



San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

Objectives of Juvenile Justice System

1

Reduce the number of youth who enter the juvenile justice system

2

Encourage rehabilitation by addressing underlying cause of unsafe behaviors leading to juvenile justice involvement

3

Engage community and stakeholders in rehabilitation and reintegration process

4

Ensure youth are fully thriving in their communities

DA and Juvenile Justice System

District Attorney mandated by law to review ALL felony charges submitted by law enforcement

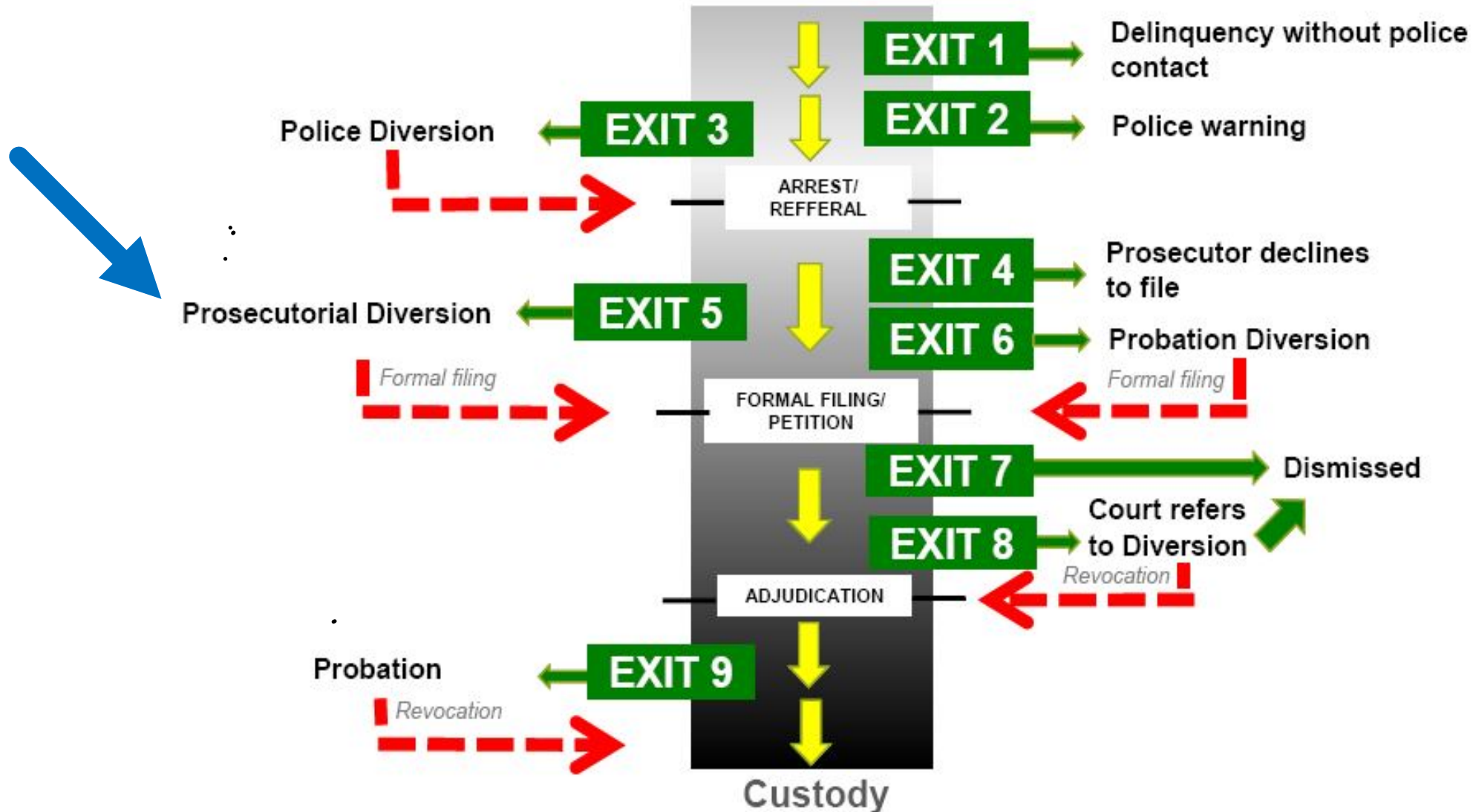
▶ Existing System

- ▶ Police refer cases to our office for possible filing of charges
- ▶ Review the cases
- ▶ File a case in juvenile court

