



# Forensic Peer Support

The role of the forensic peer in the  
Sequential Intercept Model

Christopher Gonzalez, MAEd  
CEO, Hope Lives – Vive La Esperanza  
602-672-2694  
cgonzalez@vivehopelives.org

Brett W Matossian, BHT  
Justice Liaison  
Hope Lives – Vive La Esperanza  
480-696-9986  
bmatossian@vivehopelives.org

Stepping Up is a National Initiative created to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE



# Stepping Up Together

Stepping Up is a coalition of people on the frontlines of this issue—from those living with mental illnesses to those working in the criminal justice and behavioral health systems who have experienced struggles and successes that highlight the impact of the problem and the complexities of addressing it.

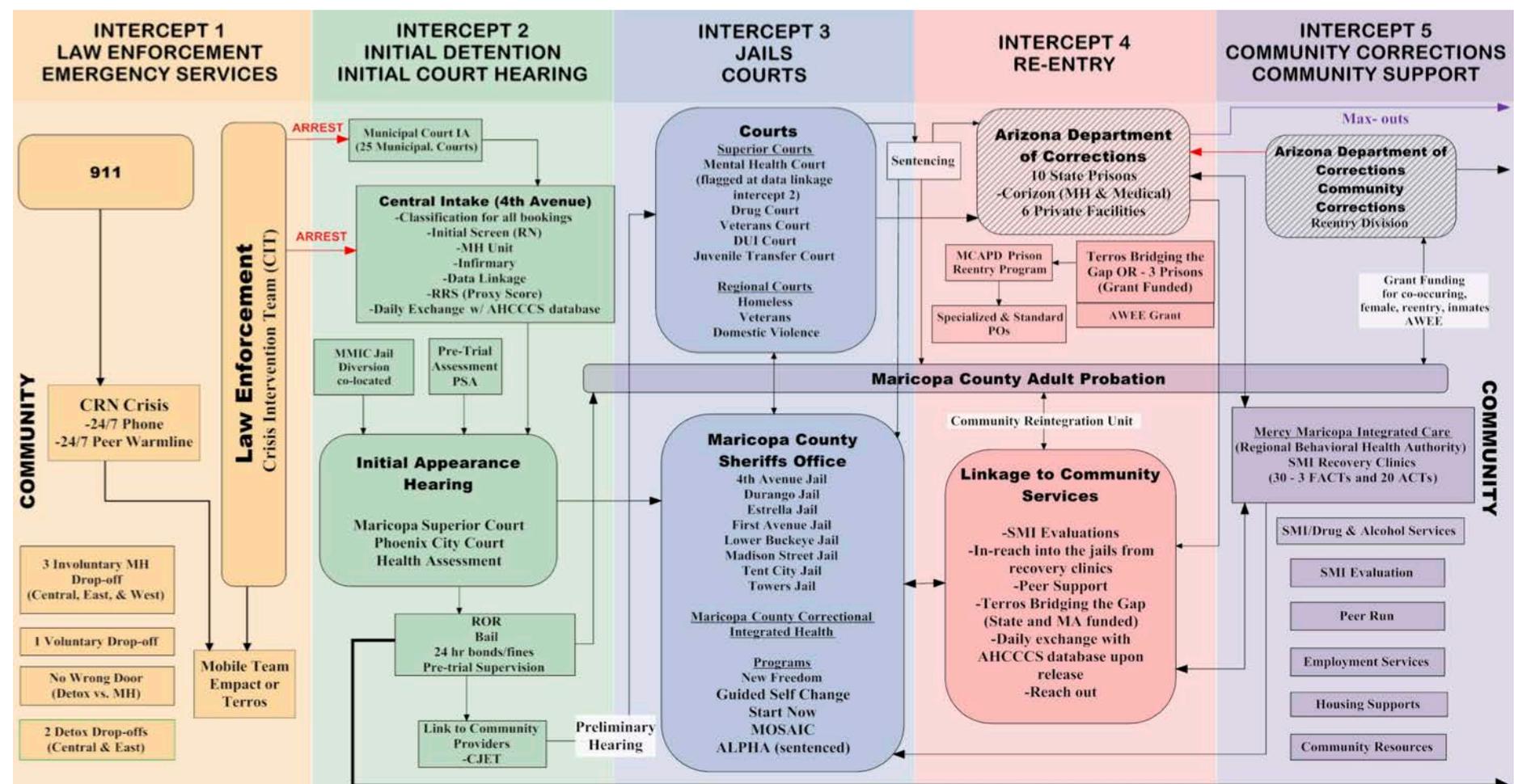


# Sequential Intercept Model

The Sequential Intercept Model provides a conceptual framework for communities to use when considering the interface between the criminal justice and mental health systems as they address concerns about criminalization of people with mental illness. The model envisions a series of points of interception at which an intervention can be made to prevent individuals from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system.

