



Considerations for Substance Use Treatment with Justice Involved Youth

CASEY PEDERSON, PHD

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Introductions

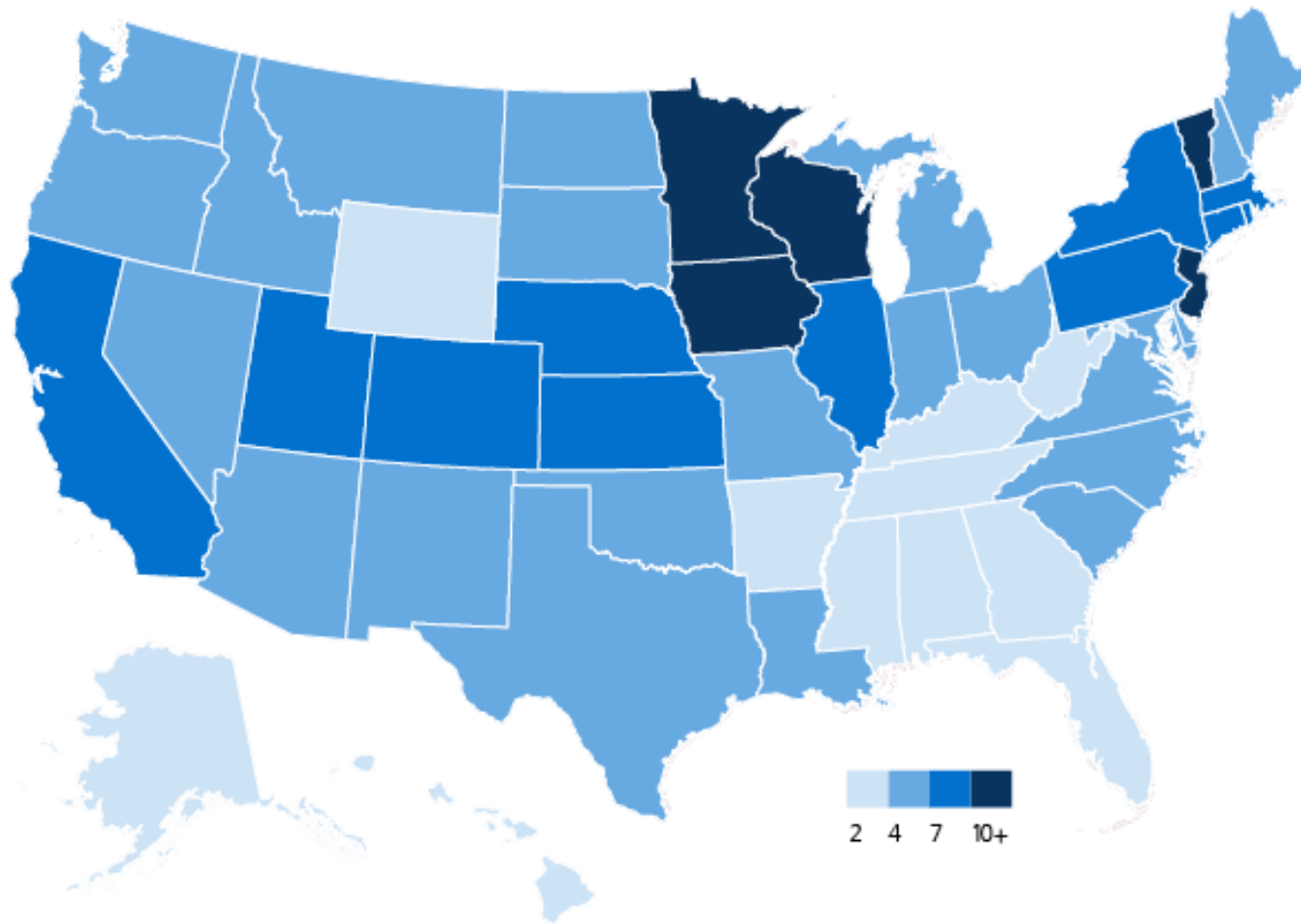
- ▶ How many of you work in the juvenile justice system?
- ▶ How many of you work in healthcare?
- ▶ How many youth do youth work with who have been involved in the juvenile justice system?