▶ New System

- ▶ Police refer cases to our office for possible filing of charges
- ▶ Review the cases
- ▶ Offer Pre-File Diversion Program
- ▶ Successful completion, close case and seal arrest record

Pathways out of the Juvenile Justice System



Objectives of DA Juvenile Diversion Initiative (DA-JDI)

- ▶ **Reduce the number of youth entering Juvenile Justice System – (Pre-file)**
 - ▶ Youth never touch the juvenile justice system
- ▶ **Contract with community to offer service and support to youth and family**
 - ▶ Youth receive a case plan
 - ▶ Youth referred to a community organization for services
- ▶ **Address and repair harm to victim and community through restorative principles and practices**
 - ▶ Youth receive a validated assessment to identify their underlying needs and participate through restorative justice continuum
- ▶ **Reduce recidivism**
 - ▶ Upon successful completion of case plan, case is never filed and the arrest record is sealed

Criteria for Referral to DA Juvenile Diversion Initiative

Eligibility

- ▶ All cases and any offense in or out of custody **except:**
 - ▶ WIC 707(b) offenses
 - ▶ Minor is currently on Probation
 - ▶ Sexual Assault
 - ▶ Transportation or sales of a controlled substance
 - ▶ Human Smuggling/Human Trafficking
 - ▶ School threats or threats of domestic terrorism
 - ▶ Use of force against a peace officer causing injury
 - ▶ Not a threat to themselves or others
 - ▶ Cases where the best interest of the victim or justice would not be served



Example of Eligible Felony Charges

JDI Principles

- ▶ 1. Involvement with the criminal justice system and/or detainment should be the last resort
- ▶ 2. All youth have the capacity to change and grow from their mistakes.
- ▶ 3. Service delivery, support systems, and resource networks should be youth centered, strength based, and engage community and family throughout the process.
- ▶ 4. Providing resources and opportunities for youth's family within restoration/reintegration processes are critical to sustainable and lifelong transformation.
- ▶ 5. Culturally relevant support systems are essential to establishing safe and thriving environments for youth.
- ▶ 6. Grassroots and community- based organizations will driving youth restoration and reintegration processes.
- ▶ 7. Evidence-based data and innovative approaches will guide program decisions.

Program Administrator Provider

Community Liaison



Sustainable Networks and Reintegration

Will reintegrate and sustain youth with community networks throughout and after program completion for case plan



Community Building/Training and Collaboratives

Will expand and promote Restorative Justice outside referrals and cases



Counseling/Clinical Support

Contracting with individual and family support services from community



Skill Building

Will connect with organizations that offer youth life long skill building opportunities



Internship/Employment

Will provide opportunities for community and youth to participate in JDI program.



Youth Centered Programs

Will connect with organizations that are youth focused for engagement and relevancy



Community Engagement

Services are in the community where youth live

Services meet the needs of participants and reflect ethnic, gender, cultural, linguistic, economic, refugee and immigrant attributes of the communities served

Community is engaged in the restorative process with the youth

Utilize providers who are currently embedded in the various neighborhoods

Services for the Youth

Individual
Based
treatment

Family Based
treatment

One on one
Mentoring

Skill Building

Cognitive
Behavioral
Therapy (CBT)

Substance
Use
treatment

Educational
Advocate

DA-JDI Restorative Justice

Reconciliation



Restoration



Reintegration



Community Engagement

DA-JDI Outcome and Performance

- ▶ Reduced recidivism for program participants (6 months and 1 year)
- ▶ Reduction in number of cases prosecute
- ▶ Race and social equity
- ▶ Program efficacy



San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

► DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMER STEPHAN

San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative



Objective of DA Diversion Initiative



Reduce youth involvement in the Juvenile Justice System by identifying root causes of delinquent behavior



