



Family Intervention and
Restorative Services

FIRS

A New Approach

Restorative Programs

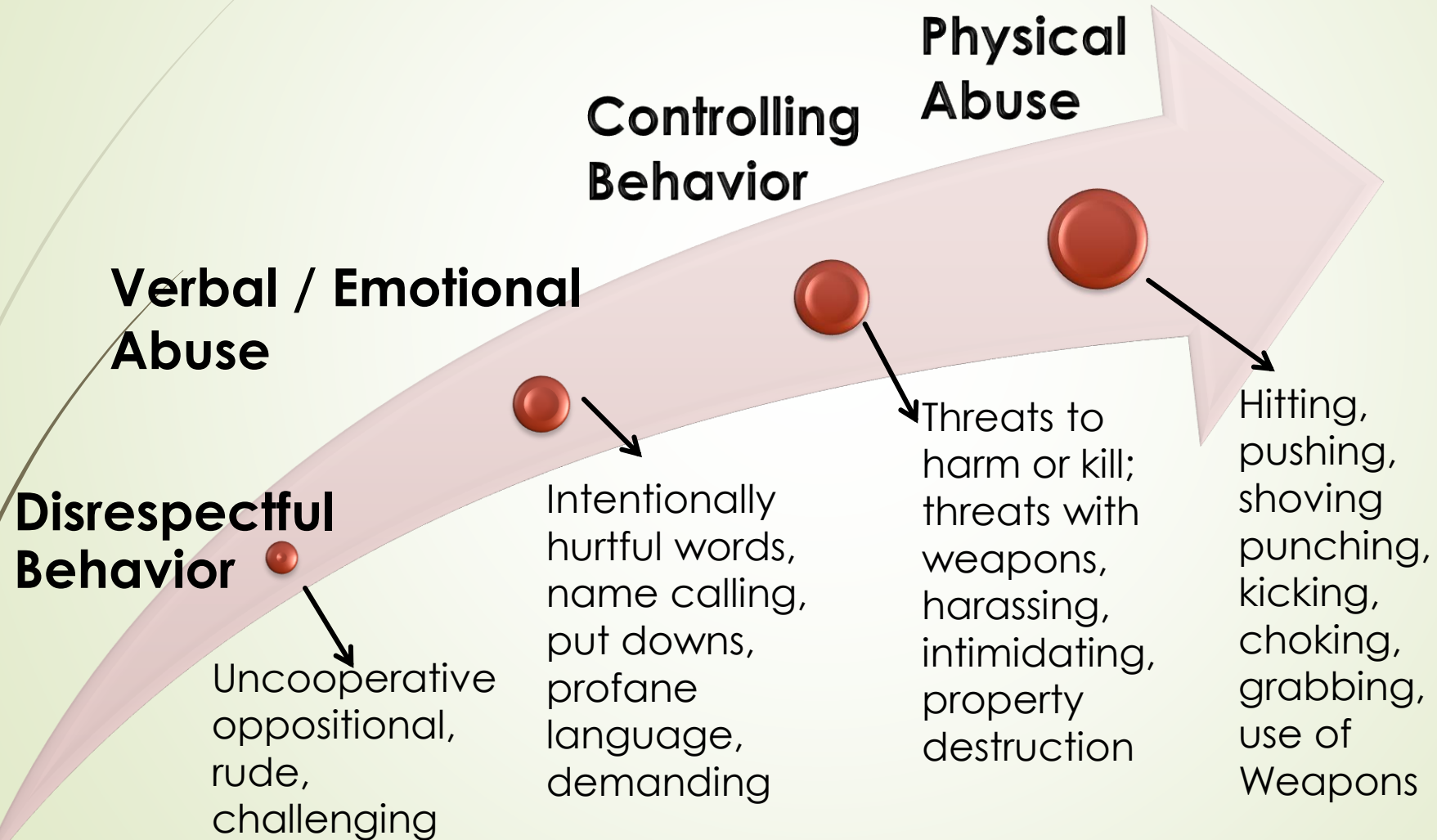
King County Juvenile Court



Youth Family Violence - Scope

- The largest category of violent juvenile offenses in King County.
- Represent 15% of ALL cases handled in juvenile court.
- Account for 32% of all NEW bookings into juvenile detention.