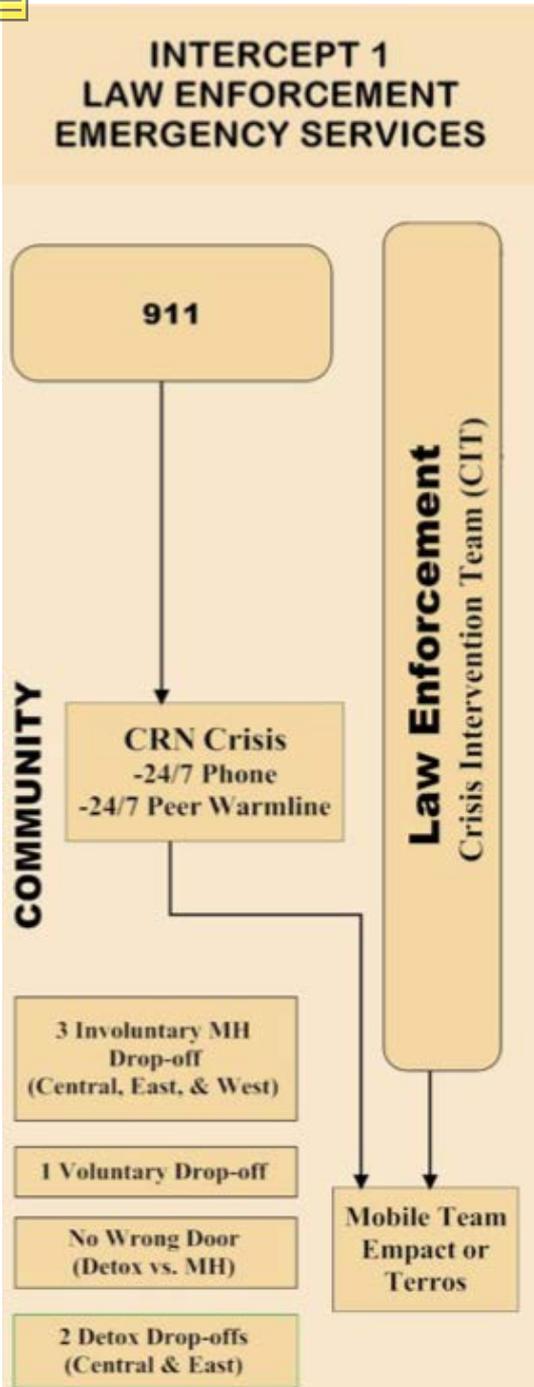
# Forensic Peer Supports and the Sequential Intercept Model

(SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation)