High Rates of Disorder

- ▶ Individuals within the justice system experience mental health and related concerns at a higher rate than individuals in the community
 - ▶ **Overall:** Almost two-thirds of youth meet criteria for a mental health disorder, even excluding Conduct Disorder
 - ▶ **Substance Use:** Approximately half of youth experience a substance use disorder
 - ▶ **Suicide:** Youth 5x more likely to complete suicide
 - ▶ **Trauma:** 58% of experience a potentially traumatic event
 - ▶ High rates of learning disorders and poor verbal ability

Importance of Addressing Substance Use

- ▶ SUBSTANCE USE IS A PARTICULARLY SALIENT ISSUE AMONG JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH
 - ▶ Likely to be experiencing co-occurring mental health disorders
 - ▶ Related to recidivism and early death



Black/white Incarceration Ratios
Nellis, 2016

Disparities in Justice Involvement

The System

Juvenile System	Adult System
Rehabilitation	Punishment
Confidentiality	Open access
Hearing	Trial
Judge	Jury
No bail	Bail
Adjudicated delinquent	Guilty/Not Guilty
Probation	Parole

Adult vs. Juvenile Criminal-Legal Systems

Differing Goals

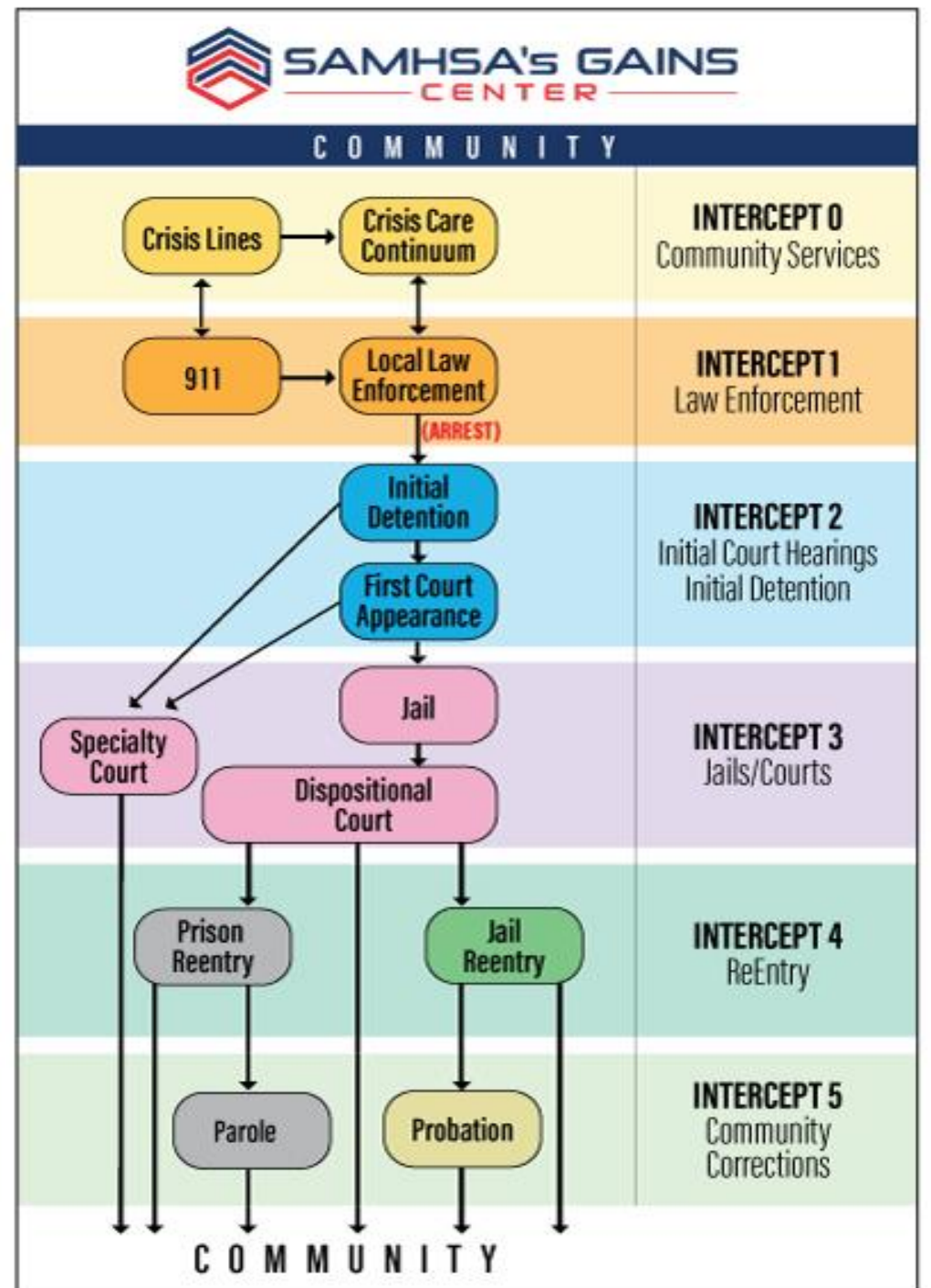
- ▶ **Legal system goals** are to promote public safety by applying laws to behavior and offering punishment as deemed appropriate
 - ▶ Focused on fairness, order, and protection of the majority
- ▶ **Healthcare system goals** are to enhance health in the population often by offering services aimed at prevention and treatment of illness
 - ▶ Focused on quality of life and personal growth