Adolescent Family Violence & Abuse

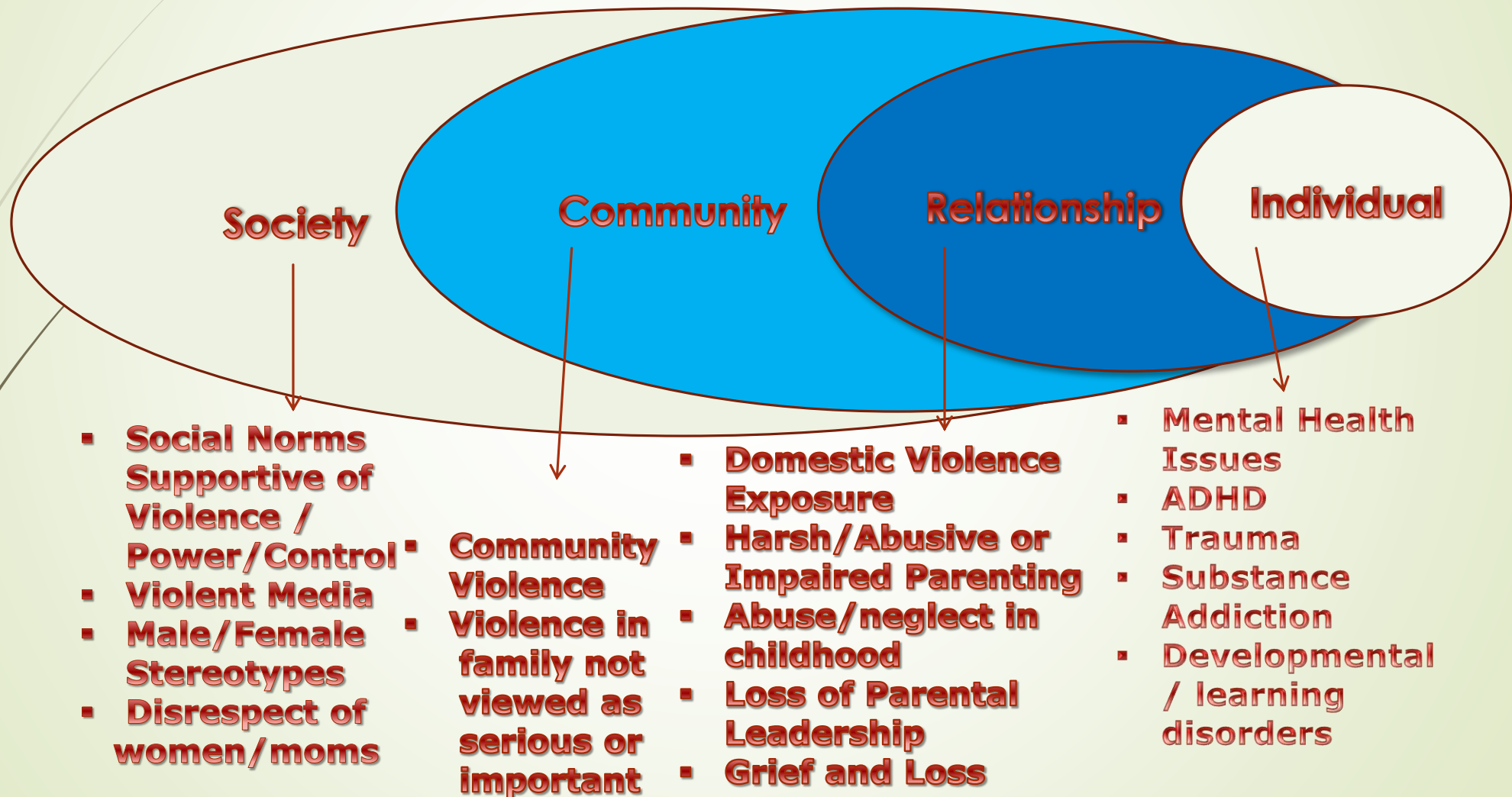





What our data shows

- Exposed to domestic violence 60%
- Physically abused in past 35%
- Emotionally abused in past 40%
- Sexually Abused 27%
- Mental Health Issues 54%
- Developmental Disabilities 28%
- Identified Drug/Alcohol Problem 20%

