

Enhancing Addictions and Mental Health in Corrections

HSJCC 2021 Virtual Conference

Presenters:

Brad Tamcsu, Manager, Mental Health & Addictions Unit

Keri Zammit, Senior Social Work & Special Needs
Consultant, Mental Health & Addictions Unit

Joana Jabson, Senior Program Advisor, Mental Health &
Addictions Unit

Division: Operational Support

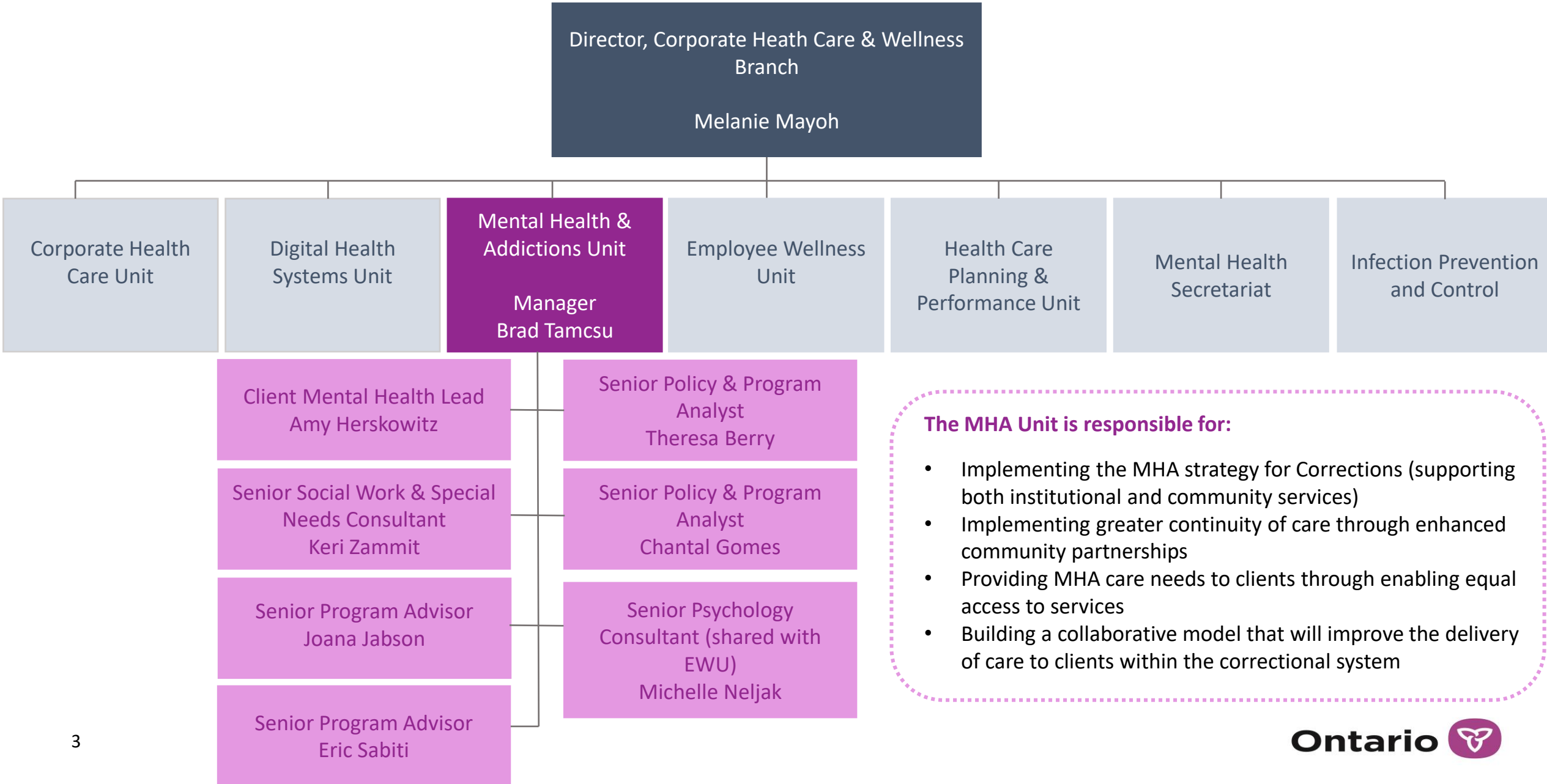
Date: November 17, 2021

Overview

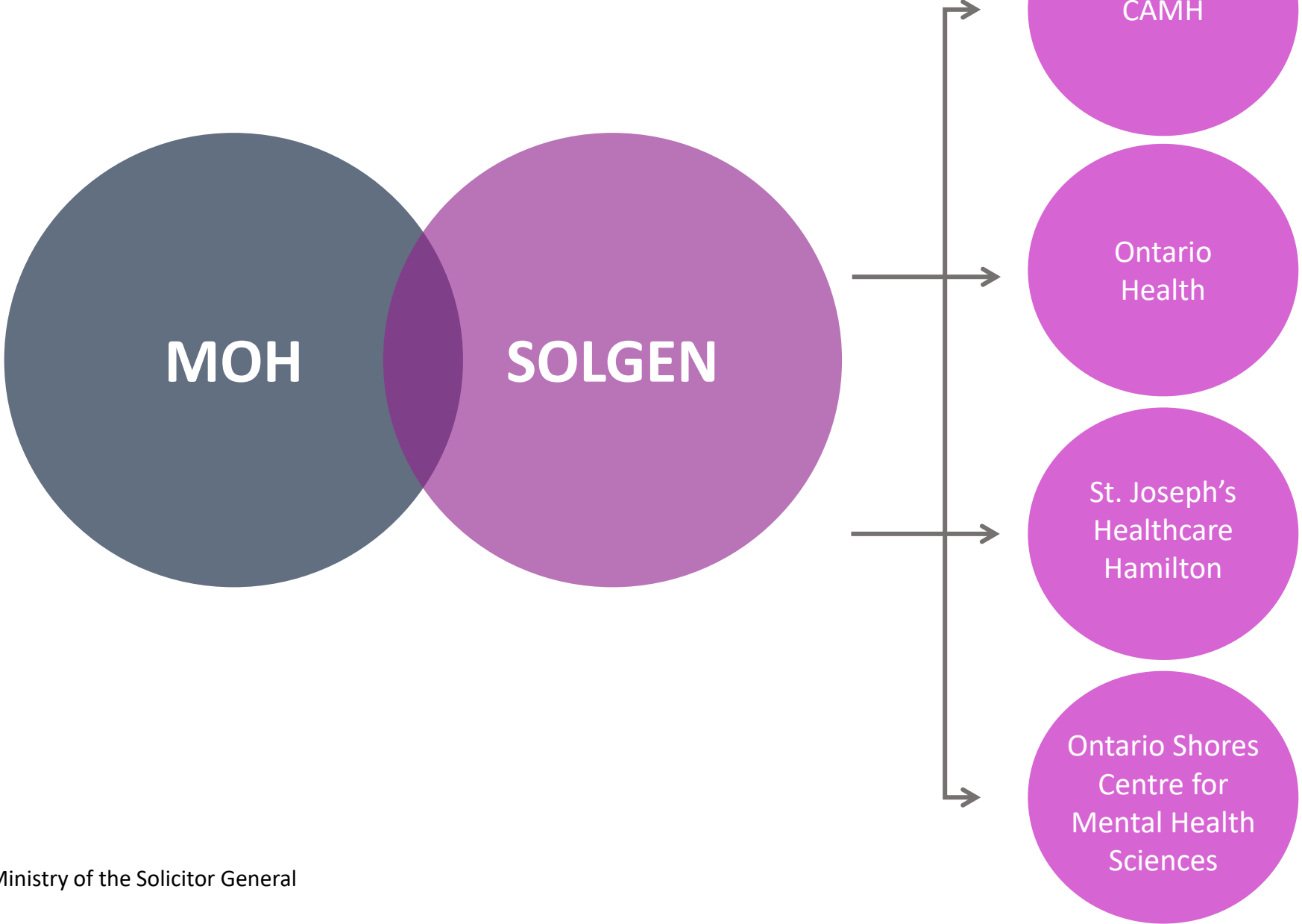
This presentation will cover the following:

1. Overview of the Mental Health and Addictions Unit
2. Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Strategy for individuals in custody and under community supervision in Ontario
3. Corrections Mental Health & Addictions unit priority projects
4. Future considerations to address addictions and mental health in corrections

Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Unit



Internal and External Partners



Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

- In 2019/20, approximately **35%** of individuals in custody had mental health alerts and **57%** had substance abuse alerts. Approximately **27%** of individuals under community supervision had mental health alerts and **51%** had substance abuse alerts.
- The Corrections Mental Health and Addictions Strategy was formed in 2020 in alignment with the broader Correctional Health Care Strategy, led by the Corporate HealthCare and Wellness Branch, Operational Support Division.
- The development of the Corrections Mental Health and Addictions Strategy included consultations with the following:
 - Mental Health and Addiction Working Group, consisting of Correctional Services corporate and frontline staff
- The Corrections Mental Health and Addiction Strategy is aligned with the province's Roadmap to Wellness - mental health and addictions strategy developed by the Ministry of Health.

Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

Short-Term Outcomes

- **Data Collection:** Improved mental health & addictions data utilization to influence evidence-based decision making and accountability
- **Interprofessional Teams:** Established mental health and addictions inter-professional teams
- **Communication:** Improved communication to facilitate the provision of high-quality mental health and addiction services
- **Care Pathways:** Established mental health and addictions care pathways
- **Health Equity:** Improved access to care that is trauma informed, gender safe and culturally safe