Legal system responses to adolescent substance use often occur through *legal sanctions*.

Treatment Access

- ▶ Treatment access become less likely for youth as they proceed through the intercepts
 - ▶ Approximately one-third of youth receive treatment at diversion
 - ▶ Only 33.1% of youth receive mental treatment while in detained or incarcerated and 29.0% youth received mental health treatment following release from detention or correctional facility
- ▶ Early intervention consistent with the intercept model may prevent adverse outcomes and increase access to care

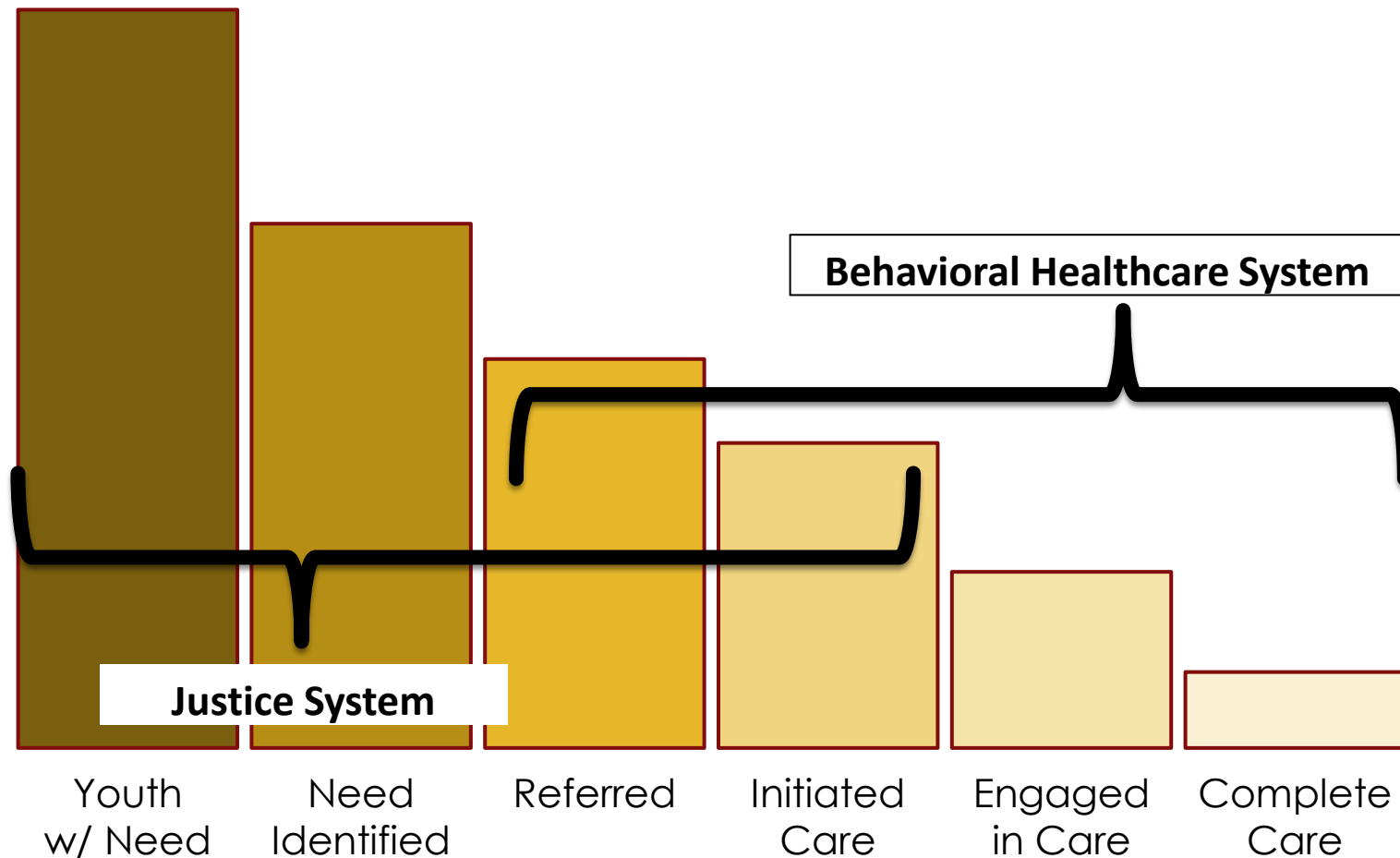
Sequential Intercept Model



Drug Courts

- ▶ **Drug courts** are a public health approach using a specialized model in which legal team members and community agencies work together to help youth into long-term recovery.