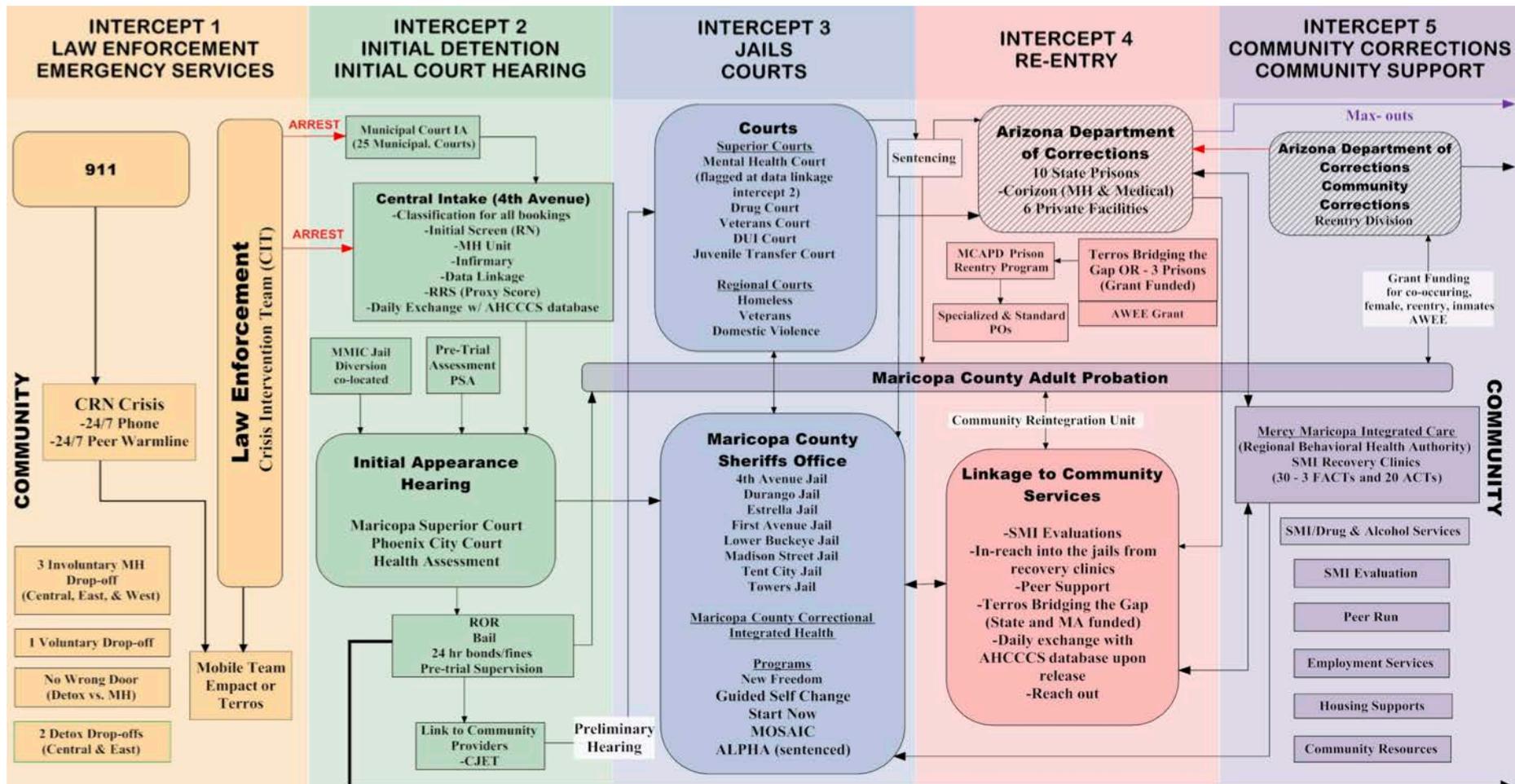
# Intercept 1: Law enforcement and emergency services

- Prior to engagement with law enforcement, Warm Line Peers are available 24/7 to speak with those struggling with symptoms associated with their illness and/or substance abuse.
- Some City Police Departments are exploring the use of peers to compliment CIT (Crisis Intervention Trained) Officers when responding to calls in the community.
- At sub acute care facilities and access & transition points, peers are used extensively to reduce the anxiety faced when being brought in, assessed, and stabilized.
- Mobil Crisis Teams employ peers to assist in de-escalation in the field when responding to crisis calls.
- Law Enforcement partners with peers to identify MROP (Misdemeanor Repeat Offender Program) individuals and proactively work to provide solutions to issues which, if unaddressed, often result in “crimes of necessity.”

