



# Queens County Opioid Court Kickoff Meeting

August 19, 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, New York State Psychiatric Institute*

- Katherine Elkington, Ph.D. *Principal Investigator*
- Margaret Ryan *Project Director*

*Center for Court Innovation*

- Alejandra Garcia, *Senior Program Manager*
- Kelly Van Develde, *Senior Program Manager*

*Office of Court Administration*

- Dennis Reilly, *Statewide Drug Court Coordinator, Division of Policy and Planning*
- Susan Sturges, *Opioid Court Coordinator, Division of Policy and Planning*

# Welcome and Introductions

## Queens Opioid Court Stakeholders

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Hon. Toko Serita, *Presiding Judge*

Eric Fieldman, *Principle Court Attorney*

Naima Aiken, *Court Coordinator*

Lisa Lindsay, *Citywide PSC Coordinator*

Doug Knight, *ADA*

Floyd Herring, *ADA*

Umberto Guido, *ADA*

Donna Haase, *LAS*

Juliette Noor-Haji, *LAS*

Diana Salierno, *LAS*

Robert Sharoff, *Queens Defenders*

Shannon Castang-Feggins, *Resource Coordinator*

Carolann Slattery, *Samaritan Village*

Maria Timal, *Samaritan Village*

Alan Tillinghast, *Samaritan Village*

Edler Alcime, *Cornerstone*

Theresa Tobin, *NYPD*

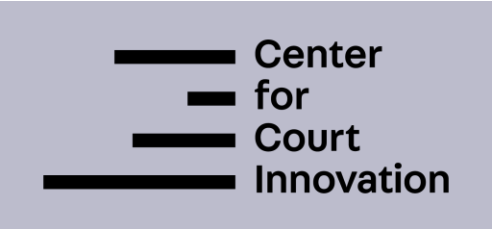
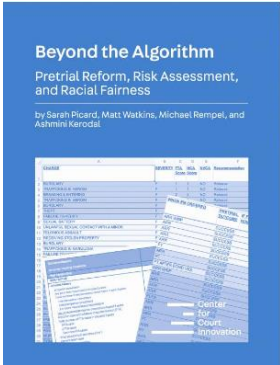


## Rigorous and Evidence-based Approaches for Court-based Health Promotion

- 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, the Center for Court Innovation, and the Office of Court Administration
- 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. Operating Programs
- 2. Research
- 3. **Technical Assistance**



# What is technical assistance?

Strategic planning

Fidelity assessment

Evidence-based practices

Teleservices


Publications

Data collection/evaluation

# The Need for Project Court REACH

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Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in  
the Justice System Population



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graph LR; A[Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the Justice System Population] --> B[Buffalo's Opioid Intervention Court]; B --> C[NYS Opioid Court Expansion];
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Buffalo's Opioid  
Intervention Court

