

Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network™

Emergency Strategic Clinical Network

# M.A.P.S Annual Showcase

October 24, 2018



Alberta Health  
Services

Inspiring solutions.  
Together.

Strategic Clinical  
Networks™

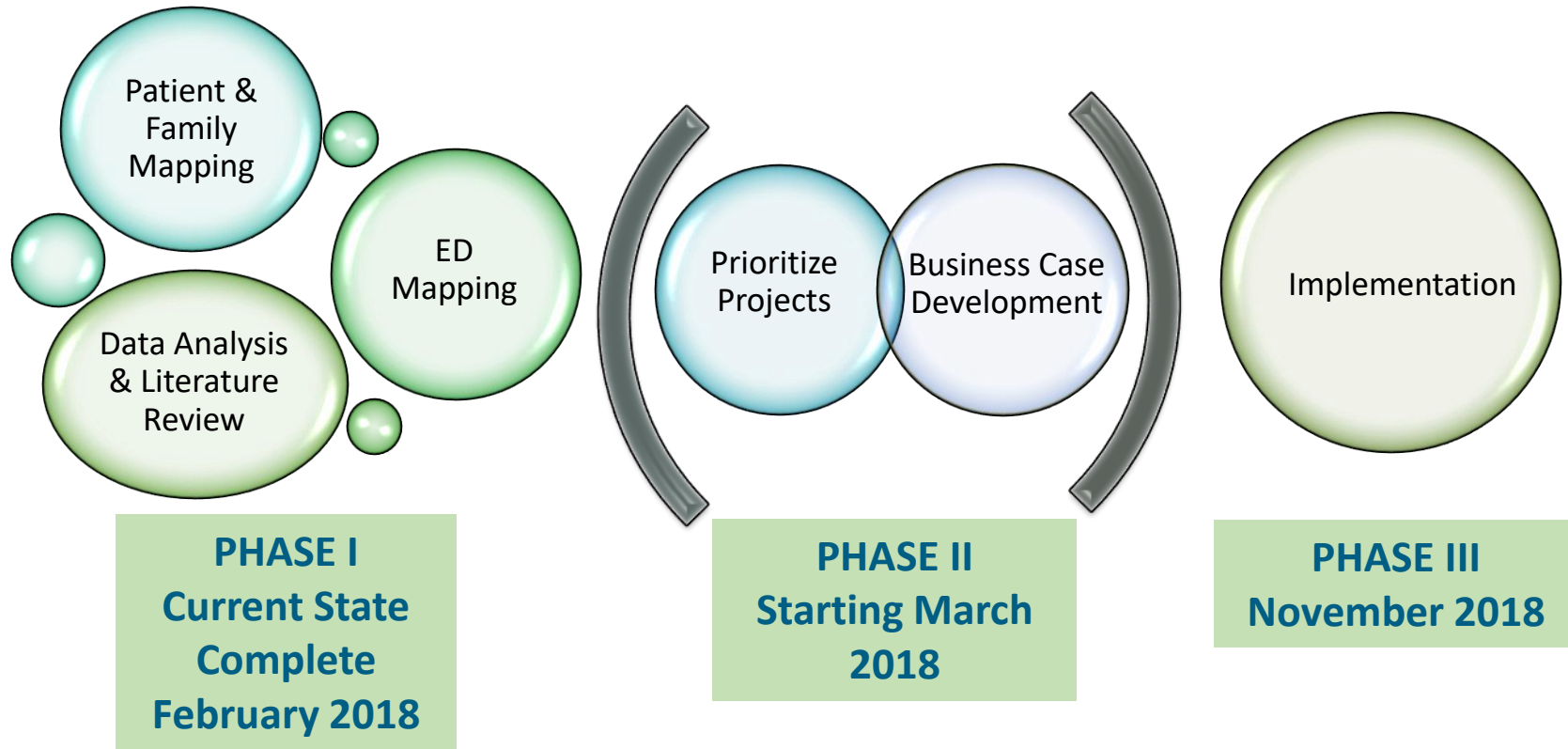
## ***Helping Kids and Youth in Times of Emotional Crisis***

