



**Alberta Health
Services**

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**Alberta Health
Services**

Knowledge Bites Lunch 'n' Learn

November 22, 2023

In Reach: FASD Supports and Services for Corrections Staff and Residents



Photo: www.nwcfasd.ca



Presented By:
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Outline

- Introduction and background (Melissa)
- In Reach project description (Donna)
- In Reach evaluation (Melissa)



What is FASD?

*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a diagnostic term used to describe impacts on the **brain and body** of individuals **prenatally exposed to alcohol**. FASD is a **lifelong** disability. Individuals with FASD will experience some degree of challenges in their daily living, and need support with motor skills, physical health, learning, memory, attention, communication, emotional regulation, and social skills to reach their full potential. Each individual with FASD is **unique** and has areas of both **strengths and challenges**.*

Canada FASD Research Network, www.canfasd.ca

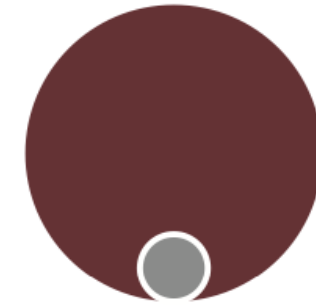
THE LEADING DISABILITY

FASD is the leading developmental disability in Canada. It affects 4% of Canadians. That's more people than:



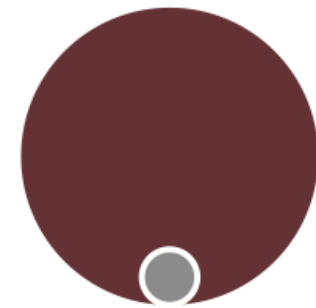
Autism

1.52%



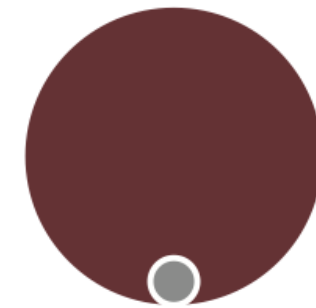
Cerebral Palsy

0.21%



Down Syndrome

0.14%



Tourette's Syndrome

0.10%

1,500,000 CANADIANS

have FASD

FASD AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- People with FASD are at increased risk for complex adverse outcomes
- Prevalence of FASD in prison settings could be as high as 31.2%^a
- There is a critical need for improved access to FASD diagnostic assessments for correctional facility residents, as well as improved access to FASD education for correctional facility staff

