



# Diversions First: Progress and Future Direction

-Update-

Laura Yager, Director of Systems Transformation, Office of the County Executive  
The Honorable Michael Cassidy, Chief Judge, Fairfax County General District Court  
Daryl Washington, Deputy Director, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board  
Lt. Ryan Morgan, CIT Coordinator, Fairfax County Police Department  
The Honorable Thomas Sotelo, Chief Judge, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

March 21, 2017

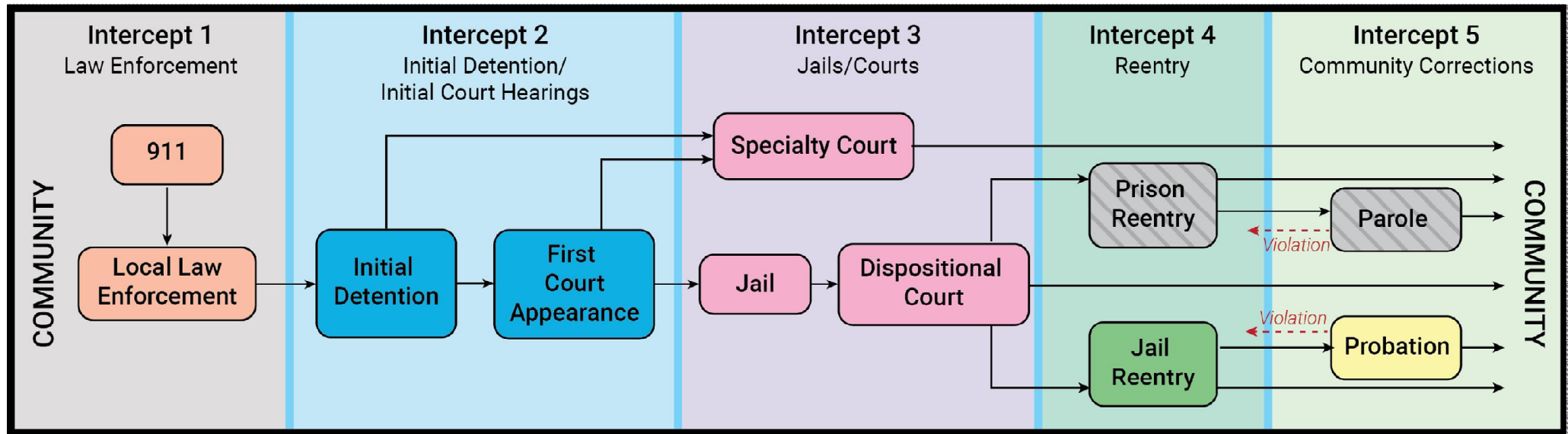


## What is Diversion First?

- 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

## Sequential Intercept Model Map



SAMHSA's GAINS Center. (2013). *Developing a comprehensive plan for behavioral health and criminal justice collaboration: The Sequential Intercept Model* (3rd ed.). DeMar, NY: Policy Research Associates, Inc.



# 2016 updates: Focus on Intercept 1



## Merrifield Crisis Response Center (MCRC)

- 1,580 police-involved cases brought to MCRC
  - 31% of all CSB Emergency Services (ES) cases
  - 123% increase in Emergency Custody Orders (ECOs) from 2015 to 2016
  - 375 people diverted from potential arrest

## Workforce Development

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) graduates: 265 law enforcement officers and 42 dispatchers trained
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification: 248 deputies, 30 magistrates, 908 general
- FRD: 205 trained in mental health awareness (to implement emergency department diversion protocol)

# DIVERSION FIRST 2016 updates

## National Initiatives

- *Stepping Up* Summit- 1 of 50 teams selected in the Country
- *Stepping Up* National Justice-Behavioral Health Leadership Summit- 1 of 28 in the country
- National Justice-Behavioral Health Data Initiative

## Non-Local Funds

- \$630K for CIT LEO staffing (through 6/30/18)
- \$1K DCJS CIT operational funds
- Permanent Supportive Housing Funds

