



Mental Health & Justice: Reflections on community- based Forensic supports

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Agenda

- ▶ Introduction to Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)
 - ▶ 7 Principles of Healthy Housing
- ▶ Mental Health & Justice Program
- ▶ Program Demographics
- ▶ Program Outcomes
- ▶ Unique Approaches
- ▶ Walking the Path to Wellness
- ▶ Client Testimonials

Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)

- ▶ SHIP's mission:
 - ▶ *To increase quality of life through health services and housing supports that promote mental and physical health and wellness*
- ▶ Health and Housing services that are recovery based and client-directed to promote and support independence, personal growth, and dignity
- ▶ We offer a mix of housing and support options to deliver services in the most effective way possible – for example, Short Stay Crisis Support Program, Recovery Residences, community housing, transitional housing, etc.
- ▶ Services range in intensity of supports, and individuals are assessed to ensure that they receive the right support at the right time

7 Principles of Healthy Housing

- ▶ Inclusive
- ▶ Accessible
- ▶ Sustainable
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Education and Training
- ▶ Empowerment
- ▶ Professional Services

Mental Health & Justice Program

- ▶ On January 22, 2007, the Justice program was developed in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA Peel-Dufferin)
 - ▶ At the outset of the partnership, there were two clinicians from each agency to support clients and engage in knowledge exchange across specialisations
 - ▶ CMHA Peel-Dufferin provided access to court support, and SHIP provided housing and supports
- ▶ The program serves clients who have a serious and persistent mental illness and who have recent or current involvement with the law
- ▶ The purpose of the program is to ensure that individuals who are diagnosed with a serious mental illness are not criminalized inappropriately, but are re-directed toward the system which is most appropriate for them
- ▶ This is a specialized program that provides services to those who have historically been marginalized and excluded and is geared to providing both intensive case management **and** supportive housing with rent supplement for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria

Mental Health & Justice Program

- ▶ The desired outcomes of the Mental Health & Justice Program are:
 - ▶ To provide support to improve mental health functioning/outcomes
 - ▶ To reduce recidivism and hospitalizations
 - ▶ To provide clients with support to maintain their housing
 - ▶ To reduce pressures on the criminal justice system
- ▶ Intensive case management can involve daily support, attending court hearings, attending probation meetings, life skills training, and treatment management
- ▶ The Mental Health & Justice Program is based on a psycho-social recovery model, designed to empower individuals, prevent relapse and promote recovery through stable and supportive housing

Mental Health & Justice Program

- ▶ To be eligible for admission into the Mental Health and Justice Program the individual:
 1. Has a serious mental illness and whose mental illness can be appropriately managed through services based in the community
 2. Has recently come into conflict with the law (within one year of date of application) and whose offence is considered low risk and can be appropriately managed through services based in the community
 3. Is homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or are considered inadequately housed. Examples include individuals:
 - ▶ being discharged from jails and/or correctional facilities and law and mental health programs
 - ▶ persons with no fixed address using emergency hostels, shelters and/or “sleeping rough”

Mental Health & Justice Program

4. Falls into one of four at risk populations:
 - ▶ individuals being released from provincial correctional facilities
 - ▶ individuals with a concurrent disorder
 - ▶ individuals with a dual diagnosis (if they are able to live independently with the housing supports provided)
 - ▶ youth (16-17), where appropriate supports are available
5. Those who are NOT currently being supported by formal supports within the community or those who have formal supports but can be transitioned to the Justice program without any consequence to the applicant

Why Housing?

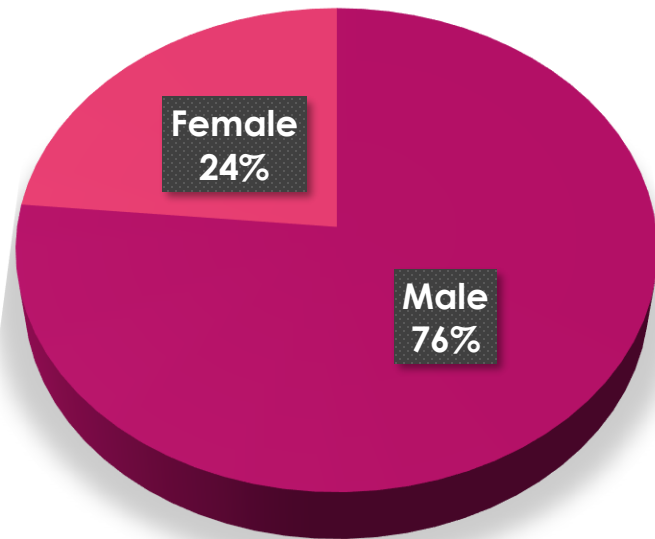
- ▶ “Homelessness is directly linked to the criminal justice system – many discharged inmates end up experiencing homelessness and, conversely, many people experiencing homelessness wind up in prison”
- ▶ “A dominant response to the homelessness crisis has been to criminalize the behaviours and activities of people who experience homelessness”
- ▶ “Recognition of the interconnectedness of mental illness, homelessness and the criminal justice system is a necessary first step in developing a course of action that appropriately addresses this growing social problem”

Source: <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/topics/legal-justice-issues>

