

# ORANGE COUNTY CRISIS/DIVERSION FACILITY PROJECT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

CRISIS-DIVERSION FACILITY UPDATE

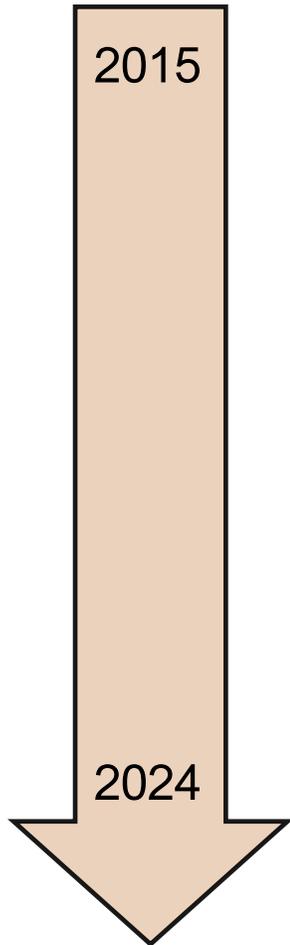
DATE: MARCH 19, 2025



# TOPICS

- Timeline.
- Mission and Services
- Building Design
- Benefits.
- Next Steps.
- Putting All the Pieces in Place.

# TIMELINE



- BOCC resolution to reduce number of people with mental illness in jails (2015).
- Diversion unit considered for new OC Detention Center (2018).
- Orange County SIM Workshop identifies gaps and action items (April 2019).
- Crisis-Diversion Facility recommended to and endorsed by BOCC (April 2021).
- Preliminary facility design and cost estimation completed (early 2023).
- Final site selection and BOCC approval of land purchase (November 2024).
- Final design began (November 2024).

# MISSION AND SERVICES

- Mission has been to divert individuals experiencing BH crisis from:
  - hospital-based emergency department and/or
  - criminal justice system.
- Focus has been on building behavioral health crisis-diversion facility (CDF) supported by community wide collaboration. Stakeholders identified CDF services:
  - **Clinical Services.** Provide immediate access to BH clinical services (observation, assessment, stabilization, treatment) for a broad array of mental health and substance use conditions.
  - **Criminal Justice Diversion/Deflection Services.** Supports deflection and diversion programs and minimize criminal justice entanglement.
  - **Community Treatment Services Networking.** Peer support and information resources connects individuals to community treatment services on an outpatient basis or to other facility-based services.
  - **Social Services Networking.** Warm handoff connects individuals to human resources and social services (e.g., housing, employment, insurance) via a coordinated discharge with peer support.

# BUILDING DESIGN

Facility services will be situated in a one-story Facility with front entrance for the general public and separate entrance for first responders.

- **Behavioral Health Urgent Care (Tier 4) unit.**
  - Serve individuals four years and older.
  - 12 BHUC Chairs.
- **Facility Based Crisis unit.**
  - Serve adults needing more than 23 hours of care ranging from a few days to weeks.
  - 16 FBC Beds.
- **Peer Living Room** to support discharge and navigation to ongoing support and services.
- **Resource Center** to guide individuals/families.



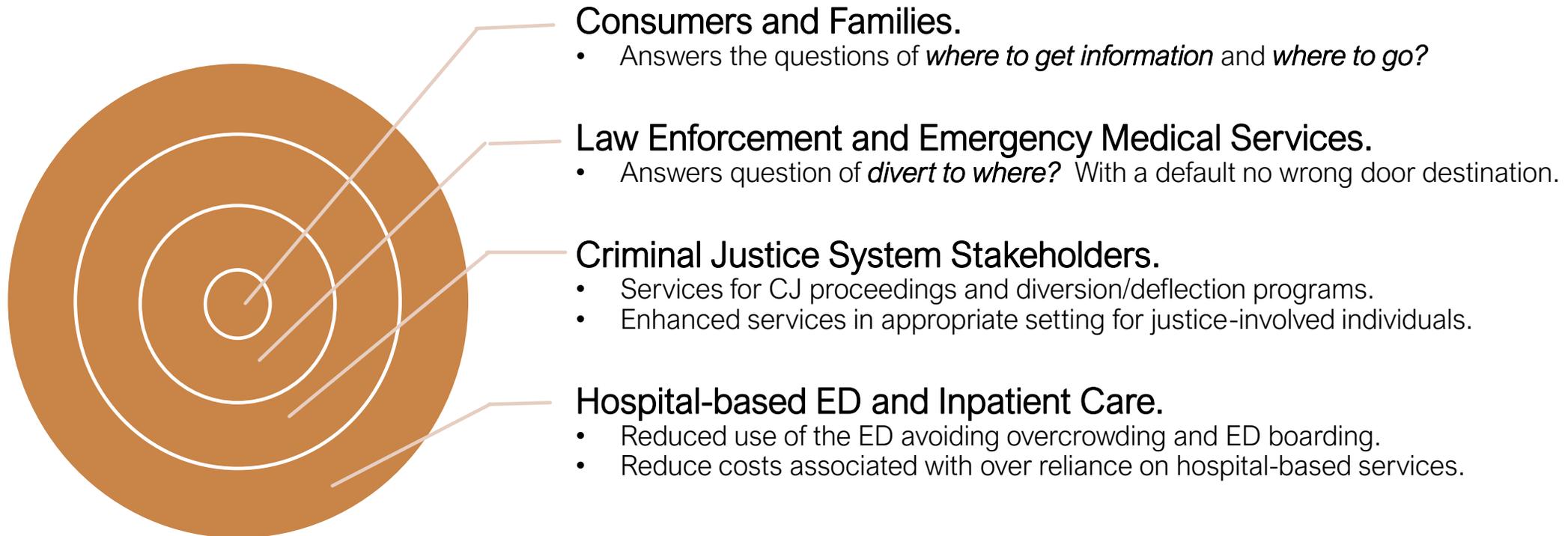
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
CRISIS DIVERSION FACILITY