- ▶ However – there mixed evidence of the effectiveness of these courts, with cumulative evidence suggesting no effect on drug use and recidivism
- ▶ Could be issues matching treatment need to response and lack of individualized planning

Framework for Connecting to Care



Role of Evidence-Based Assessment

- ▶ It is recommended that youth receive an “evidence-based, scientifically sound mental health screen” within 24 hours of youth’s first contact with the juvenile justice system
- ▶ Assessment is associated with increased likelihood of treatment engagement
- ▶ Concerns about accurate reporting of symptoms

Features of Legal Involvement

Special Considerations

Legal Consequences

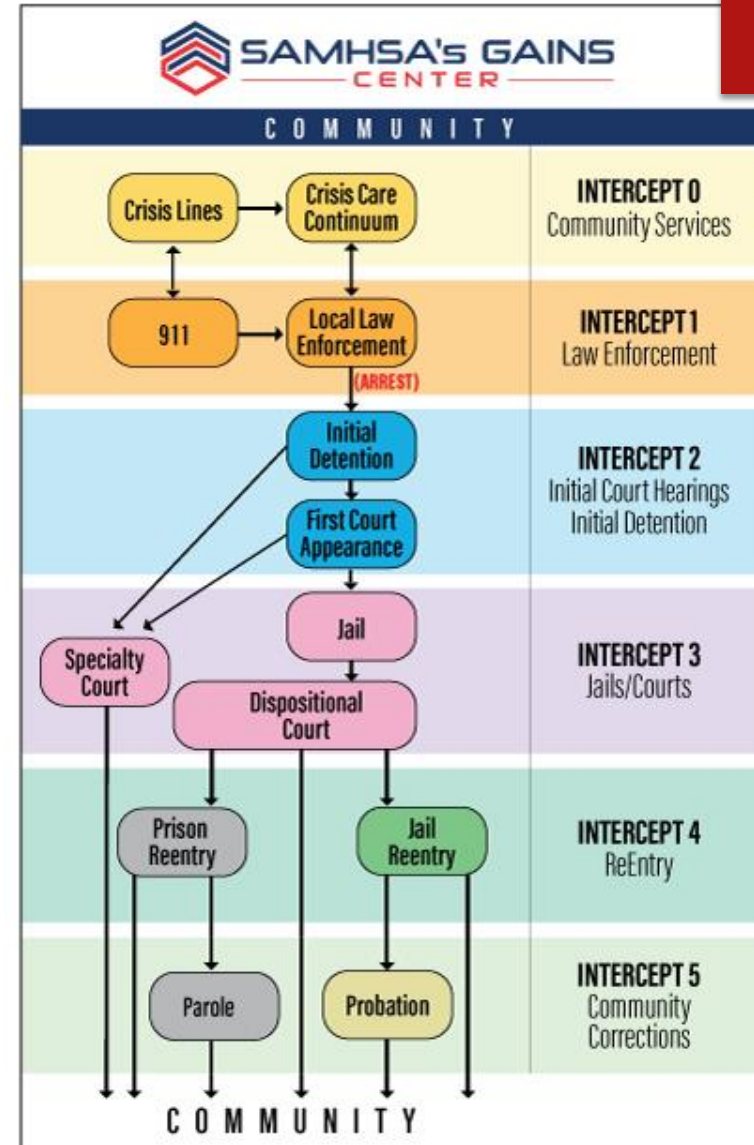
- Will this information go into a legal file?
- Who will have access to this information?
- Can this information be used against them now or in the future?