Risk Factors for Adolescent Violence in the Home





Parents/caretakers are in crisis reaching out for help

- In nearly 90% of DV incidents, the youth has been violent toward a family member, 70% are mothers.
- Majority of parents report that they refrained from calling the police until the behavior had been going on for a long while, and was increasing in severity
- In King County, parents report that the police did not arrest until they had called multiple times
- By the time they come to court, it is has often become an engrained behavior




The cost of help is high

Parents who turn to the court desperately wanting their child to realize the seriousness of their behavior, sometimes back out because they are worried about possible criminal charges on their youth's record.



The Result

- Families don't always receive benefits from involvement in the criminal justice system.
 - Parents/guardian/siblings routinely decline to assist or participate in the formal court system.
 - Approximately 40% of juvenile DV referrals result in no charges being filed.
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What Parents are Seeking

- Safety in the home- the violence to stop
 - Parents call the police when they fear for their safety or the safety of others- and want help for their child
 - Parents usually do not want their youth in juvenile detention or charged with a crime- but need them removed from the home for safety reasons-
- To be taken seriously and feel supported by system- police, courts, social services
- To motivate their youth to engage in counseling to change their behavior
- For their youth to understand that family violence is not okay

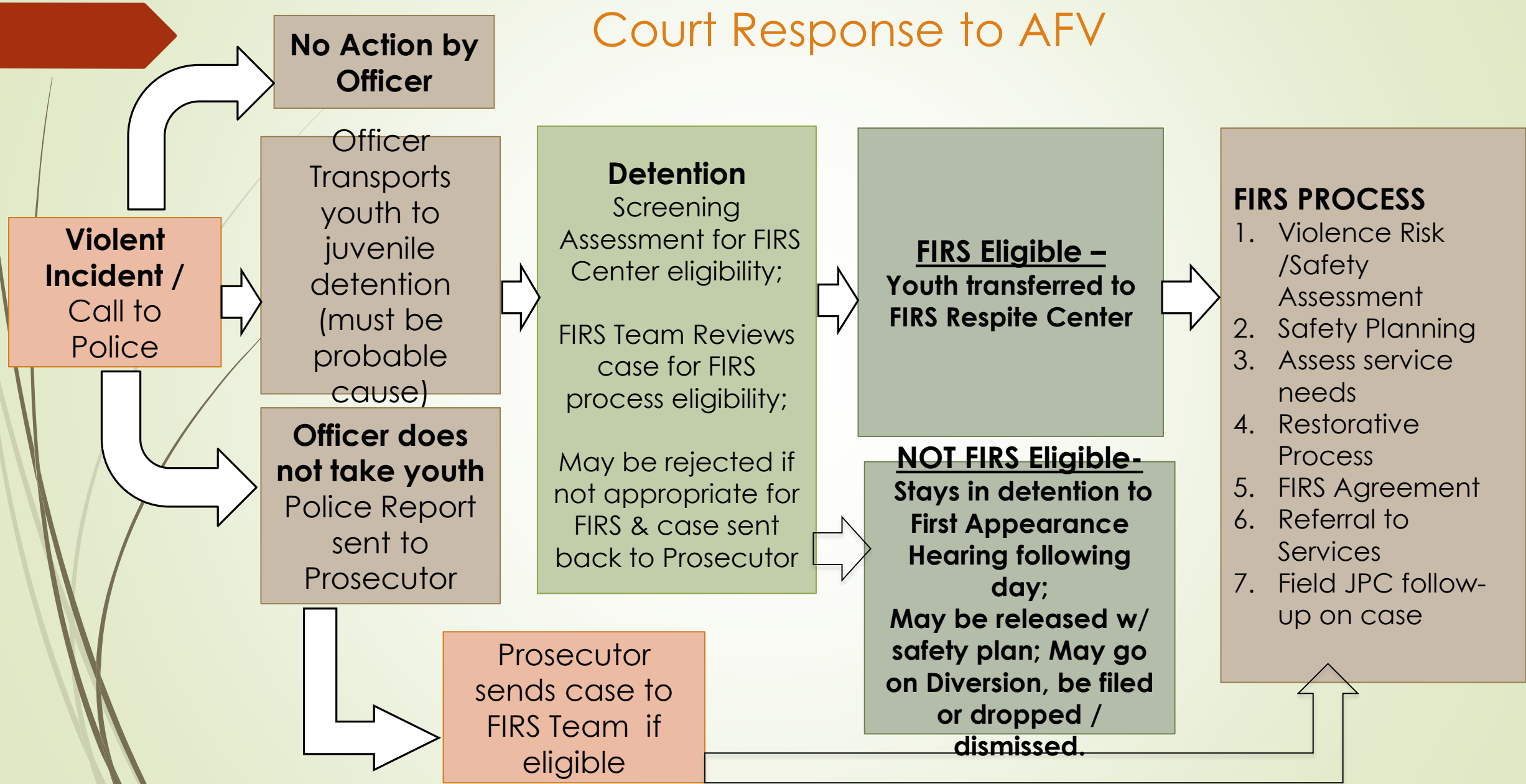
Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)