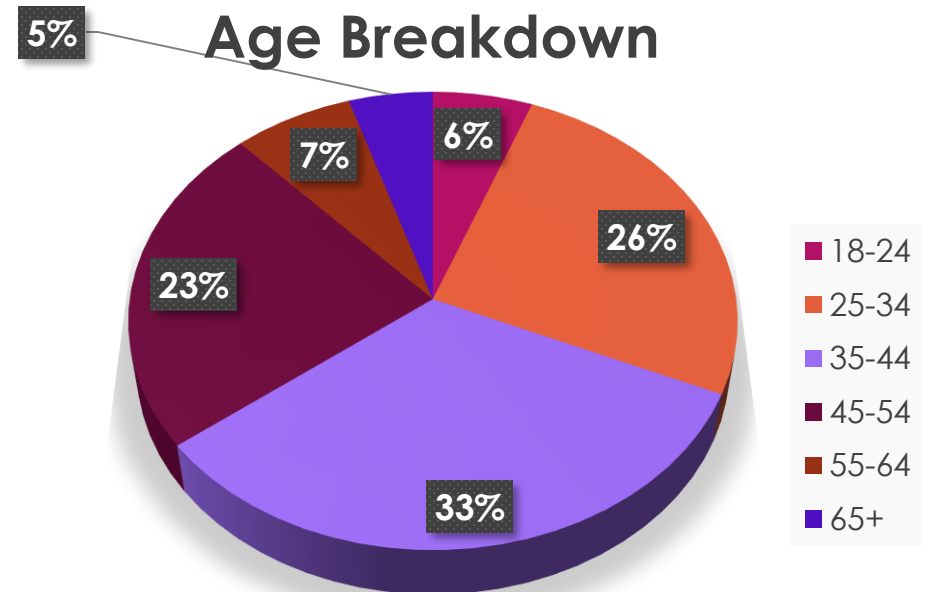
Program Demographics

Client Demographics

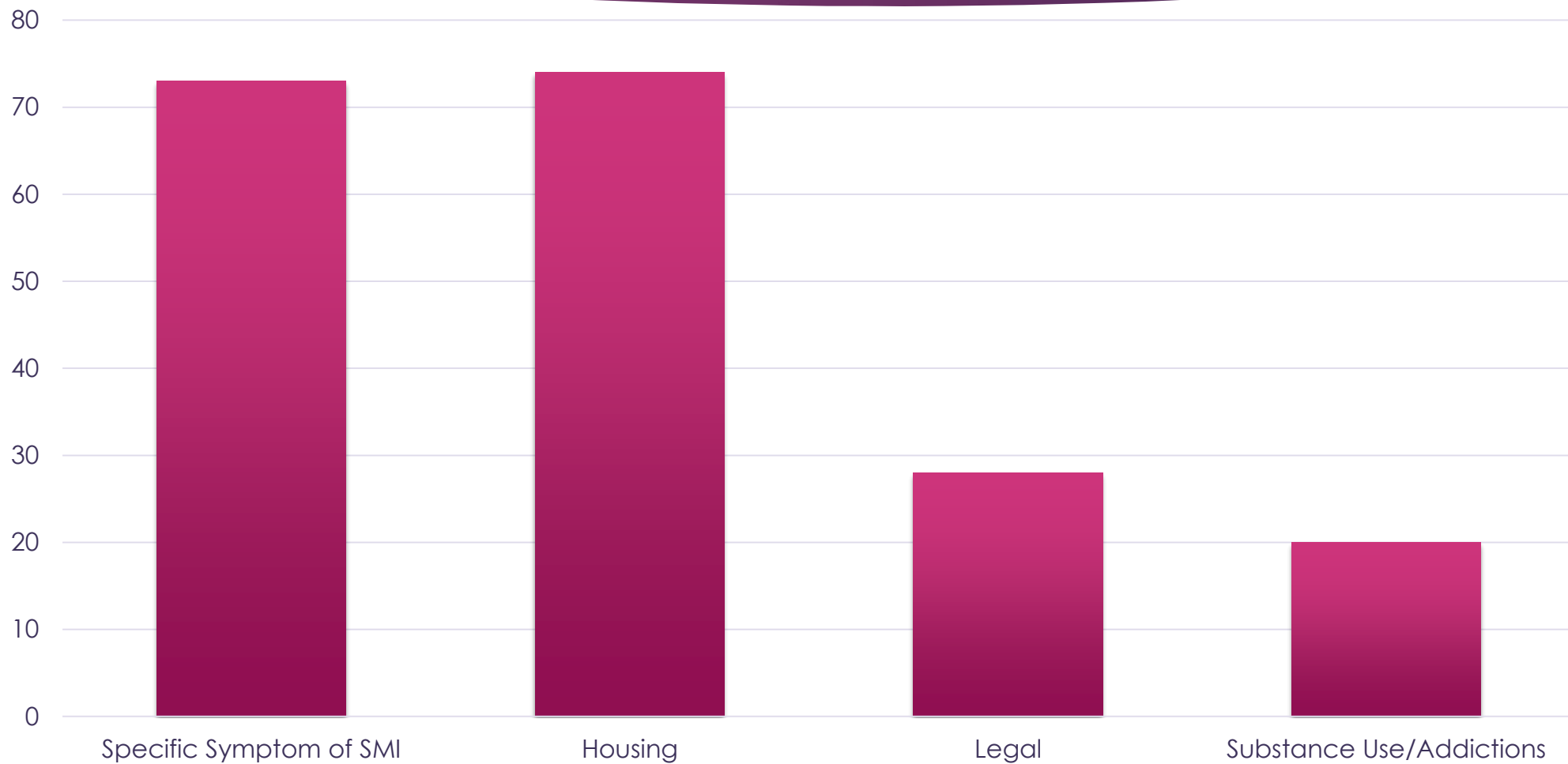
Gender



Age Breakdown



Presenting Issues





Program Outcomes

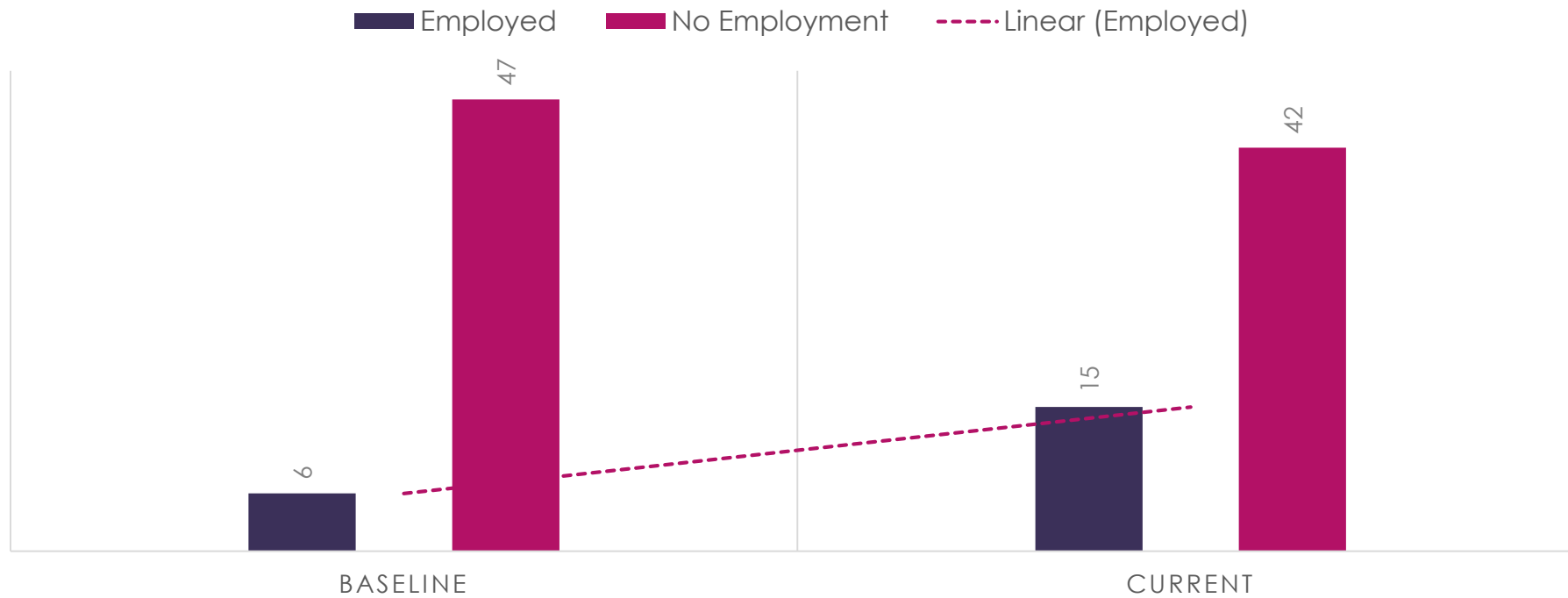
10 YEARS: A LOOK BACK

Outcomes – Housing Retention

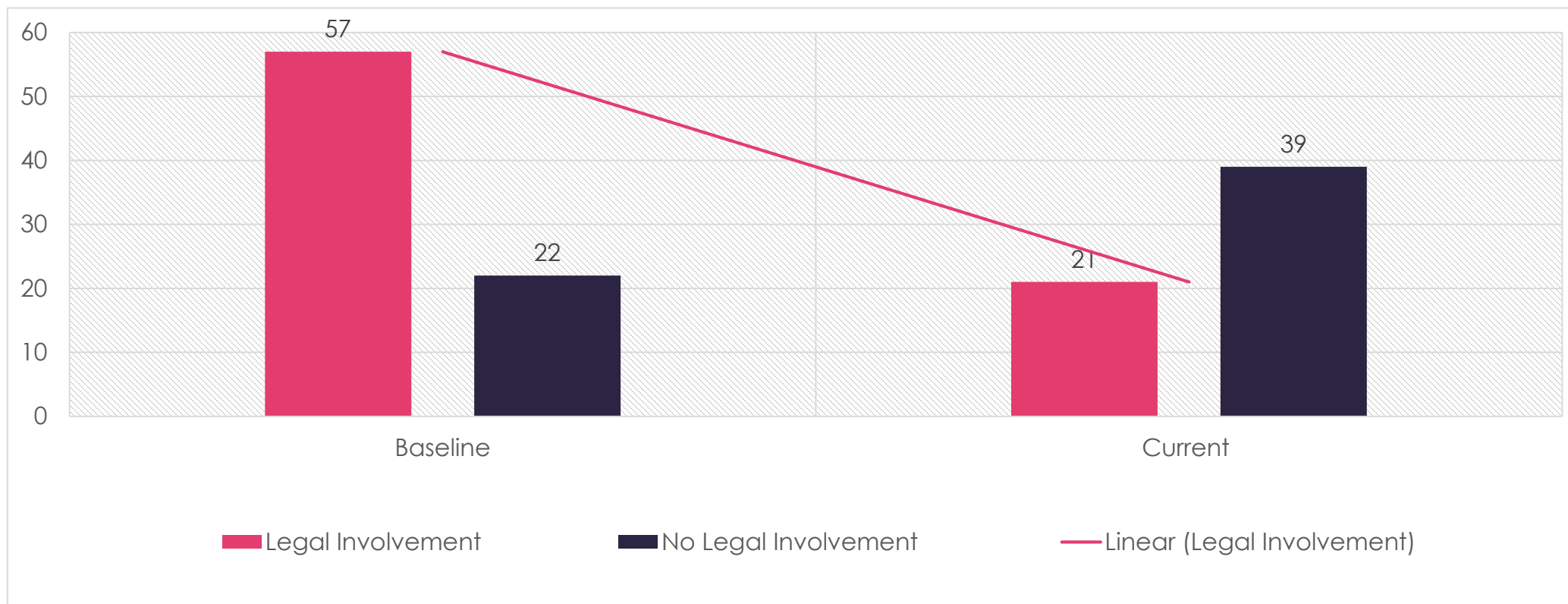
- ▶ Over the 10 years since the program inception, **55%** of clients remain actively supported and housed by the Mental Health & Justice team
- ▶ The average housing tenure in Mental Health & Justice Program is **3.7 years**
- ▶ Individuals who remain housed and/or supported by SHIP after discharge from the Mental Health & Justice Program: **41%**