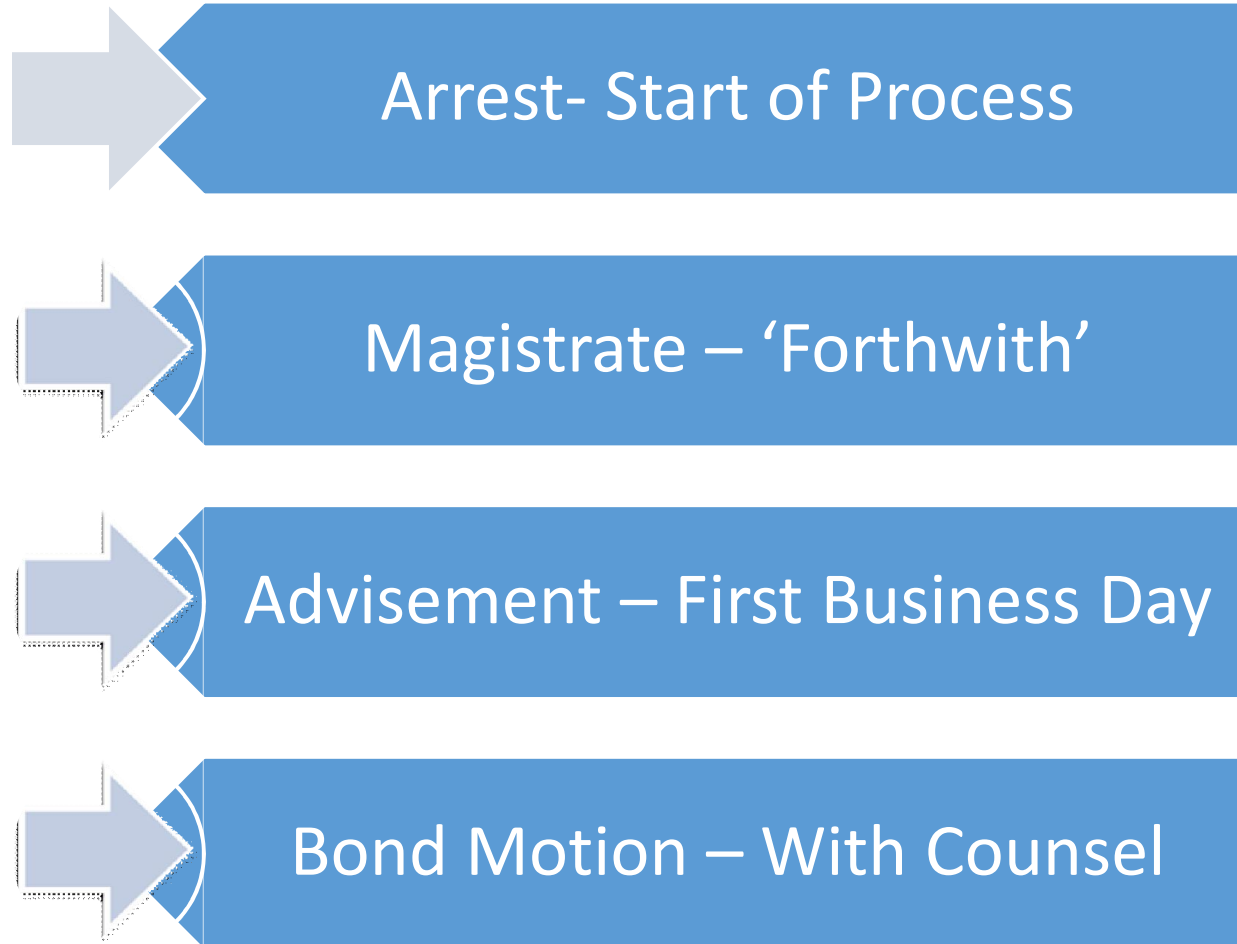
# DIVERSION FIRST Unprecedented Collaboration

- Stakeholders Group
  - Current membership **180 people**
- Leadership Group
- Communications
- Data and Evaluation
- Problem-Solving Team
- Courts Stakeholders meeting
- Multiple Ad Hoc groups: FRD ED Diversion, Medical Clearance

Diversion First Annual Report:

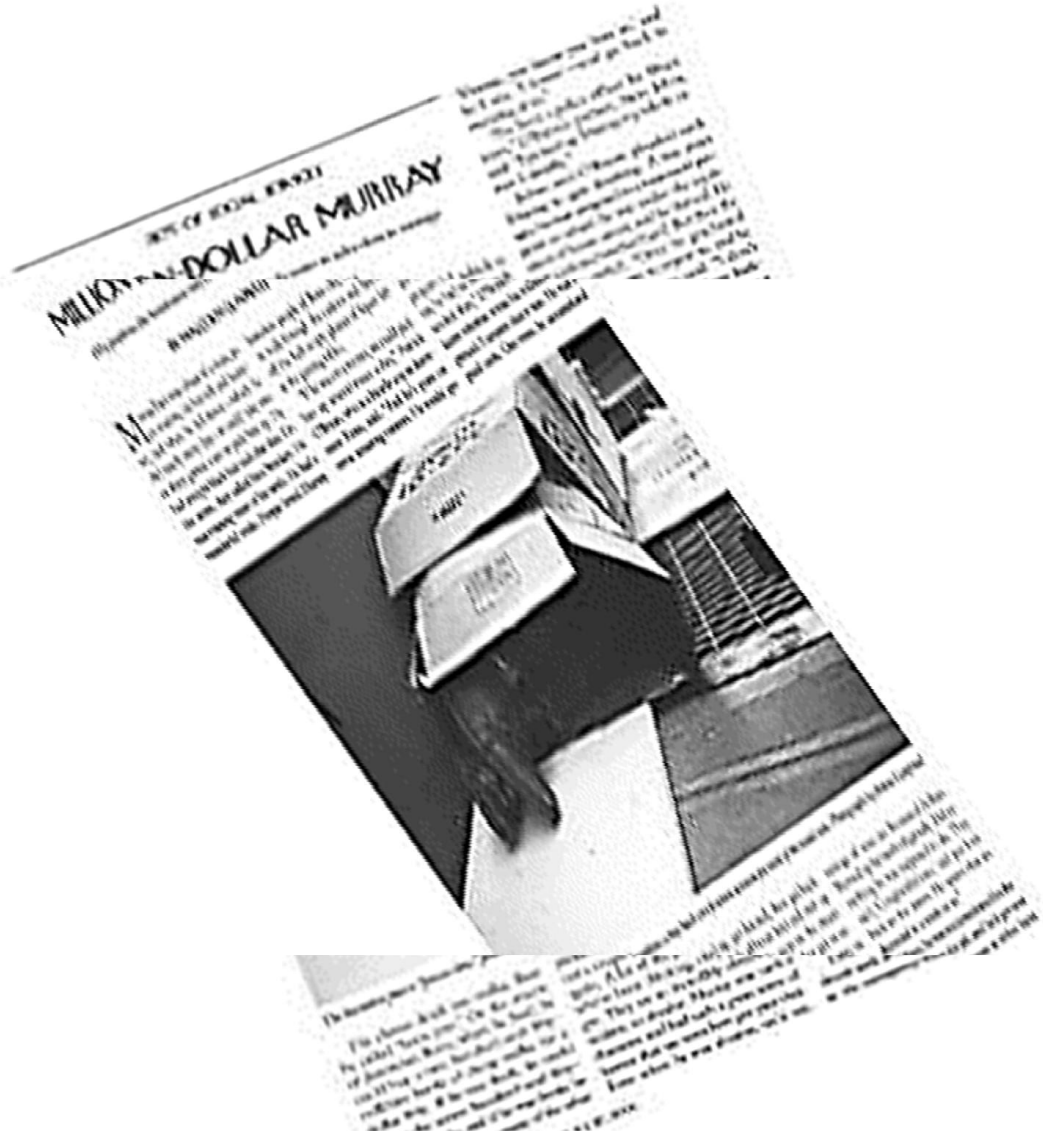
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/diversionfirst/documents/2016-diversion-first-annual-report-final.pdf>

## GDC Criminal Intake



# DIVERSION FIRST

## Million Dollar Murray







# Court Services Collaborative Efforts

- Weekly Courthouse meetings: Sheriff's Office, Courts, CSB
  - Collaboration and combined services with aligned but separate missions
- Staff are coming together around "court time" requirements to:
  - Prepare recommendations at advisement (sometimes within 24 hours) and bond motions (general within 3-4 days)
  - Develop responsive approaches for people returning from Western State to coordinate proper placement prior to a hearing.
- Responding to unique monitoring and treatment needs for people in Supervised Release Program

