

Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

SAFE YOUTH,
SAFE COMMUNITY

An Overview

July 24, 2014



City of Seattle

www.safeyouthseattle.org

SYVPI Background

- Initiative was developed in response to:
 - Shooting deaths of five youth in 2008
 - Persistence of court referrals for violent offenses
 - High rate of middle school suspensions for violence related incidents
- A combined intervention-prevention model
 - City already invests more than \$62 million in youth services
 - Social Development Research Group work identified risk characteristics aligned with City intervention

Primary Populations

1. Youth convicted multiple times and either released from state or county supervision or under minimal supervision and considered at continued risk to re-offend
2. Youth arrested for crimes that do not meet the juvenile detention criteria and released back into the community
3. Middle school youth at risk of multiple suspensions or chronic truancy
4. Youth and their associates who are victims of violence and may seek retaliation
5. Gang-involved youth

Seattle Initiative

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

- A blend of multiple strategies
 - Community organization
 - Strategic law enforcement
 - Provision of social services and employment opportunities
- Annual budget of \$5.3 million



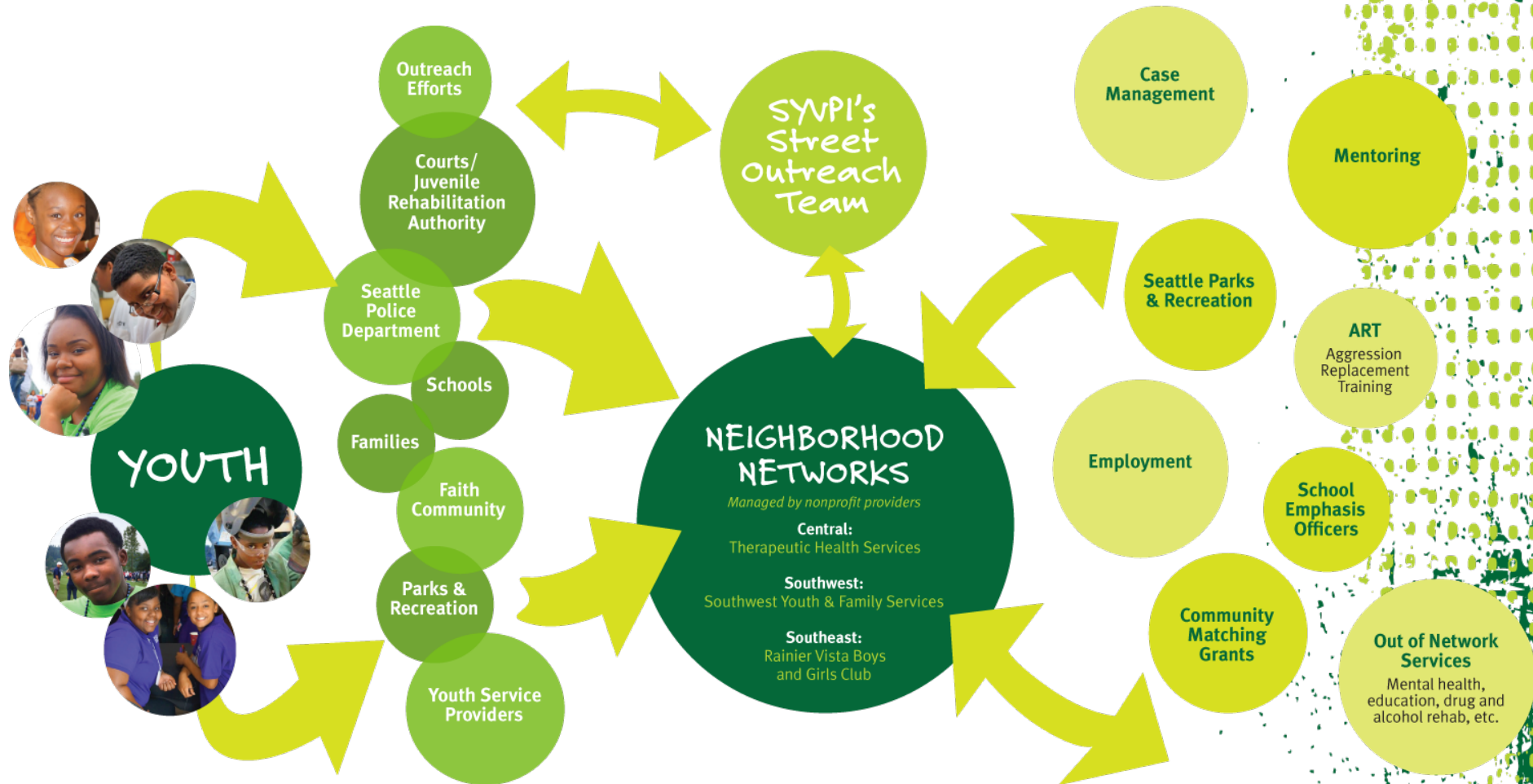
SYVPI Organizational Structure

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative



The Pathway Through The Network

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative



Network Coordination

- Establish neighborhood-based partnerships that support youth violence prevention
- Leverage additional “out-of-network” resources for Initiative youth
- Mobilize Neighborhood Action Teams and community to support SYVPI goals
- Manage community grant and youth development projects



Intake and Referral

- Receive referrals to the Initiative and conduct needs assessment with youth and referring person or agency
- Determine the best services for youth and make the service referral
- Enter all information in SYVPI database
- Monitor ongoing engagement of youth in pro-social activities

