



# Diversion First Update

Public Safety Committee

November 28, 2017



# Today's Discussion

- Quick Review: Diversion First
- Progress to date
- Five year budget plan

# DIVERSION FIRST

## What is Diversion?

- Decreasing the use of arrest and incarceration of people experiencing mental health behavioral crises by diverting them to treatment instead of bringing them to jail.
- Intervene to help people access treatment at many points of contact.
- Treat people in crisis with respect and provide needed support. It is not a crime to have an illness or disability.
- Reduce the likelihood of physical confrontation and use of force.
- Collaboration among law enforcement, other first responders and mental health services.
- Follow best practices and evidence-based approaches.



# Fairfax Definition

- Diversion First offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses.
- The goal is to intercede whenever possible to provide assessment, treatment or needed supports. People needing diversion may also have a substance use disorder, which often co-occurs with mental illness.
- Diversion First is designed to prevent repeat encounters with the criminal justice system, improve public safety, promote a healthier community and is a more cost-effective and efficient use of public funding.

# DIVERSION FIRST

## Why Diversion First?



Roughly **1 in 3** jail inmates have **behavioral health issues**.



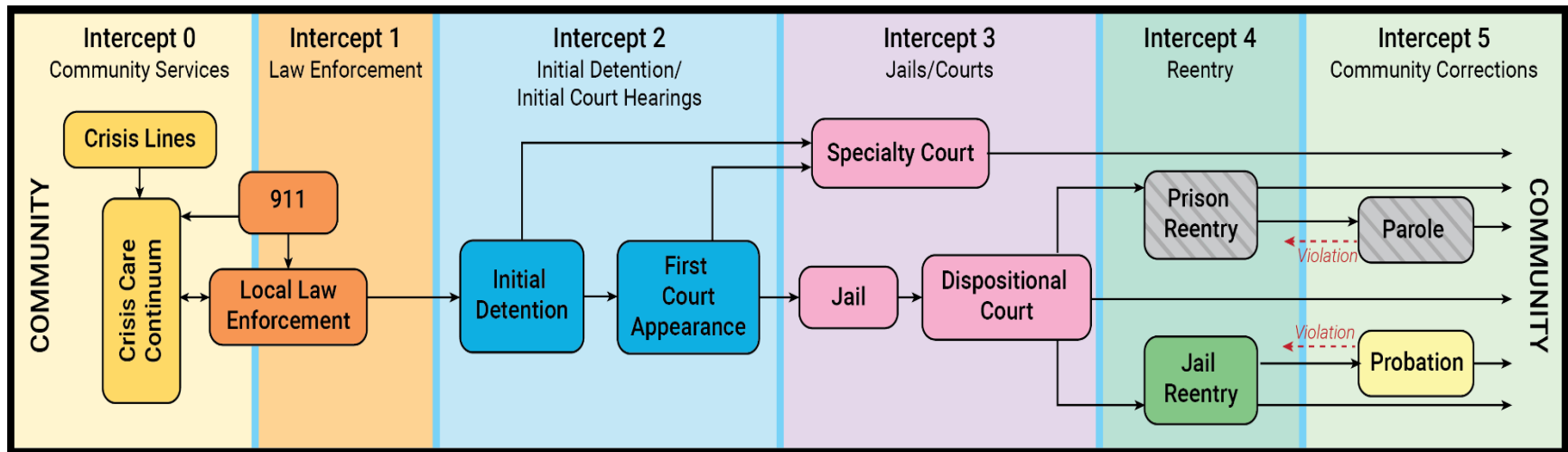
Inmates with behavioral health issues **stay 20 days longer** in jail than inmates without behavioral health issues.