Physical Environment

- Consequences of justice involvement result in changes in location
- Changes in access to people, materials, services

Justice Involvement as a “Crisis”

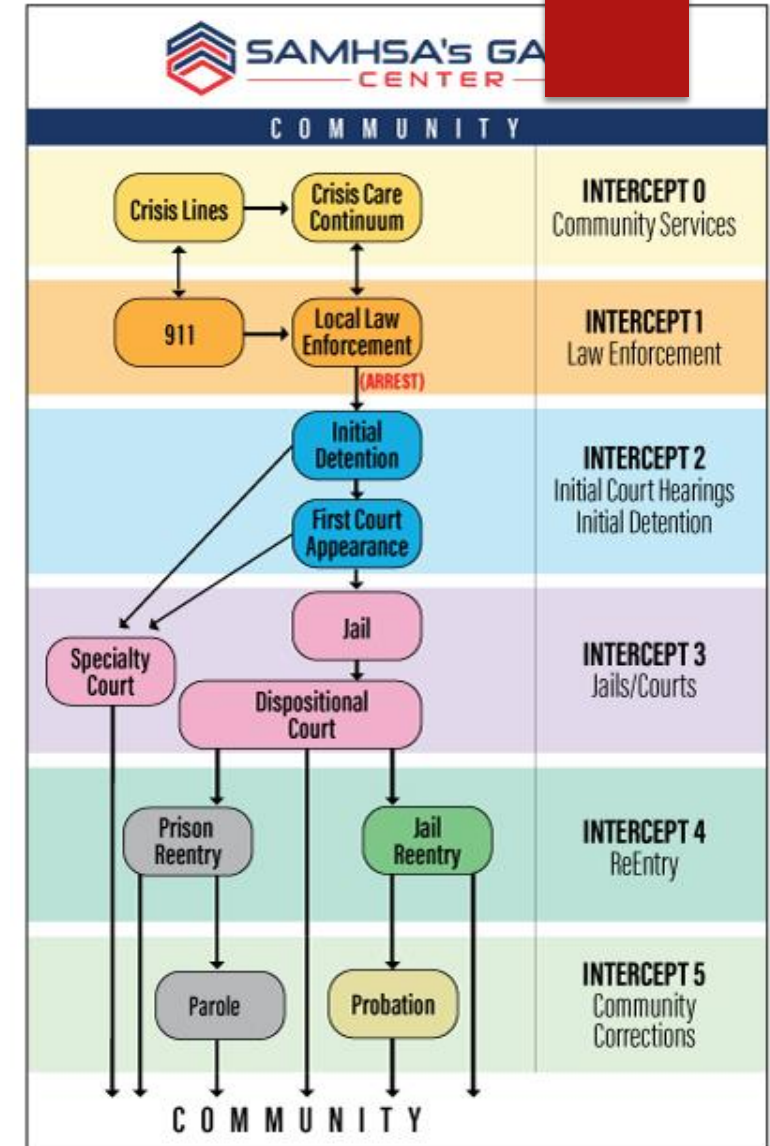
- ▶ Risk as a responses to incarceration
 - ▶ Many facilities err on the side of caution
- ▶ Potential violence while incarcerated
 - ▶ Riots
 - ▶ Rivals also incarcerated
- ▶ Substance withdrawal



Transitional Risks

What do people gain access to upon reentry into the community?

- ▶ Continuity of care
- ▶ Societal changes
- ▶ Stable housing and public assistance
- ▶ Job acquisition
- ▶ Overdose death
- ▶ Legal involvement





Ethical Considerations

Complex Systems of Care

- ▶ Forensic practice involves working with people who are incarcerated
 - ▶ Legal system
 - ▶ Human Rights
 - ▶ Defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, client
- ▶ Legal-ethical exchange is extremely salient

Unique Interplay of all Principles

Beneficence/Nonmaleficence

Fidelity/Responsibility

Integrity

Justice

Respect for People's Rights and Dignity

Confidentiality

- ▶ ***Psychologist should communicate clearly with the person they are working with who will have access to their information***
- ▶ Sometimes the psychologist may not know the extent of confidentiality
- ▶ Erodes trust and perhaps the truthfulness of such reports

Double Agent: Who is the client?

- ▶ The person being evaluated or the person paying the bill?
- ▶ Double agent
 - ▶ "A person or company representing both parties to a transaction" Candilis & Neal, 2014
 - ▶ The psychologist is simultaneously working for the client and the institution
- ▶ Conflicting roles to maintain control and provide adequate care
- ▶ Clients are aware of psychologists role with the institution; psychologists are aware of the potential dangerousness of the client

Beneficence and Nonmaleficence – For who?

- ▶ May think about beneficence and nonmaleficence on an individual or societal level
 - ▶ What may be most beneficial to the individual may be harmful to society or vice versa
- ▶ Further, there are responsibilities to the institution