- A new approach to serving families experiencing youth violence toward family members that addresses immediate family safety and expedites access to intervention services
- A cross-systems collaboration between the courts, juvenile detention, probation, public defense, prosecution, law enforcement, and the community.
- Goal is to provide an immediate break for family safety, assess safety issues and youths' needs, and rapidly connect to services
- Restorative process is used to engage youths' understanding of the impact of their behavior and motivate the desire to change
- Provides a more consistent and effective resource for law enforcement responding to youth acting out violently in the home.



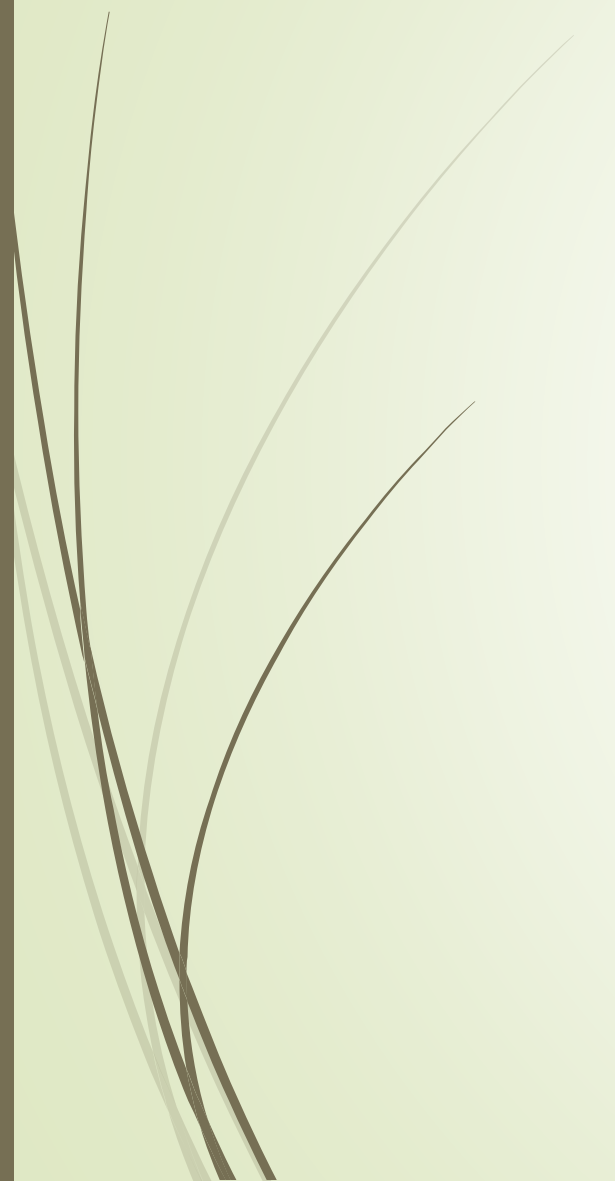
➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atM8LiLgolk>

