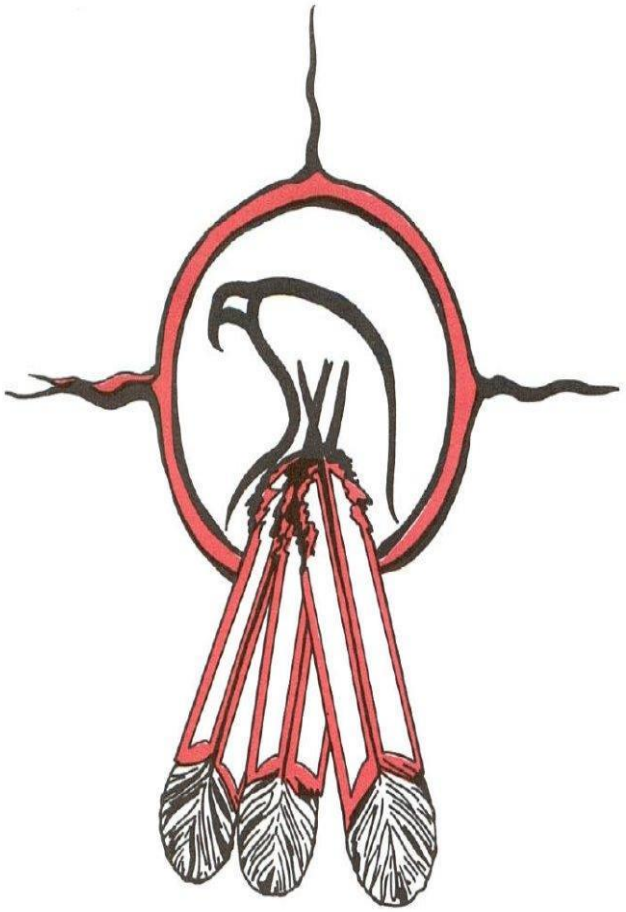
COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT

Building Bridges in a Remote Indigenous Community

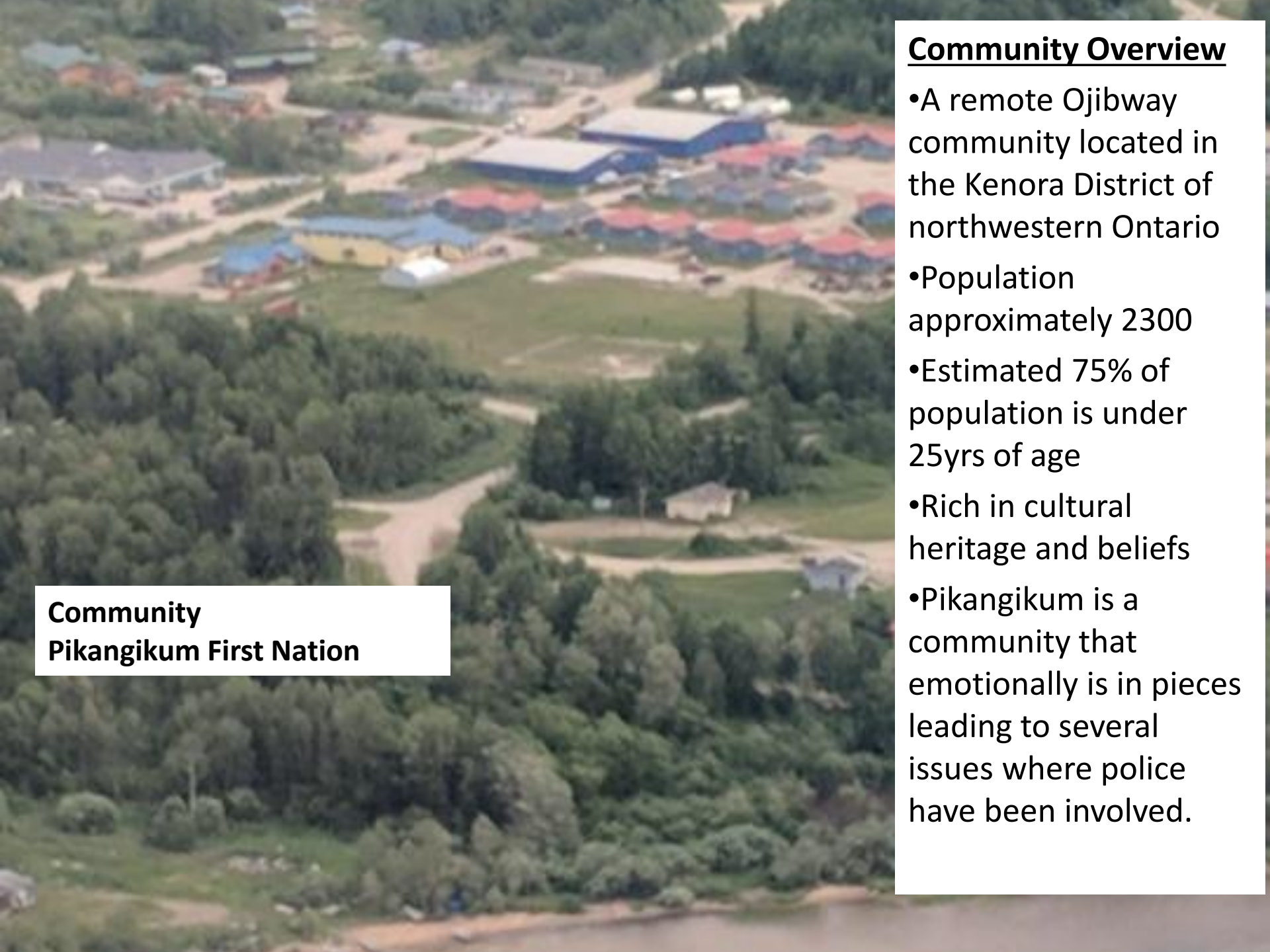
Pikangikum First Nation



Introduction-Police-Mental Health Collaborative Response

- Sergeant Jennifer Neamtz
  - 19 deployments to Pikangikum since 2007
  - length of service with the OPP – 15yrs (Niagara, Haldimand County, Huronia West, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Orillia)

Caleb Regier
- -Mental Health worker, Pikangikum Health Authority
- -Fly in external worker for 2yrs.



