

If you can
turn your
camera on,
please do!



Jefferson County – Watertown Opioid Court Kickoff Meeting

March 2021



Office of Alcoholism and
Substance Abuse Services



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IRVING MEDICAL CENTER



Center
for
Court
Innovation



New York State
Psychiatric Institute

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitators

Columbia University

Katherine Elkington, Ph.D. *Principal Investigator*

Margaret Ryan *Project Director*

Center for Court Innovation

Kelly Van Develde, JD, *Senior Program Manager*

Sheila McCarthy, LMSW, *Senior Program Manager*

Christina Manuel, *Social Work Intern*

Stakeholders

Watertown Opioid Court

Hon. Anthony Neddo, *OIC Judge*

Jennifer Hudson Mosher, *Coordinator*

Deborah Yuhas, *Case Manager*

David Ladd, *Assistant District Attorney*

Julie Hutchins, *Defense Attorney*

Clarissa Godfry, *Probation*

Mary Hughes-Hoistion, *Samaritan Medical Center*

Shane Brown, *Credo Community Center*

Erica Eichner, *Credo Community Center*



Rigorous and Evidence-based Approaches for Court-based Health Promotion

- Project Court REACH is an implementation science research project
- Project REACH is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- Collaboration between Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute and the Center for Court Innovation, among other partners
- Research + training and technical assistance
- 10 opioid courts in New York
- Goal: Improve **access to treatment** and **recovery supports** for participants, and enhance **opioid court operations**

Center for Court Innovation



1. Research
2. Operating Programs
3. **Expert Assistance
(Technical Assistance)**



What is technical assistance?

Strategic planning

Fidelity assessment

Evidence-based
practices

Teleservices

Publications

Data
collection/evaluation

The Need for Project Court REACH



- The Opioid Court model is a new, **pioneering** response in the justice system to respond to the overdose epidemic
- Opioid Courts in New York are **leaders in the field**, and lessons learned will advise a national audience

1. Broad legal eligibility

2. Immediate screen for overdose risk

3. Informed consent after consultation with defense counsel

4. Suspension of prosecution or expedited plea during treatment

5. Rapid clinical assessment and treatment engagement

The 10 Essential Elements of Opioid Intervention Courts



6. Recovery support services

7. Frequent judicial supervision and compliance monitoring

8. Intensive case management

9. Program completion and continuing care

10. Performance evaluation and program improvement

Opioid Court Stakeholder Team



Judge



Court Coordinator



Prosecutor and Defense Attorney

Treatment Provider(s)



Peer Recovery Advocate



Law Enforcement 8

Watertown Opioid Court

- Bail reform
- COVID-19
- Potential budget cuts

Project Court REACH Products for Watertown Opioid Court:

Needs assessment report: Findings and Recommendations

Training modules: MOUD, 10 Elements, Opioid Crisis

Targeted workshop: Action plan

Intensive technical assistance

County treatment capacity-building: Accessible MOUD

Evaluation: Data reports

Project Timeline

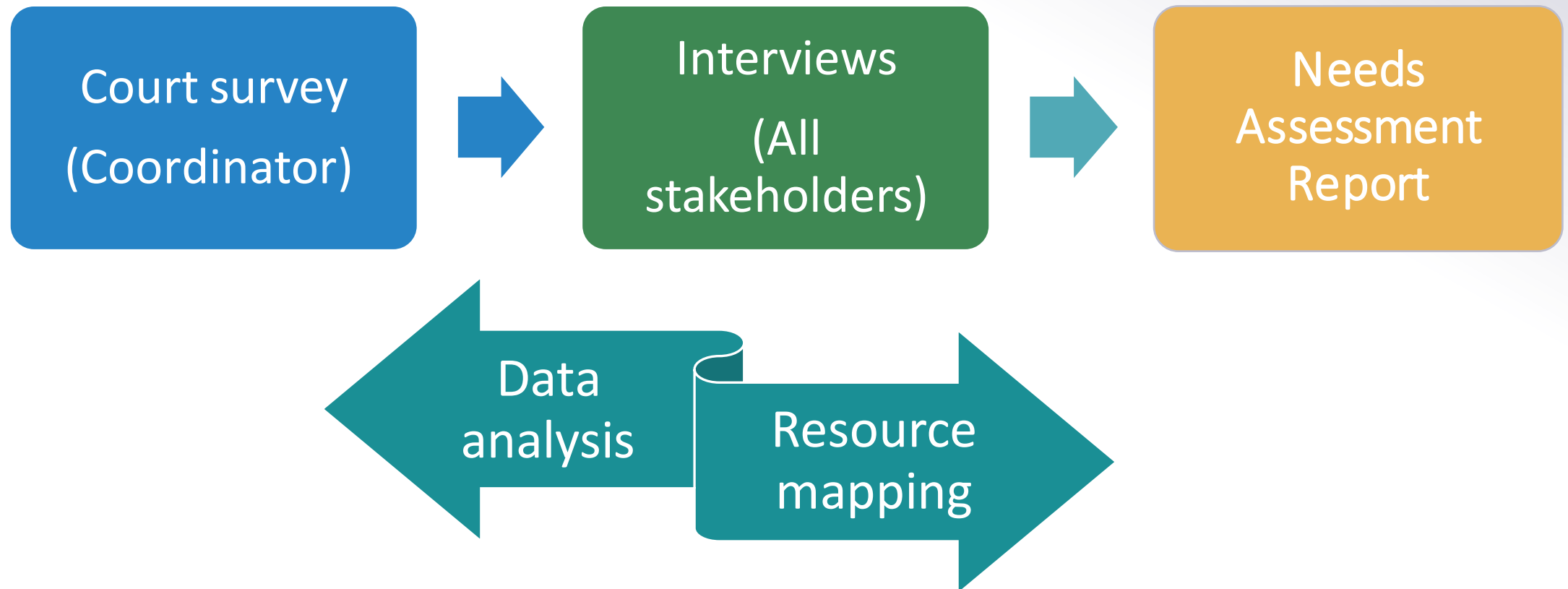
Phase 1: Needs Assessment

Phase 2: Targeted Enhancement Support

Phase 3: Roll-out

Phase 4: Monitoring

Phase 1: Needs Assessment



Phase 2: Intensive Technical Assistance

TA Workshops

- Review and discuss Needs Assessment Findings and Recommendations
- Development of action plan
- Implementation of action plan with technical assistance (e.g. MOU drafting, case flow review, connections with community providers, stakeholder meetings to finalize procedures)

Phase 2: Intensive Technical Assistance Toolbox



Project Timeline

Phase 3: Roll-out

Phase 4: Monitoring

Research Elements

Research Components

Does the TA (built around the 10 EE) that Opioid Court REACH provides improve court performance?

Does the opioid intervention court improve access to and retention in treatment (compared with the traditional drug court model)?

What is the **VOLUNTARY** Research Component?

With your **consent** we will be collecting data as we go.

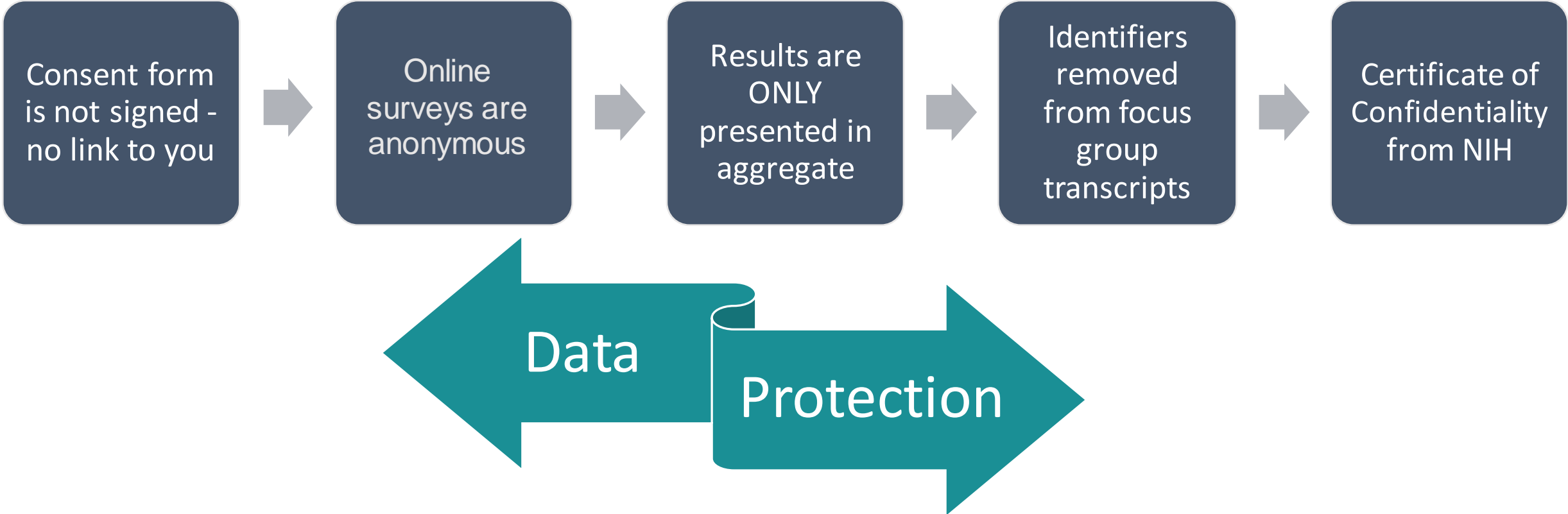
Online survey/phone interview: attitudes on opioid court, MOUD; readiness to improve court functioning; experiences working with treatment/court systems. (Phase 1 and Phase 3)

Pre-post quizzes that are associated with the web-based training modules (provide Ces)

Monthly check-in phone call (10 mins) to describe progress, staff turn over, etc. (Court liaison only) throughout Phase 3.

Focus group with the stakeholder group at the end of Phase 4.

How Are My Data Protected?



Consent to Participate

- You have received the information sheets/consent forms via email
- Any questions?
- You will be asked for your consent before your interview, we will answer any additional questions at that time
- Remember: you can decline to participate at any time or decline to participate in any activity.
- Contact me: ke2143@cumc.columbia.edu or 917-838-1871.

Next Steps

- Court coordinator will complete survey about opioid court operations
- We will reach out to you individually to schedule interviews (and take your consent)

Questions?