Case Management

- Emphasis on serving youth with multiple issues who are not receiving case management services from other sources
- Build one-on-one relationship with youth
- Co-develop individual service plan
- Help youth stay on track

Street Outreach

- Strategic engagement
 - Reach out to youth, build trusting relationships, mediate/de-escalate conflicts, bridge to SYVPI and other resources
 - Advocate for youth and help youth understand that he or she must be accountable for negative behavior
- Critical Incident Response
 - Respond to major incidents such as shootings
 - Mediate/de-escalate youth in conflicts at strategic areas such as hospitals, courthouse, schools or hotspots
- Preventing violence at major events

School Emphasis Officers

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

- Conflict resolution and mediation
- GREAT training
- Home visits
- Referrals to the Initiative
- Build police–community relations



Parks & Recreation

- Youth Career Training Program
- Arts
- Late Night/Extended Hours Programming
- Evidence-based programs

Other SYVPI services

- Youth employment and internships
- Mentoring
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Community Matching Grant projects

Current Status

- 1,300+ youth enrolled (capacity for 1500)
- 300+ youth case-managed
- 300+ youth in internships, employment services and community service each year
- 400+ youth participate in recreation programs
- 100+ youth matched with mentors

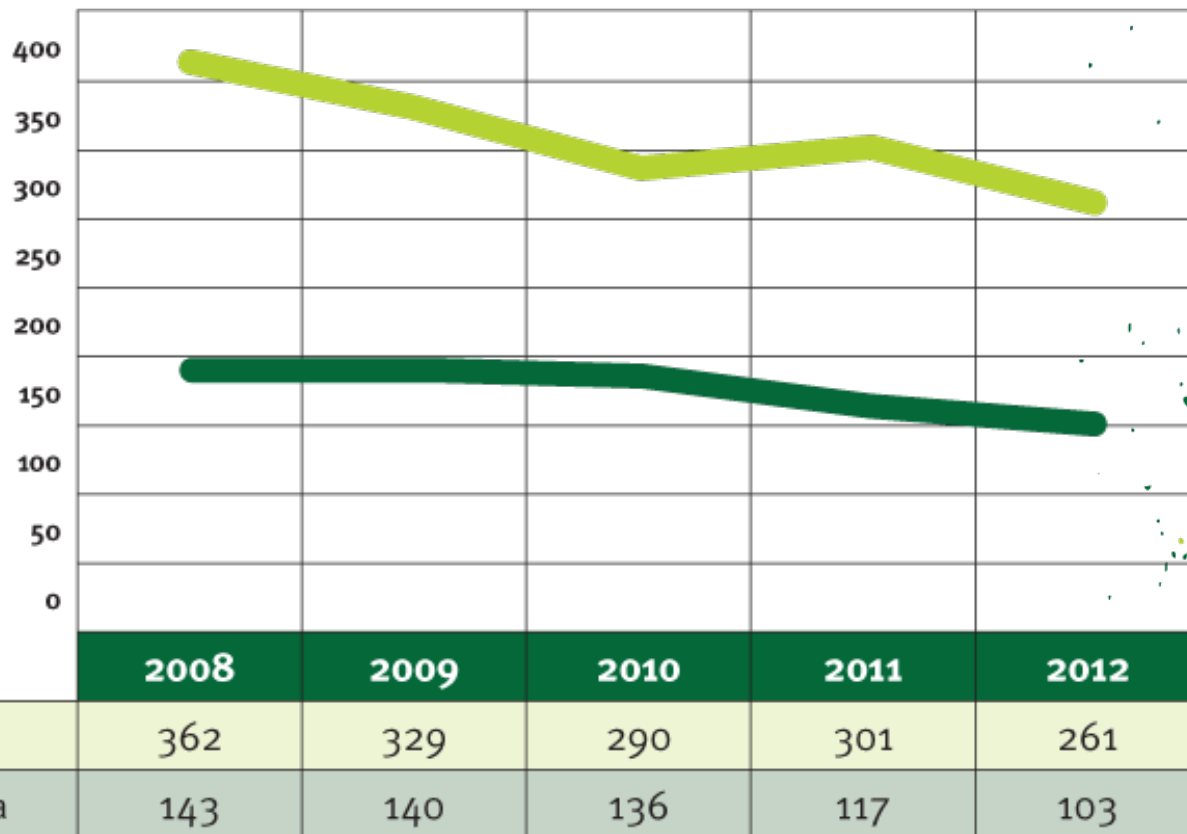
What makes these partnerships successful

- Networks and service providers are jointly responsible for youth outcomes
- Intentional collaboration
- Networks leverage community resources
- Shared data among all parties
- Course corrections