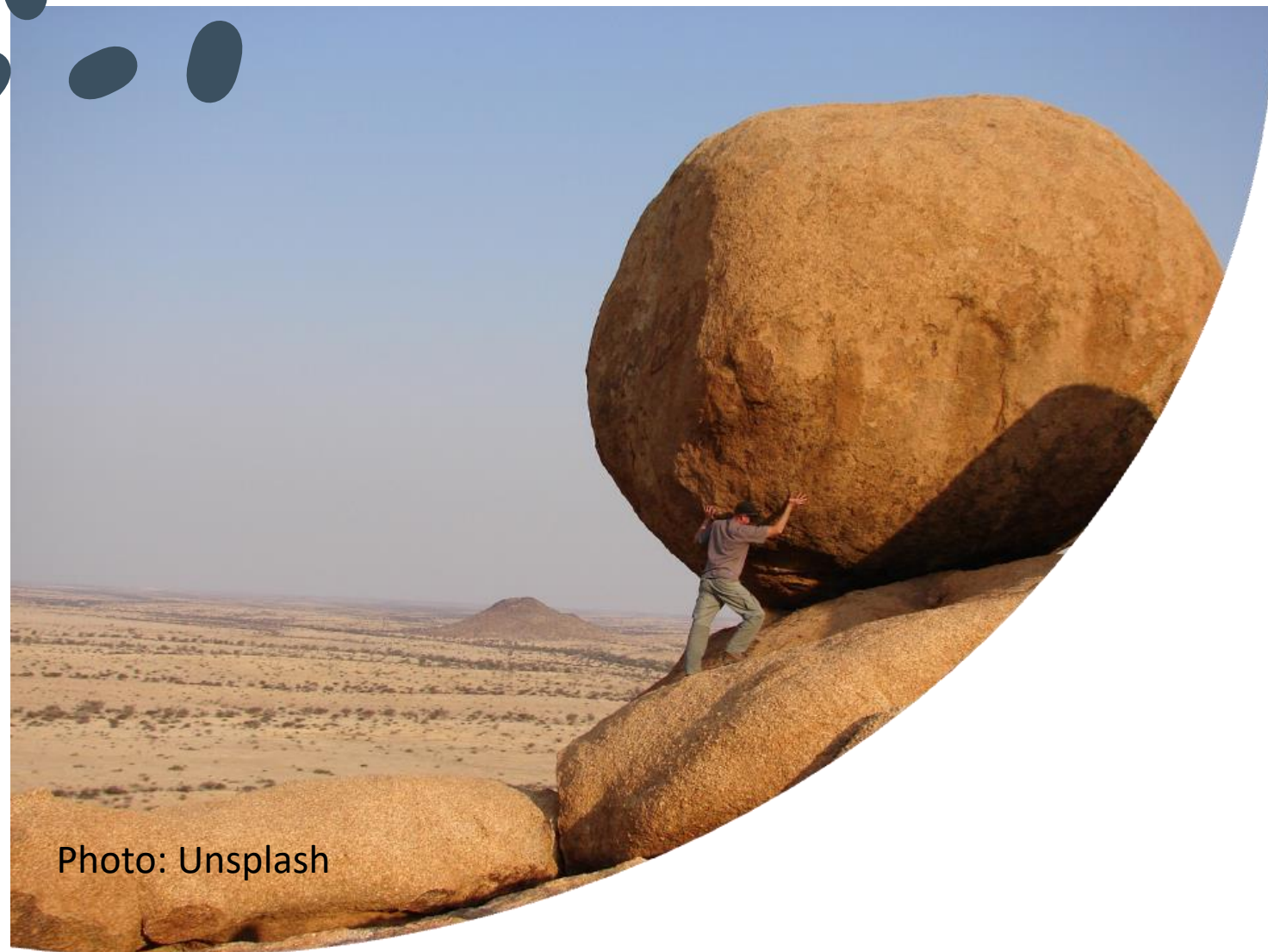
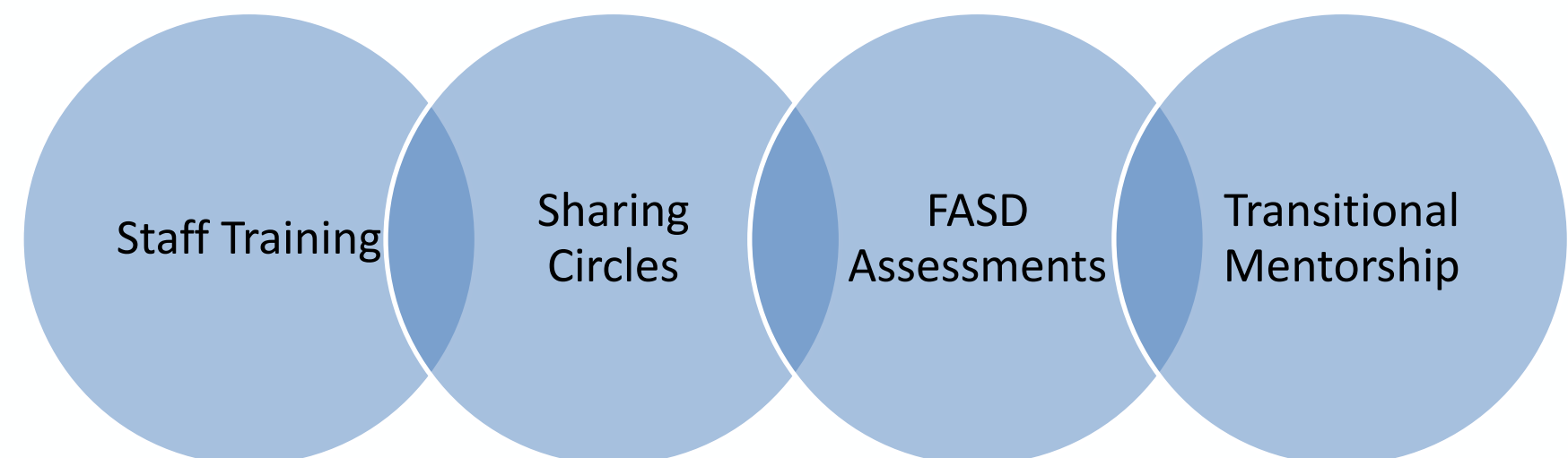