King County Juvenile Court Response to AFV





FIRS Process

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- Violence Risk/Safety Assessment
 - Safety Planning
 - Assess Service Needs
 - Restorative Process
 - FIRS Agreement
 - Referral to Services
 - Field JPC follow up



A Solution – Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)



911 Call for Help

Law
Enforcement
Response

Transport to
FIRS Respite
Center

Crisis Response;
Respite; Support;
Violence / Safety
Assessment;
Safety Planning;
Intervention
Services;

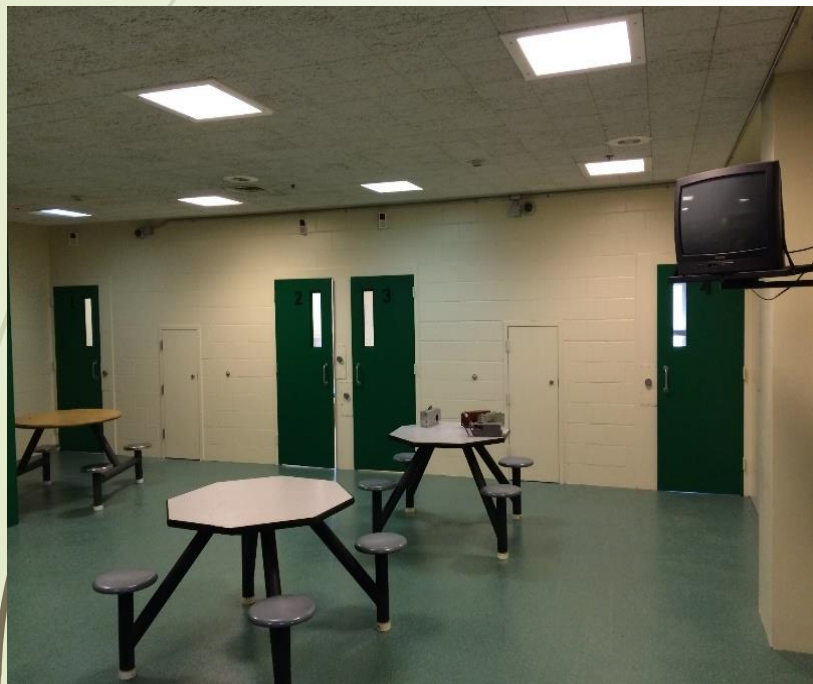
Bypass court
process/ no
detention/ no
charges



FIRS Respite Center

- Converted detention hall that was not being used
- 7 beds in an unlocked, safe and welcoming atmosphere
- Youth can stay as long as needed for safety reasons (usually 2 – 5 days)
- Therapeutic environment with violence prevention skill learning groups

Before and After





What Happens Next

- Social Workers (with Parents)
 - Complete Youth Violence Risk & Safety Assessment (YVRS) Prepare parents for youth's return home
- Probation Counselors (with Youth)
 - Complete Risk/Needs Assessment
 - Begin the Restorative Process