**More than half** of the population **recidivate** in 3 years.

# DIVERSION FIRST

## Sequential Intercept Model



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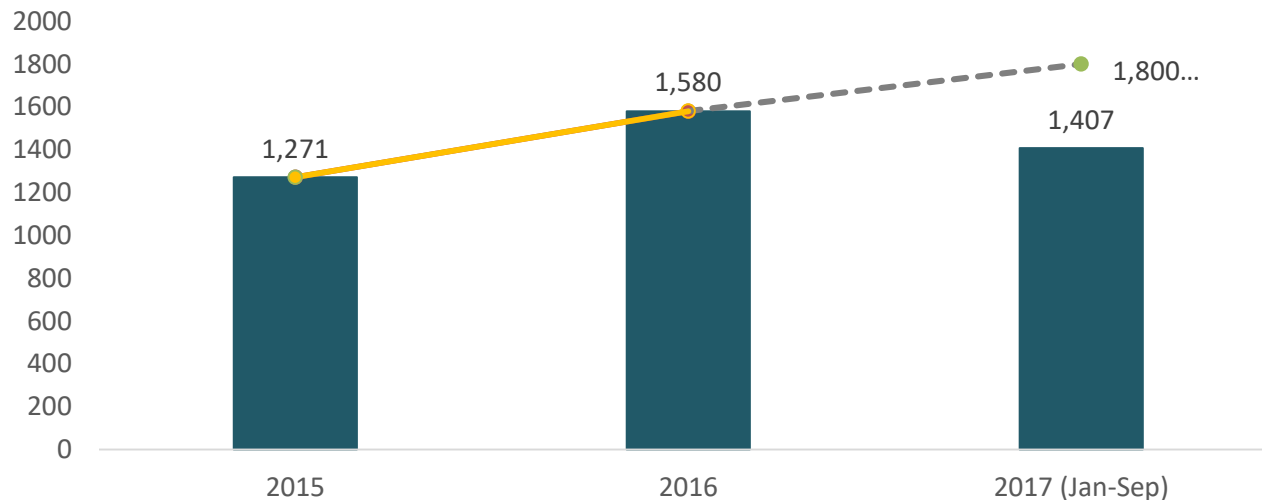
- Framework for mapping common points where people engage with law enforcement and criminal justice systems.
- Allows us to look at places we might encounter someone with mental illness and “intercept” them, intervene to prevent deeper end justice involvement through linkage to mental health supports.
- An organizing tool to discuss diversion alternatives.



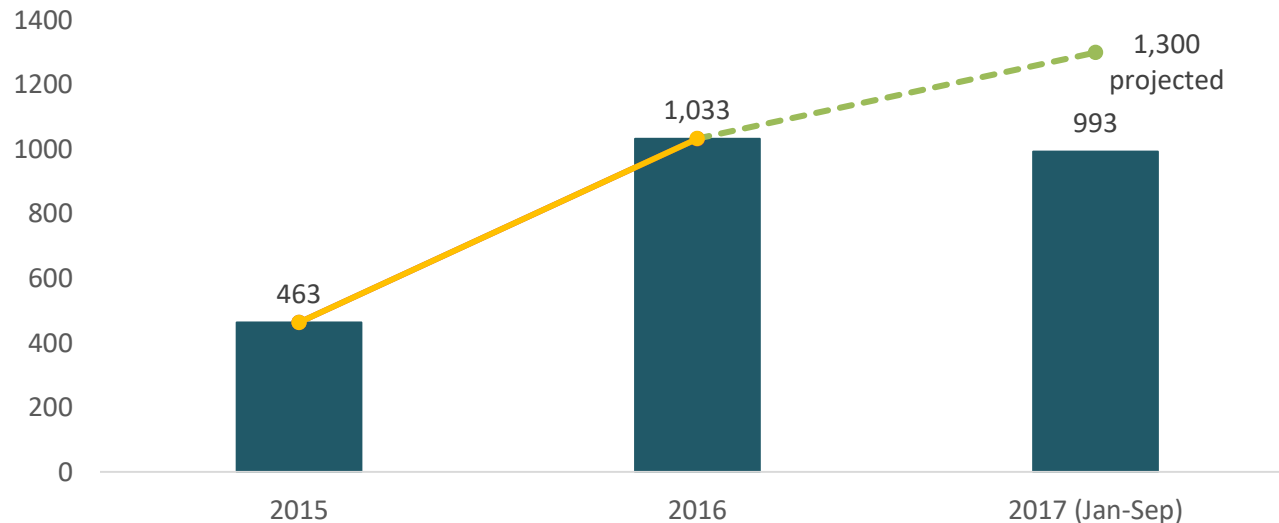
# Diversion First Highlights: Merrifield Crisis Response Center (MCRC)