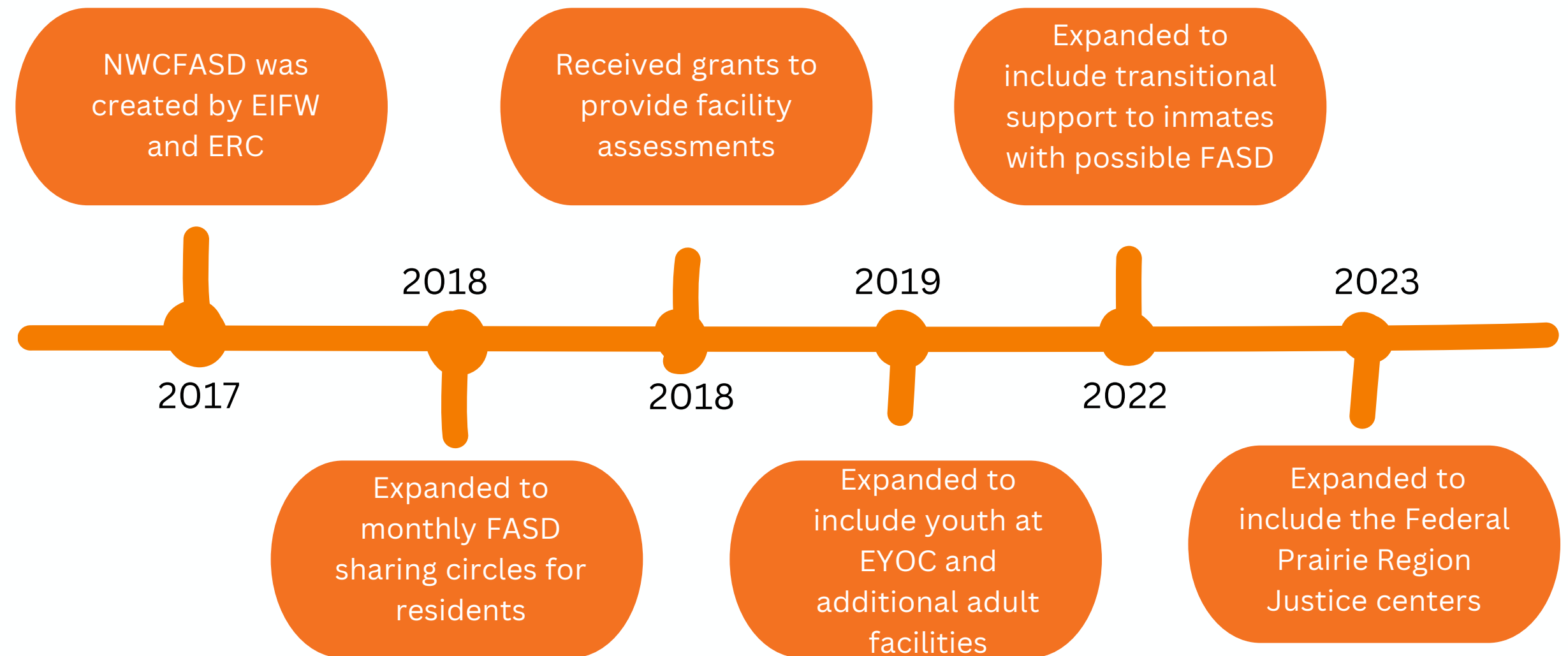