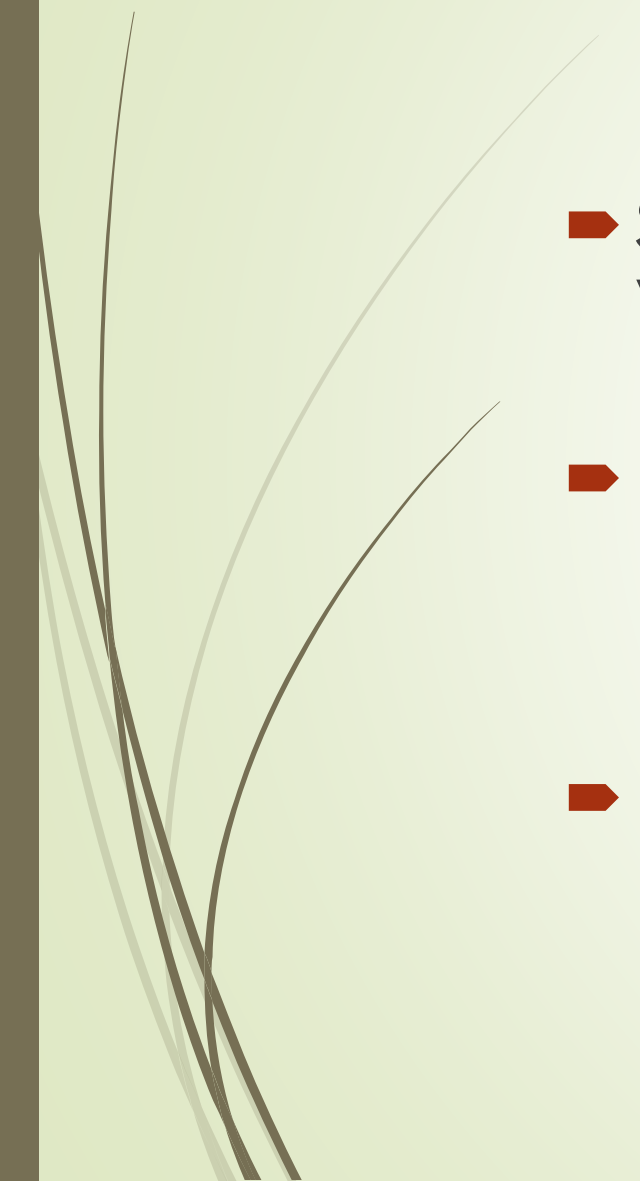


Questions to be answered:

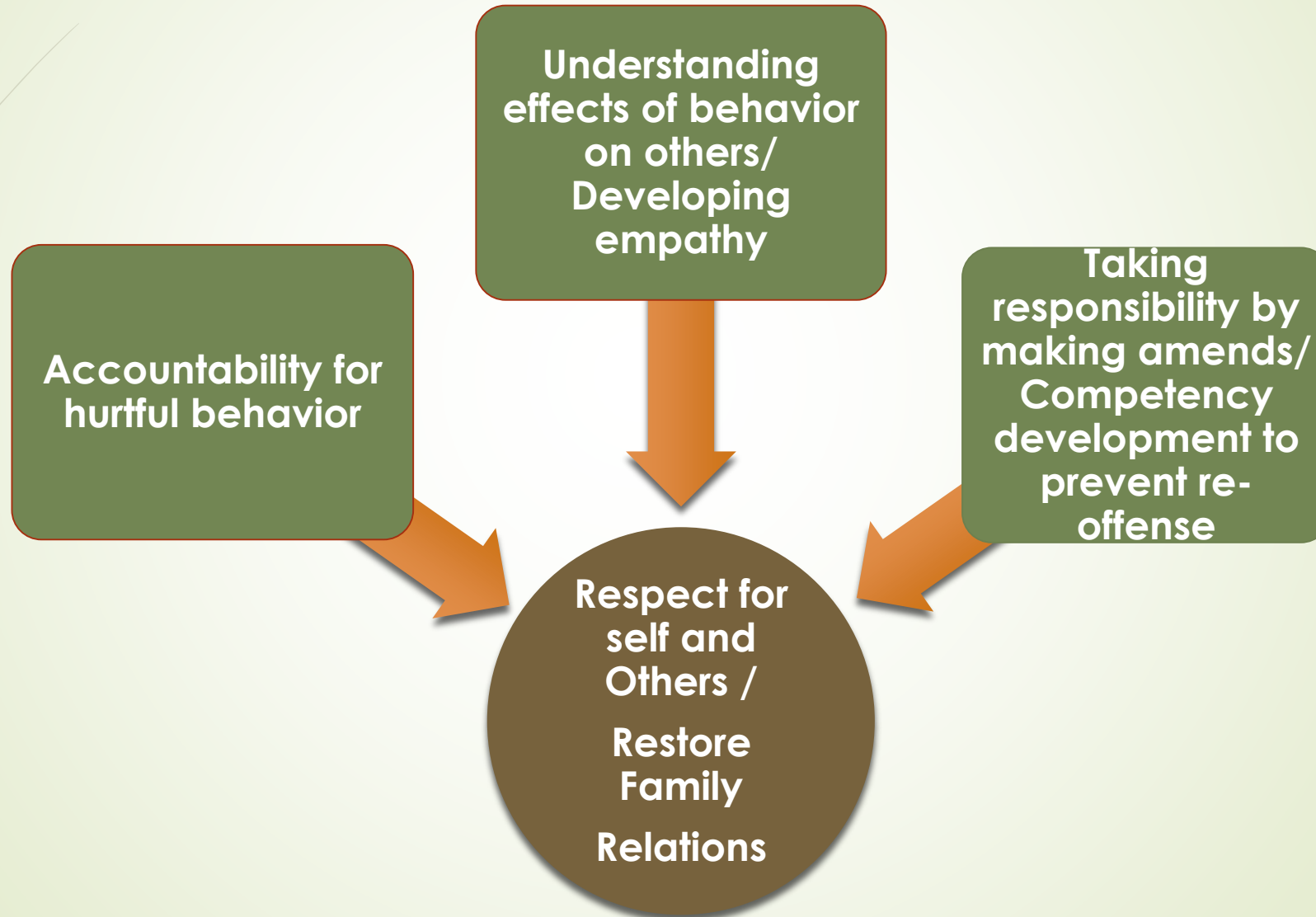
- Is it safe for the youth to go home?
 - VRSA assessment obtains information from parent regarding the referring incident, youth's violence history, level of violence, harm caused, level of fear, concerns about safety and whether the parent feels comfortable having youth come home.
 - If not, what needs to happen to decrease risk of harm? Are there alternative placements?
- Is there other family violence currently in the home? I.e., DV between parents, is youth a victim of child abuse, sibling abuse or otherwise.
- What does the parent see as the youth's primary service need at this time?
- Are there mental health issues, substance use, or trauma experiences?
- What services are currently in place? In the past?
- Does the youth willingly engage in services?
- What services are a priority for the youth to be included in the FIRS Agreement?



