

CHENEY COMMUNITY COURT

A community based approach to reducing recidivism through impactful therapeutic interventions with emphasis on cognitive engagement and positive outcomes for those caught in cycles of criminal activity.

Cheney Municipal Court
Richard Leland, Presiding Judge



What is a Community Court?

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice

Repairing harm, reducing recidivism, and rebuilding wellness for individuals interfacing with the criminal justice system.

Three Prongs that promote cognitive engagement

Pay Something, Learn Something, Do Something

A model used in Cheney Municipal Court since 2008 with 75-80% success rate

Why have a Community Court?

- Brings together stakeholders
 - Victims – Offenders - Community
- Promotes accountability, citizenship
- Facilitates path to behavioral health & wellness
- Creates positive vs punitive experience
- Results in a safer community for all citizens

Community Court Stakeholders

Who are they and why are they important?

- * Elected Officials
- * City Administrative Staff
- * Law Enforcement
- * Prosecutor
- * Defense Attorney
- * Municipal Court Judge
- * Administrative Court Staff
- * Probation and Pre-Trial Services Staff
- * Community Partners

Community Partners

Food Bank
STA Bus Passes
Uber Transportation
Courage to Change
Treatment Agencies
Recycling Center
Civic Groups
Police/Fire: Traffic School

Stakeholders play an important role in community court outcomes! The system works best when each stakeholder fulfills their role. **What is your role?**

Case Flow

- * **Case Filed -** Arrest or Arraignment 1st Appearance
- * **Prosecutor Review –** Communication: Immediate reports, criminal history, identify potential for participation in community court. Prepare offer based on community court incentive and for municipal court routine process. Not for all. Least likely to succeed.
- * **Defense Attorney –** Public Defense provisional appointment, no delay, access to discovery at first appearance, review for legal challenges, share Community Court concept and offer. Share materials.
- * **Needs Assessment –** Appointments made same day or anytime in person or by phone. Priority appointment. Identifies needs like housing, food, medical, work, drivers license, and most importantly drug/alcohol and/or mental health concerns.
- * **Staffing -** Team review and recommendation. Works with attorney to **opt-in or opt-out**. Agreed Court Order (SOC). Return to Court.
- * **Frequency -** Court hearings, sessions based on individual need and identified barriers to successful living.
- * **Community Engagement -** Evaluations, Treatment, Food, Housing, Cognitive Based Education taught on-site (MRT), Traffic School, and other.

Sample Timeline

- Day 1:** Charge
- Day 2-14:** Arraignment (1st appearance)
Case Staffing
- Day 3 – 30:** Needs Assessment
Offers/Recommendations
- Day 4 – 45:** Opt-in / Opt-out

Weekly Staffing of pending charges and participant progress reviews.

Evidence based studies indicate the closer in time between the charge and resolution the better the cognitive connection between the behavior and outcome.

Progress Report

Determine the model – doing this since 2008

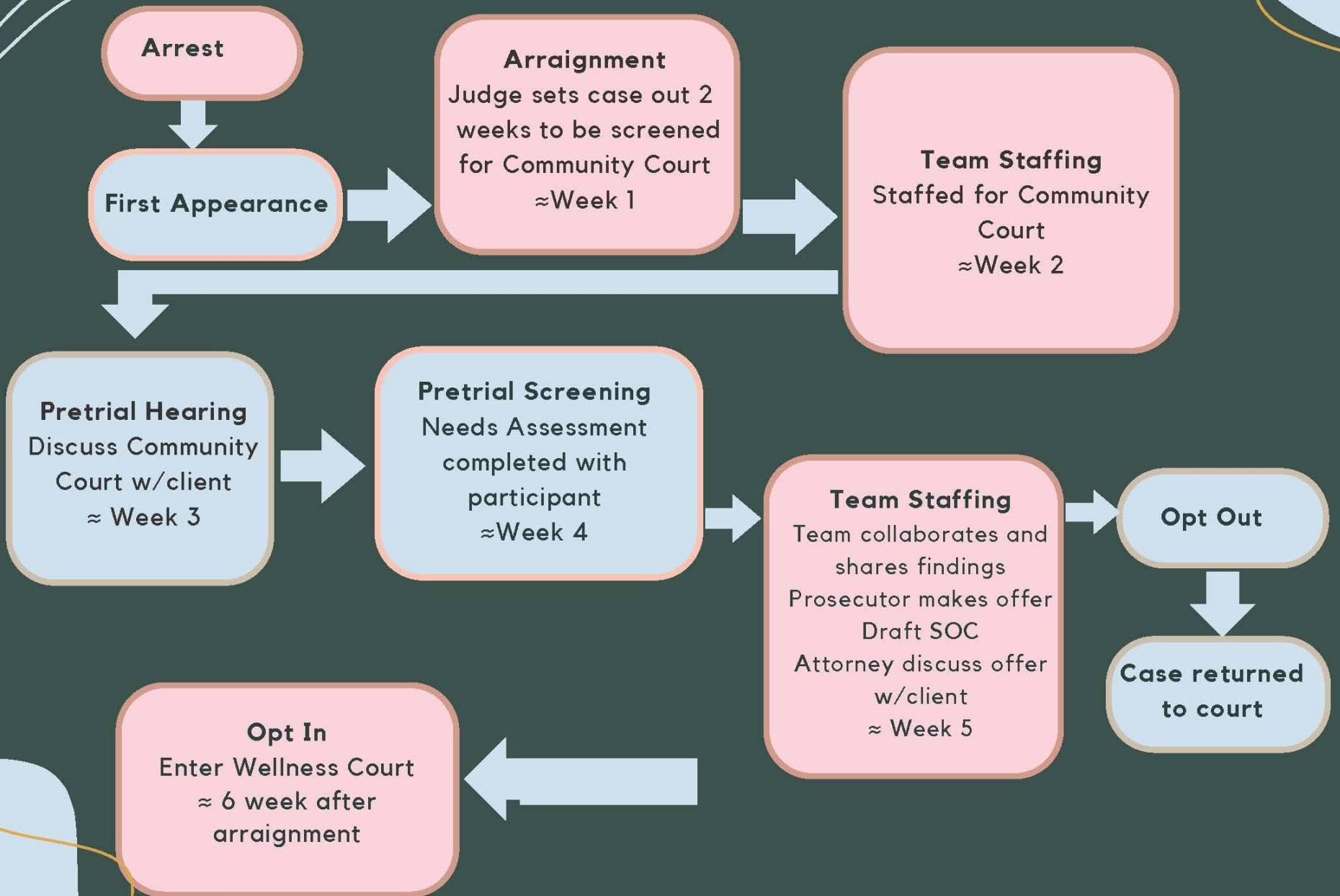
- * Created sustainable program – how are we different
 - * Informational materials
 - * Forms
 - * Processes
 - * Community Partnerships
 - * Training
 - * Team Building
 - * Educating the public, keeping stakeholders informed & engaged

Where's the money going?

Grant Funding: \$340,000

- * 3 new PC's
- * 2 Laptops
- * Text Messaging System \$2,000
- * Courtroom A/V Upgrades \$55,000
- * Document Management System \$36,000
- * 1.5 FTE Case Management/Support \$83,000
- * Food, housing, treatment, transportation, driver's licensing, drug/alc monitoring
- * Anything that falls within approved categories

REFERRAL FLOW CHART ARREST TO ENTRY



Questions and Comments?

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy, semi-transparent shapes in shades of purple, blue, and red, creating a layered, wave-like effect.