Photo: Unsplash

NWCFASD Network In Reach Program

In Reach is currently providing FASD supports and services to a total of 7 federal and 11 provincial justice facilities in Alberta

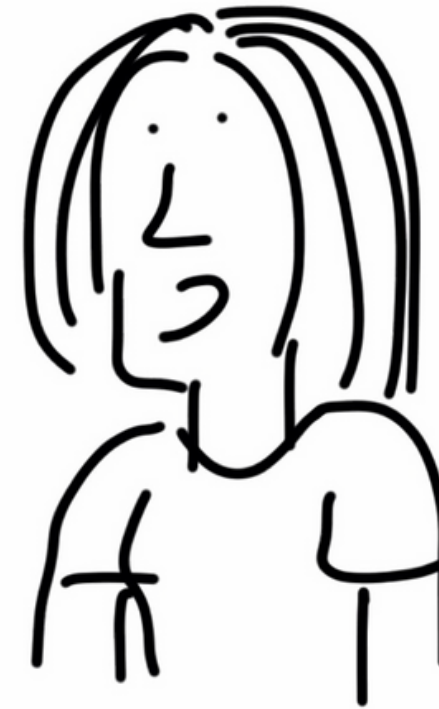


What kind of evaluation
did you need?



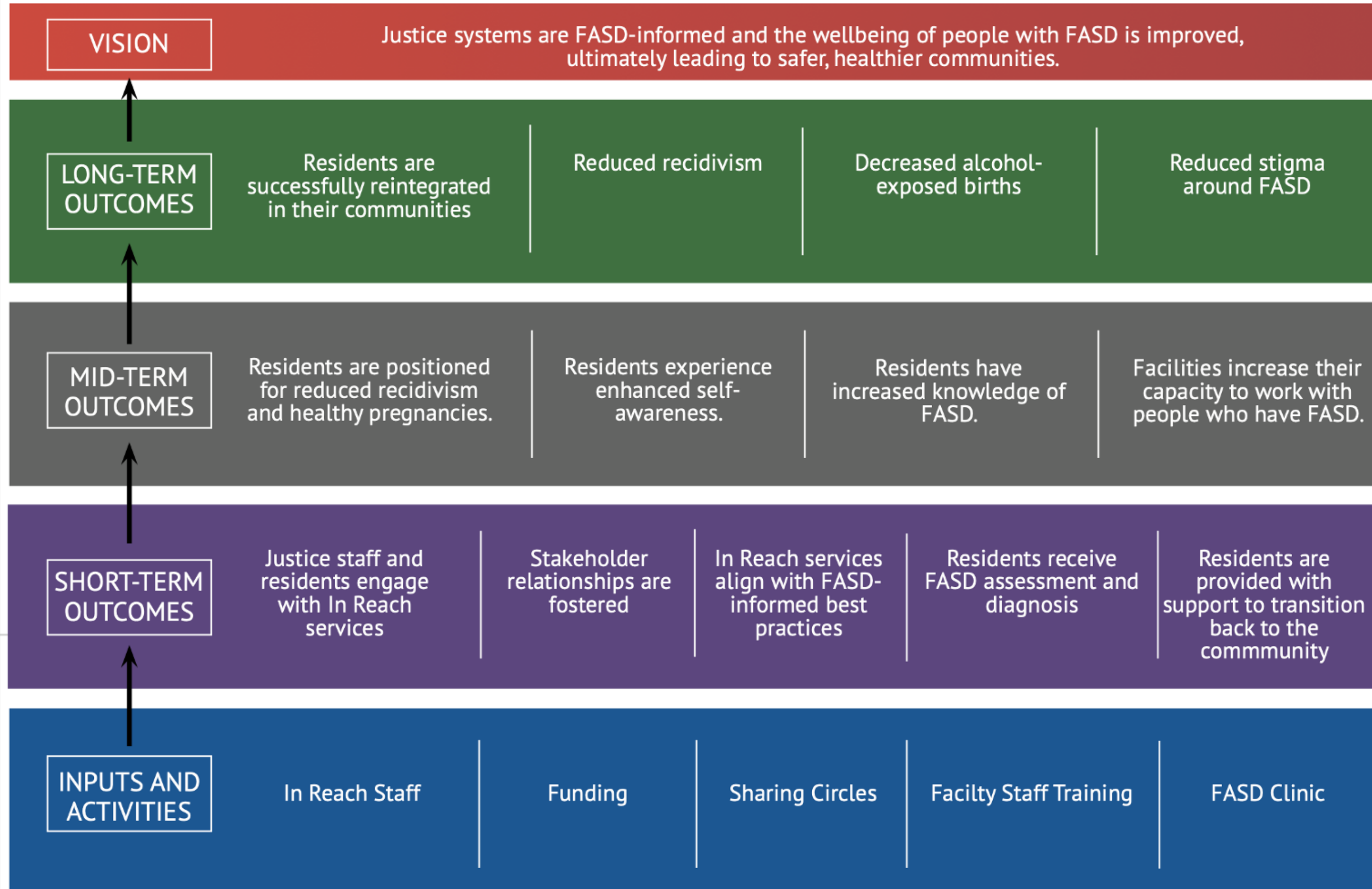
Our 3 year project is coming
to an end and were told we
needed an evaluation.

