

the **IMPACT** of meth
on Sacramento's
criminal justice system

Sacramento County Public Defender
Meth Coalition, December 5, 2019

everywhere.

cheap.
readily accessible.

SATURATING

our community.

Sacramento Public Defender represents

25,000-30,000

cases a year

11,500
Misdemeanors

5,000
Conservatorship/
Hospital cases

8,000
Homeless
(Misdemeanors &
Mental Health)

trend.

Increase amount of meth use amongst our...

HOMELESS

MENTAL HEALTH

MISDEMEANOR CLIENTS (PROP 47)

pattern.

1. Comfort
2. Necessity
3. Self Medication

“Numbs the pain”

“Lets me feel good, escape my life”

“Keeps me awake at night so I don't get robbed”

“Keeps me up so I don't get sexually assaulted”

“Makes the voices go away”

“Calms my mind”

meth grips.

Changes personality.

Ignites anger.

Impacts Employment.

Effects ability to maintain shelter.

Creates health issues.

Presents at schizophrenia or schitzoaffective.

treatment for meth
addiction is complex.

There's no

Methadone Clinic

Nicotine patch

Readily available housing

No readily available residential rehab

meth use eventually collides with
law enforcement.

3 common intersections.

1. Psych Hospitals
2. Homeless issues
3. Criminal Justice

psych hospitals.

Patients Rights data indicates that they are seeing **50-70%** of all patients with dual diagnosis, testing positive for meth upon admission. **40% homeless.**

July-September: 2,042 patients, approx. 1,021-1,429 tested positive for meth, 816 homeless.

October: 691 patients, approx. 346-484 patients tested positive for meth, 300 homeless.

homeless.

Loaves and Fishes contacts 800-1000 people experiencing homelessness everyday.

Per Loaves and Fishes 60-70% are using meth.

No residential beds available.

No options to direct homeless to for help.

Chicken or the egg?

criminal justice system.

Incarcerate, collaborative courts, innovative options.

jail.

Mass incarceration did not work.

War on drugs did not work.

Locking them up, does not work.

drug collaborative courts.

Focus on drug rehab.

Drug
Collaborative
Court Options



DRUG COURT

PROPOSITION 36

DRUG DIVERSION

DRUG DIVERSION

Success rate very low,
program revamped in
October 2019

- Pre-plea
- No progress court date
- No personal case management
- Follow up with failure to comply
- Cost to participate

60% will start
using again
within a year of
finishing
treatment*

PROPOSITION 36

40 clients in treatment (127)

68% meth

80% homeless

No funding (lost after 2008)

No residential rehab options

No Salvation Army as of Sept.

No VOA as of July.

Increase in violations.

Mental Health or Drugs?

- Requires Plea
- Time is suspended
- Progress Reports
- No individual case management
- Average: 2x week classes, meet prob., drug test weekly
- No insurance
\$90/class

10-15%
Success Rate

DRUG COURT

48 clients

60-75% meth

1 client homeless

Mental Health or Drugs?

- Requires Plea
- 18 month program
- Follow up Court dates
- Sanctions for failure to comply
- Participate 1 every 5 years
- Weekly court appearances
- Limited Space, DA gatekeeper

1-3
graduations
per month

Innovative options.

focus on the whole person. Holistic Defense.

HOLISTIC DEFENSE

“Public Defenders work in interdisciplinary teams to address both the immediate case and the underlying life circumstances—such as drug addiction, mental illness, or family or housing instability—that contribute to client contact with the criminal justice system.....”

James M. Anderson, Maya Buenaventura and Paul Heaton, *The Effects of Holistic Defense on Criminal Justice Outcomes*, Harvard Law Review 132 (2019)