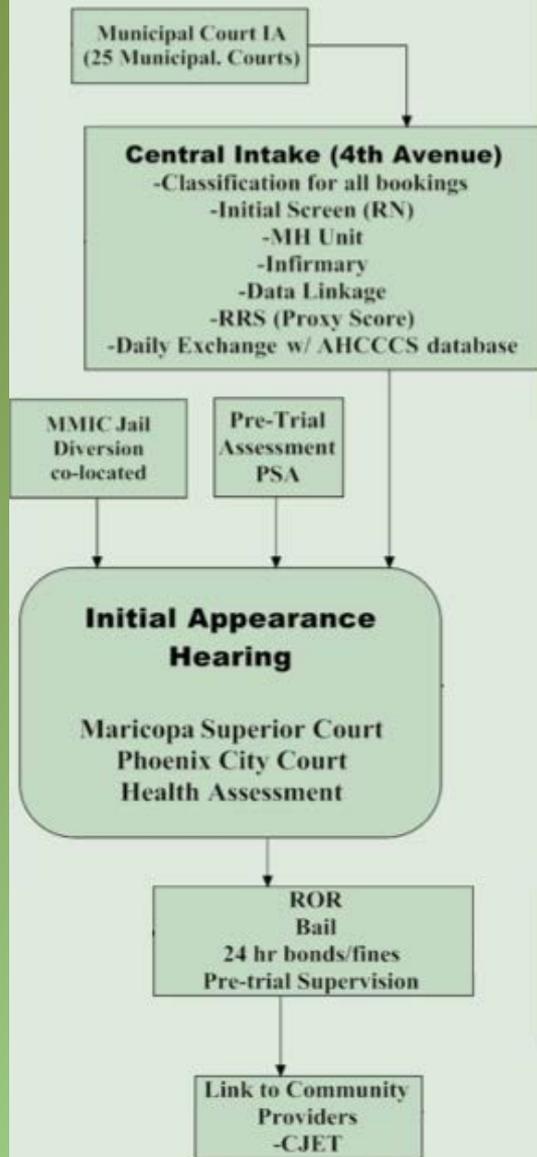


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## INTERCEPT 2 INITIAL DETENTION INITIAL COURT HEARING

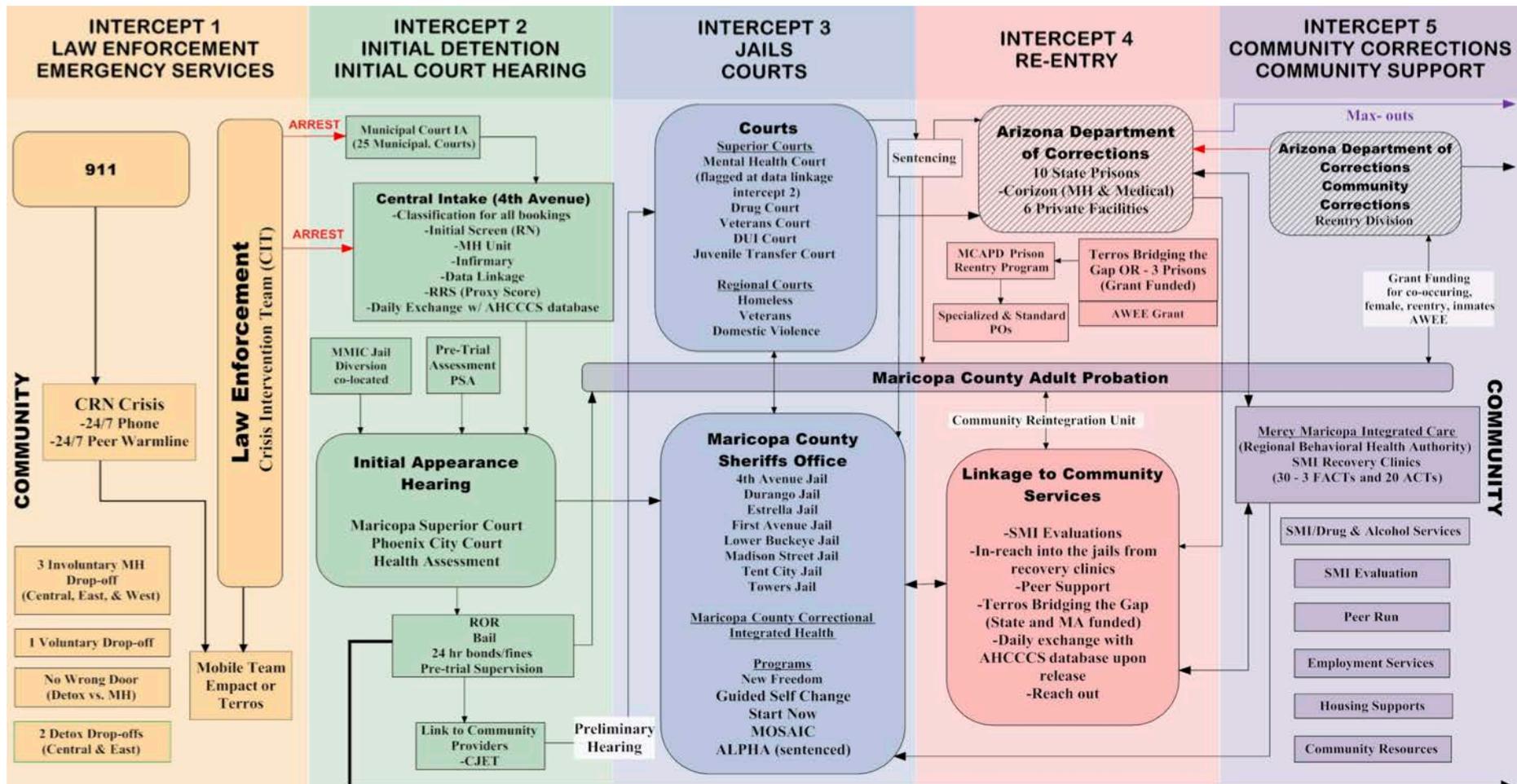


# Intercept 2: Initial detention and initial hearings

- In those instances where booking is unavoidable, individuals enter the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office jail system – the 4th largest booking institute in the country.
- At Central intake, individuals are screened and classified by CHS. Assessments are performed and the jail data link is utilized to identify those individuals who are determined to have a serious mental illness.
- Where appropriate, Forensic Peers are called upon to work with individuals that can be released at initial appearance and connected with behavioral health support services rather than remain incarcerated while awaiting their next court date.