# DIVERSION FIRST Pilot Period Results

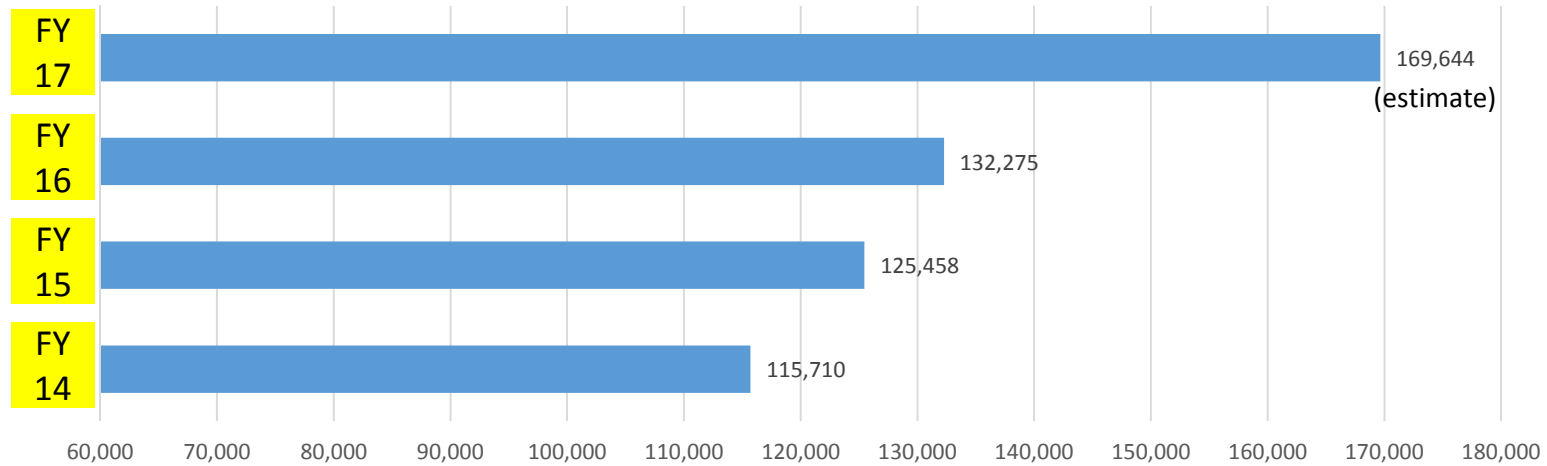
(July 2016 – December 2016)

- **818 defendants** were placed on **pretrial supervision** during the pilot period.
- **95 defendants** were placed on pretrial supervision that indicated a need for further **mental health assessment**.
  - 4 from the Magistrates
  - 17 at advisement (first court appearance)
  - 74 from bond motions
- **48 defendants** placed on pretrial supervision were Court ordered to **undergo a mental health evaluation** and follow any recommended mental health treatment.



# Impact on Court Services

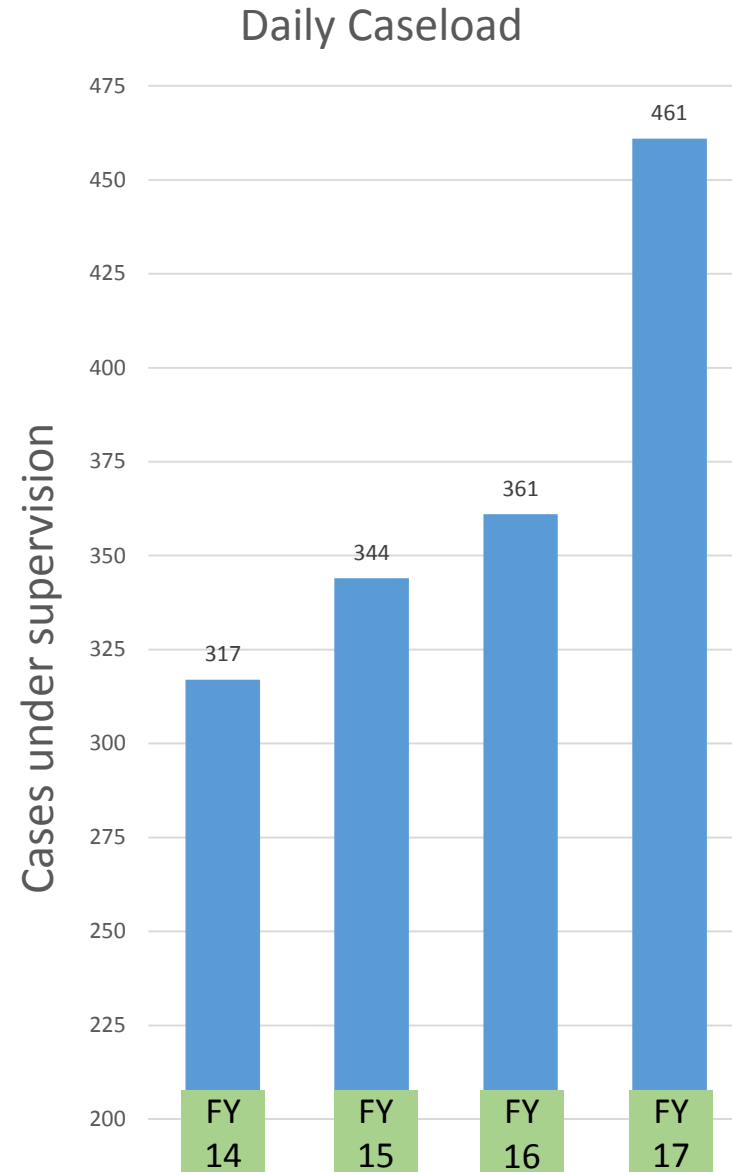
Days of Supervision Provided by Pretrial Services