Community
Pikangikum First Nation

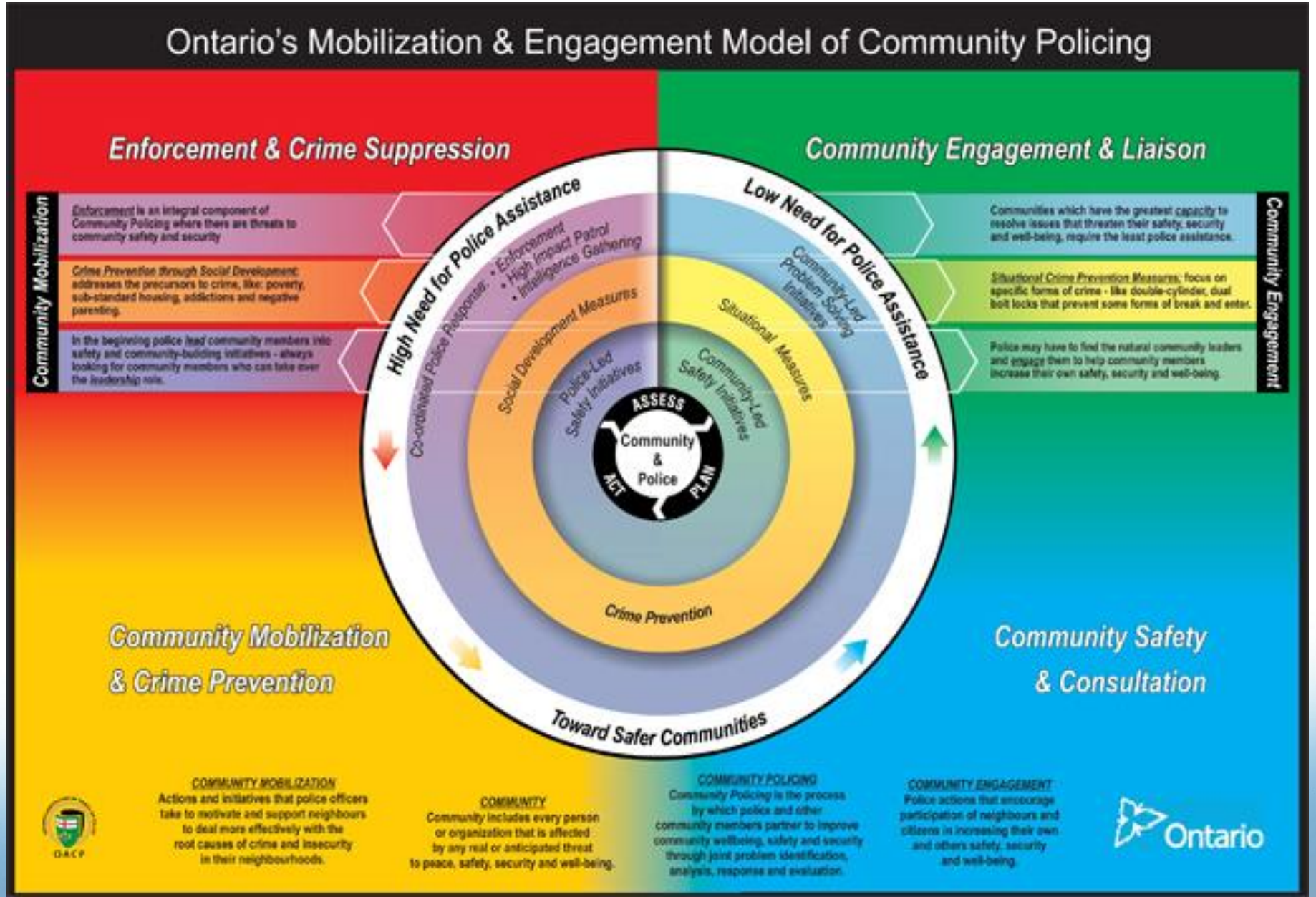
Community Overview

- A remote Ojibway community located in the Kenora District of northwestern Ontario
- Population approximately 2300
- Estimated 75% of population is under 25yrs of age
- Rich in cultural heritage and beliefs
- Pikangikum is a community that emotionally is in pieces leading to several issues where police have been involved.

Pikangikum Police & the OPP

- Pikangikum & the OPP – Policed with 5 Pikangikum officers and rotating deployed OPP officers – Local supervision and management most recent additions

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION & ENGAGEMENT MODEL



IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

- Alarmingly high number of youth mental health calls for service (between the ages of 9-25)
- Suicides (attempts/successful)
- Substance Abuse
- Low attendance in school
- Violent Crimes
- Increased court time for youth
- Social media bullying
- Lack of parenting/supervision
- Underutilized community resources

TARGET ISSUE....

- **Mental health issues in relation to the Youth of Pikangikum**

MOBILIZING A COMMUNITY

June 2018- Police assembled stakeholders to discuss current community issues involving youth and to develop a plan

- Pikangikum Health Authority (Mental Health Workers)
- Pikangikum Education Authority (teachers, administrative staff, guidance, attendance team)
- Elders
- Health Canada (Nursing station)
- Tikinagan
- Band Council Members
- OPP/Pikangikum First Nation Police
- Crisis team members
- Youth who have overcome similar issues

OUR PUPOSE....

- came together with one common goal
- To discuss mental health situations where there is an acutely elevated risk to an individual, family or the community
- To bring the mental health situations to the table for discussion that may involve risk factors beyond any one agency's scope or usual practice
- Mobilize existing resources

The Community Response Unit (CRU) comes to Pikangikum-A Risk-driven collaborative intervention

Pikangikum Health Authority(PHA) (Mental Health Worker) and the Pikangikum FN police/OPP joined forces:

- to promote wellness/well-being by using prevention, early intervention and harm reduction strategies
- To proactively help youth by decreasing stigmatization, marginalization and ultimately reducing the frequency of police interactions and mental health crisis
- To work towards eliminating the ineffective incarceration and hospitalization cycle
- A designated police officer and vehicle was assigned to the CRU

CRU SERVICES

- Attend all MH CFS-freeing up frontline officers
- Complete meaningful referral forms within custody persons upon release
- Home visits
- Connecting/communicating with resources/advocating
- Attend case conferences
- Assist with systems navigation and barriers to service (transportation)
- Provide resources/support to family and support network
- Circle of Care weekly meetings and follow up
- Engage youth through play, activities, community events
- Community Court (Mental Health Court) follow up