- ▶ Individuals who remain housed in the community after discharge from the Mental Health & Justice program: **41%**



Outcomes – Employment



Outcomes – Legal



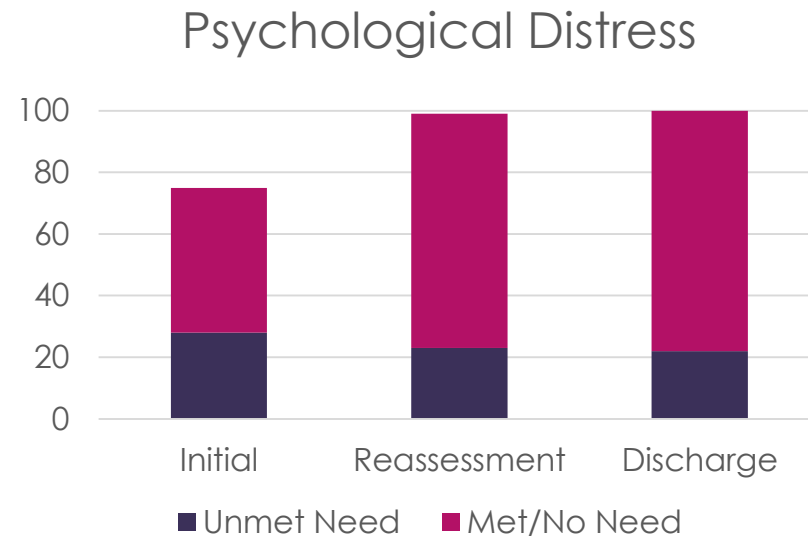
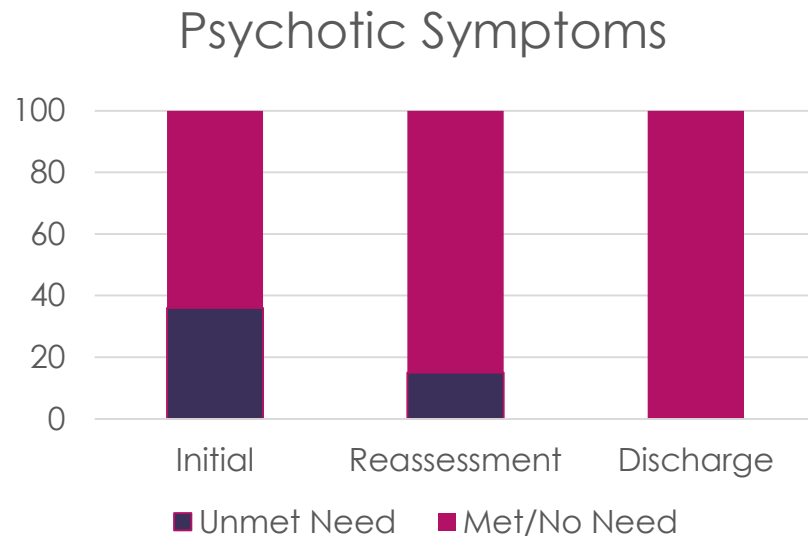
Social Determinants of Health

- ▶ The Social Determinants of Health are defined as: income and social status, social support networks, education, employment/working conditions, social environments, physical environments, personal health practices and coping skills, healthy child development, gender, and culture
- ▶ The Ontario Common Assessment of Need (OCAN) data illustrates how Mental Health & Justice program addresses two of the social determinants of health:
 1. Social environments
 2. Personal health practices and coping skills