The Restorative Process

- 
- Social worker and probation counselor meet with youth and parents/family in FIRS Center
 - Restorative Inquiry is used to facilitate a dialogue between the youth and parent about what happened
 - Provides a pathway to discussion about service needs

Restorative Practice Approach





Restorative Inquiry

- Who was harmed by my behavior?
- What was the harm done?
 - How did it affect each family member?
 - How did it affect me?
 - How did it cause damage or problems?
- What can I do to help repair the harm, damage or problems that were caused, and make amends to my family?
- What could I have done differently so that my behavior was not hurtful?
- What do I need so that I can stay safe and non-violent with my family?
- What is my plan to prevent this from happening again?



FIRS Agreement

- Following restorative process, the probation counselor, social worker, youth and parents discuss the service plan for the youth.
- Restorative discussion regarding the needs of the youth/ plan to prevent re-offenses has included the youth and parent's views of service needs. Step-Up has been discussed, if the youth and family seem a good fit.
- Other services may include: substance abuse evaluation & counseling, mental health evaluation & treatment, in-home family counseling, or other court offered EB intervention.



A Menu of Services

- Step-Up
- Parent Youth Connection Seminar (PYCS)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Juvenile Justice Assessment Team
 - Substance Abuse
 - Mental Health
 - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)



Monitoring the FIRS Agreement

- ▶ Local Probation Counselor assigned
- ▶ Adjust Services as needed
- ▶ Motivational interviewing and engagement skills