**METH
CRIMINAL
CHARGE**

housing

financial/credit

safety

CPS

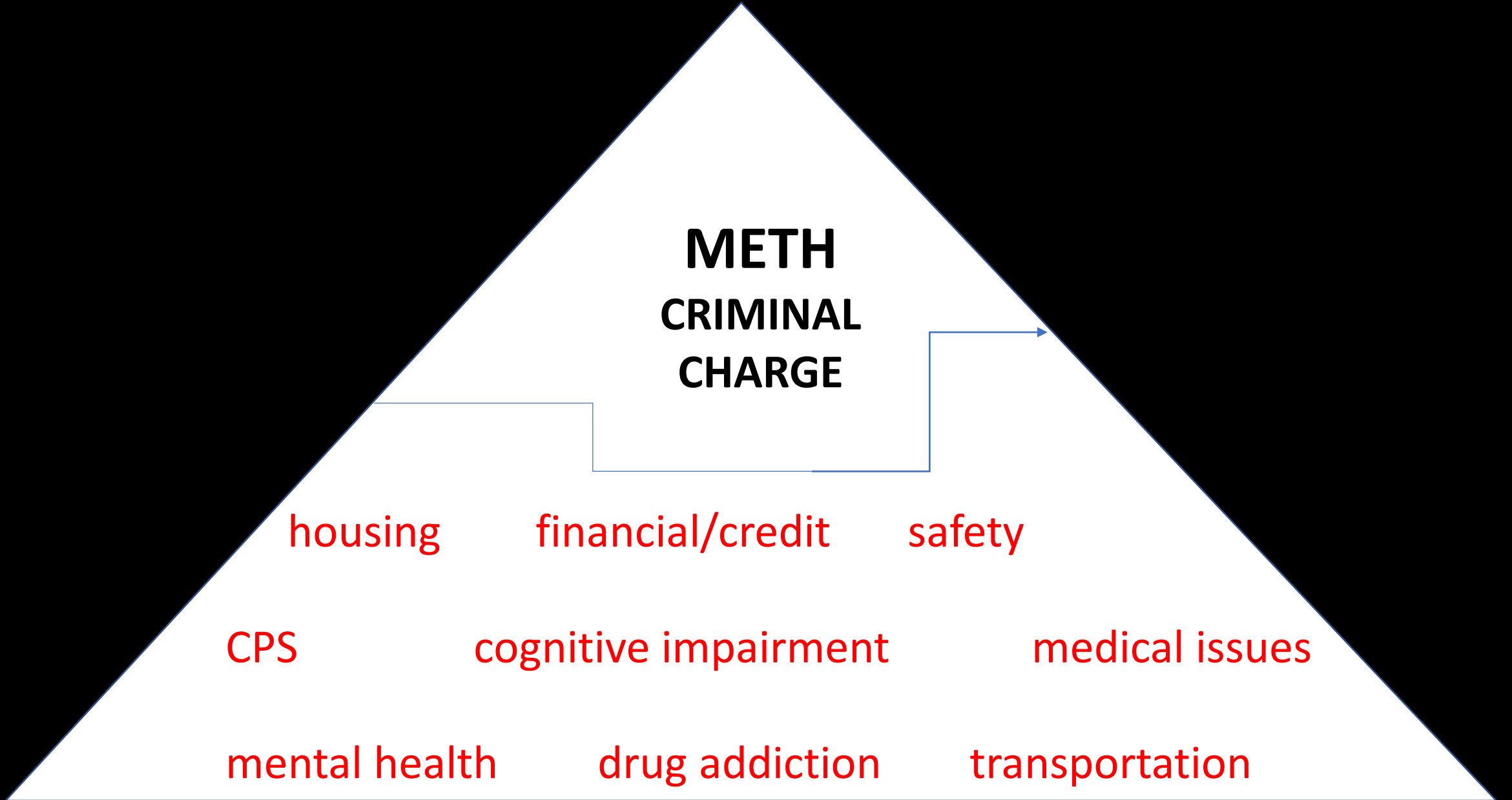
cognitive impairment

medical issues

mental health

drug addiction

transportation



Assessments
Housing
AOD
MH
Risk

Services (BH and AOD)