- Youth presentations to the Emergency Department (ED) for AMH related concerns are increasing
- Valuing Mental Health Report identifies need to improve care at the Emergency Department
- Office of the Auditor General Report identifies concerns with Addiction & Mental Health care in emergency settings
- Patients and families express concerns with care in the emergency



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# Project Background



# Phase I: Collect the Current State

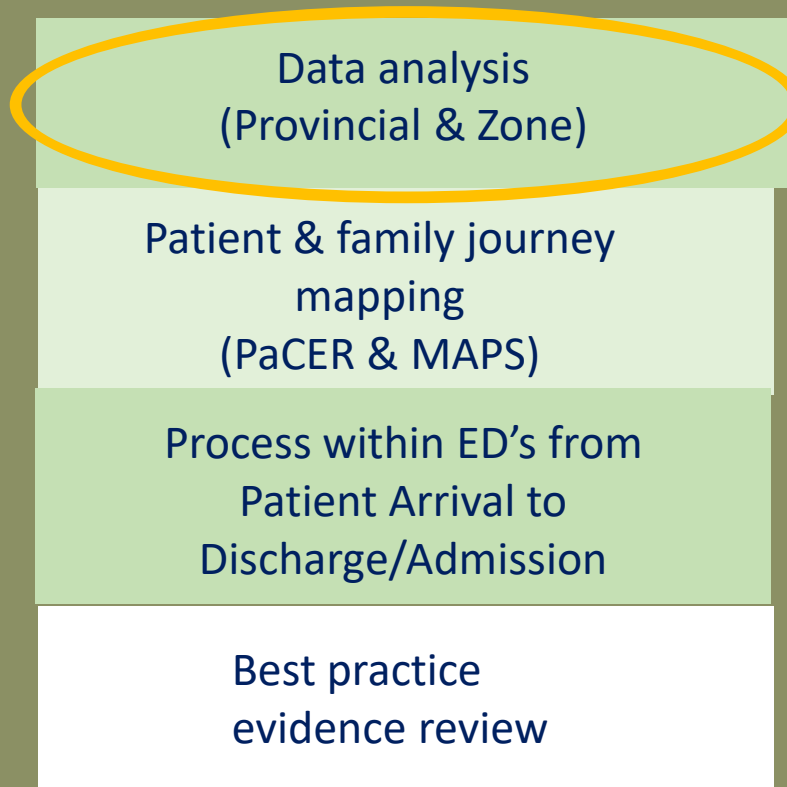
Data analysis  
(Provincial & Zone)

Patient & family journey mapping  
(Patient and Community Engagement Research – PaCER  
and MAPS Alberta Capital Region - MAPS)

