirmation.

We do have instant drug screens to be used sparingly in urgent cases and are mostly used by our specialty court and court officers.

Bedford County

Bedford does not use off site

Bradford County

Bradford County does off site testing. We contract with the local hospital centrally located within the county to collect the samples. The hospital implements a call-in system where the offender calls a phone number and reaches a prerecorded message. The message states the "numbers" for the day and the hours of operation for that day. If the offender's assigned number is called, they have between those hours of operation to go to the lab and produce a sample. The "number" that is assigned by the PO is tied to the frequency per month that they will be drug tested. The frequency ranges between 0 (dummy number) to 4 times per month based on risk of the offender. The hospital then sends the samples to Redwood toxicology for processing. We receive the drug testing results a short time later.

When we were exploring other options to compare pricing, Averhealth prepared a competitive, cost-effective solution. However, we stayed with our current set up. Their contact info is: Justin Manni, Director of Business Development, m 848.992.3650

Chester County

We in Chester County have been doing off-site testing with Averhealth for 3+ years. We started with Averhealth the October prior to COVID.

Averhealth opened a Patient Care Facility just up the street from the Justice Center. Per our contract they are open M thru F 1030a to 630p and 2 weekend days per month. We are

expanding testing from 730a to 630p in the very near future. During the height of COVID we never stopped testing nor did we reduce testing, they stayed open and never missed a step. We have two types of testing Random (call hotline daily) and Manual ordered testing. We have an interface built into the AP system so all interacting with Averhealth as far as scheduling, results etc. are populated automatically in the RMS. I will say the web based Aversys portal is/would be very easy to use if we didn't have the integration. We have had a great working relationship with Averhealth from the CFO to the Patient Care workers. They are very open to any changes we want to make as needed.

In the development of the contract, we received very good guidance from York and Lehigh Counties as they had been thru the same thing. Happy to help provide ideas or lessons learned if anyone is considering the move to Averhealth. We have no regrets moving to Averhealth.

Clearfield County

Clearfield does not use off-site testing

Cumberland County

Cumberland has a standalone drug testing department that does the testing for Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth, Domestic Relations. We occasionally do testing in the field but most testing is done by drug testing. Yes - has freed up officers to do more supervision. This combined with risk assessment has allowed us to increase our face-to-face contacts by 100%.

Erie County

We do have an off-site testing site. They are a local provider. We also utilize on-site testing.

Forest County

Forest does not

Lancaster County

Lancaster does not do off site testing. We explored this at least twice over the last 3-5 years. Each time we have done so, the overwhelming response from my staff has been that they view the in-person/on site testing as an important part of supervision, officer-client relationship, opportunity to use MI skills etc. So, we continue to do it in-house.

Lebanon County

We had looked into Averhealth, but with the drop in our caseload numbers since COVID I am holding off to make it more affordable. They were very informative and helpful. I am hoping to sign on with them in the near future. They are the only service that we looked into.

Luzerne County

We conduct in-house testing and field (on-site) if necessary- (usually due to a complaint- 2 POs present for such testing). Our Drug Treatment Court does in-house along with a method of

color-coded call- in to offenders for random testing through GEO. This is a contract whereby offenders report to GEO on holidays and weekends for such testing. All testing is sent for confirmation through Redwood Toxicology with Fed Ex pickup.

Lycoming County

We utilize GIO for Reentry Services which incorporates drug testing. We also do our own.

Northampton County

Northampton County uses Averhealth. We only test in the office if we suspect use or if the person truly can't afford to test outside.

Philadelphia County

Philadelphia does not have off site drug testing

Schuylkill County

Schuylkill does not

Snyder County

Snyder does not

Somerset County

Somerset does not

Susquehanna County

Susquehanna does not

Venango County

Venango does not

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland does not

York County

York County uses Averhealth. We have had a great partnership with them for years now.