Evaluation: Success by the numbers

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

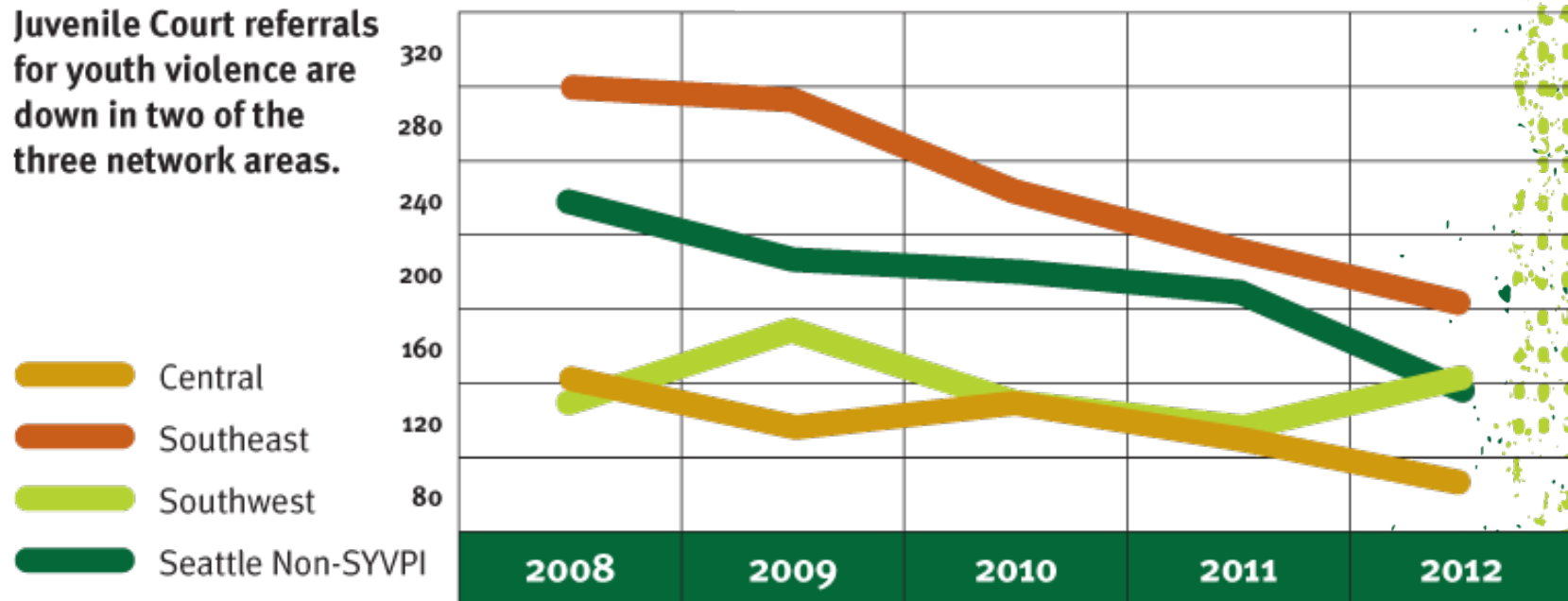
In SYVPI-served neighborhoods, arrests for youth violence are declining at the same rate (28%) as even the city's safest neighborhoods.



Evaluation: Success by the numbers

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

Juvenile Court referrals
for youth violence are
down in two of the
three network areas.

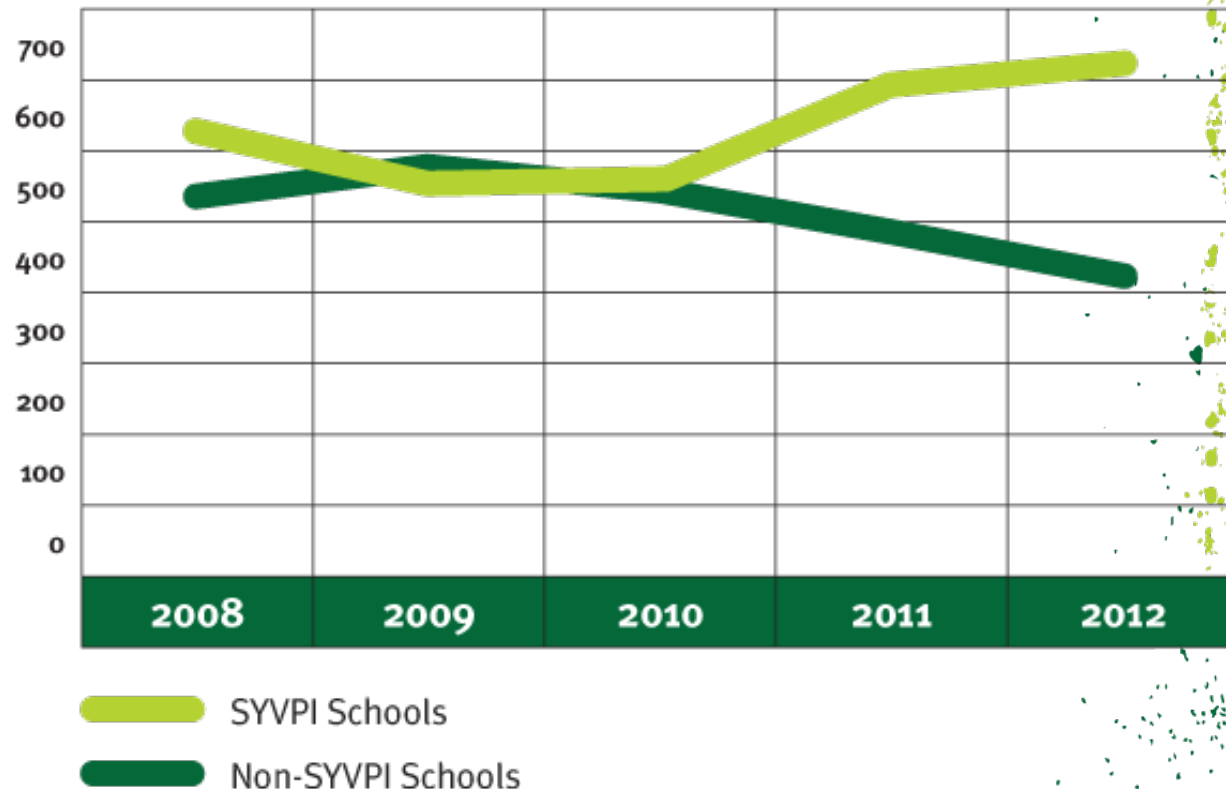


Evaluation: Success by the numbers

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

Reducing middle school disciplinary actions for violence remains challenging.

