

Effective Strategies for Working with Cross System Youth

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Ice Breaker Activity: Who's In the Room?



I have been working with delinquent youth for _____ Years/Months.

My biggest frustration when working with
Child Welfare is _____.

I'm really glad that cell phones and social media didn't exist when I was a teenager because of that time when I _____.

One thing that Child Welfare doesn't understand about Juvenile Probation is _____.

One adult besides my parents who I respected as a teenager was _____ because _____.

Today's Agenda

Working with Cross System's Youth Video

A View from the Bench: A Juvenile Court Hearing Officer's Perspective

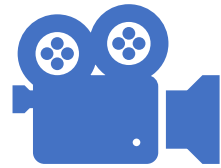
Strategy 1: Education, Communication and Understanding each other's Roles/Goals

Strategy 2: Know the Drivers and Priority of Each System

Strategy 3: Understanding the Budget and Available Services

Strategy 4: Family Engagement

Video



A View From the Bench: A Juvenile Court Hearing Officer's Perspective

Similarities

Family Situation	Child's Behaviors
Living with One Parent	Drug and Alcohol Use
Living with Grandparents/Kin	Truancy
Parent with Drug and Alcohol	Poor Grades
Parent with Mental Health	Runaway Behaviors
Parents have Burned Bridges	Aggressiveness/Incorrigibility
Extended Family/Kin Support	Sex Offending Behaviors
Trauma Exists	Trauma Exists