- **Law enforcement involved cases**

- The number of law enforcement involved cases increased by **25%** from 2015 to 2016.
- A **14% increase** is expected in 2017 from the previous year.



- **Emergency Custody Orders (ECOs)**
  - The number of ECOs increased by **123%** from 2015 to 2016.
  - A **25% increase** is expected in 2017 from the previous year.







# Diversion First Highlights: MCRC

- **Diverted from arrest**
  - **680** individuals were diverted from arrest from January 2016 through September 2017 (375 in 2016, 305 in 2017).



 =100



# National Involvement and Recognition

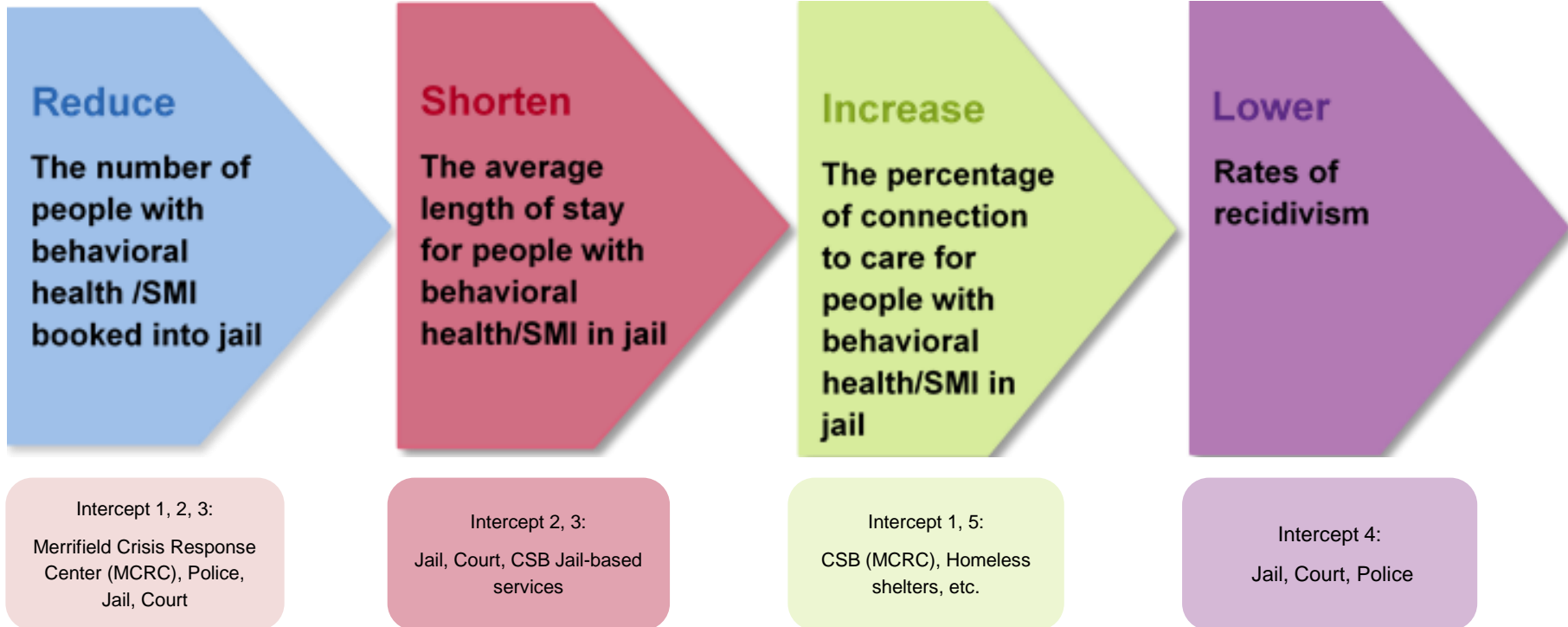
- Stepping Up Summit\* and National Leadership Institute, 2016\*
- Course Corrections Mid-Atlantic Summit, March 2017\*\*
- Best Practice Implementation Academy, June 2017\*
- Data Justice Design Institute, September 2017\*
- NACo Data Justice Peer Exchange, November 2017\*
- Progress Made Possible Justice Behavioral Health Conference, December 2017\*\*