The Seattle School District is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education for disproportionately disciplining students of color. We look forward to working with the City Auditor's Office to determine if this goal appropriately measures our impact.



Evaluation Moving Forward

- Partnership with UW School of Social Work and School of Medicine/Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy to conduct developmental evaluation
- Developed risk assessment tool to be validated
- Office of the Auditor is completing SYVPI and Street Outreach evaluability assessments and SEO evaluation

Applying a Developmental Evaluation Framework

Developmental Evaluation (DE)

- Comprehensive and sustainable approach to evaluation.
- Priority given to service quality and continuous quality improvement; data-driven decision-making.

Background on DE

- Complex systems like SYVPI are notoriously hard to evaluate:
 - organizational structure (extensive service system with multiple components, localized programs) does not conform to traditional group-based designs.
 - change within the system is constant (e.g., programs change, service plans are recalibrated, providers leave and others join, etc.), thus making evaluation of static variables nearly impossible.
 - very hard to test and show program impacts in the ways the field has traditionally recognized.

What is DE?

- Alternative to traditional, group-based models of evaluation; suited to complex, highly dynamic environments (systems).
- Embedded within Collective Impact (cross-sector collaboration) where systems refinement through inquiry-driven methods are essential:
 - nimble and adapts to real world contexts; attends to changes that are unpredictable and endemic to large-scale innovation.

- DE embraces complexity; supports the evaluation and refinement of interventions:
 - explore and respond to emergent needs; generate and feed information back into the system to drive inquiry and innovation.
 - layered questioning and incremental knowledge-building.
 - questions are not pre-determined, nor are they fixed once they are first offered.
 - rigor is reflected in the processes of questioning and refinement that follows.

DE in the Context of SYVPI

- Has helped to develop and shape the implementation of a risk assessment tool; guide refinements in the tool and the ways it is used.
- Early conversations about data use and alignment of services across the system (logic modeling).
- Emerging ideas about collective impact (community-level) effects.

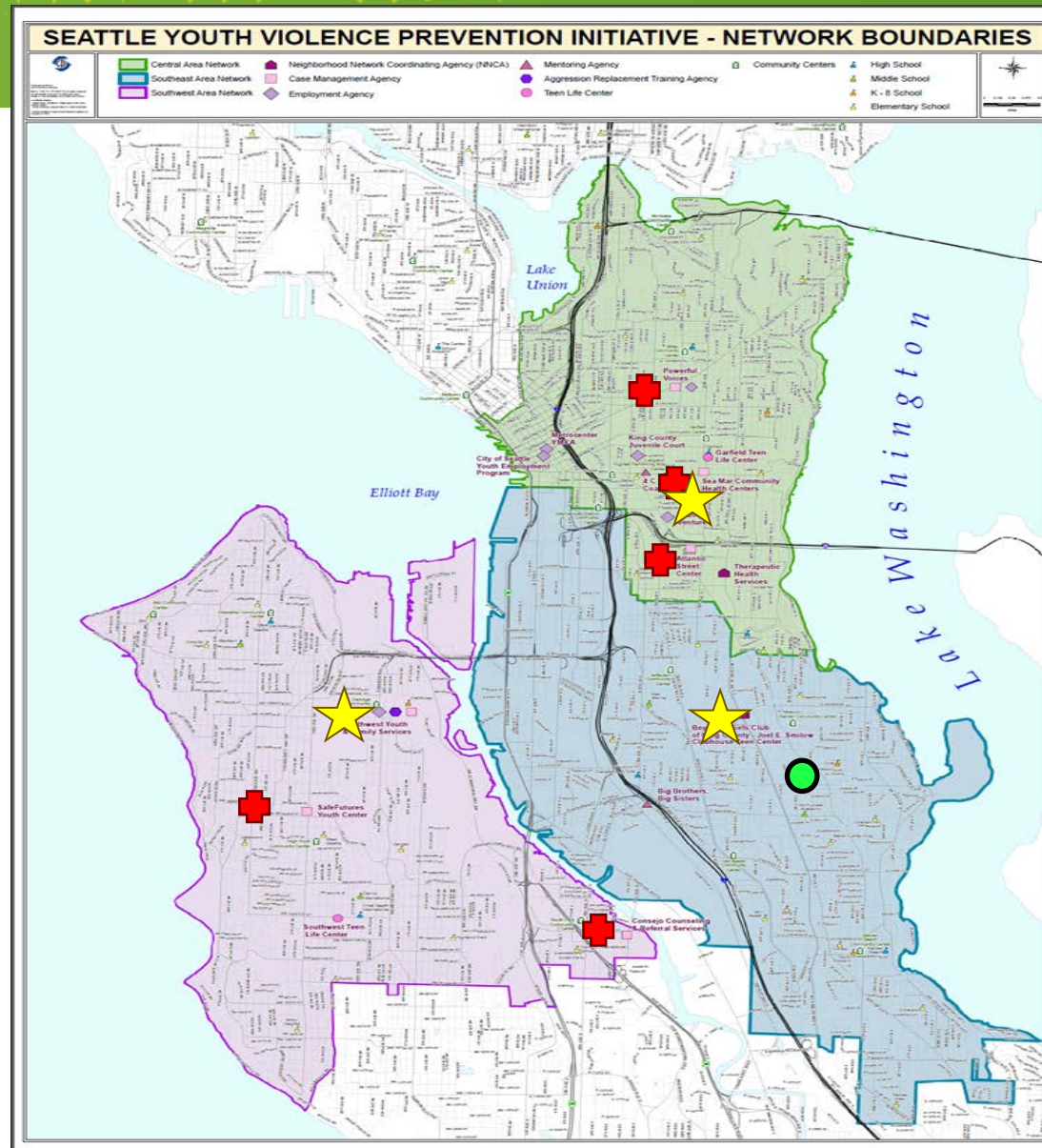
Results and Implications of Evaluation for SYVPI

Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

1 Street Outreach group

- Drafted interview questions (semi-structured process)
- Consent
- Intentional around reasons for conducting interviews

- How are you currently using the tool in the work you're doing with youth?
- What do you believe is the purpose of the tool?
- What items are/are not helpful?
- Do you feel like all staff are using the tool in the same way?



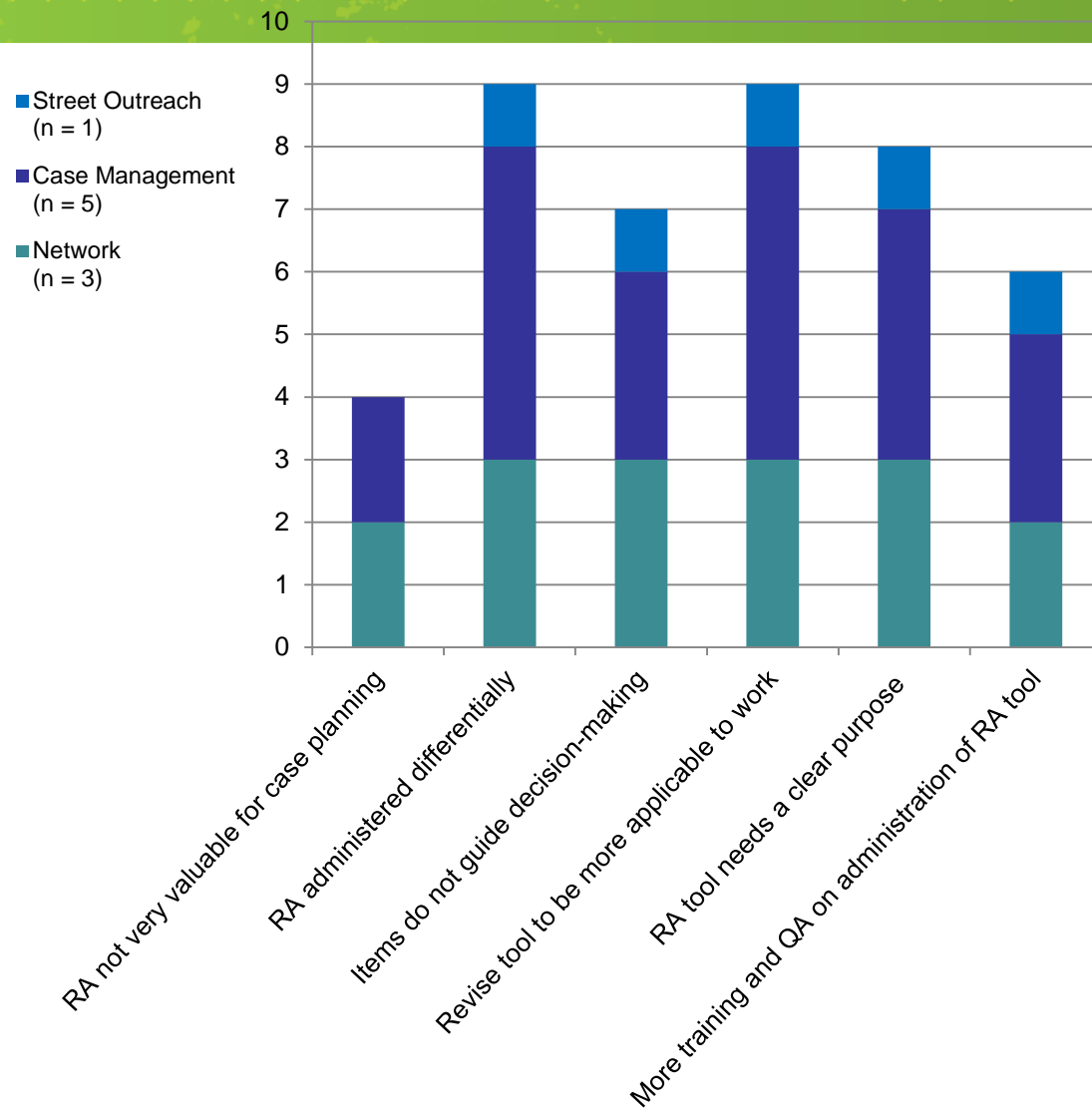
Interpreting Results

Interview Coding

- What feedback can we use for tool improvement?
- What should we do with this information now that we have it?