Similarities

Systemically

Lack of Available Services in the Community

Access to Services for Child and Family

Professionals care about outcomes for children

Staffing Challenges

Recidivism

Ability to Work with Child/Family Prior to Court Intervention

Many Counties Have the Same Judicial Officer

Common Themes Seen in Hearings

Same Home
Environment =
Same Behaviors
at Home

Same School
Environment =
Same Behaviors
at School

Little
Involvement in
School Activities

Common Themes Seen in Hearings

No Extended
Family
Included

MH, Addiction
and Criminal
Issues
Impacting
Parenting

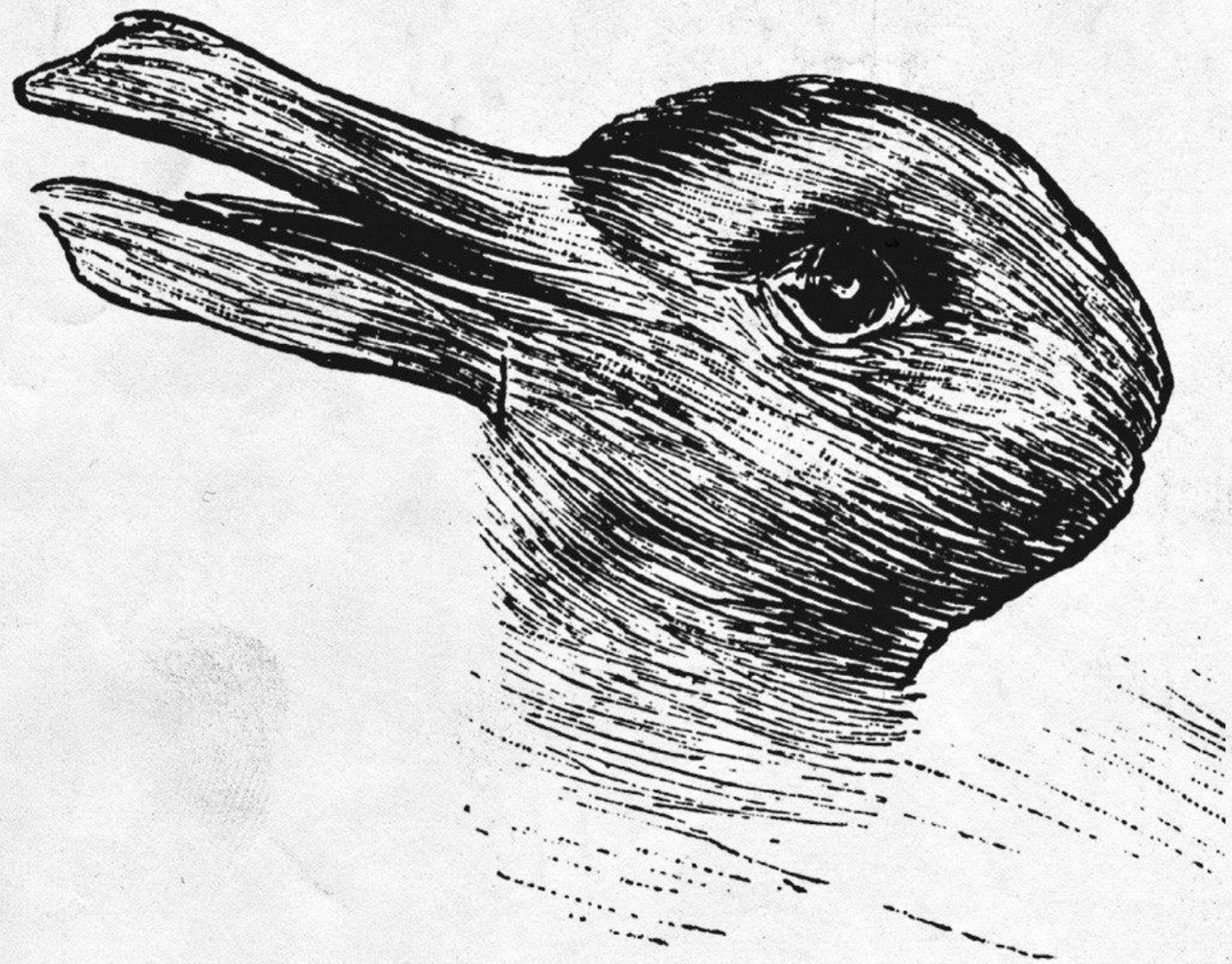
Lack of
Friends

Need for more child
specific plans
(Both JPO/CYS)

Strategy 1:
Education,
Roles/Goals and
Communication







Child Welfare/Dependency Role

Juvenile Probation/Delinquency Role

Focus on the Child and Family

Focus on the Child/No Authority Over Parents

Act of Abuse or Neglect Leads to Involvement

Act of Delinquency Leads to Involvement

Protect Children, Promote Strong Families, Promote Child Well-Being and Provide Timely Permanency

Ensure Child Accountability, Develop Child Competency, Protect the Community

Works with the ***Child and Family***

Works primarily with the ***Child***

QUESTION: Is there a Safety Threat to the Child in the Home

QUESTION: Is the Child a Safety Threat to Themselves or the Community

Shared

Case

Planning



Strategy 2:
Know the
Drivers and
Priorities of
Each System



Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ)

- ❖ **Treatment**
- ❖ **Rehabilitation**
- ❖ **Supervision**
- ❖ **Competency Development**
- ❖ **Accountability**
- ❖ **Community Protection**



Child Welfare and Dependency System Priorities

Child Welfare System	Dependency Mission and Guiding Principles
Safety	Protect Children
Permanency	Promote Timely Permanency
Well-Being	Promote Child Well-Being
Family Engagement	Promote Strong Families



Pennsylvania Children's Roundtable Structure

- Attendees**
- State Supreme Court Justice
 - Director, Office of Children & Families in the Courts
 - Secretary Department of Human Services
 - Secretary of Education
 - Secretary of Drug & Alcohol Programs
 - Secretary of Mental Health
 - Deputy Secretary, DHS, Office of Children, Youth & Families
 - Deputy Secretary, PDE, Office of Elem. & Sec. Education
 - Leadership Roundtable and Workgroup Co-Chairs
 - Guardians ad Litem, Parent Attorneys, Solicitors
 - Pennsylvania Legislators (invited)
 - Pennsylvania County Commissioner
 - American Bar Association



- State Roundtable Workgroups**
- Current:
- Autism Taskforce
 - Children's Summit
 - Congregate Care
 - Dependency Bench Book & Judicial Education
 - Hearing Officer Education
 - Kinship Care Taskforce
- Former:
- CW Workforce Retention
 - Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents
 - Drug & Alcohol
 - Father Engagement
 - Mission & Guiding Principles
 - Legal Representation
 - Psychotropic Medication
 - Transitional Youth
 - Trauma
 - Truancy & Educational Success
 - Visitation

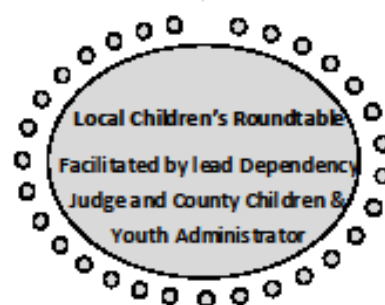
1 Dependency Judge and 1 Children & Youth Administrator (co-chair) advance to the State Roundtable and act as representatives for each LRT (additional representation for selected Leadership Roundtables).