Process within ED's from Patient Arrival to  
Discharge/Admission

Best practice evidence review

# Phase I: Collect the Current State



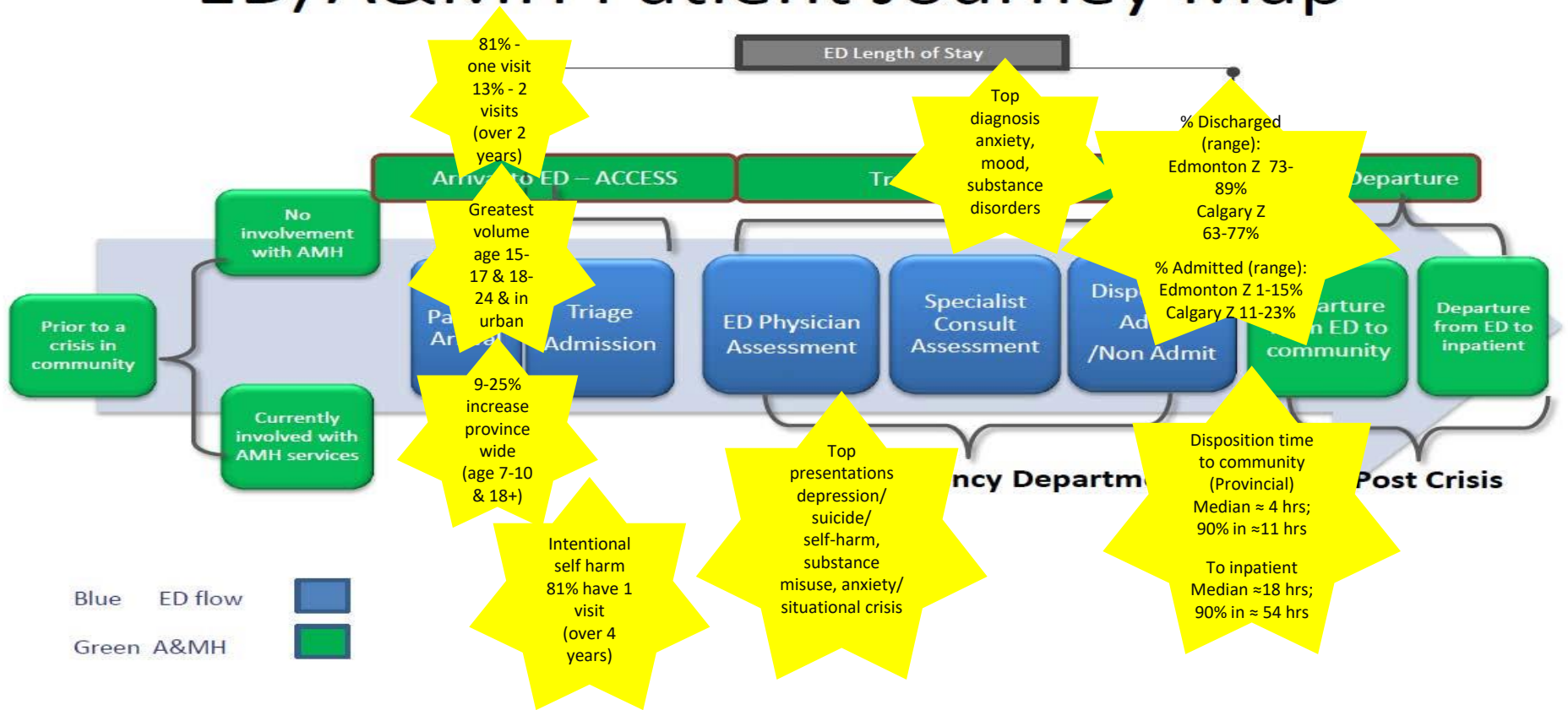
Zone and provincial level data gathered with support from AMH and ED analysts:

- Pre-crisis
- At the ED
- Post-ED visit

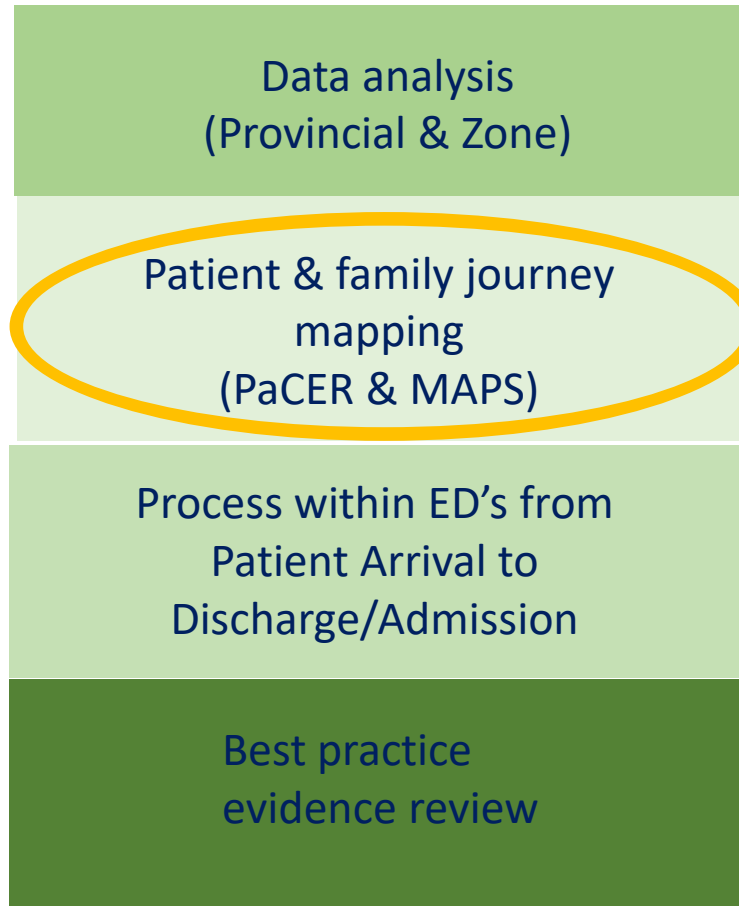
OUTCOME:

- A data report summarizing data throughout the patient's journey in the ED

# ED/A&MH Patient Journey Map



# Phase I: Collect the Current State



Youth and family experiences were gathered using:

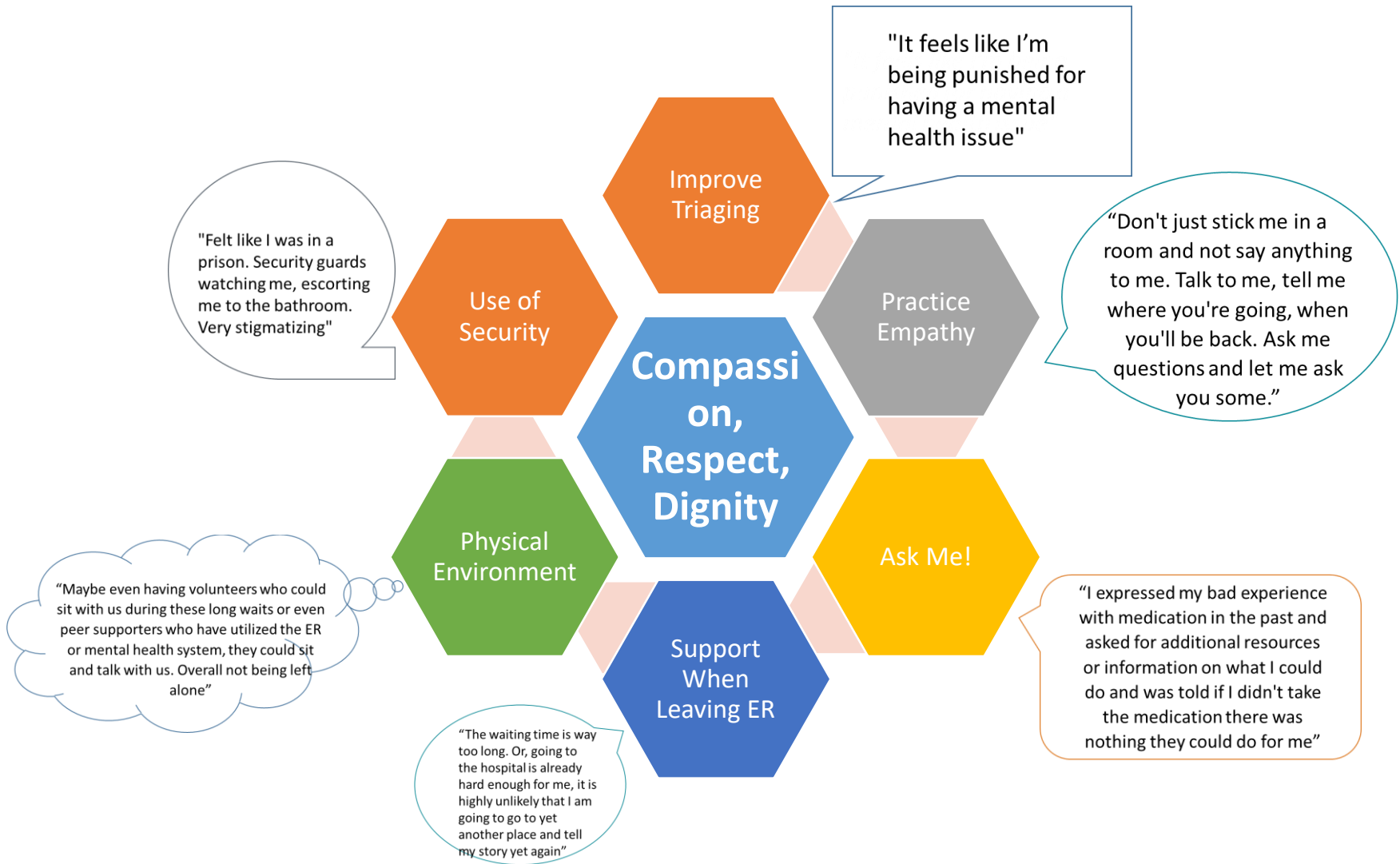
- Online Surveys
- Focus Groups
- 1:1 Interviews
- Webinars