Utilize community to be a part of the rehabilitative and reintegration process



Ensure youth are fully thriving in their communities

District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

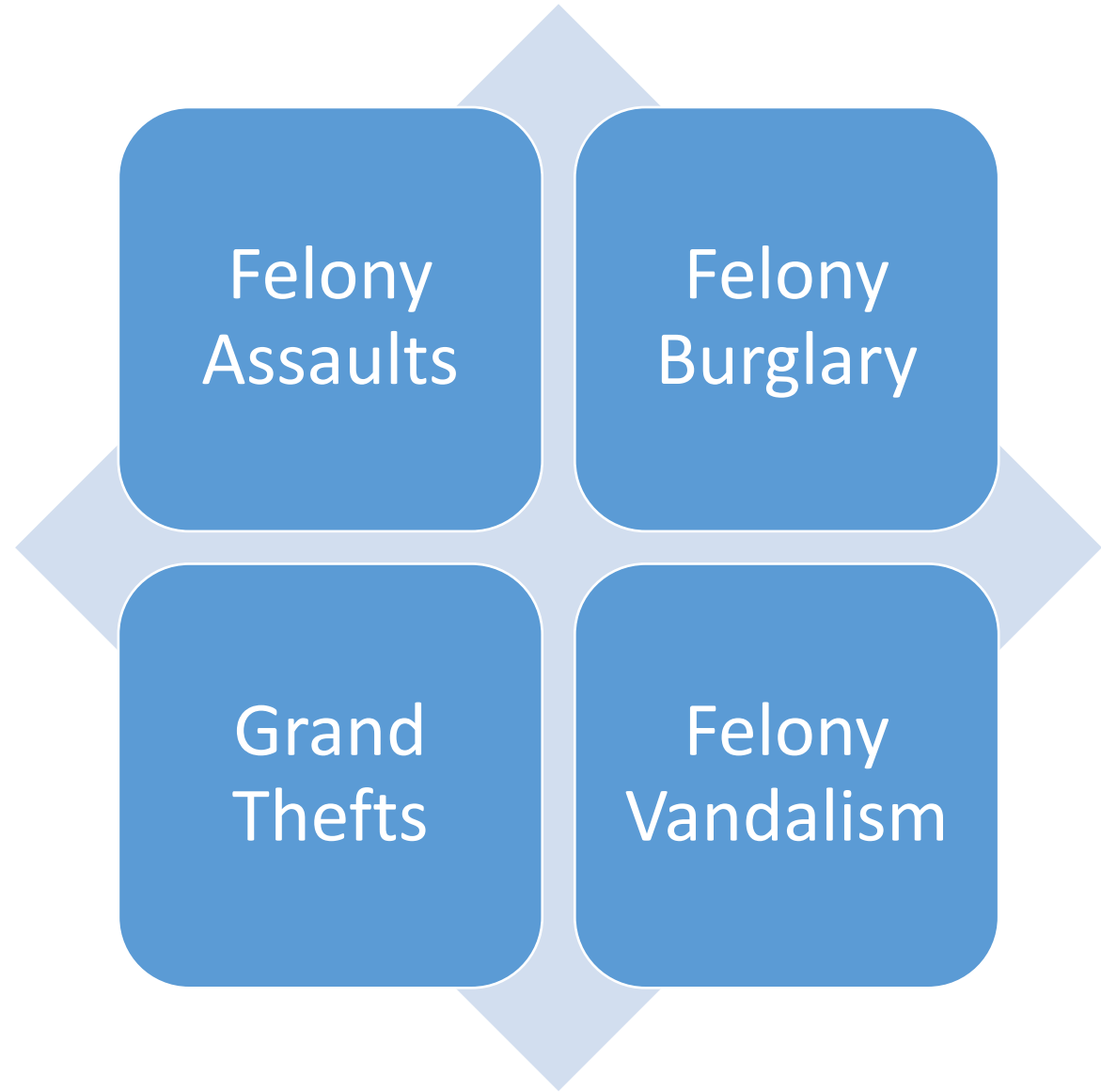
Review all misdemeanors and lower level felony offenses for DA Diversion prior to charges being filed