Leadership Roundtables (LRT) comprised of like size counties grouped together



Dependency Judge, Children & Youth Administrator plus one additional Local Children's Roundtable members advance to the Leadership Roundtable and act as representatives for the county (additional representation in some LRTs).

- Parents/Former Foster Youth
- Hearing Officers/Masters
- County Children & Youth
- Juvenile Probation
- County Agencies
- Service Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Local Prisons



- County Commissioners
- Solicitors
- Guardians ad Litem
- Parent Attorneys
- School Districts/Educators
- Other Community Stakeholders
- Office of Children & Families in the Courts

Meets at the discretion of the judge

Revised: January 2022

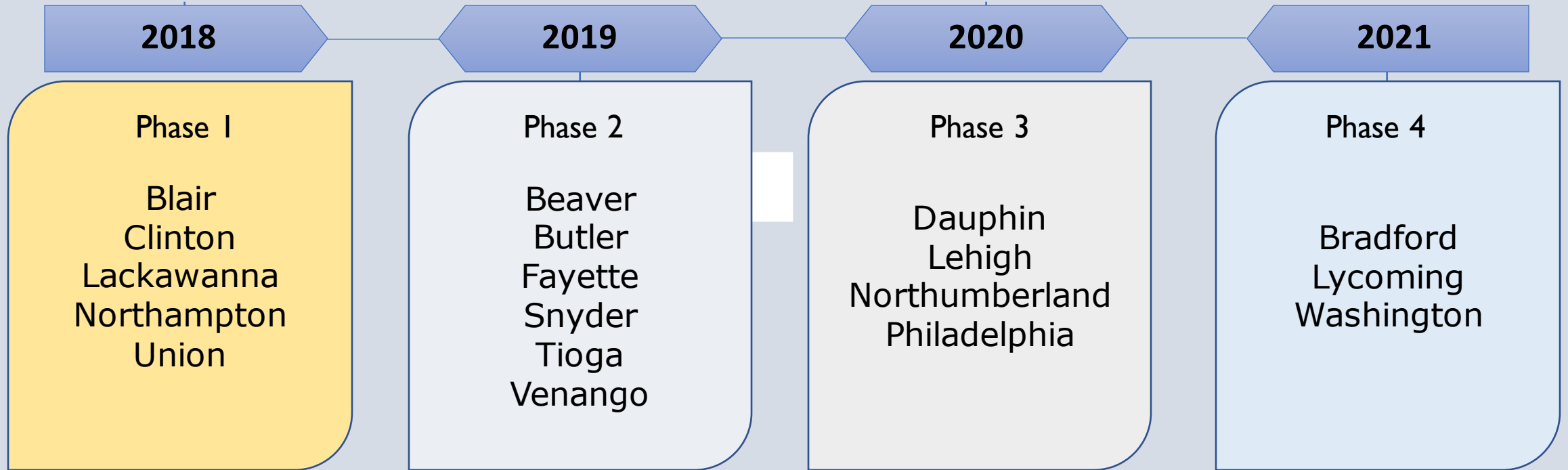
2022 State Roundtable Priorities

- ❖ **Safely Increasing Kinship Care**
- ❖ **Autism Awareness and Responsiveness**
- ❖ **Safely Decreasing Congregate Care Use**
- ❖ **Reasonable Efforts**
- ❖ **Family Finding**
- ❖ **Father and Paternal Engagement**
- ❖ **Children and Youth in Court**
- ❖ **Education**
- ❖ **Family Engagement Initiative**