\* Competitive Application

\*\* Fairfax Invited Speaker

# DIVERSION FIRST

## Next Steps: Four Key Outcome Measures





## 2017 Focus on Courts

- Courts Stakeholders group.
- Extensive pretrial service practice changes.
- Strengthened collaboration across system especially in General District Court.
- Virginia Supreme Court approved Drug Court application for Circuit Court.
- Need to align Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.



## FY 2017 Pretrial Services' Statistics

- 4,769 Pretrial Evaluations on GDC defendants.
- 2,736 recommendations made to the judiciary.
- 96% recommendation acceptance rate by the judiciary.
- Supervised 1,646 defendants on SRP resulting in 179,942 days of active supervision.
- Ran 27,518 record checks (1,959 for adult J&DR defendants).



## Additional Pretrial Process Changes are Needed

- Presently, evaluations and recommendations are not provided on incarcerated adult J&DR defendants identified as needing a further mental health assessment by the BJMHS.
- From January to June 2017, 2,258 GDC pretrial evaluations were completed resulting in 242 Diversion First placements; however, none were completed for adult J&DR defendants.
- In FY 2017, there were more than 1,900 adult J&DR defendants admitted to the ADC pending trial.

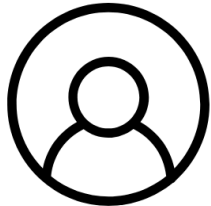
# DIVERSION FIRST

## New Focus on Super-Utilizers

- Individuals with complex behavioral, physical, and/or social needs who are frequent users of a broad range of services and may have a high number of contacts with emergency departments and law enforcement.
- Despite the large amount of resources devoted to this population, they are often provided in fragmented ways that do not lead to stabilization or improved outcomes for individuals.

# HIGH UTILIZER CASE STUDY

## Fairfax County, VA - 1.2 million



About	
Gender	Male
Age	58
Ethnicity	Hispanic

### TOTAL CONTACTS IN THE LAST 365 DAYS



EMS/Hospitals



Police



Jail



Homeless Services



Behavioral Health



6 admissions @<48 hours

## Representative Sample of Interactions

Date	System	Interaction
1/1/17-7/1/17	FRD	24 calls for service
1/1/17-7/1/17	EMT	24 transports
1/1/17-7/1/17	ED/Hospital	24 ED visits/6 admissions
7/1/16-6/30/17	CSB	9 Jail-based services contacts
1/1/17-7/1/17	Police	17 contacts with 13 arrests
1/1/17-7/1/17	Jail	75 nights in jail and counting

6 month total estimated expenditures: **\$168,179.80**





# Five-Year Proposed Budget

- Strengthens operations at the MCRC.
- Establishes a third Mobile Crisis Unit with a co-responder design.
- Provides court system resources.
- Provides needed housing, transport and other resources.
- Strengthens behavioral health services at needed intercepts.

Diversion First Multi-Year Proposed Budget

FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
14 FTEs	13 FTEs	10 FTEs	9.0 FTEs	5.0 FTE
\$1,929,049	\$2,223,969	\$2,207,157	\$1,814,832	\$848,374