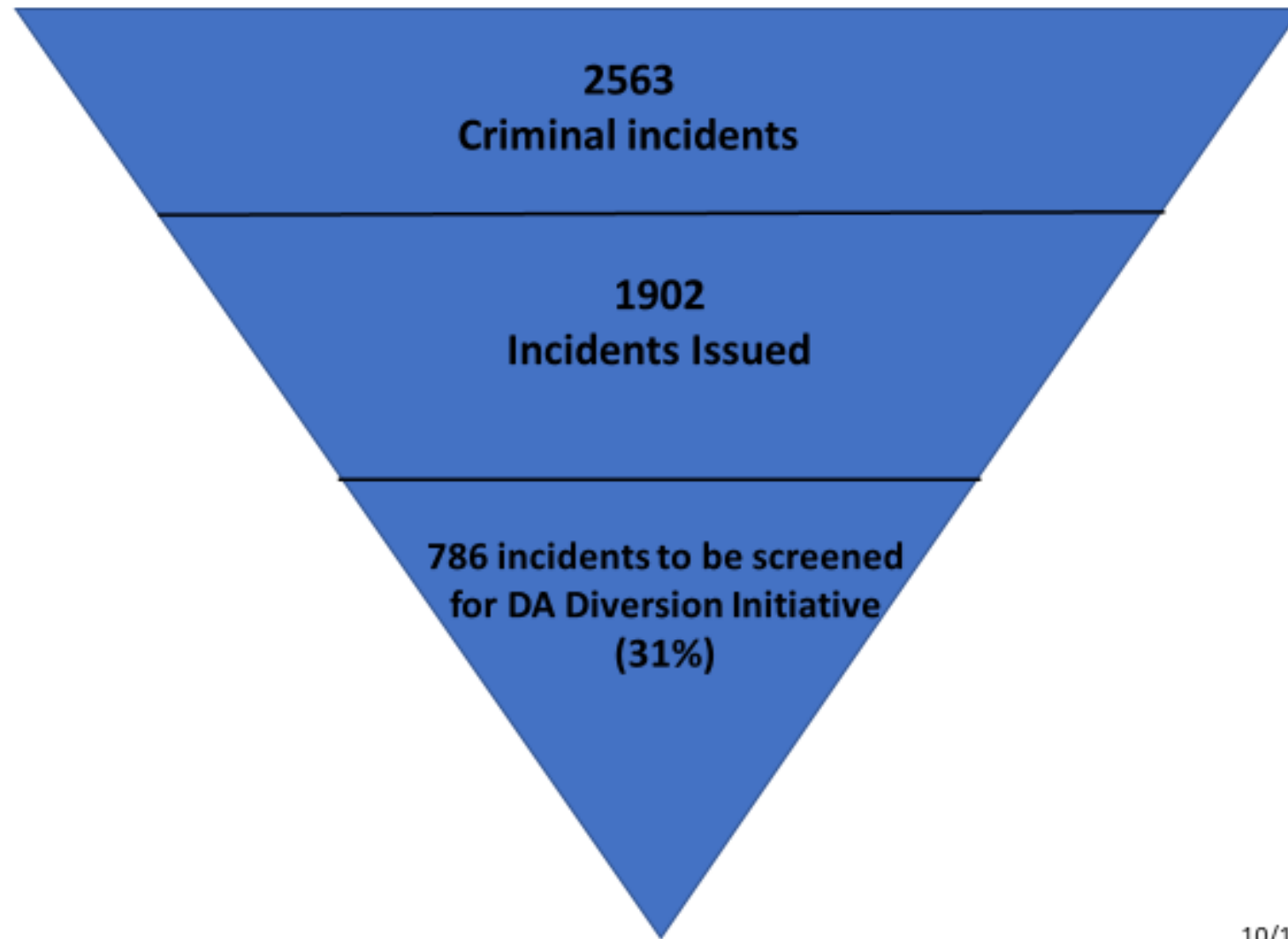
Refer to a community provider to provide services to address underlying needs

Address victims concerns through restorative justice and restitution

Upon successful completion of diversion, close case and have arrest sealed

Example of Eligible Felony Charges





10/1/18- 10/1/19

Juvenile Health & Justice Symposium

*Mapping the Intersection of
Youth and the Juvenile Justice System*



District Attorney Summer Stephan,
Chairperson Greg Cox &
The Children's Initiative
Invite you to this Symposium



Description: This symposium brings together multiple systems of care to map the intersection of youth and the Juvenile Justice System. Our mission is to steer youth away from the Juvenile Justice System and to provide appropriate trauma informed rehabilitative services. The goals for this symposium are to understand current resources, identify gaps and needs, and prioritize our responses to develop a collaborative and effective action plan.

Date/Time/Location: **Tuesday, March 17, 2020**
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Breakfast & Lunch Provided)
Jacobs Center For Neighborhood Innovation
404 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92114

Registration Required: **Invited participants** can email Mariana Zavala at [redacted] to receive a confirmation email.
This is a free event, but pre-registration and confirmation is required.
RSVP by Friday, March 6, 2020

For more information, please contact
Elaine Bissett with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office
[redacted]



San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY



Objectives of Juvenile Justice System- Rehabilitation



To reduce youth involvement in the Juvenile Justice System by utilizing restorative justice principles



Utilize community to be a part of the rehabilitation and reintegration process



Ensure youth are fully thriving in their communities

DA and Juvenile Justice System

District Attorney mandated by law to review ALL felony crimes

Existing System

- ▶ Charge crime and issue case
- ▶ Reject based on evidence and ability to prove beyond a reasonable doubt