What kind is that?



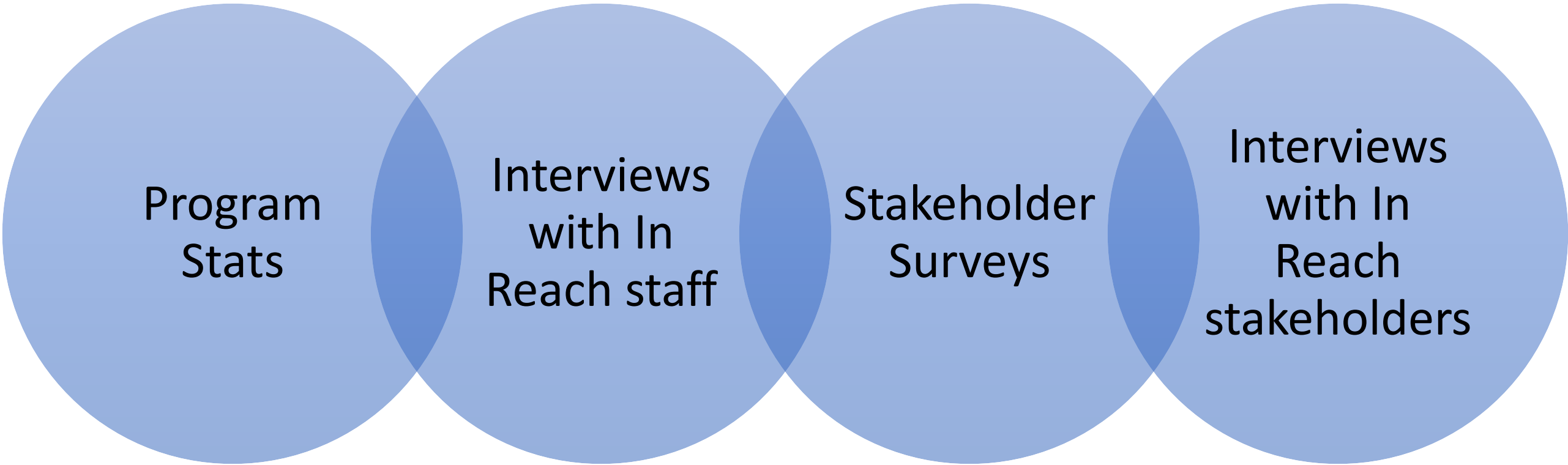
freshspectrum.com

In Reach Project Logic Model



Evaluation Questions

1. To what extent is the project achieving its identified outcomes?
 - Are facility staff and residents engaging with In Reach services?
 - To what extent are stakeholder relationships being fostered?
 - What changes are being influenced in justice facilities and residents?
 - How is the project delivering services that are aligned with FASD-informed best practices?
2. In what areas can the project can continue to be refined?
3. What learnings can be applied to emerging opportunities for project replication and/or expansion?



OVERVIEW

29 facilities have received 81 staff trainings

137 assessments were completed

938 sharing circles were completed

Outcomes: Project Foundations

RELATIONSHIPS WITH FACILITIES

“When I first heard about this project, I was skeptical...I’ve received less than a warm welcome at some facilities, so for this to take off the way it has is inspirational.”

~ Clinician

TEAM APPROACH

“Working together really seems to make a big difference...none of us has the exact answer but we all play a part.”

~ Facility Staff Member

FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS

“The program works within the trends of the institution, sees what we’re lacking and then addresses the needs.”

~ Facility staff member

Outcomes: Residents

HOPE

“It provides them with hope that, “hey I’m not a write-off...there are people that are willing to work with me.”

~ Clinician

BRIDGING

“There is nothing more common than an inmate getting released without any transitional supports...with the FASD population you need extra planning between pre-discharge and post-discharge.”