Source: <http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/public-health-topics/social-determinants-of-health/>

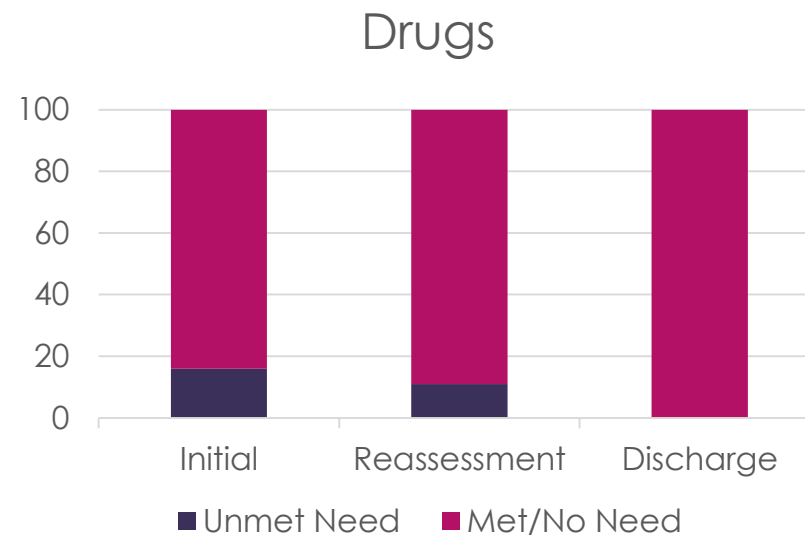
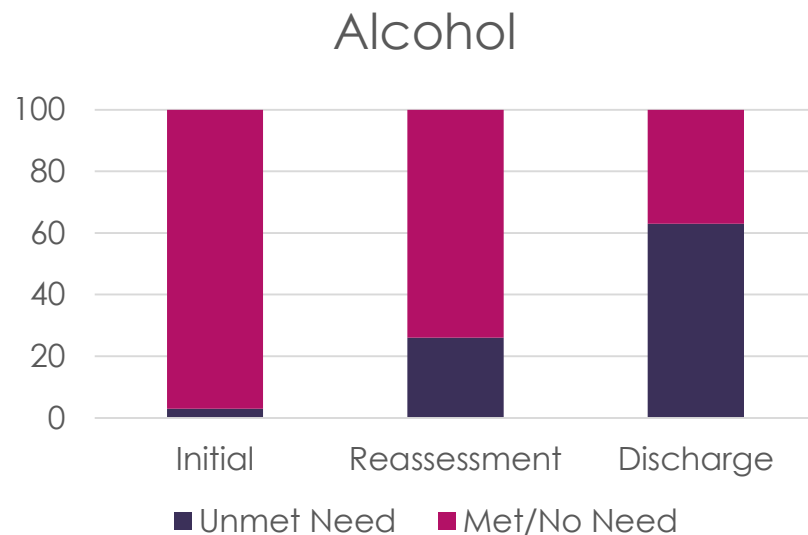
Outcomes – OCAN

- ▶ Comparing Ontario Common Assessment of Need (OCAN) data from initial assessment, reassessment, and prior to discharge:



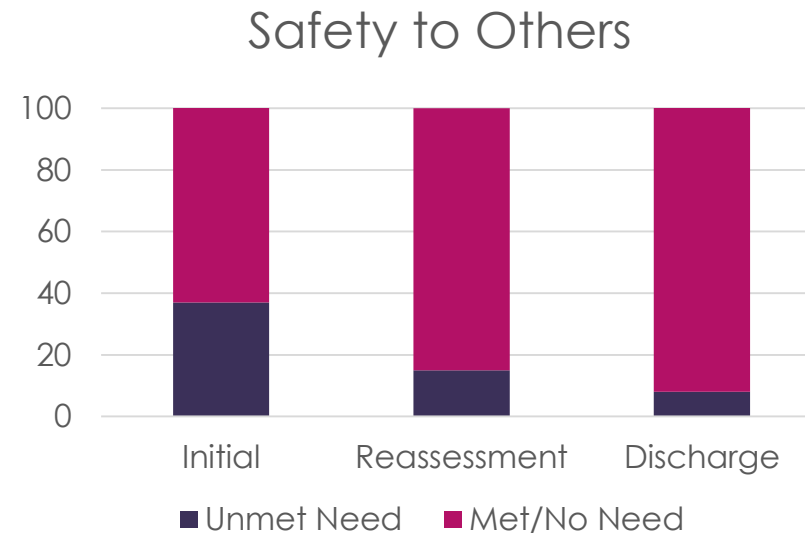
Outcomes – OCAN

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Outcomes – OCAN

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What We Know For Sure

- ▶ Alcohol/Substance Use are significantly under-reported at initial assessment
- ▶ Most service recipients do not return to school – education outcomes are fairly static
- ▶ Significant increase in number of service recipients who are employed, particularly supported/assisted employment
- ▶ The two domains which showed the greatest decrease in “unmet” need across assessment waves were Psychotic Symptoms and Safety to Others
- ▶ Having stable housing is directly linked to reduction in criminal justice involvement, reduction in hospitalisations, and increase in community engagement and wellness
 - ▶ Over the 10 years since the program inception, we have had an average of 4 clients hospitalised per year, which is 12% of our housed clients

Unique Approaches

- ▶ Clinicians have a thorough understanding of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and have specialisations or certifications in:
 - ▶ substance use counselling
 - ▶ dual diagnosis
 - ▶ housing regulations
 - ▶ alternative dispute resolution, etc.
- ▶ Ongoing risk assessment– using specialised assessments such as LSI-OR and HCR-20 (if needed), mental status evaluations, client environment assessment, suicide risk assessments, etc.
- ▶ Specialised treatment planning assessments such as GAIN Q3 MI ONT, holistic crisis planning
- ▶ Short-Term Outreach Support Services (STOSS) – goal-oriented support offered while client is on waitlist for housing or in transition between supports

Unique Approaches

- ▶ Providing education to community stakeholders (e.g. police, community agencies, probation, and other clinicians) on navigating the CJS, concurrent disorders, and understanding the complexities of supporting clients
 - ▶ Working with police on establishing communication protocol for requirements of apprehension under the Mental Health Act
- ▶ Access to specialised clinicians within SHIP such as hoarding specialists, trauma counselling, etc. – collaborative approach to offer seamless care from a system-wide perspective
- ▶ Sessionals – psychiatric consult and education for clinicians

Unique Approaches

- ▶ Alternate Dispute Resolution and Tenant Relations to support clients to:
 - ▶ Understand the types of behaviours that could put their housing at risk
 - ▶ Assist to minimize the potential for eviction
 - ▶ Ensure that tenancy rights are promoted and respected
- ▶ Property Services – two tiered coordination of scheduled and emergency maintenance
- ▶ Opinions, Compliments, & Concerns process to ensure that client's feedback is part of quality improvement plan
- ▶ Health Equity Impact assessment to ensure equitable care is received and to examine unintended positive and negative effects of services
- ▶ Internal Decisions & Ethics Review Committee to assist clinicians to identify and respond to ethical issues and challenges