EXTERIOR RENDERING  
FRONT APPROACH

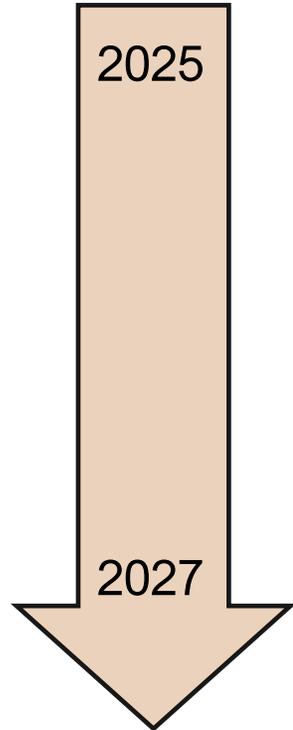


# BENEFITS

- The CDF will result in an important benefits that will accrue to a broad cross-section of Orange County.

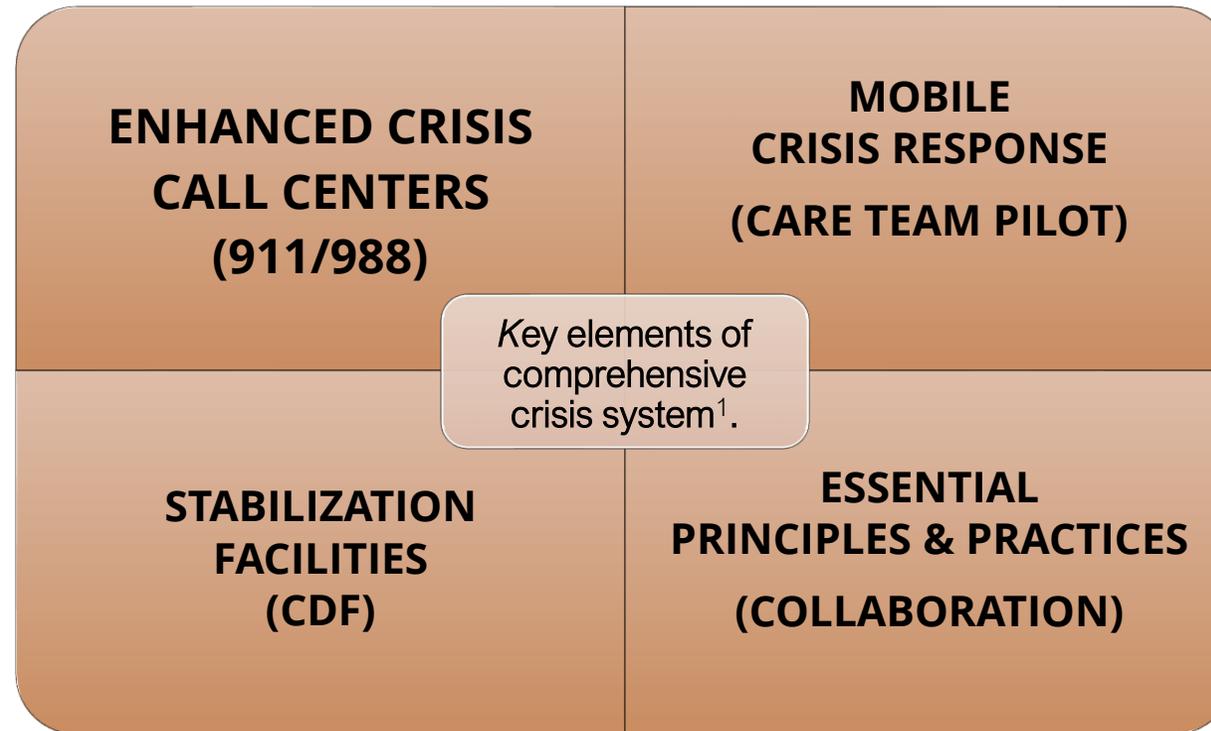


## NEXT STEPS



- Multiple critical steps are currently ongoing:
  - Final stages of finalizing purchase agreement for the site.
  - Final facility architectural design work.
  - Hiring Construction Manager at Risk for construction of facility.
  - Plan to consider a provider to consult during the pre-construction phase.
- Construction begins (4Q 2025).
- Construction complete (December 2026).
- CDF start up and begin operation (2027).

# PUTTING ALL THE PIECES IN PLACE



Other elements of a crisis system are being put into place in conjunction with creation of a Crisis-Diversion Facility. Together they complete a continuum of crisis care that is widely recognized as best practice.

1. SAMHSA 2020.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Additional information is available on the Orange County Web Site at:

<https://www.orangecountync.gov/3168/Crisis-Diversion-Facility>