New System

- ▶ Charge crime and issue case
- ▶ Reject based on evidence and ability to prove beyond a reasonable doubt
- ▶ **Offer County wide DA Diversion**

District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

Review all misdemeanors and lower-level felony offenses for DA Diversion prior to charges being filed



Refer to a community provider to provide services to address underlying needs



Address victims concerns through restorative justice



Upon successful completion of diversion, close case and have arrest sealed

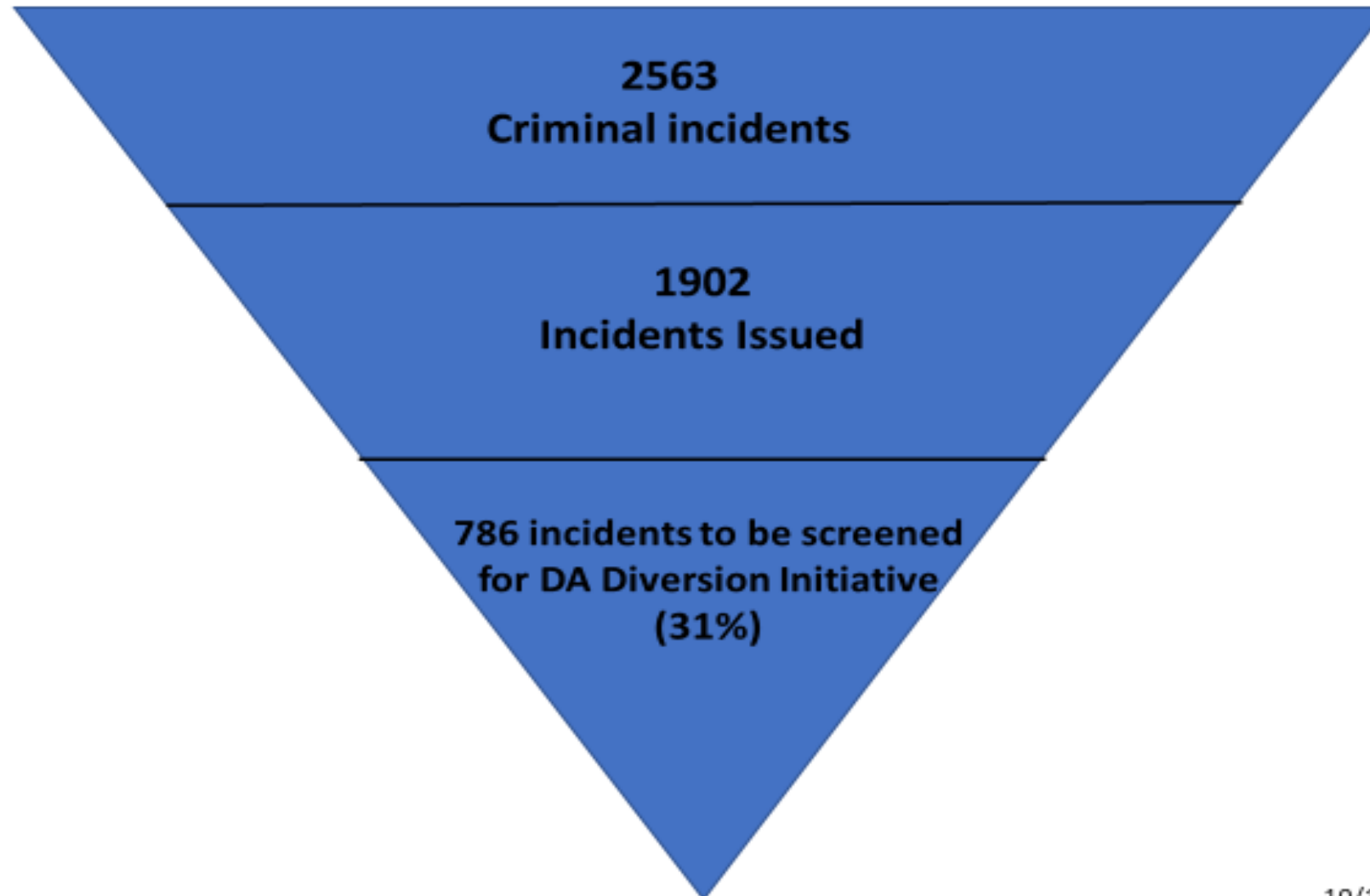
Criteria for Referral to DA Juvenile Diversion Initiative