CRU IN ACTION....BUILDING TRUST

CRU involvement in Family Well-Being Week- July 2018

Girls Night Out at the Spa-CRU initiative- September 2018

Engaging at risk youth in play-December 2018

CRU attends the Prom- June2018

Christmas Toy Delivery thanks to a joint partnership with Disney Canada-December 2018

A COMMUNITY ENGAGED

CRU evolved to include more partners:

- Pikangikum Education Authority (teachers, administrative staff, guidance, attendance team)
- Elders
- Health Canada (Nursing station)
- Tikinagan
- Band Council Members
- Crisis team members
- Youth justice

A COMMUNITY ENGAGED

- CRU lead is now that of the Pikangikum Health Authority and has committed to providing substance abuse and mental health training to their employees.

- CRU operates with a police officer and a mental health worker 7 days a week between the hours of 0600-1800hrs but the remaining 12hrs is manned solely by the after hours mental health team/Crisis Workers.

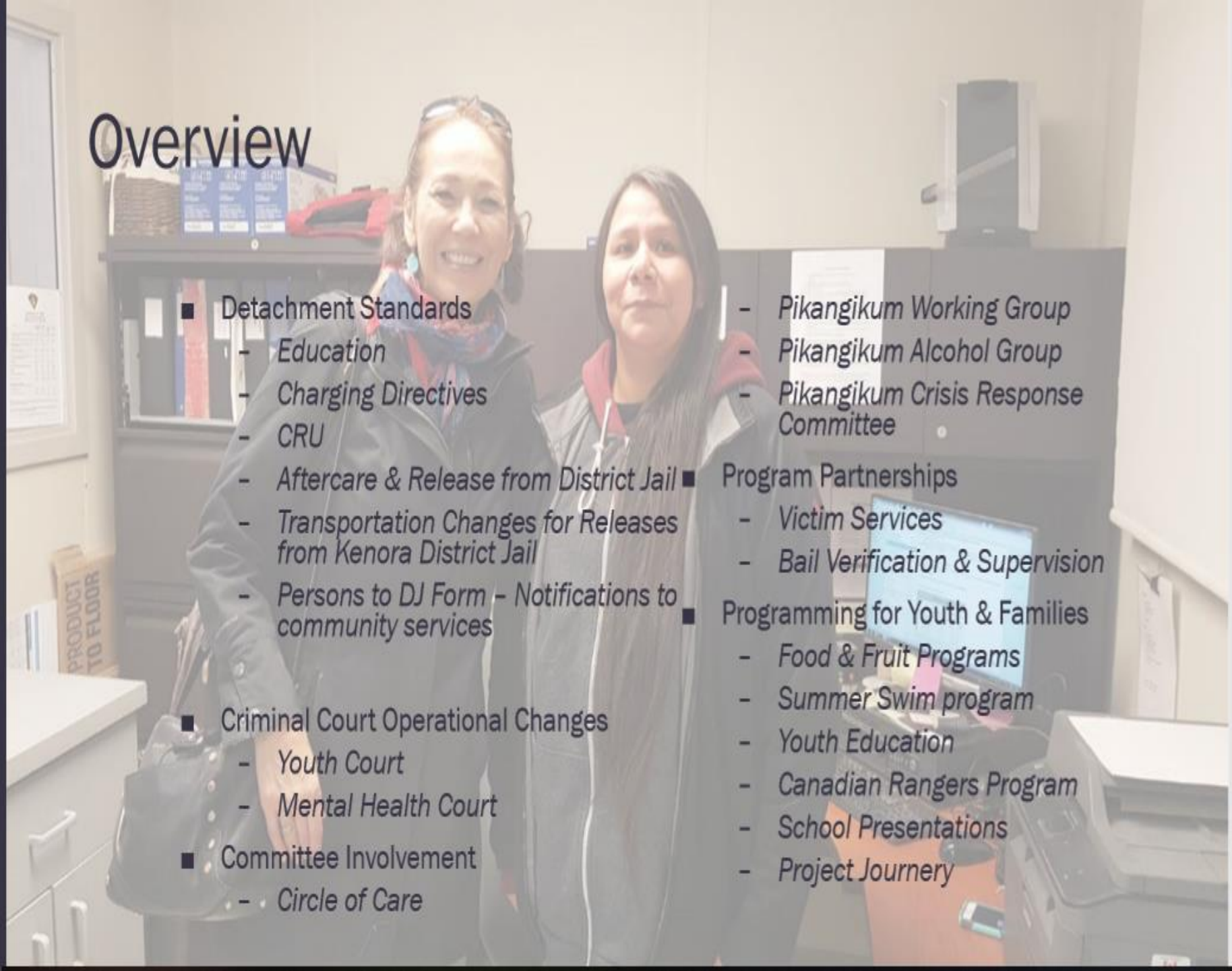
- A trust for the team has been earned by the youth and the community