1. Risk Assessment Tool & Case Planning
2. How the Risk Assessment Tool is Being Administered
3. Perceptions of the Risk Assessment Tool
4. Database Specific
5. Overall Initiative Related Feedback
6. Improvement Suggestions for Moving Forward

Findings Support Moving Forward with a DE Approach



Current Challenges:

“We’re okay with doing the tool but because the purpose isn’t clear, it’s basically just telling us what we already know”

“Some items are really hard to get answers for because we don’t have a relationship with the youth yet”

Hope for the Future:

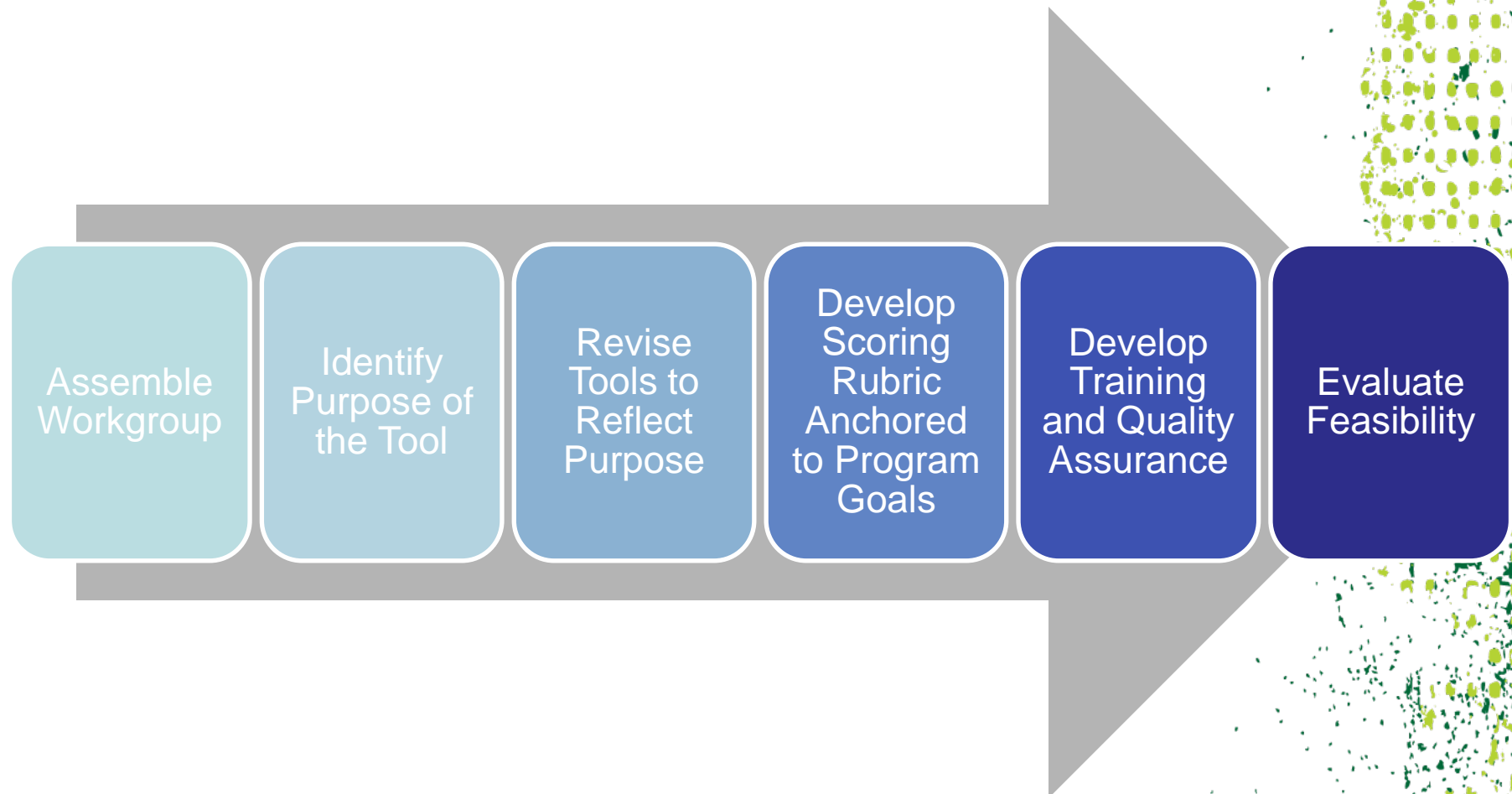
“The risk assessment COULD be helpful if it had a clear purpose and goals associated with it”

“Having a standardized way of using the tool across networks and agencies would be really helpful”

“Current items are good for case planning but not for assessing risk”

A Revised SOW to Focus on Tool Development

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative



Outcomes So Far . . .

- Consensus on the purpose of the tool
- Revised baseline
- New youth self report
- Manual
- Quality assurance consultant hired
 - Develop fidelity tools
 - Trainings on implementation
 - Consultation/support for direct service

YOUTH CHECK-IN

SYVPI #: _____

DIRECTIONS:
For each question, check or
circle the answer that best
describes you. Please choose
only ONE answer.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ AGE: _____

In the last 6 months, have you:
Graduated high school/GED? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Dropped out of school? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If "Yes," skip to question
number 6

What were your grades like in the last 6 months?

- ☐ Mostly A's / B's (gpa = 2.7 - 4.0)
☐ Mostly C's (gpa = 2.3 - 1.7)
☐ Mostly D's (gpa = 1.3 - 1.0)
☐ Failed most classes (gpa = 0, letter grade E)

What was your attendance like in the last 6 months?