Eligibility

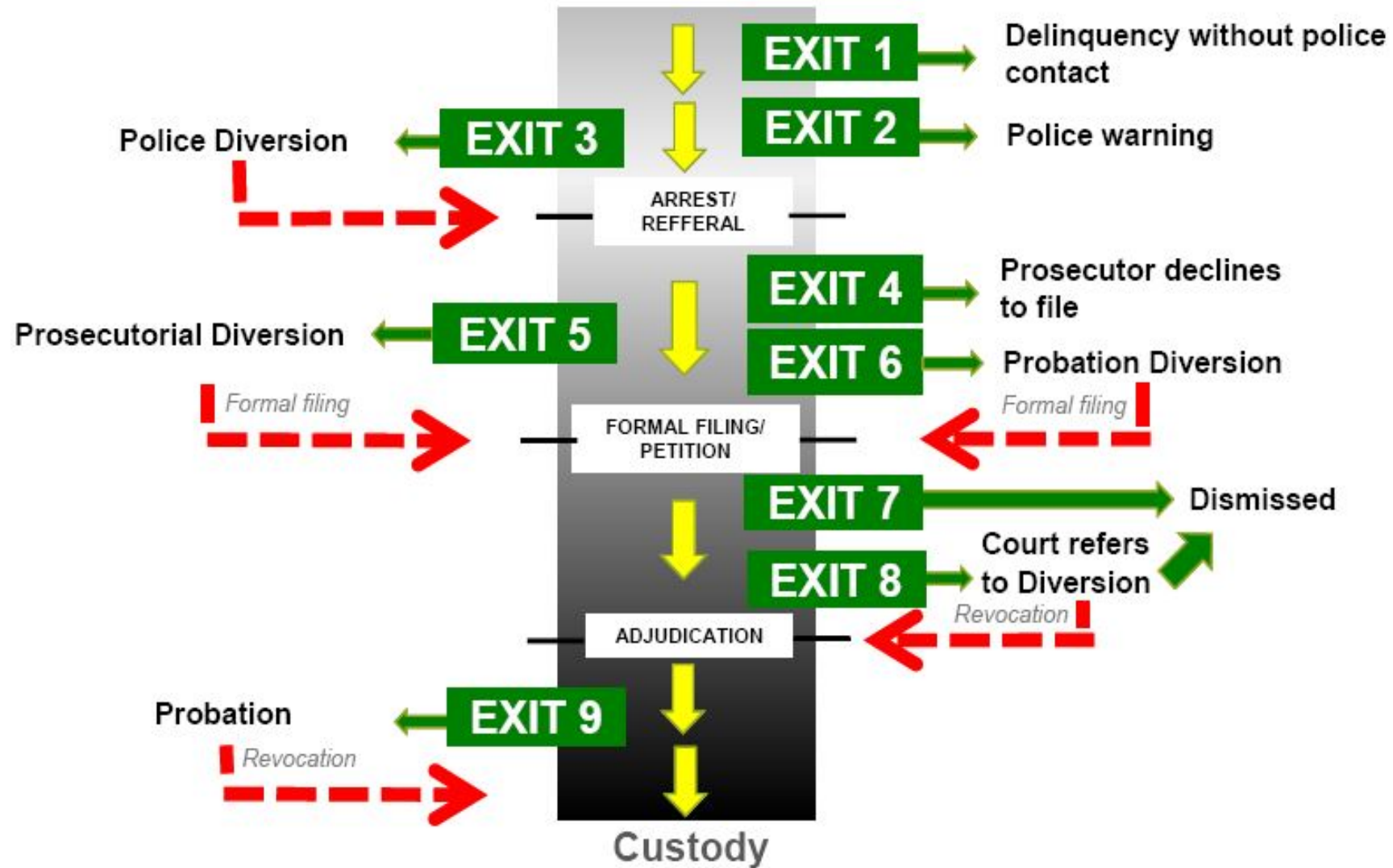
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 - ▶ WIC 707(b) offenses
 - ▶ M is currently on Probation
 - ▶ Sexual Assault
 - ▶ Transportation or sales of a controlled substance
 - ▶ Human Smuggling/Human Trafficking
 - ▶ School threats or threats of domestic terrorism
 - ▶ Use of force against a peace officer causing injury
 - ▶ Parties do not reside in the County of San Diego and therefore are unable to participate in the diversion program
 - ▶ Not a threat to themselves or others
 - ▶ Cases where the best interest of the victim or justice would not be served



Example of Eligible Felony Charges



Pathways out of the Juvenile Justice System



San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMER STEPHAN

