



# Dallas County Deflection Center

DOUG DENTON  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR,  
HOMEWARD  
BOUND

# Respite Center

provide clients a trauma-informed case management plan that includes a comprehensive discharge plan where the client receives a wide-range of community-based health and social services. After the short stay in the center, the individual will receive a supported referral ("warm hand off") to appropriate levels of care needed for longer term treatment as necessary.

- ▶ Collaborative effort among agencies addressing mental and physical health issues that bring them to the attention of law enforcement
- ▶ Currently providing a 24 hour drop off period for individuals encountered during a trespass or similar response
- ▶ Homeward Bound offers a 16 bed short-term program with wrap-around services to assess and triage to appropriate care



# Funding

- ▶ Overarching Concepts – Return on Investment
  - ▶ Reduce Jail Population - Reduce # of Mentally Ill Persons Incarcerated
  - ▶ Address Mental Health/Addiction problems – reducing recidivism
  - ▶ Funding to develop the program was sought by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office from DOJ, Bureau of Justice Assistance
- ▶ The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) committed SB292 funding to support MH housing and treatment
- ▶ Dallas County funded renovation of 7500 sq ft space to accommodate medical clinic, behavioral health offices and 16 residential beds

# Fiscal Impact of This Initiative

- \$60 per day cost to house an inmate in general population
- \$95 per day cost to house an inmate in general population  
*receiving medication assistance*
- \$188 per day cost to house an inmate in the *Jail Mental Health Behavioral Observation Unit*



# Intake Process

- ▶ Law Enforcement Officer arrives with detainee and presents potential client for admission. Officer completes short form identifying subject and description of encounter. Officer returns to service in 15 minutes



- ▶ Homeward Bound and NTBHA staff engage individual to determine appropriateness for admission.

# Services Available

- ▶ Homeward Bound provides Professional and Peer engagement along with residential care – 24-hour staffing, meals, transportation
- ▶ NTBHA provides mental health screening, connections to community mental health providers and supported housing as well as funding Homeward Bound's residential services
- ▶ Parkland Hospital HOMES program provides onsite health screenings and primary care attention to client health needs



# Dallas County Deflection Center

## *Dallas Deflects!*

- ▶ Alternative to Jail – 15 minute drop off for officers
- ▶ Community based diversion program – **Homeward Bound**
- ▶ Links clients to treatment and services in the community
- ▶ Housed at Homeward Bound
- ▶ Opened **August 2022 – Over 310 individuals FY '23**
- ▶ Initial Law Enforcement Partnerships – 30+ LEAs in Dallas County
  - ▶ DPD, DART, Parkland Hospital Police, Right Care Team, Consortium of smaller departments in southwest and southeast sectors