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# INTERCEPT 3 JAILS COURTS

## **Courts**

Superior Courts  
Mental Health Court  
(flagged at data linkage  
intercept 2)  
Drug Court  
Veterans Court  
DUI Court  
Juvenile Transfer Court

## Regional Courts

Homeless  
Veterans  
Domestic Violence

## **Maricopa County Sheriffs Office**

4th Avenue Jail  
Durango Jail  
Estrella Jail  
First Avenue Jail  
Lower Buckeye Jail  
Madison Street Jail  
Tent City Jail  
Towers Jail

## Maricopa County Correctional Integrated Health

### Programs

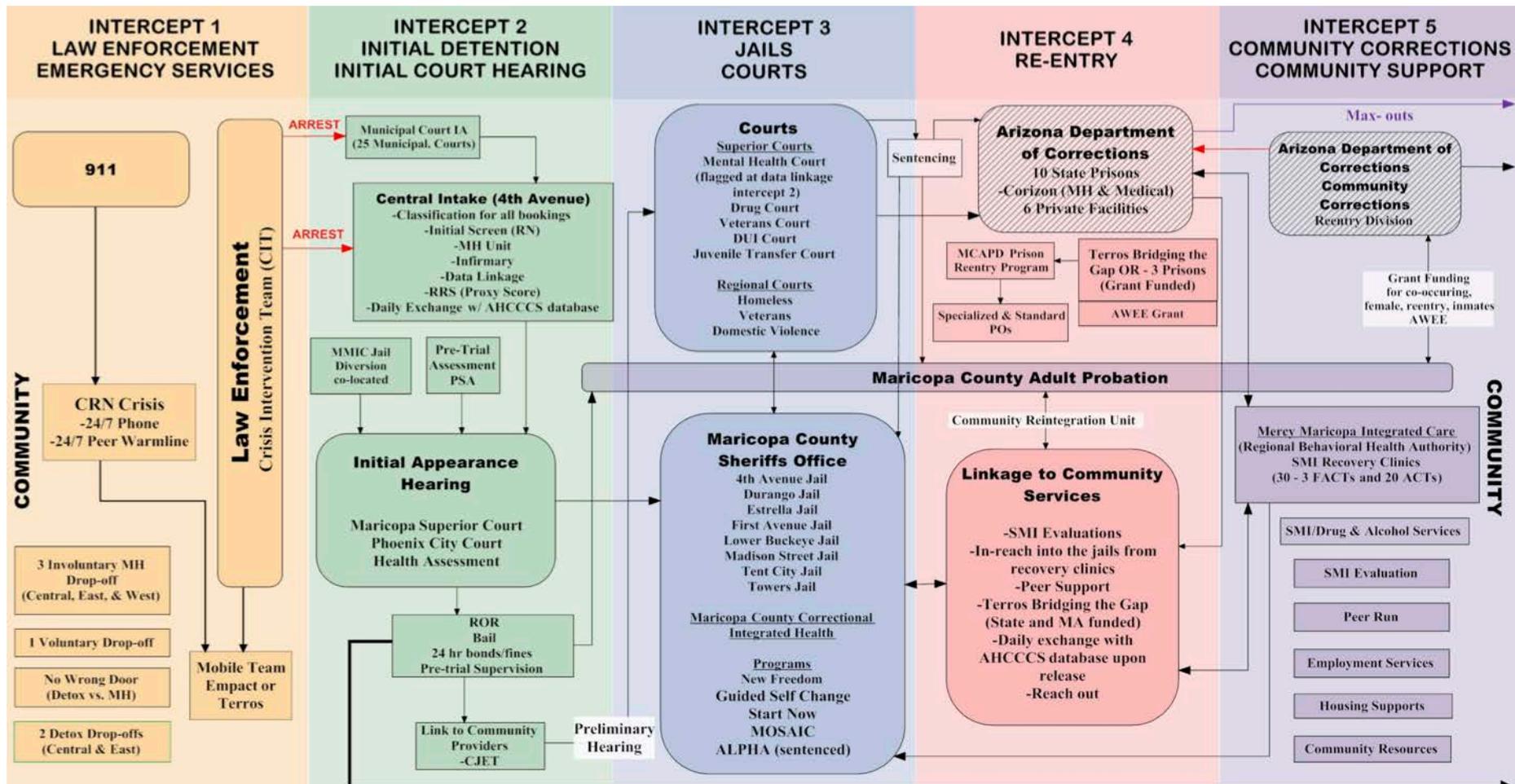
New Freedom  
Guided Self Change  
Start Now  
MOSAIC  
ALPHA (sentenced)

