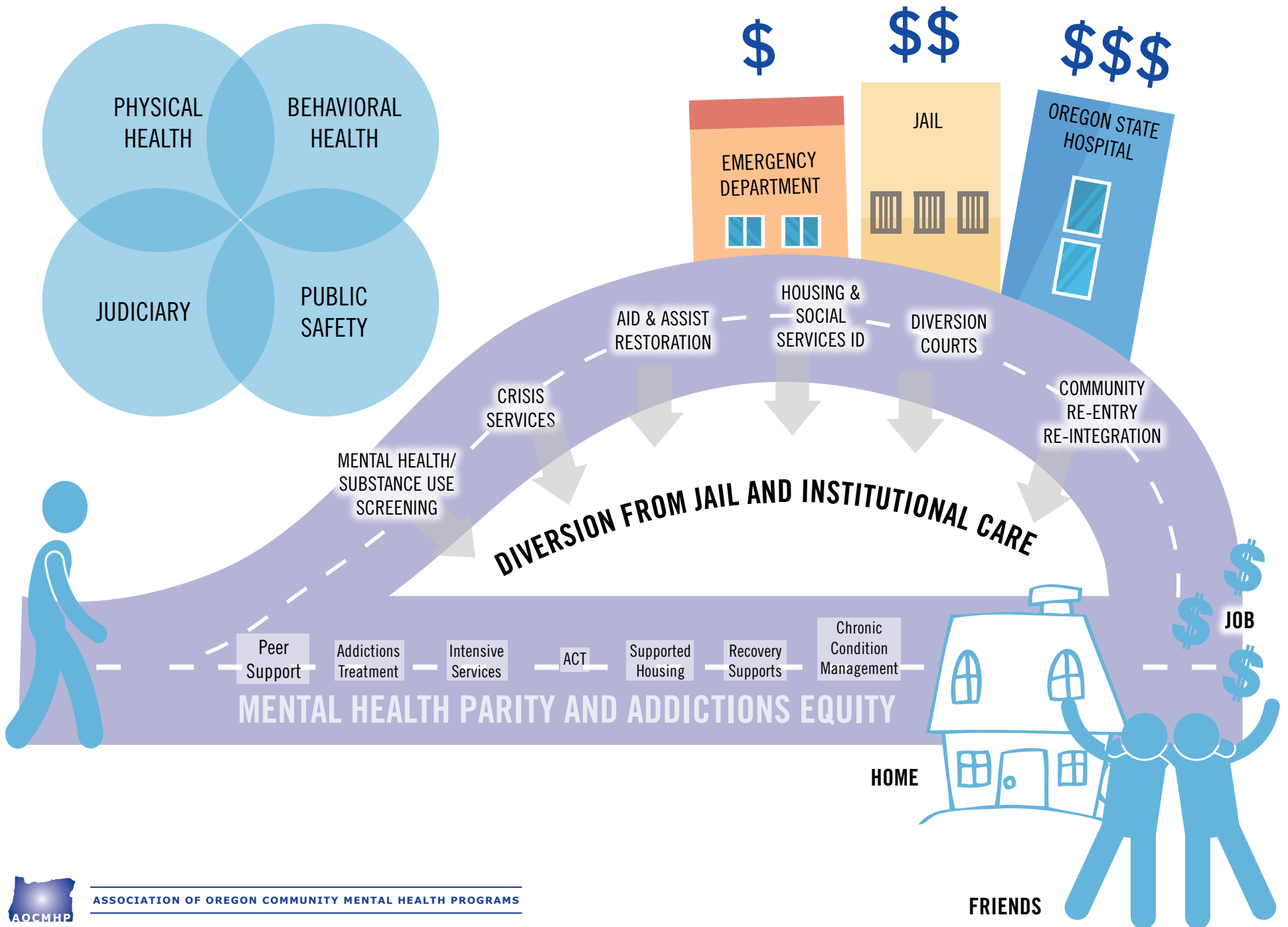


PROMOTING COMMUNITY LIVING



Invest in Decarceration For People With Behavioral Health Disorders

Problem to Solve

Jails and prisons in Oregon are defacto mental health institutions. A substantial percentage of inmates have mental illness, substance use disorders or a combination of the two. Criminalizing mental illness causes bad health outcomes and does not promote recovery. Keeping people with behavioral health disorders safe and in the least restrictive setting possible is the focus of Oregon's agreement with the USDOJ. Investing in decarceration – jail diversion and a robust array of crisis services – will help Oregon achieve the agreed outcomes in the USDOJ-Oregon plan, and is in line with a national agenda to decriminalize mental illness.

Solutions

Decriminalizing behavioral health disorders is accomplished by diverting individuals from jail through a robust array of crisis and diversion services. We recommend an investment of \$30 million to support community alternatives to incarceration and other institutionalization such as:

- Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers
- Assertive Community Treatment
- Respite
- Mobile crisis teams
- Crisis stabilization centers
- Supported housing
- Sobering centers and detox facilities
- Community response teams to follow up with people who have been in jail to prevent them from going into crisis again
- Qualified, well-trained and fairly compensated staff, including peers

This will require meaningful collaboration between Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice and Public Safety systems, State and County leadership, and alternatives to incarceration statewide. Return on investment will be revealed in fewer arrests and jail bookings, a lower recidivism rate, shorter lengths of stay in jail and decreased use of police officer holds.

Desired Outcomes

People with behavioral health disorders, who have not committed person to person crimes have:

- No or low contact with law enforcement and the justice system
- No or low recidivism
- Reduced health care costs
- Stable housing
- Community-based treatment
- Better lives (relationships, education, jobs) in their communities of choice