# Community Partners

## **Downtown Dallas Inc.**

- Providing collaboration and planning

## **Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute**

- Planning and research

## **Homeward Bound**

- Donated the wing for the facility

## **Parkland Hospital**

- \$990,000.00 a year for medical services

## **Parkland Foundation**

- \$350,000.00 for renovation & equipment

## **Dallas County Commissioners**

- \$1,200,000.00 Renovation

## **Mark Cuban**

- \$277,000.00 Security

## **AT&T**

- \$50,000.00 Renovation

## **Texas Bar Foundation**

- \$11,525.00 Room renovation/furnishings

## **North Texas Behavioral Health Association**

- \$1,400,000.00 per year for mental health and residential services

## **Dallas County Diocese – Bishop Burns**

- \$15,000.00 Room renovation/furnishings

## **Department of Justice grant**

- \$968,900.00 Clinical Services/Security

## **Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel**

- \$2500.00 Outdoor Space

## **Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot**

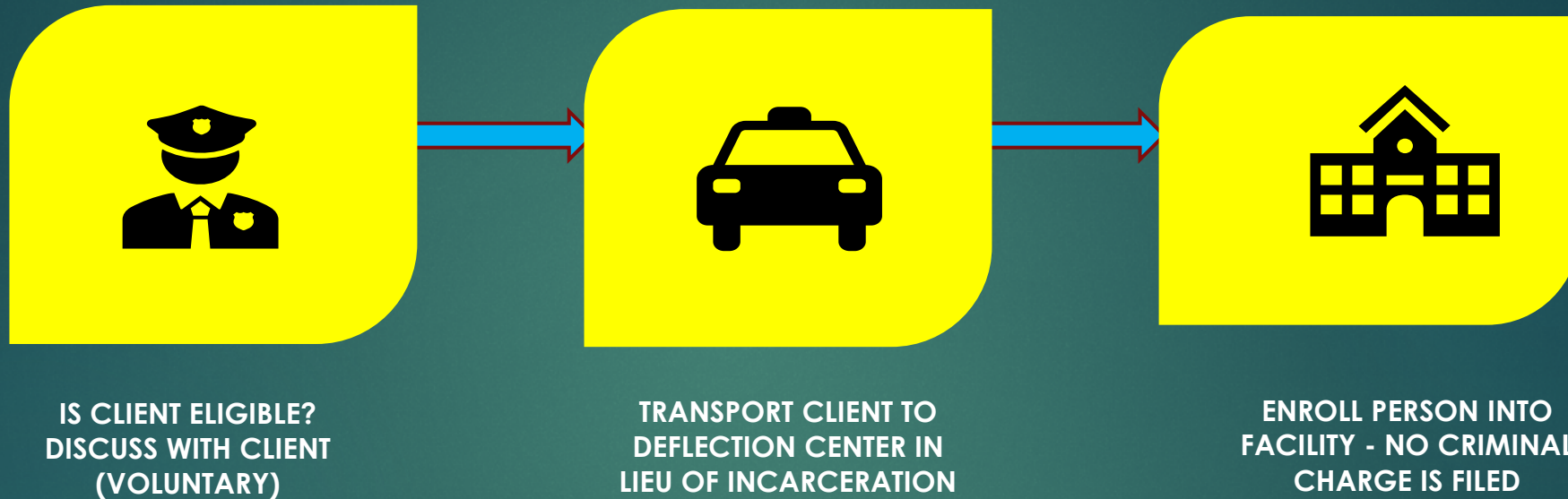
- \$15,000.00 Room renovation/furnishings



# Endless Cycle of Incarceration



# Role of Police



- Officers' role will be **only** 1) determine eligibility 2) transport & 3) enroll individual in the facility
- Officers are then free to return to service – Goal is **15-minute** turnaround



# Who can go to Deflection Center?

- ▶ Criminal Trespass or similar activity – Class B
- ▶ Engaged by MH Mobile Crisis Team
- ▶ 18 years old
- ▶ No outstanding warrants (excluding Class C)
- ▶ Not a registered sex offender
- ▶ Does not meet the criteria for APPOW
- ▶ Does not exhibit violent behavior at transfer

# APPOW

- ▶ If individual decompensates to meet level for APPOW – follow standard APPOW protocol
- ▶ Transport individual to nearest inpatient mental health facility



# Results? DALLAS COUNTY DEFLECTION CENTER August 2022-August 2023 Total Triageed – 310 Clients

## Referrals Source

Dallas PD	181
Dallas Marshal - CDC	1
Great SW Coalition	15
SE Coalition	6
NTBHA MCOT/CTI	57
Garland PD	1
Irving PD	4
DART PD	30
DCHD - Parkland PD	15

## Triage Outcomes

Psych Crisis Residential	10
Living Room-NTBHA*	106
ACT Team	7
OTHER SUD Services	5
Shelter	14
Home-Family-Friends	29
Boarding Home/PSH	27
Behavioral Health	29
Physical Health	18
Veterans Administration	2
LEA Maintained Custody	25
Refused Services	38







# Dallas County Deflection Center

- ▶ 5300 University Hills Blvd
- ▶ Dallas, TX 75216
- ▶ P: 214.941.3500 ext. 224
- ▶ Intake Hours: 9:00 am to 9:00 pm (7 days a week)





Questions?

Dallas  
County  
Deflection  
Center





Thank You!