OUTCOMES:

- A visual journey map of youth's experiences was created and validated by youth (MAPS)
- A report on family and caregiver's experiences was created (PaCER)

	Youth	Family & Caregivers
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	992	553
<b>Average Age of Child/Youth</b>	20.8	18.75
<b>Biological Sex of Child/Youth</b>	92% female 8% male	56% female 44% male
<b>Identify with a Minority Group</b>	13.2%	15%
	LGBTQ	53%
	Other	26%
	Indigenous	17%
	Physical Disability	4%
<b>Age of Child/Youth at First ER Visit</b>	16.3	14.67
<b>Geographical Location</b>		
	Calgary Zone	31%
	Edmonton Zone	34%
	Southern Alberta	13%
	Central Alberta	11%
	Northern Alberta	10%
<b>Employment with AHS</b>	N/A	67% Not with AHS 12% Nurses 12% Non-Clinical Staff 8% Clinical Staff 1% Physicians



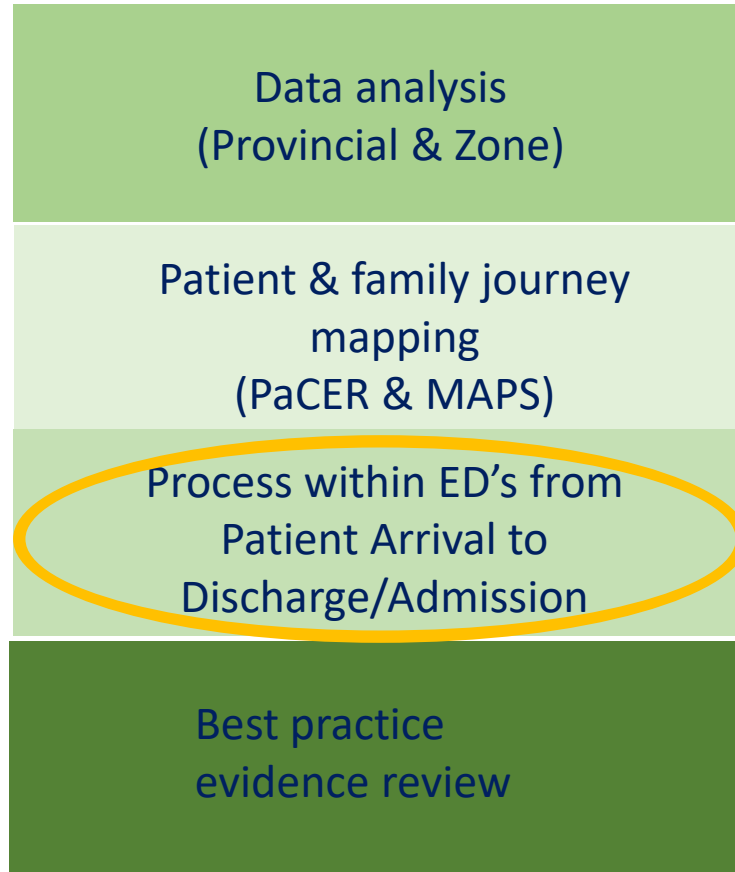


“I once had a student doctor on my case, and he was the only experience that was a) positive and b) had a solution offered. I think what made him memorable was that he spent quite a while talking to me and understanding why I was there and he didn't offer medication as a solution. Whenever he offered something, he would ask me how I felt about it. I think in the 20 or so minutes I spent with him, he asked me how I felt about what he had offered or said about 15 times.”

Overall, we heard youth say that they want:

- To be validated
- To feel safe
- To receive compassionate care
- Information
- Privacy, without seclusion
- To be taken seriously
- To help make decisions about their care

# Phase I: Collect the Current State



Process mapping done at Alberta Children's Hospital and Stollery to examine data, successes, challenges at:

- Triage
- Initial Assessment - MH/Psych Consult
- Psychiatric Consult
- Admissions/discharges
- Bed Management

OUTCOMES:

- Process maps for ACH and Stollery
- Four identified areas for improvement

# ED Mapping Results

## 1. Five areas of focus in ED – data, successes, challenges

- Triage -Initial Assessment
- Initial Assessment - MH/Psych Consult
- Psych Consult
- Admissions/discharges
- Bed Management

## 2. Identified themes

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# Opportunities/Challenges

## ACH

- ED nurse – Psych area- not comfortable, don't feel have skill set/education to care for patients during EIP LOS
- ERO teams workload and hours of operation – early mornings are typically very quiet
- PES – ND quiet, kids sleeping – not ideal for assessments
- No clearly established use of inpatient bed criteria
- Psych ED model that works well at the South Health Campus
- Long waits for bed – Especially 12 and under