- Police consult not lead

- A decrease in successful suicides has been observed by the team and more importantly by the community

WHERE ARE WE NOW....
MOVING FORWARD...

Overview



- Detachment Standards
  - *Education*
  - *Charging Directives*
  - *CRU*
  - *Aftercare & Release from District Jail*
  - *Transportation Changes for Releases from Kenora District Jail*
  - *Persons to DJ Form – Notifications to community services*
- Criminal Court Operational Changes
  - *Youth Court*
  - *Mental Health Court*
- Committee Involvement
  - *Circle of Care*
  - *Pikangikum Working Group*
  - *Pikangikum Alcohol Group*
  - *Pikangikum Crisis Response Committee*
- Program Partnerships
  - *Victim Services*
  - *Bail Verification & Supervision*
- Programming for Youth & Families
  - *Food & Fruit Programs*
  - *Summer Swim program*
  - *Youth Education*
  - *Canadian Rangers Program*
  - *School Presentations*
  - *Project Journery*

Detachment Standards

- Education of Deployed Officers
  - Extensive Day One Briefing Packages
    - Compassion & Discretion emphasized
    - Situation-Specific Best Practices – E.g. Recognizing situations
    - Respecting Indigenous Worldviews, Community Practices & Governance – E.g. Working with Chief and Council (Community Viewings)
    - The Manifestation of Canadian Colonialism as Modern Social Issues – E.g. Fail to provide charges/Child abandonment – instead work with the Hub services to connect people with resources
    - Youth Charge Local Guidelines & Directives
    - Pre-charge Diversion Protocol with NALSC signed May 2018
    - Partnerships with Education Authority / School, Youth Intervention, Chief & Council
    - Focus on healing & intervention before criminalization

* Essentially working with the community partners to resolve situations before charges

Detachment Standards...

- Bail Violation Directives
  - *Revised charging protocol for failure to comply to reduce these charges*
- Community Response Unit Program
  - *Mental Health Service Calls and Proactive Wellness Checks together*
    - Collaboration with Mental Health, Service Providers, Council & Education Authority
    - Focus on Minors & Alcohol, Sexual Assaults, Self-harm
    - Additional Deployed Member Every Second Rotation to offset local officer performing this role
    - Completed with the Hub, a google docs Community Resource List
- Aftercare Connections to Services
  - *Facilitate interview & referral at Kenora District Jail upon notification of an anticipated release*
- Transportation Changes for Releases from Kenora District Jail
- Persons to DJ Form – Notifications to community services

PIKANGIKUM

CIRCLE OF CARE

CRIMINAL COURT
OPERATIONAL
CHANGES

Criminal Court Operational Changes

- Youth and Mental Health Court Created
- Takes Place in Community Hub
- Elder attends Mental Health & Youth Courts
- Committees with Justice Gibson, Council, & Community Partners – Youth Court
  - Previously Adult & Youth Dockets Heard on Same Day
  - Attendance Retention Teams Assist in transporting Youth to Court
  - School Social Counsellor Attends Court, Supports Youth & Parents –also does home visits
  - Mental Health Intervention –referrals to Mental Health and the School / school also gets youth registered for school
  - Attendance team cross references absent students involved in the courts
  - Additional Elder being introduced into Youth Court to speak with youth
  - Attendance Retention Teams Transport Youth to School
  - School provides meal for youth at court
  - Work w school –youth who have court and school programs / events

Mental Health Court

- Collaborative efforts with the Hub and Kenora CMHA - it is more of a restorative process rather than punitive