- ☐ I had no missed days
☐ I missed fewer than 5 days
☐ I missed 5-8 days
☐ I missed 9-17 days
☐ I missed 18 or more days

Have you had any suspensions in the last 6 months
(including in- and out-of-school suspensions)?

None 1-2 3 or more

Have you been expelled from school in the last 6
months?

YES NO

Do you believe getting an education is important?

Not at all Somewhat Very much

In the last 6 months have you (check all that apply to you):

- ☐ Had a job?
☐ Gotten job training or an internship?
☐ Been fired from or quit a job / internship?
☐ This question does not apply to me

Where are you living right now?

- ☐ With parents or relatives
☐ With foster parents or in a group home
☐ With friends
☐ On the street or in a shelter

Has your living situation changed in the last 6 months?

YES NO

The adults in my home or living situation care about me.

- ☐ Very much ☐ Not really
☐ A little ☐ Not at all

I feel safe where I am living right now.

- ☐ Very much ☐ Not really
☐ A little ☐ Not at all



PAGE 1

Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

SEATTLE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

SYVPI #: _____

The adults where I live mostly know where I am when I go out.

- ☐ Very much ☐ Not really
☐ A little ☐ Not at all

Think about the 4 friends or peers you spend the most
time with. In the last 6 months, how many:

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Are high school aged or younger? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. Have been involved in after school activities? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. Not been in a gang? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| d. Have gone to school regularly? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| e. Have NOT been arrested? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| f. Have been suspended/expelled from school? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| g. Have used alcohol/drugs more than once? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| h. Have carried a handgun? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Are you in a gang, set, or crew?

YES NO

In the last 6 months, how often have you used alcohol or
illegal drugs (including prescriptions drugs that weren't yours
OR marijuana)?

- ☐ None
☐ Less than 6 times
☐ About once a month
☐ About once a week
☐ About once a day

Do you feel like it is okay to use physical violence to solve a
problem or get what you want?

- ☐ Never ☐ Most of the time
☐ Sometimes ☐ Always

In the last 6 months, how many times have you been
arrested?

None Once Twice (or more)

How many of these arrests were for a violent offense?

- ☐ None
☐ 1
☐ 2 or more
☐ This question does not apply to me

Were you placed on probation for any of these arrests?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ This question does not apply to me

Have you been in any situations where you feared for
your life or own safety?

YES NO

How well do the following statements describe you?

- | | Not at all | Sometimes | A lot | All the time |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| a. Feel like hurting others? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. Feel like hurting yourself? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. Feel sad, unhappy? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. Worry a lot? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

We would like to hear a little more about how you
are doing. Can you tell us about how you are moving
toward your goals? Describe any positive and/or
challenging experiences you've had in the last 6 months.