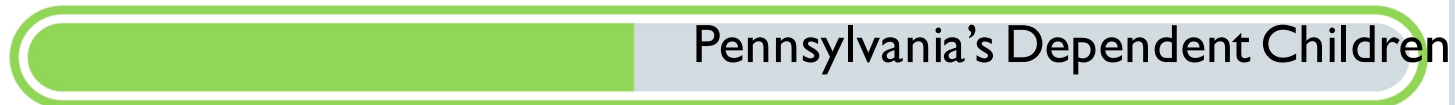


2022 State Roundtable Priority Issues

Family Engagement Initiative (FEI): 18 Participating FEI Counties

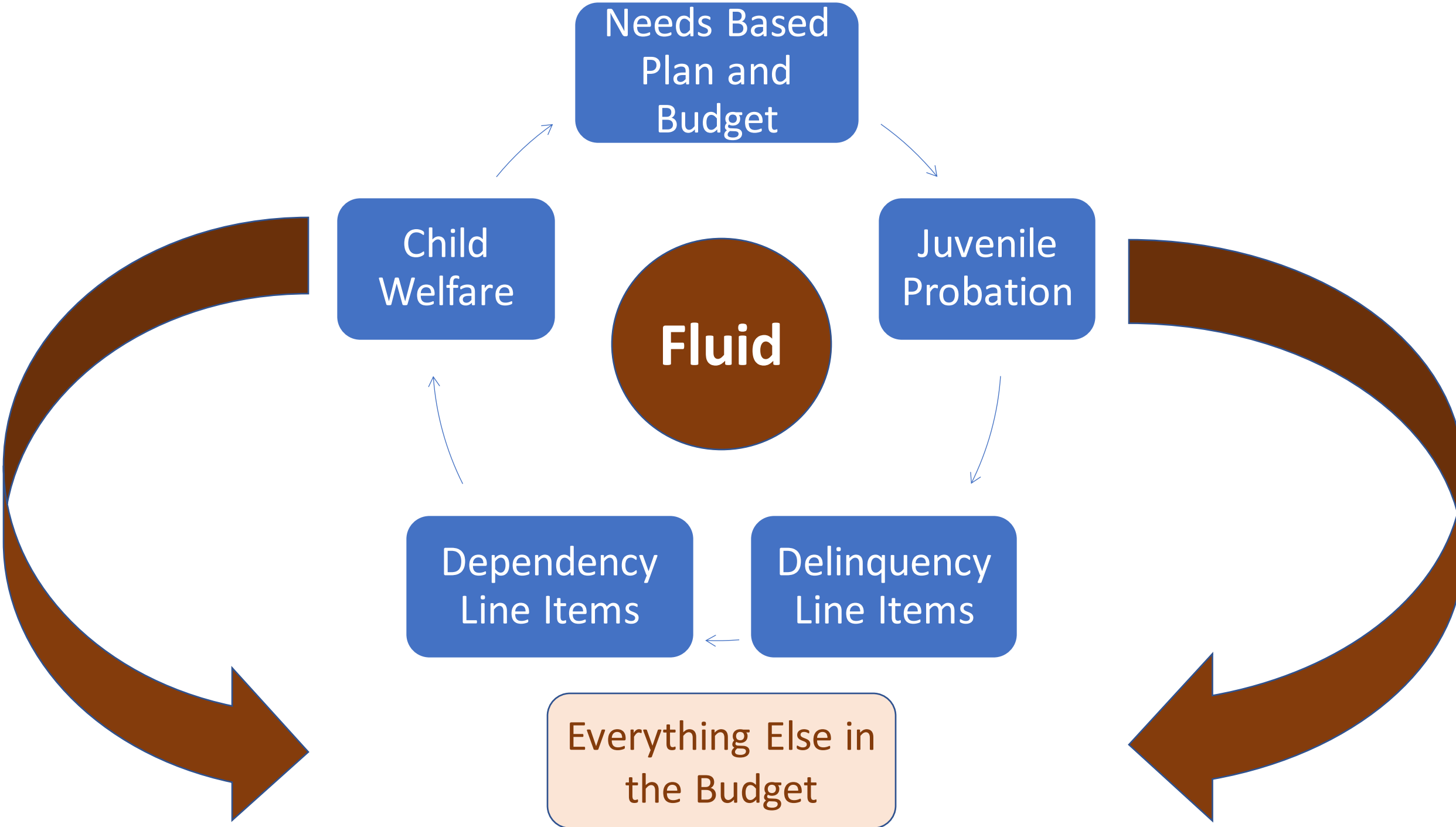


44%



Strategy 3:
Understand
the Budget
and Available
Services





Needs Based
Plan and
Budget

Child
Welfare

Juvenile
Probation

Fluid

Dependency
Line Items

Delinquency
Line Items

Everything Else in
the Budget

Services

JPO and Child Welfare

Family Finding/FGDM	Parenting
Family Counseling	MST
STOPP	FFT
Drug and Alcohol	Mental Health
Independent Living	Electronic Monitoring
Community Services	Diagnostic Programs
Sexual Offender Evaluations and Tx	Alternative Schooling Options
Truancy Programs (i.e. "Why Try")	Housing

When to
Consider
Additional
Services

Informal Supervision

- Diversion Programs
- Informal Adjustments
- Consent Decree

Adjudicated Delinquent

Aftercare

Strategy 4:
Family and
Kin

“Family is not an important
thing. It’s everything.”

- MICHAEL J. FOX



Family Finding – PA Law

Pennsylvania's Act 14 of 2019 ensures that family finding occurs on an ongoing basis for all children entering the child welfare system both court active & non-court active cases.