~ Facility Staff Member

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

“We know they’re not going to be in jail forever, so they need the knowledge and awareness for when they get out, and this is what’s going to prevent more brushes with the law when they do get out.”

~ Facility staff member

Outcomes: Facilities

RESOURCE FOR FACILITY STAFF

“Staff feel there is something new they can turn to, to get things moving in a different direction, a layer of needed support.”

~ Facility Staff Member

CAPACITY BUILDING

“The staff are having the ability to recognize the traits of someone with FASD as opposed to being someone who’s just willfully noncompliant or belligerent...”

~ Facility Staff Member

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENTS

“When they said they were able to start doing assessments, we were over the moon. This has been a 20-year discussion so it’s an incredible offer.”

~ Facility Staff Member

Moving Forward

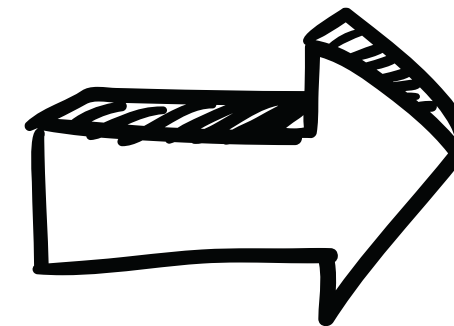
TRANSITIONAL MENTORSHIP

“Instead of them being released and it’s like, ‘ok now go to the bus stop...there needs to be someone ready to catch them and help them...it’s a huge, huge gap.”

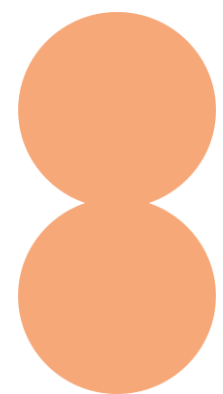
SUSTAINABILITY

“I strongly feel that this should be a priority for the Alberta government...the cost of not doing this work is unconscionable. ...a very small amount of funding could prevent huge, huge costs down the road.”

~ Facility Staff Member



ONGOING EVALUATION AND GROWTH



Thank you!



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