Staff Notes: _____

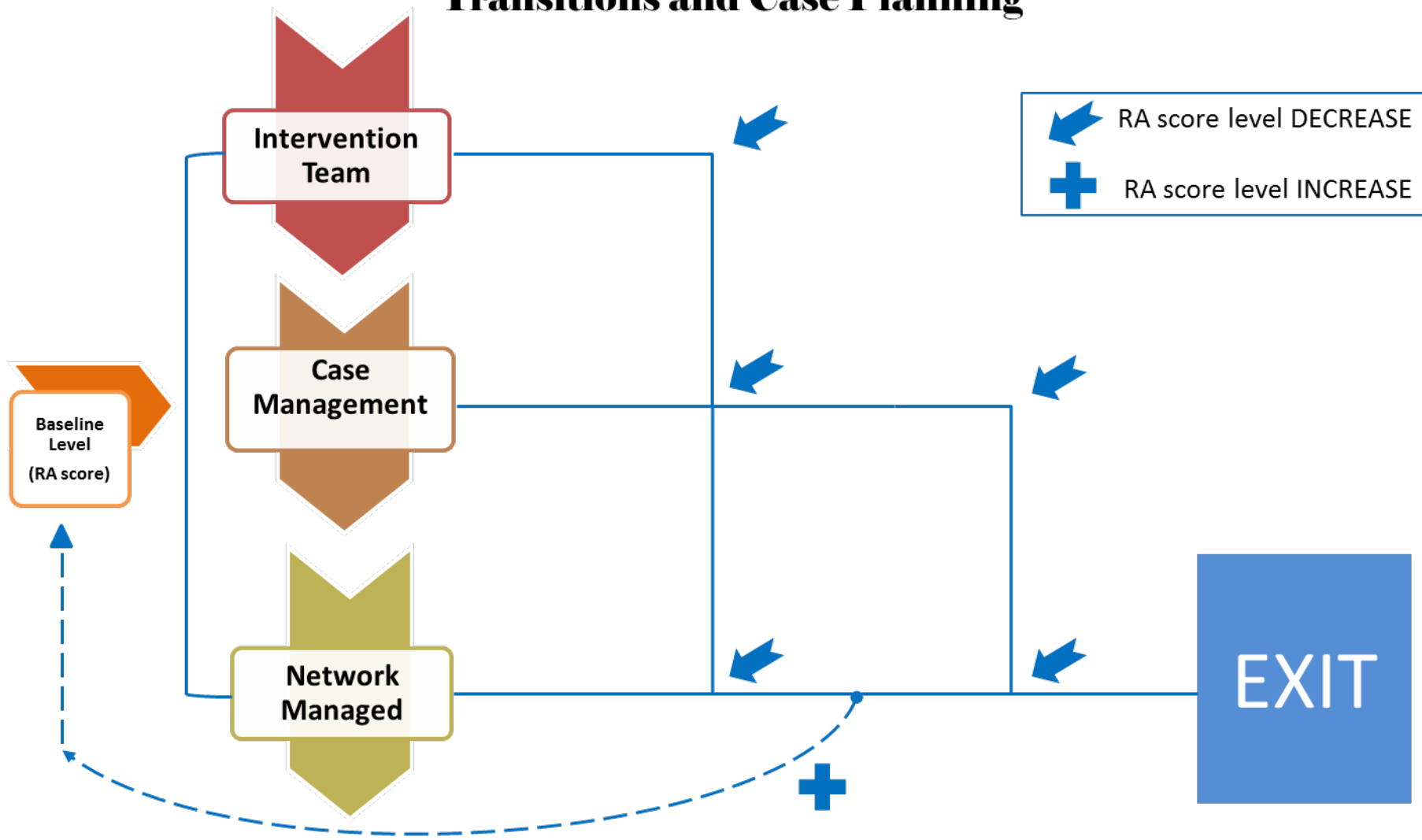
PAGE 2

Engagement

Intervention

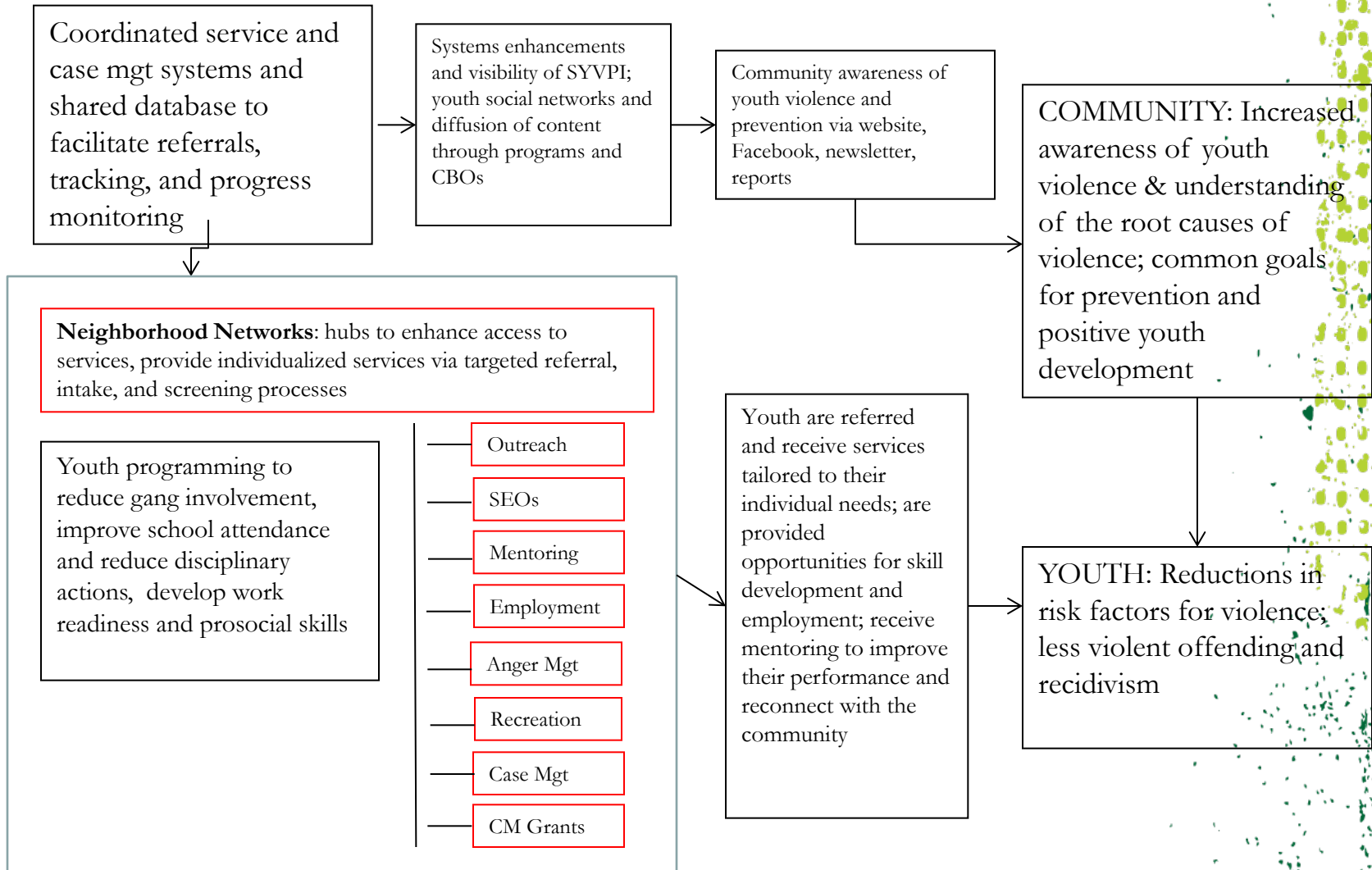
Transition to Exit

Decision Structure: Transitions and Case Planning



Youth and Community Level Impacts of Services & Programs

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative



For more information:

Seattle
Youth Violence
Prevention
Initiative

www.safeyouthseattle.org