Unique Approaches

- ▶ *What do we do differently than other programs at SHIP?*
- ▶ Community involvement – being a presence in the community, in particular with law enforcement personnel and other stakeholders
- ▶ Rapid response/holistic crisis planning – early intervention to potential crises and decompensation, knowing client’s “triggers” and their histories
- ▶ Assessment process – option of extended period of assessment when required to develop a fulsome treatment plan
- ▶ Understanding complexities – being aware of the complex nature of our clients and their presenting challenges

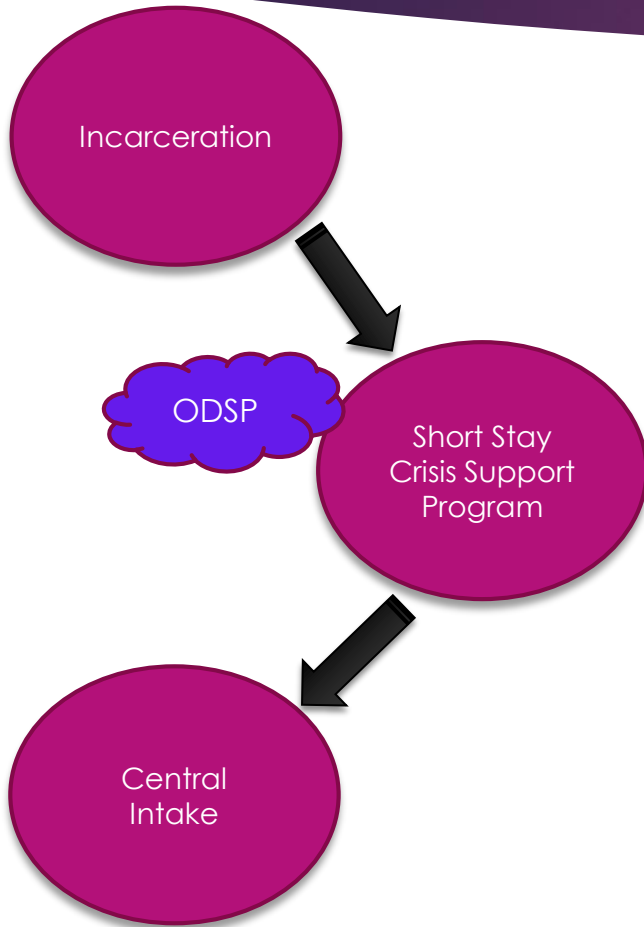
Walking the Path to Wellness

Incarceration

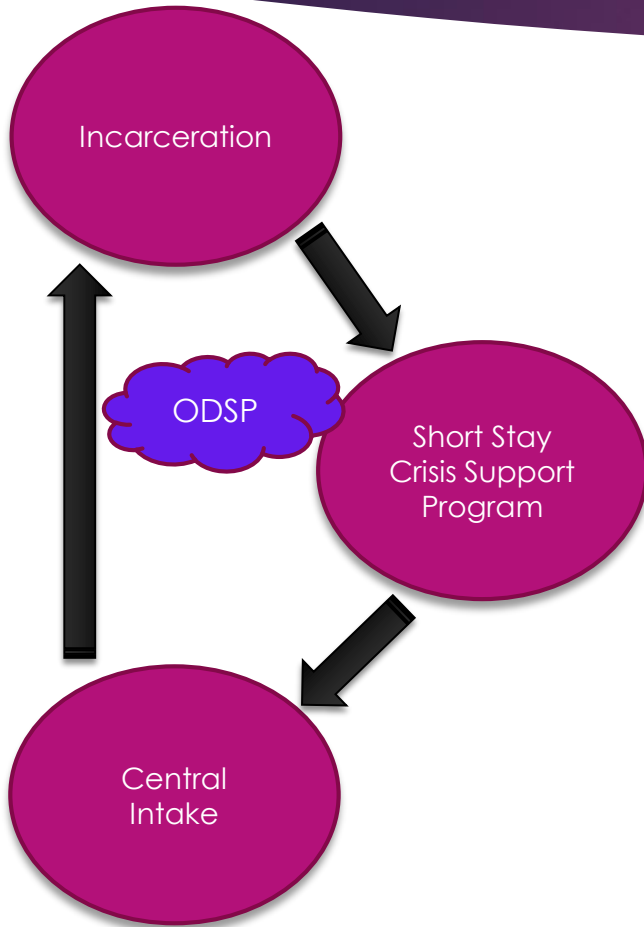
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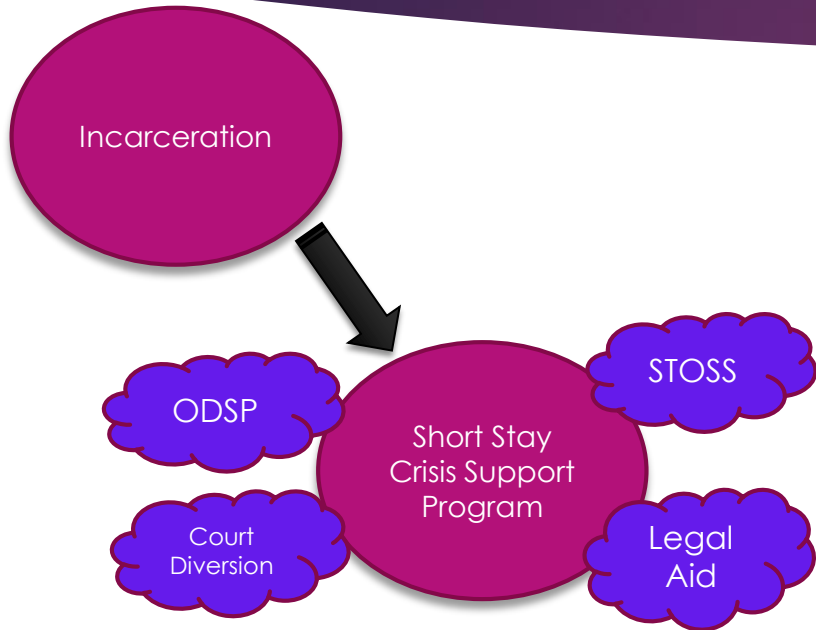
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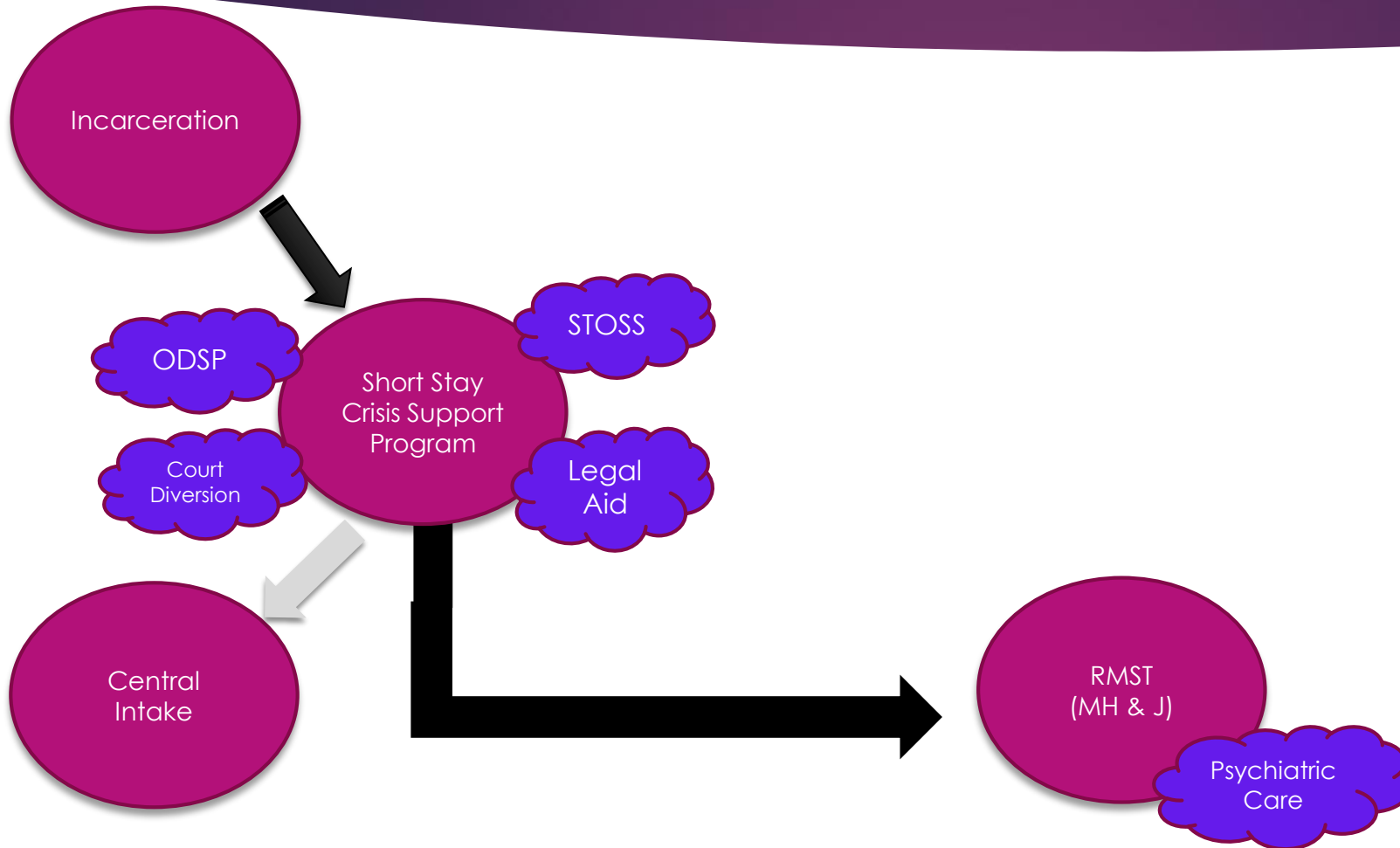
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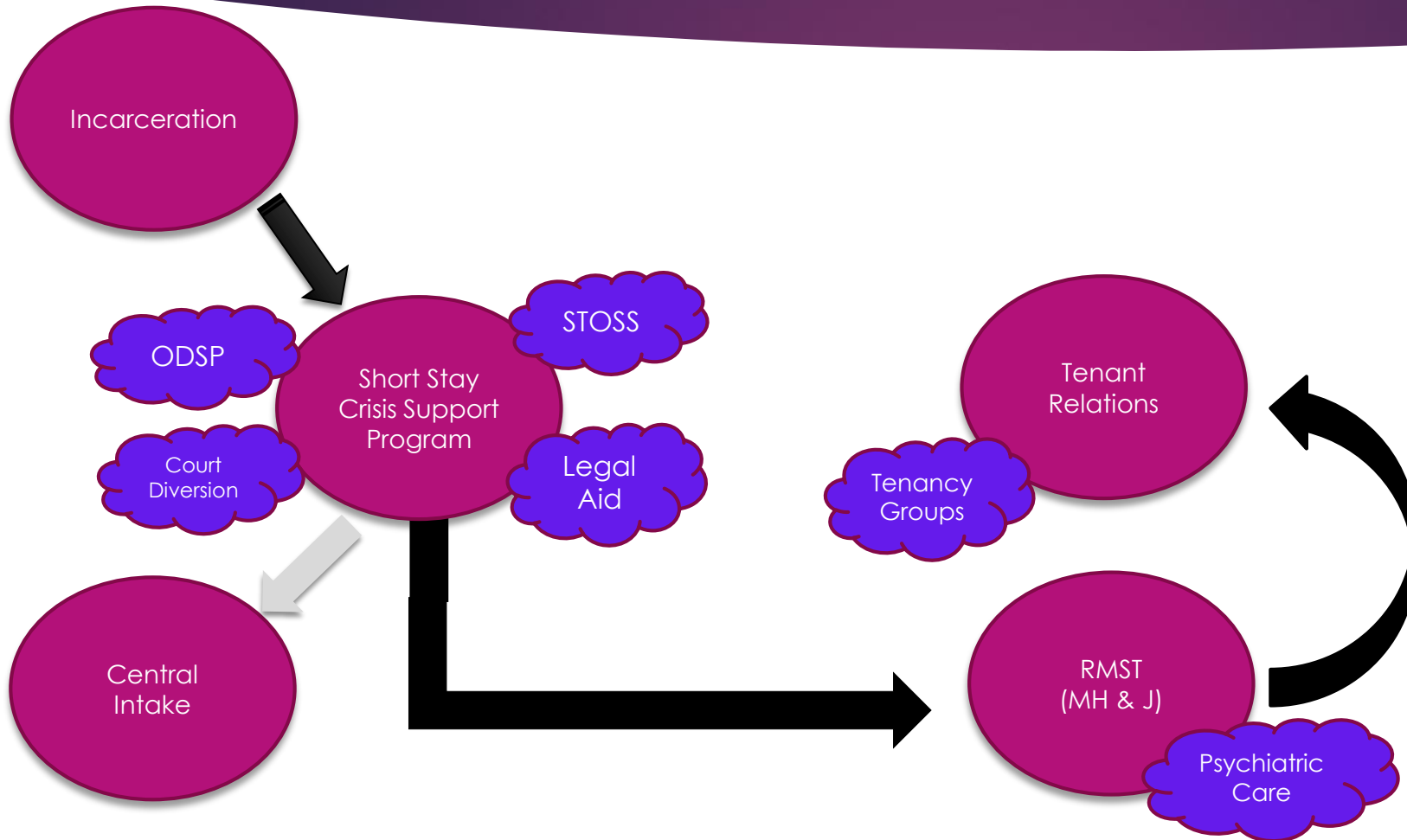