- Off service admission – not ideal
- No elective admissions – ED access only into inpatient care
- More community based services (Woods Services)

## SHARED

- Improved communication between ED /Psych teams and between ED/Psych program administration
- Varying degree of AMH knowledge and comfort (ED staff) – more mental health education for ED Staff
- coverage to align with busiest ED presentation times (24/7 may not be best use of resources)
- For patients directly triaged to Mental Health beds can experience longer waits to be seen than non MH with lower CTAS scores
- Opportunity to increase /utilize SW role at the site – need for role clarification
- Increased Public and School education on access to services outside ED
- There is a disconnect between public understanding and what can be offered by an emergency department.
- School referrals to ED increasing- other resources as first contact for school counselors should be considered etc.
- Limited psychiatry coverage to manage both Urgent Clinic service and psych ED - Long waits for urgent clinic referrals
- Walk in clinic, urgent/ crisis clinic and PCN's to alleviate pressures on Emergency
- Community services hours of operation – School hours – not designed for when patients are available – default to ED's
- Children's Community clinic s hours of operation- access- psychiatry support (weekends and Evenings when families can access)

## Stollery

- 17+ this is a difficult transition for on families and children
- Unless a psych consult is requested, MH services are not involved)
- Varying practice for medical clearance for patients arriving from other ED's
- Criteria/parameters for MH nurse assessment vs Psych consults not clearly defined
- One MH FTE to cover assessments and complete patient care
- Breaks provided by Team Lead Stollery (not always available to do so).
- Psychiatric Aide not always replaced - If no replacement coverage for Psych aide – MH unable to leave area to complete assessments in other ED beds.
- Return the next day for an assessment if it is too busy or in early morning hours (0100h- 0500h) – No EMHT team available)
- Next day connection to community resources via MRT follow up
- MRT team rarely utilized (if at all) - due to availability to respond in a timely manner
- Transport required for all admissions – Beds at RAH (3 hospitals for some families)

# MY VISIT TO THE E.R.



## DECIDING TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL

Today is really hard. I'm thinking about ending it all. What do you do when the depression seems like it will never end?