NYS Opioid Court  
Expansion

- 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

# National Opioid Intervention Court Guidelines

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

# Queens County

- Bail reform
- COVID-19
- Budget cuts

# Technical Assistance Products:

**Needs assessment report: Recommendations**

**Training modules: MOUD, 10 Elements, Opioid Crisis**

**Targeted workshop: Action plan**

**County treatment capacity-building: Accessible MOUD**

**Evaluation: Data reports**

# Project Timeline

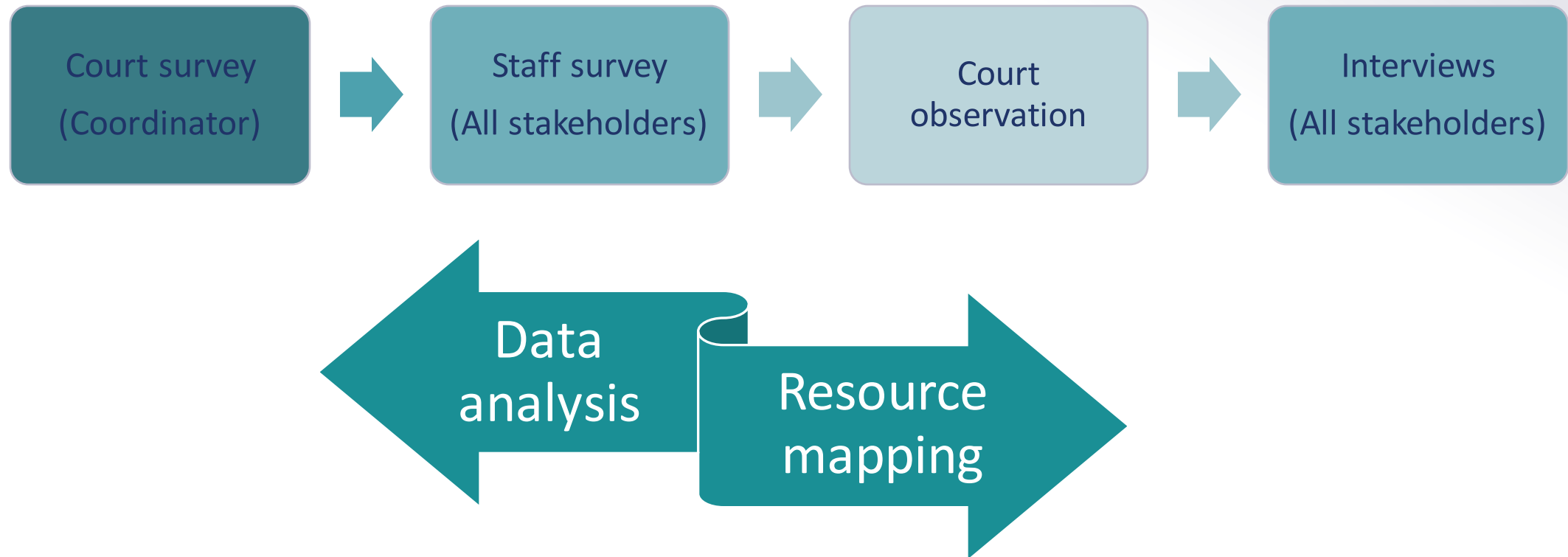
Phase 1: Needs Assessment

Phase 2: Targeted Enhancement Support

Phase 3: Roll-out

Phase 4: Monitoring

# Phase 1: Needs Assessment



# Phase 2: Intensive Technical Assistance Toolbox



# Project Timeline

Phase 3: Roll-out

Phase 4: Monitoring

# Research Components

Does the TA that Opioid Court REACH provides focused on the 10 EE improve court performance?

Does the opioid intervention court improve access to and retention in treatment and care?



# What is the **VOLUNTARY** Research Component?

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

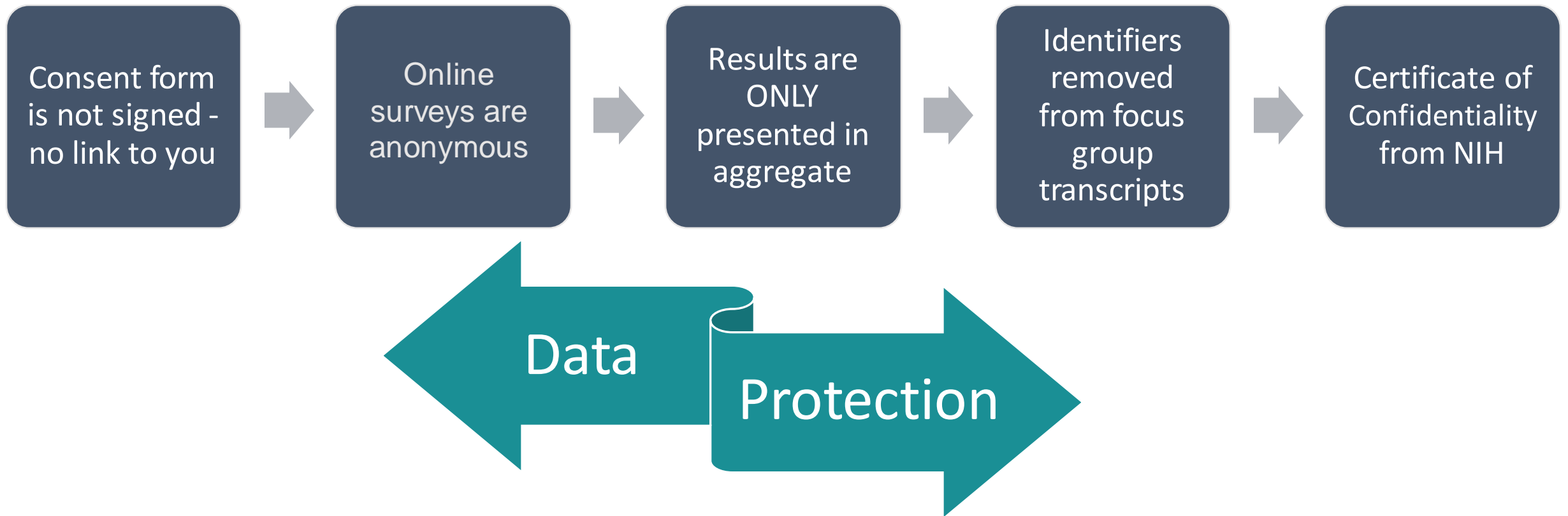
**Online survey/phone interview:** attitudes on opioid court, MOUD; readiness to improve court functioning; experiences working with treatment/court systems. (Phase 1 and Phase 3)

**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](mailto:ke2143@cumc.columbia.edu) or 917-838-1871.

Questions?