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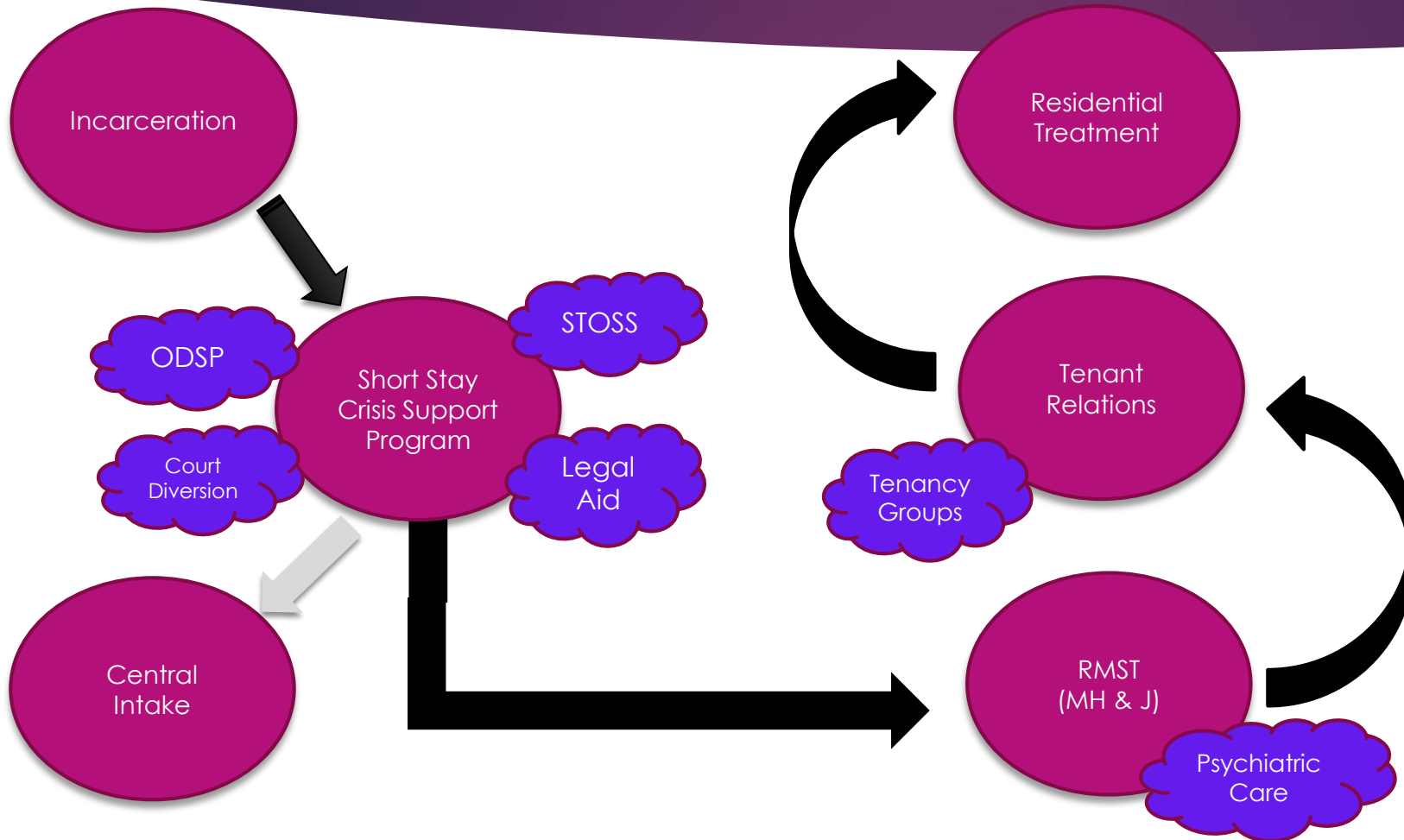
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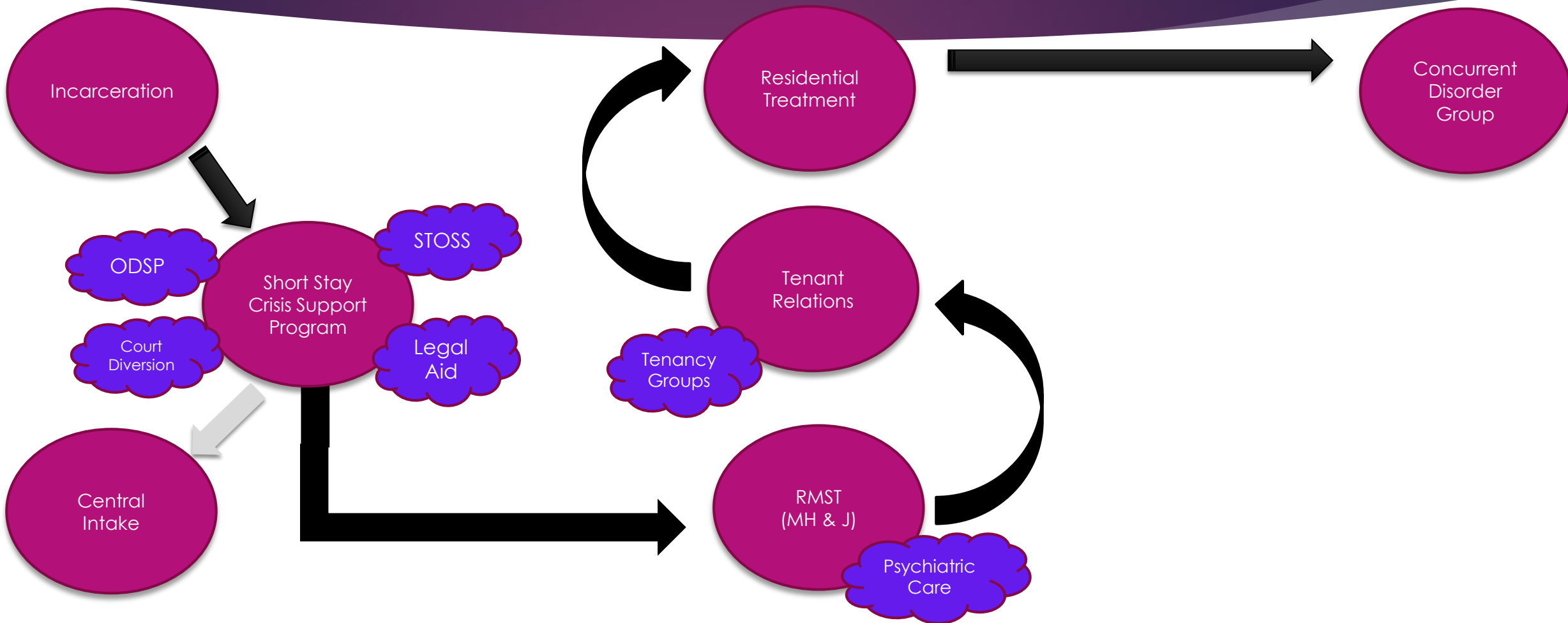
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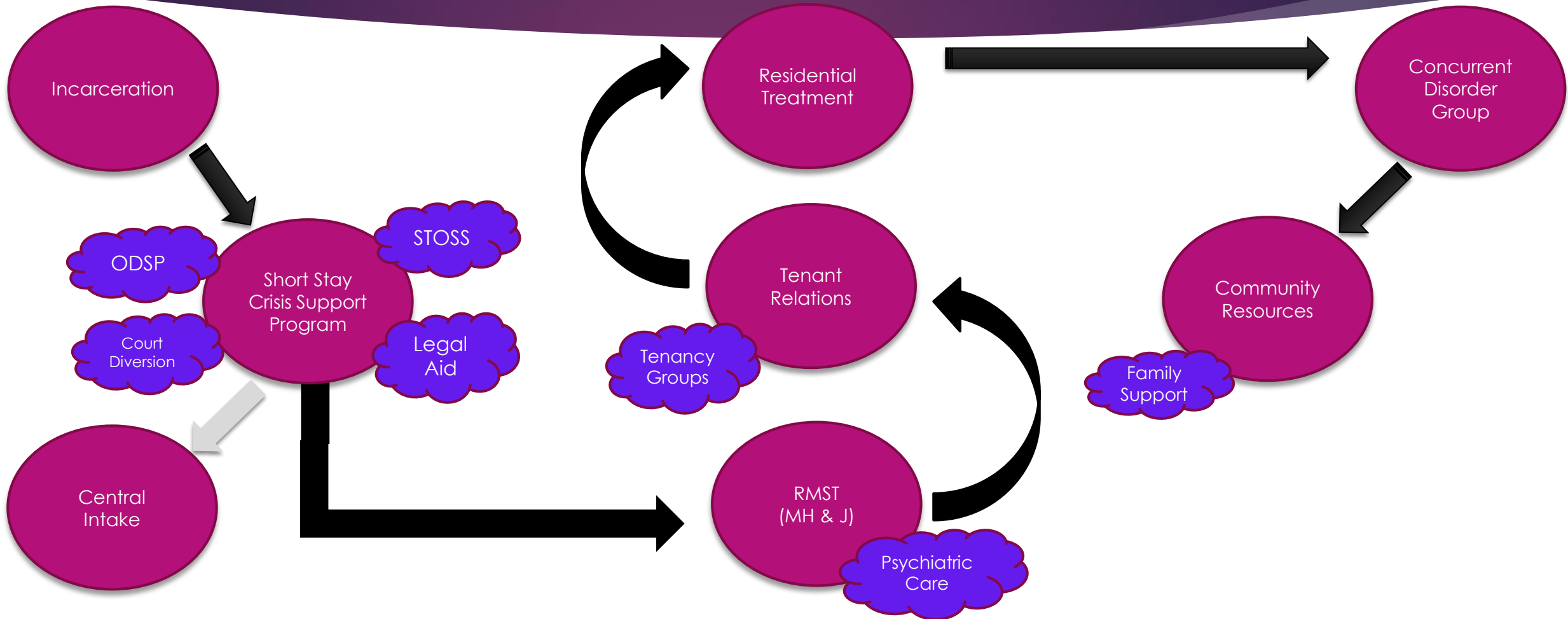
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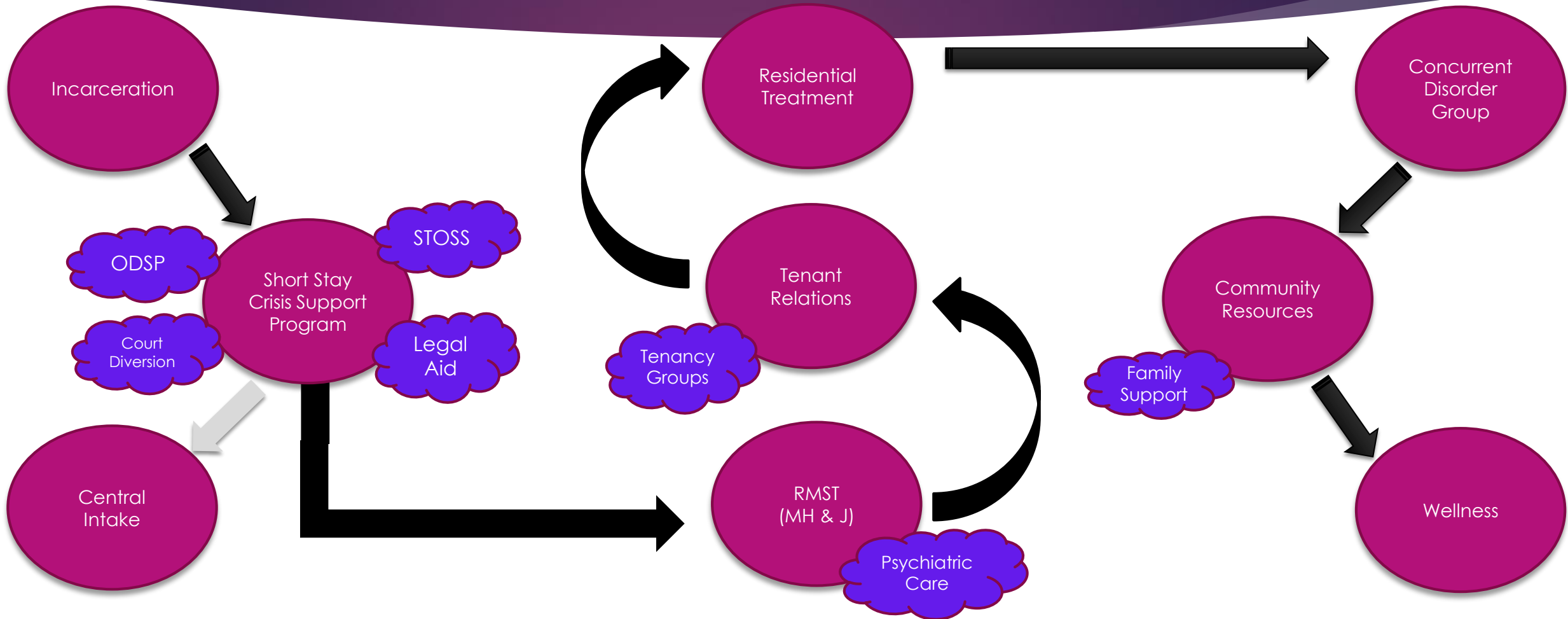
Walking the Path to Wellness



Walking the Path to Wellness



Walking the Path to Wellness



Client Testimonials

- ▶ “The justice program has helped me to stay on top of all of my medical appointments, not to mention stay out of trouble”
- ▶ “I was homeless for 3 months. Then SHIP came and helped me”
- ▶ “I feel assured that I can rely on SHIP and its services 24/7”
- ▶ “There is no words to describe the caring, compassion and expertise”

Contact Information

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Thank you!!

ANY QUESTIONS?