Honey, if you are thinking of ending your life we need to go to the hospital now!

I'd better see a Doctor and get assessed. I can't live like this anymore.



## ARRIVAL AT THE E.R.

Oh no, how long will I have to wait? I don't want all of these people to know my situation! Maybe we should leave, I don't think I can do this.

I wish they had a private space for people having a mental health crisis.

I can't handle these feelings anymore. Don't tell me to calm down. I would if I could! I feel so confused and anxious.

Wow, training in mental health would help medical staff be more understanding, sensitive, and compassionate.



## WAITING

For your safety, I need you to wait in here. The security guard is here for your protection. It will be approximately two hours.

I wish I had something to do to help pass the time, books or cards would help.

I feel like a prisoner. Where is the Doctor? Why am I being punished for being sick?

That uniformed guard outside the door makes me look dangerous. I understand why he is there but I wish he was dressed in street clothes so it wouldn't be so obvious.



## SEEING THE E.R. STAFF

I know my daughter best, I know what she needs.

I wish staff would ask me how and when I'd like my family involved.

I can prescribe some medication that will help with your symptoms. I don't think you'll need to stay in the hospital.

I want to figure out what is happening to me and how to deal with it on my own, not just medicate myself.

Oh no, I need more than medication, I need to know what's happening to me.



## SEEING THE MENTAL HEALTH STAFF

Oh good, I am going to see a mental health expert.

I know you are the mental health professional and know a lot about this illness, but you don't know me. I'd like to tell you about my experience. I am the expert on me.

You're right, I do know about your symptoms. These medications will help you. I can't do anything more if you refuse these medications. I will also give you a referral to a counselor.

I wish he'd listen to me and take me seriously, I'm not overreacting and I'm not just seeking attention.



## AFTER THE E.R. VISIT

I really need help now. I can't wait 6 months - it is urgent.

I'm going to need someone to talk to before that. I wish there was a place I could go to get help when I really need it! I don't want to go back to the E.R.



This map was created by M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region in partnership with Alberta Health Services. This map conveys the findings of the "Helping Kids and Youth in Times of Emotional Crisis: Youth survey," AHS 2017.

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# Recommendations

# 5 Themes / Gaps

**STIGMA  
IS AT THE  
CORE!**



1 Youth and families don't know where to go for help (before and after their ED visit)

2 Staff awareness, understanding, empathy, and comfort level with addiction and mental health needs to be improved

3 Parents/caregivers have unmet needs in time of crisis

4 Youth and families had poor experiences at the ED

5 There is variation in practice and standards for ED, including care for addiction and mental health



# De-**STIGMA**-tize – By Improving These Five Gaps

1 Youth and families don't know where to go for help (before and after their ED visit)

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1 Youth and families don't know where to go for help (before and after their ED visit)

- How to **navigate** the system for supports prior to crisis
- Challenges in access to **follow-up care**
- Lack of **information** for schools, police, GPs etc. on what the ED can/can't do
- Insufficient 24 hr. **crisis and walk-in services**

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2

Staff awareness, understanding, empathy, and comfort level with addiction and mental health needs to be improved

- Empower staff by giving them skills and knowledge to support patients

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Parents/caregivers have unmet needs in time of crisis

- **Information** on how to deal with the next crisis
- **Support** for **own** mental health needs (unacknowledged stress of helping child through crisis)