Committee Involvement

- Circle of Care
  - *Weekly Meetings with Internal & External Service Providers to Discuss High-Risk Youth*
  - *Circle of Care Database (Privacy – only Chair and Co-Chair have access and medical release with each BMHS Form)*
  - *Psychologist participation*
  - *Monday Dinners with Youth*
  - *E-Mail Blastouts to the Circle of care for any MHA Inc*
  - *MH incidents not reported to Tikinagan – only Circle of Care*
  - *Attendance Team cross references Circle of Care Youth*
- Alcohol Working Group
  - *Group with OPP, NALSC, MAG, Legal Counsel for Pikangikum, Nursing Station, Chief & Council, and more*
  - *Address the supply and sale of alcohol to minors - working to come up with a system where police can hold those who supply alcohol to youth accountable*

Committee Involvement

- Pikangikum Working Group
  - *Transitional Housing / Bail Bed Program*
    - Prevent the displacement of residents due to barriers at achieving bail
    - Support families and youth harmed by criminalization of their family members
    - Committee with PWG, OPP, INAC, Habitat for Humanity, Council, NALSC, MAG, HUB
    - Ready for occupancy July 2019
    - Operation and maintenance proposal and funding in draft stages

Pikangikum Working Group Continued...

- *Boats – Fishing for Youth*
- *Vans for Circle of Care and summer activities / School Sports Transport*
- *Hockey Equipment*
- *Safehouse (hopefully)*

Pikangikum Working Group – Seeking to Expand

- Pikangikum Crisis Response Committee / Created by Health Authority Director (Emergency Management)

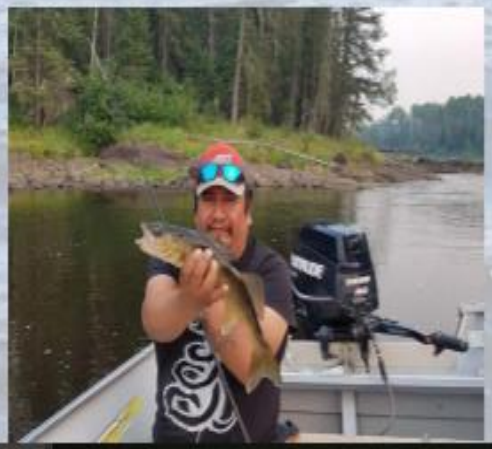
- Committee that meets after an emergency or tragic event – so that response is not just police lead – cross section of community input

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

Program Partnerships

- NALSC Bail Verification & Supervision Program
  - *First NAN Community to have BVSP*
  - *Partnership with OPP, NALSC, Ne-Chee, MAG – worked closely / access to det.*
  - *Have witnessed a significant reduction in number of persons displaced due to barriers at bail stage.*
- NALSC & HUB Victim Worker
  - *Referrals – send incident reports to them with victims*
  - *NALSC Victim Worker present at the detachment - office*
  - *Protocol for transporting victims to court – both community victim workers*
  - *Send Sexual Assault notification to Mental Health*
  - *Hub worker attends police office Mondays to meet new officers*
- Mental Health at Nursing Station
  - *Create processes for simplicity and to accommodate staff rotations/deployment of both Nursing Station and OPP*
- School / Police
  - *Communicate with PEA and Administration and assist the school with flying in teachers that come in for programs when / where we can*

PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES



Programming for Youth & Families

- Fruit & Food Program
  - *Purchased by the Education Authority – officers and CRU distribute*
- Summer Swim Program
  - *Beach Supervisors – Summer Students & YIPIs*
- Focussed Patrols (foot and vehicle) of areas identified by Chief and Council & School Walk-Throughs
- School Presentations (OPP KIDS – former DARE / Impaired Driving)
- Canadian Rangers Program – worked with the Canadian Rangers to help form team (Junior Rangers coming 2019)
- Project Journey – Sgt Chris Amell (amazing program / work 2013-2018)
- Hockey Academy – School / Hub – discussions

1-807-773-5008
PIKANGIKUM
POLICE
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APPLES
APPLES

All of the initiatives, projects, and work is all as a result of extensive, communication and collaboration with all community stakeholders

Pikangikum Youth

THANK YOU