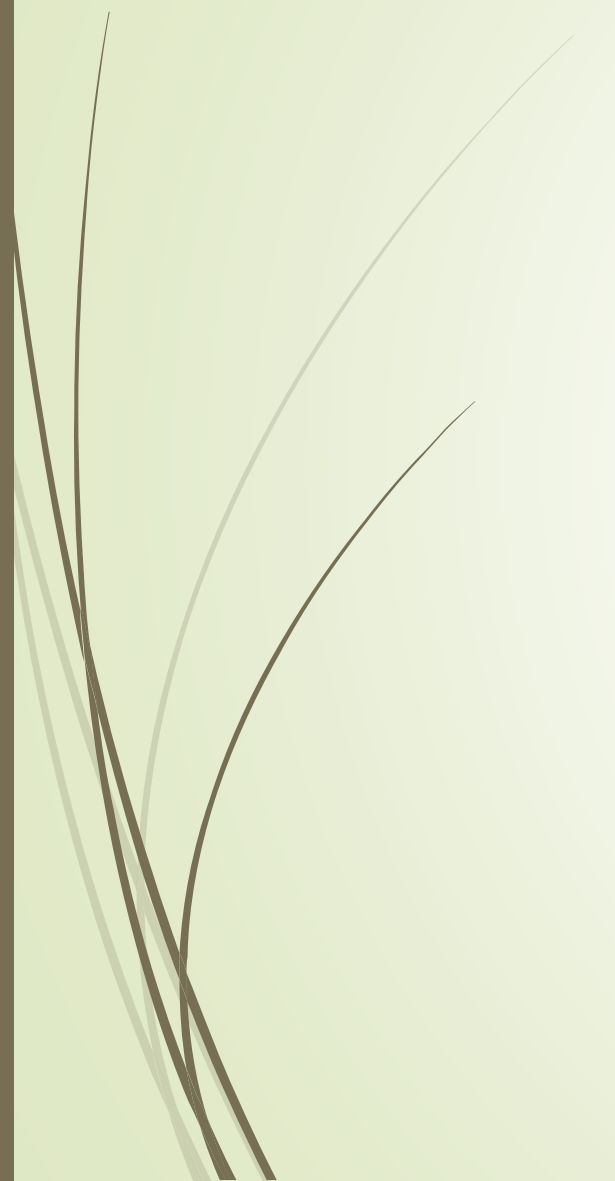
Even Hammers Have Limitations



- We over sell it
- Resistance
- Is it effective?
- Fear of consequences
- Limits engagement



Speaking of Engagement

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- Building a Relationship
 - Restorative Practice Pillars
 - Finding/Building Internal Motivators in Youth
 - Education- the law, acceptable behavior, the power of change
 - The “1%”
 - Balance of Accountability and Support
 - Youth led when possible
 - Goal Sheets
 - Motivational Interviewing



Some learning in our first year

Challenges

- FIRS is not for every youth
- High risk youth who have had prior offenses are not a good fit
- For youth who choose not to comply with their agreement, there is no consequence – parents have to call the police again to re-enter the system.
- Screening carefully is important
- It isn't a quick fix

Successes

- ❖ Parents feel supported and validated by the immediate response
- ❖ Youth take it seriously because they are receiving high attention in a supportive manner
- ❖ The opportunity for families to have a break with time to rest and re-group after a violent incident in the home helps everyone make better decisions
- ❖ Therapeutic environment instead of detention reduces resistance by youth



Outcomes

The University of Washington completed a process and impact evaluation of the first 9 month pilot of the FIRS program.

- ▶ 60% reduction in the number of YFV youth in detention in the first 9 months of the FIRS Respite Center
- ▶ Of the youth with signed FIRS agreements, 22.6% were re-referred back to juvenile court for another criminal matter within 12 months compared to 39.5% of the youth who did not sign a FIRS agreement.
- ▶ For the youth who were referred back to juvenile court within 12 months, re-offenses were most likely to occur within the first two months of the FIRS referral.

Statistics & Early Findings

ETHNICITY	Number of Youth Referred to FIRS	Number of FIRS Agreements Signed	% of youth entered into FIRS Agreement
White	149	71	47%
Youth of Color	169	80	47%
Black or African American	100	48	48%
Native American	9	5	56%
Hispanic	36	17	47%
Asian or Pacific Islander	24	10	42%
TOTAL	318	151	47%



For More Information

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<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/prosecutor/youth-programs/firs.aspx>

<https://kcyouthjustice.com/>

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile/step-up.aspx>