# Impact on Court Services

**The number of defendants on pretrial supervision has increased dramatically** since the change in methodology for recommending higher needs defendants for pretrial supervision began. It is noteworthy that the defendants that represent this increase had a **high probability of remaining incarcerated** until their cases were adjudicated and that they typically required a **more intensive level of supervision**.



## Case Load Increase

- 422 new Diversion cases estimated
  - Annual estimate based on 6 month pilot
  - 286 GDC & Circuit cases
  - 98 JDR cases (31% of 316 estimated cases)
  - 38 Transfer cases (31% of 120 estimated cases)
- 37% increase in high risk clients
  - Pre-diversion Dec 2015 vs. Post-diversion Dec 2016
  - High Risk Clients - 17.9% to 24.6%
  - Above Average Risk Clients - 9% increase - 19.6% to 21.4%
- Significant annual jail cost avoidance through diversion
  - \$192 cost per day to house an inmate (based on Sheriff's Department statistic)



# DIVERSION FIRST

## General District Court Courts Services Metrics



### 85 cases/Probation Counselor (current)

- 35 intensive supervision cases
- PLUS 50 standard probation cases
- Dangerously high ratio

### 10 additional Probation Counselors needed to meet State Standard

- 40 intensive supervision cases/Probation Counselor
- OR 60 standard probation cases/Probation Counselor
- **Not both**

**5/5.0 FTE additional Probation Counselors needed for FY18**

**Estimated cost: \$470K**



## CSB System Needs

CSB services are needed to align with the Courts to assure timely assessments, treatment recommendations, and service linkages in order to make diversion work at this intercept:

- 6/6.0 FTE positions to support Courts
- 1/1.0 FTE System Navigator at MCRC to engage and link to treatment

Total FY 18 Identified Need: 7/7.0 Total FTE

Estimated cost: \$725K

# **DIVERSION FIRST** Additional Gaps & Needs at MCRC (Intercept 1)

MCRC site model is for 24/7 coverage

- Best practice for CIT Assessment Sites

Staffing needed for 24/7 coverage:

- 3/3.0 FTE sheriff deputies estimated cost: \$400K
- 3/3.0 police officers estimated cost: \$400K

Total FY 18 Identified Need: 6/6.0 Total FTE

Estimated cost: \$800K





## Diversion First Local Budget Information

### FY 2017

Budget Allocation: \$5,092,964

- 19/19.0 FTEs

### FY 2018

- Original budget request: \$5,243,590 and 30/30.0 FTEs
- Advertised budget recommendation: \$0
- This presentation identifies priority needs totaling \$1.995 million and 18/18.0 FTEs



# Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: Purpose & Intent Virginia Code 16.-227

To divert from or within the juvenile justice system, to the extent possible, consistent with the protection of the public safety, those children who can be cared for or treated through alternative programs;



## Juvenile Intake

- Juvenile Intake Officers essentially perform the same function as Magistrates do in the Adult system.
- Intake Officers are trained to implement validated assessment tools at the intake level to aid in their decision making regarding the appropriate level of diversion services.



# Assessment Tools

- Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI)
  - Determines the level of risk to reoffend
  - Determines risk and protective factors providing probation officers, intake officers and the Court targeted areas to intervene
- Global Assessment of Individual Needs, Short Screen (GAINS-SS)
  - 5 to 10 min tool to screen adolescents for possible mental health or substance use disorders
  - High scores result in referrals to CSB or private providers where appropriate



## Juvenile Intake Diversion Data

- Alternative Accountability Program:
  - 81% of referrals reach agreement
  - 99% of youth are compliant with agreed sanctions/outcomes
- Juvenile Intake Diversion Program:
  - 95% Successful Completion Rate
  - 83% avoided a criminal record six months after completing diversion



## Goal

- Decrease the number of low risk youth from formally penetrating the formal court process.
- Connect youth and families with services without having to penetrate the formal court process.
- Decrease the amount of racial and ethnic disparities in diversion decision making
- Right Child, Right Time, Right Dosage !



# Questions and Discussion