## Intercept 3: Jail, courts, forensic evaluations, and forensic commitments

- Forensic Peer Supports:
  - Provide valuable input in the specialty courts, working with legal and clinical teams to construct viable and effective alternatives to prosecution and incarceration.
  - Are utilized through inpatient treatment facilities which are often directives of the specialty courts.
  - Work collaboratively with service agencies in post adjudicated cases to assist individuals with compliance to supervision terms.
  - Are often able to visit individuals in jail while they await court dates and sentencing.
  - Also serve as navigators for those released from jail, often connecting them with greatly needed resources within the community.

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## INTERCEPT 4 RE-ENTRY

### Arizona Department of Corrections

10 State Prisons  
-Corizon (MH & Medical)  
6 Private Facilities

MCAPD Prison  
Reentry Program

Terros Bridging the  
Gap OR - 3 Prisons  
(Grant Funded)

AWEE Grant

Specialized & Standard  
POs

### Linkage to Community Services

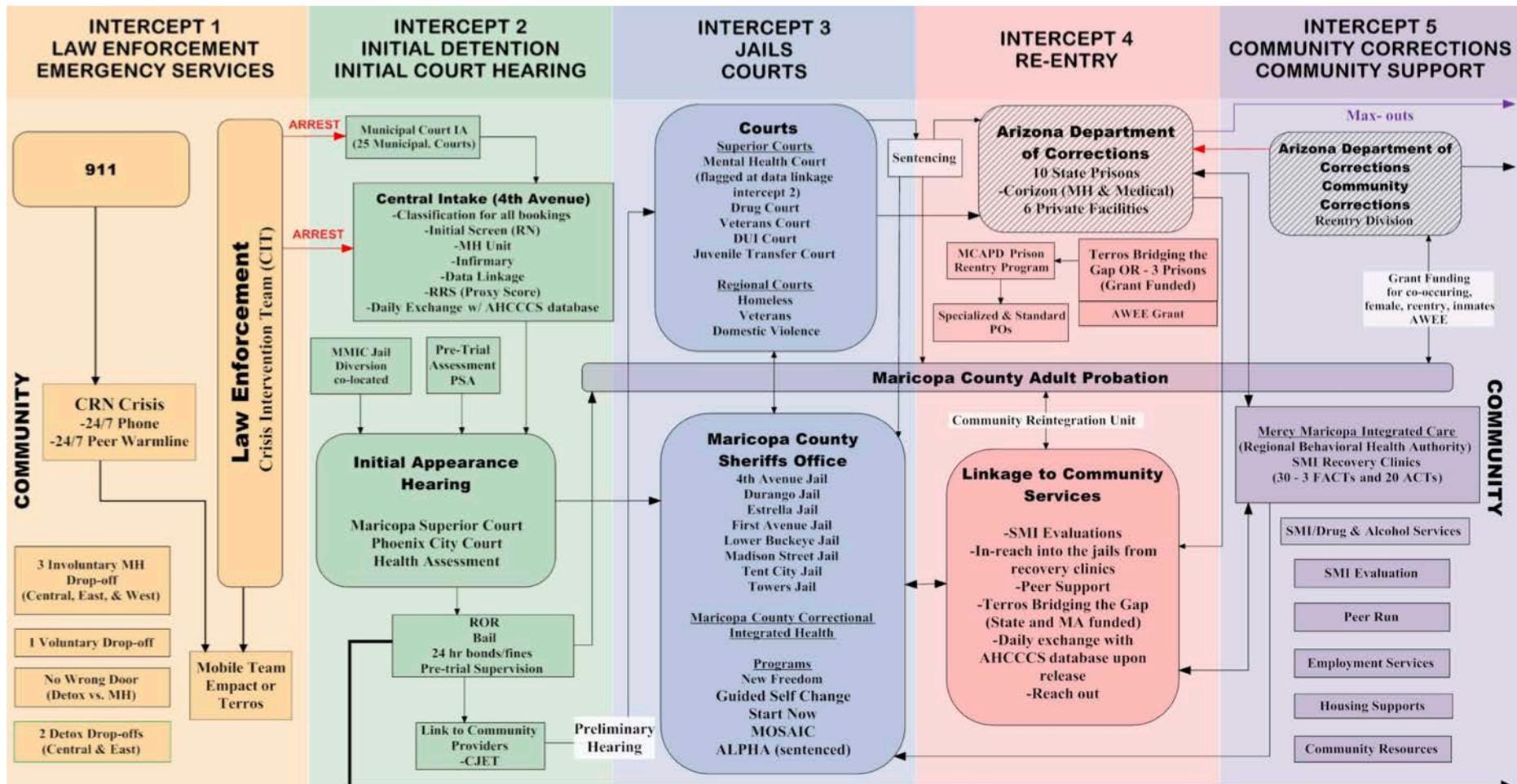
- SMI Evaluations
- In-reach into the jails from recovery clinics
- Peer Support
- Terros Bridging the Gap (State and MA funded)
- Daily exchange with AHCCCS database upon release
- Reach out

# Intercept 4: Re-entry

- Forensic Peers
- Work with individuals both before and after release to give them the greatest chance of success in terms of not re-offending and returning to incarceration.
- Assist with SSI/SSDI applications pre release to shorten the length of time between release and receipt of benefits.
- Provide a "familiar face" on the day of release and are often the ones to pick the individual up once released.
- Assist in making sure the individual connects with his/her assigned probation/parole officer.
- Help the individual connect with necessary resources such as AHCCCS Benefits including and EBT card and Lifeline Assistance Phone.
