

Covid-19 Release from Custody Task Force



The Challenge

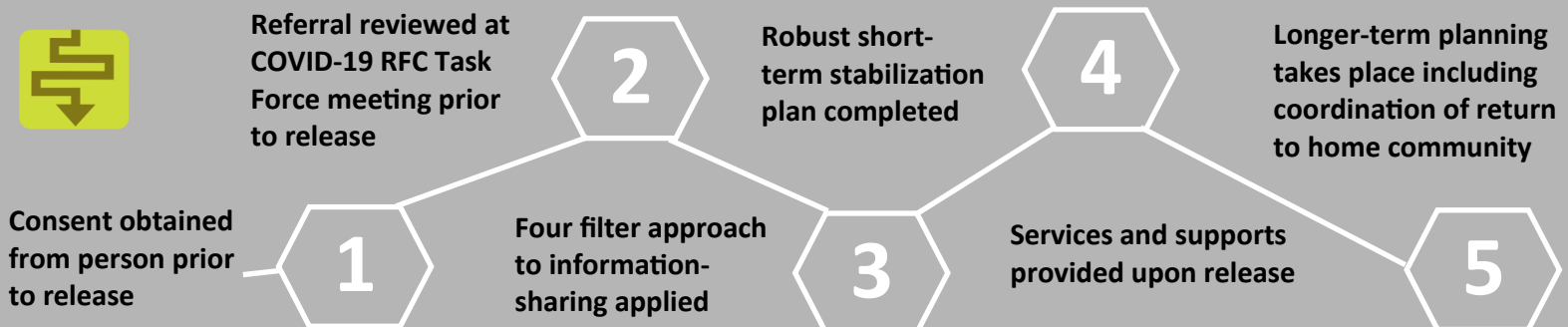
In Thunder Bay, COVID-19 has increased the volume and frequency of people being released from custody. Without supports and accommodation, those released could be at imminent risk of criminalization, victimization and/or harm. There is less capacity in shelters and bail bed programs due to physical distancing requirements in place. Those from First Nation communities may not be able to return home due to emergency closure



The Solution

- Task Force meets daily (as needed) for 1 hour virtual meetings
- Ramps up existing discharge planning process and leverages four filter approach of the Situation Table to plan for the short-term
- Leverages established policies, procedures, database, training and non-disclosure agreements
- Referral sources: jail, corrections, police, defense counsel, NALSC
- Complementary Senior Leadership Team meets weekly to address gaps and barriers
- Thunder Bay Jail and Correctional Centre very engaged in the process
- Commitment of partners across the community leads to robust planning
- Reduces up-front risk for individuals by connecting them to short-term supports and services before their risk elevates, while also planning for longer-term arrangements
- Return to home community is coordinated
- Uses a Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle to rapidly test improvement

The Process



For more information on the COVID-19 Release from Custody Task Force, contact:

Julia MacArthur julia.macarthur@tbaycounselling.com;

Mariah Maddock mmaddock@cmha-tb.on.ca;

Paul Capon pcapon@matabwa.on.ca

To share your innovation, email mhanorth@hsnsudbury.ca