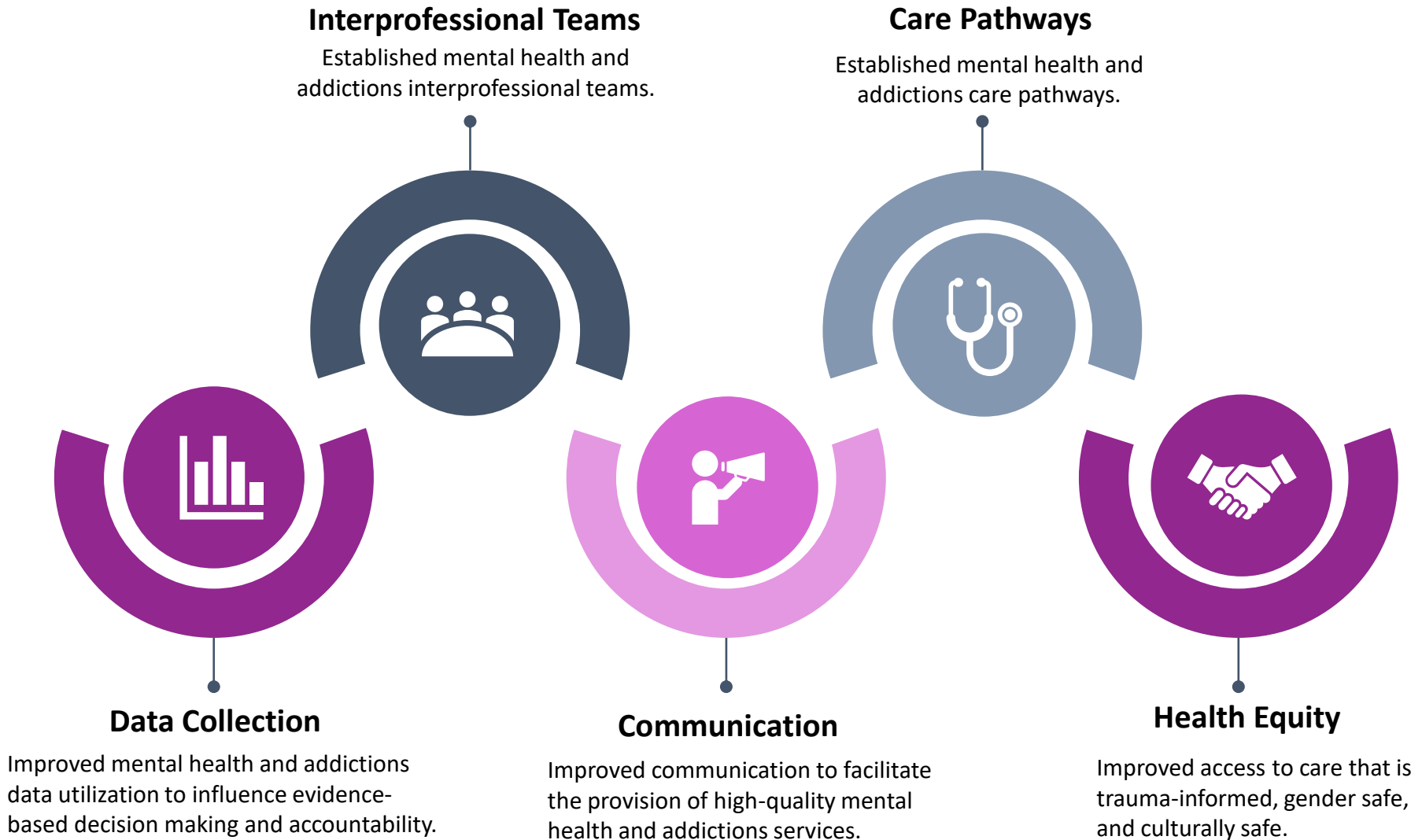
Intermediate-Term Outcomes

- Reduced rates of MHA-related morbidity and mortality for justice-involved individuals
- Systems model for continuity of care established for justice-involved individuals with MHA needs
- Improved continuity of care during access and transition points with the justice system
- Increased diversion from incarceration
- Better monitoring, evaluation, accountability and governance of MHA services

Long-Term Outcomes

- Overall improved mental health and well being of justice-involved individuals
- Reduced costs by early intervention and decreasing use of emergency services
- Seamless continuum of care and partnership across ministries and community agencies
- Recidivism rates reduced

MHA Strategy Short-Term Outcomes & Objectives



Corrections MHA Unit Priority Projects

MHA Strategy Short-Term Outcomes

Data Collection

Improved mental health and addictions data utilization to influence evidence-based decision making and accountability.

Interprofessional Teams

Established mental health and addictions interprofessional teams.

Care Pathways

Established mental health and addictions care pathways.

Health Equity

Improved access to care that is trauma-informed, gender safe, and culturally safe.

Audit of Brief Jail Mental Health Screening tool & Assess MHA data availability in Corrections

Overview: To review and track the completion of the Brief Jail Mental Health Screening (BJMHS) tool and the Jail Screening Assessment tool (JSAT) and to confirm referral pathways in Corrections.

CAMH Addictions Training for Clinical & Operational Staff

Overview: Roll out of three addiction focused courses (Fundamental of Addiction, Opioid Use Disorder Treatment, Managing Alcohol Problems) to clinical and selected operational staff in Institutional Services and Community Services.

Increase of Addictions Counsellor Complement in Institutions

Overview: To increase additional Addiction Counsellors FTEs in the institutions to ensure an increased focus on clinical care for inmates with addiction/substance use issues.

Roll out of Global Appraisal of Individual Need Quick3 Motivational Interviewing Ontario (GAIN Q3 MI ONT)

Overview: Training roll out to current Addiction Counsellors to facilitate the use of Staged Screening and Assessment (SS&A), specifically the GAIN Q3 MI ONT.

Kenora Chiefs Advisory Social and Cultural Wellness Program

Overview: Partnership with the Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA) to offer a social and cultural wellness program for Indigenous inmates with mental health and addictions needs.

Acute Care Stabilization (AC/S) Beds

Overview: To provide inpatient care and treatment to eligible inmates from Vanier Centre for Women from short-term admission to a structured and secure inpatient setting.

Women's Mental Health Initiatives

Overview: To provide gender specific mental health and addictions care for women in correctional institutions.

Future Considerations to Address MHA in Corrections



Approaches to trauma-informed care



Mindfulness programming for incarcerated individuals



Ongoing engagement with Community Services in Corrections focusing on Community Reintegration



Enhanced suicide training and other learning opportunities for correctional staff



Continued collaboration with stakeholders and community partners on shared priorities

Questions/Comments?

Brad Tamcsu, Manager
Mental Health & Addictions Unit
Brad.Tamcsu@ontario.ca

Keri Zammit, Senior Social Work & Special Needs Consultant
Mental Health & Addictions Unit
Keri.Zammit@ontario.ca

Joana Jabson, Senior Program Advisor
Mental Health & Addictions Unit
Joana.Jabson@ontario.ca