Housing

Courts



Social Worker
Create plan
Coordinate discharge
Case Management

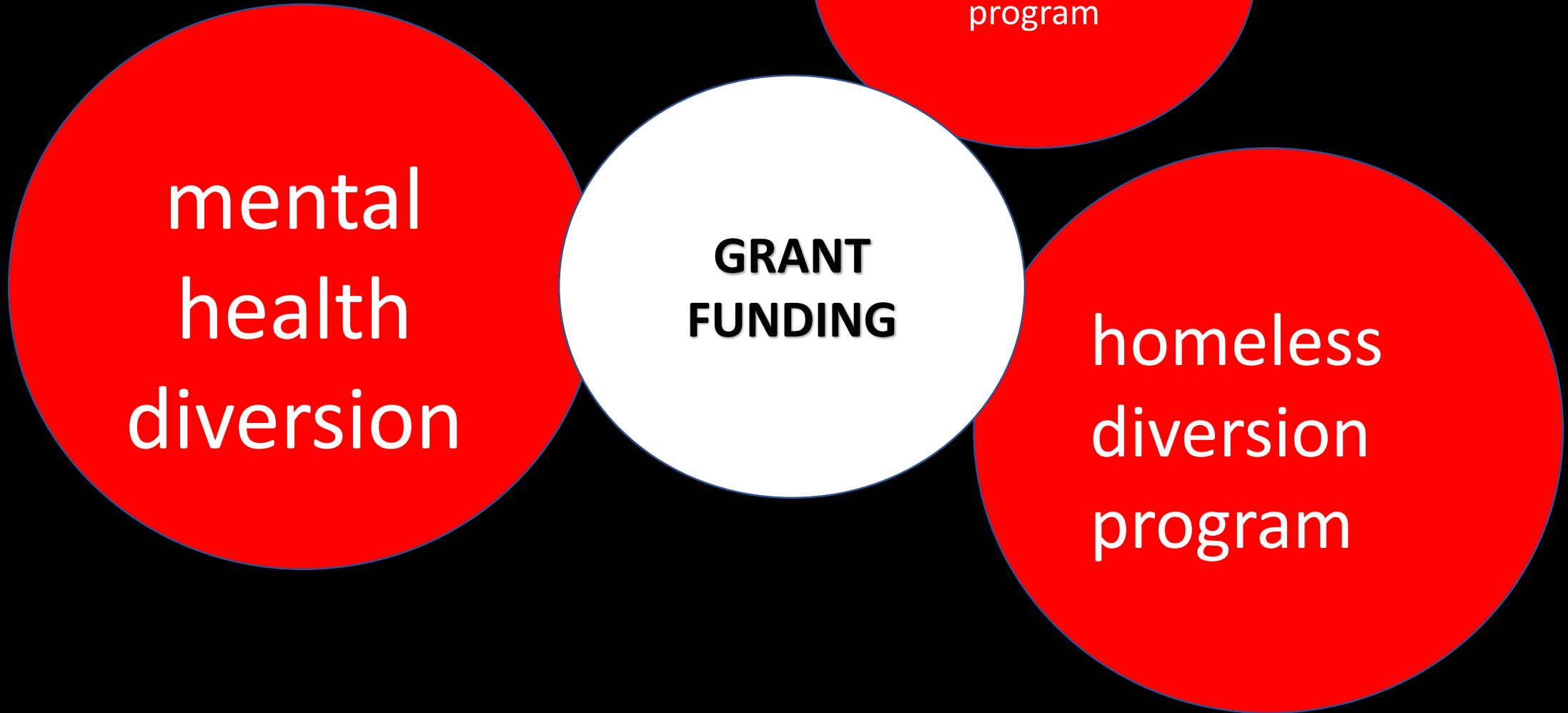
Coordinated Integrated Care

OUTCOMES

Improve public safety
Decrease jail population
Transform communities

HOLISTIC DEFENSE

innovative options.



mental
health
diversion

**GRANT
FUNDING**

public defender
pretrial service
program

homeless
diversion
program

the **IMPACT** of meth.

everywhere. provides comfort, safety & self medication. grips lives. filling our hospitals. fueling our homeless population. increasing our jail population. saturating our community.

stop the **IMPACT** of meth

We need to recognize that the war on drugs did not work. Mass incarceration did not work. Locking people up does not work. We need provide people with the very basic human needs that meth gives them....safety, shelter, comfort, and mental health help. We need to engage in a HOLISTIC approach with resources that focus on the whole person and not the drug charge.