The law is also intended:

- (1) identify and build positive connections between the child and the child's relatives and kin;
- (2) involve relatives and kin in children and youth social service planning and delivery;
- (3) create a network of extended family support to assist in remedying the concerns that led the child to be involved with the county agency.

Rule 1149

Courts are required to:

1. Inquire as to the efforts made by the county agency to comply with the family finding requirements pursuant to the law
2. Place its determination on the record as to whether the agency has reasonably engaged in family finding
3. Court inquiry and determination should be made at each stage of the case

4 Steps of the FGDM Process

1. Referral
2. Preparation
- 3. FGDM Conference**
4. Follow-Up

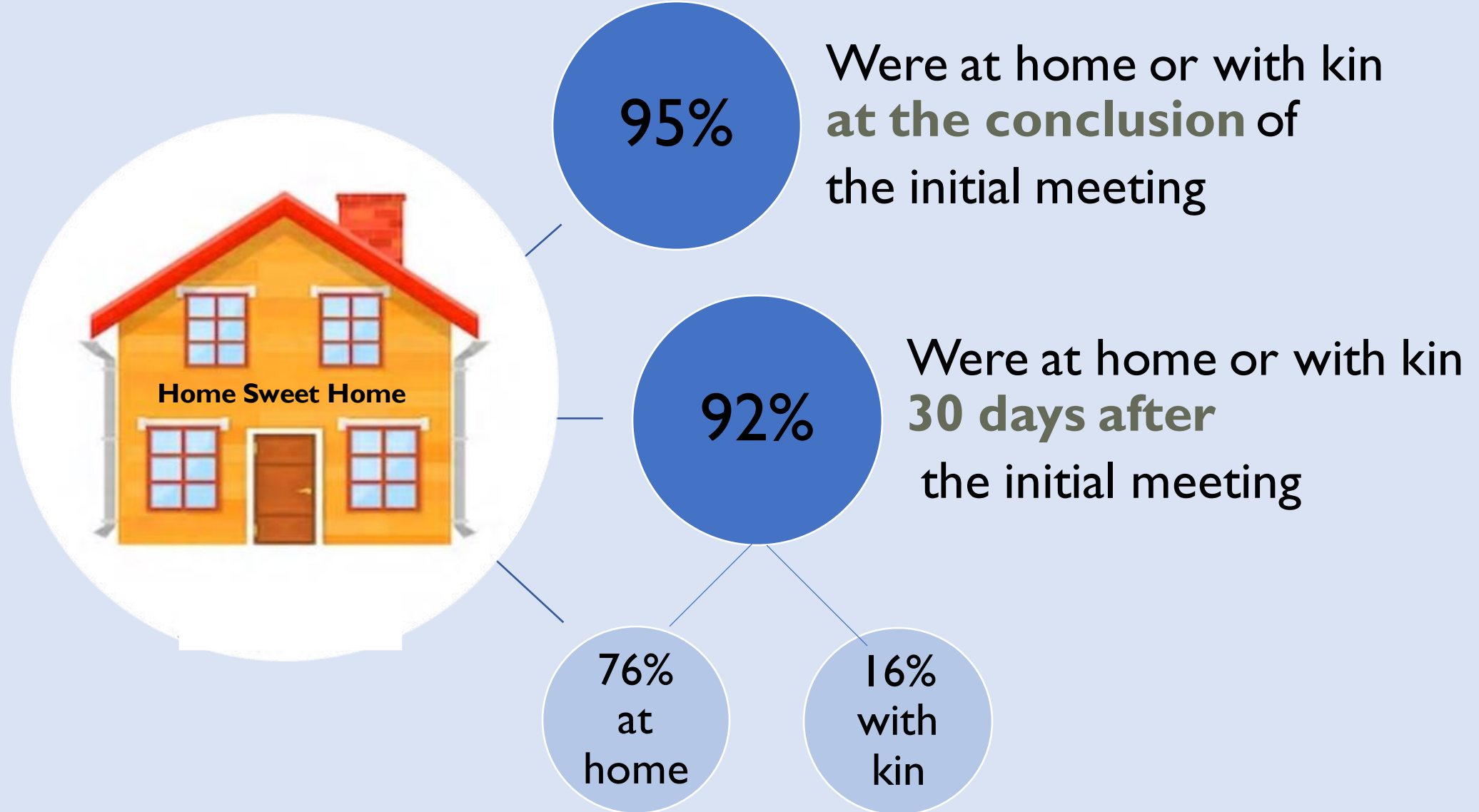


FGDM
Conference:
3 Most
Important
Components

1. Sharing of Strengths and Concerns, including bottom-line concerns
2. Private Family Time
3. Presentation of the Plan



FEI Crisis Rapid Response Family Meetings



When to
Consider
Family and
Kin

Informal Supervision

- Diversion Programs
- Informal Adjustments
- Consent Decree

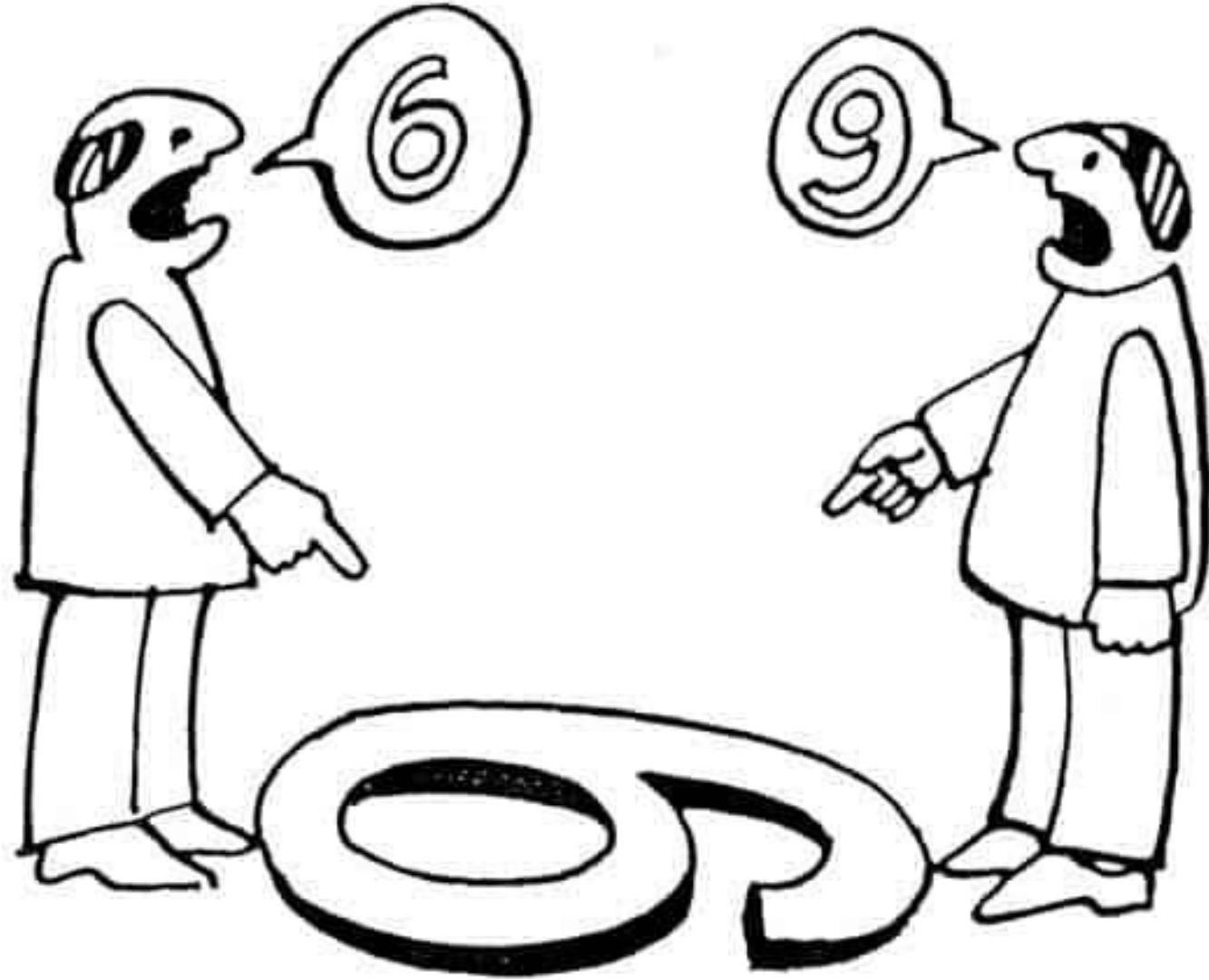
Adjudicated Delinquent

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Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ)

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- ❖ Rehabilitation
- ❖ Supervision
- ❖ Competency Development
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Community Protection





Thank you! Have a safe drive home!