- Assist the individual fulfill Community Supervision requirements such as obtaining state ID and Sexual Offender Registration.
- Provide a warm hand off to clinical teams.

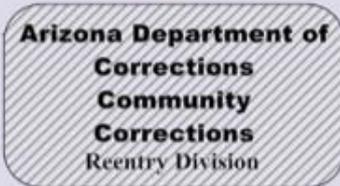
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**INTERCEPT 5  
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Max-outs



**COMMUNITY**

Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care  
(Regional Behavioral Health Authority)  
SMI Recovery Clinics  
(30 - 3 FACTs and 20 ACTs)

SMI/Drug & Alcohol Services

SMI Evaluation

Peer Run

Employment Services

Housing Supports

Community Resources

# Intercept 5: Community Corrections & Community Support

## Forensic Peers

- Help individuals connect, and stay connected, with their parole/probation officer.
- Are often in the process of completing their own community supervision or probation periods.
- Have, in many cases, completed their parole/probation terms and serve as positive role models showing that there is light at the end of the tunnel.
- Provide pro social interaction opportunities which encourage individuals to enjoy activities while not under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol.
- Provide support with technical training to those individuals who experience a radically new world due to technological advances which have occurred while incarcerated.
- Share employment and housing resources having had to overcome similar challenges due to their own criminal histories.
- Model that there is hope, that the cycle does not need to be repeated.

# Forensic Peer Support

- Forensic Peer Supports have a shared experience with the population being served.
- Forensic Peer Supports have successfully navigated the myriad of challenges faced by those who find themselves at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice systems.
- Forensic Peers are present at each of the Sequential Intercepts providing a continuity of service to those needing help.



# Forensic Peer Specialists

instill hope and serve as  
valuable and credible models  
of the possibility of recovery.