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4 Youth and families had poor experiences at the ED

- **Youth suggestions** (pens/papers, phone chargers)
- **Communication** on what to expect
- **Peer Supporters**
- Level of **parent/family involvement**
- Use of **security** (in uniform)
- **Shift in treatment** when AMH

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There is variation in practice and standards for ED, including care for addiction and mental health

- Which **service model** should be in place (consultative vs. complete care vs. other)?
- Implement **standardized** protocols, policies, processes (admission criteria, consult time, bed management)
- **Staff hour misalignment** with times of high need/traffic

# Children & Youth at times of Emotional Crisis (ED)

ED =

## Working Group 1 (Education) THEME 2

- Closing the Knowledge Gap
  - Public education regarding expectations
  - Understanding AMH patients and families
  - Understanding the needs of the provider groups

+

## Working Group 2 (Patient Experience) THEMES 3/4

- Patient comforts (blankets, phone chargers, books, pen and paper, etc.)
- Peer support
- Patient intake experience
- Parent involvement

PSYCHIATRY =

## Working Group 3 (Pathway Work) THEMES 1/5

- E-mental health
- Access to care at the time of crisis (alternative to ED)
- AMH ED model
- Patient flow in the ED (consult time, admission criteria, bed management, etc.)
- Post-crisis intervention

TBD =

## Working Group 4 (Rural – Current State)

- Create an understanding of the rural Current State to incorporate into the Themed work

- Use of Peer Supporters at ACH ED (Valuing Mental Health Research Grant)
- Innovative Model of Acute Pediatric Mental Health and Addiction Care to Increase Value to Children and the Healthcare System (PRHIS & CIHR Rewarding Success)

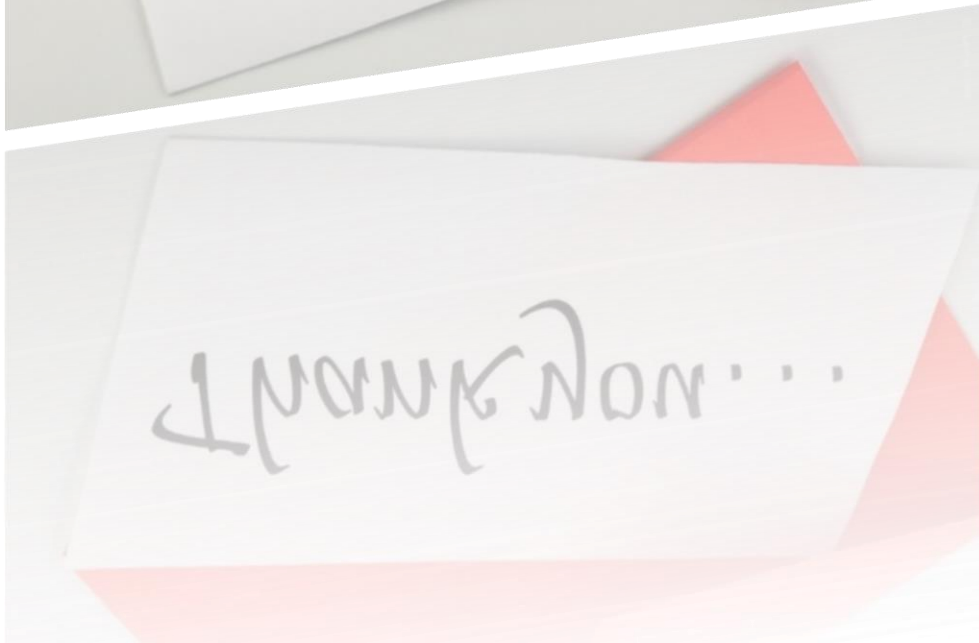
## **Phase 2:**

- **Priority Setting**
- **Establishing Operational Support**
- **Assessing Resources**

# **Phase 3:**

- **Establishing  
an  
Implementation Plan**





Any questions?



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