

Multnomah County Right to Counsel Ballot Initiative

An Holistic Systems Evaluation

Adrian Low, Elizabeth McCune, Cameran Murphy

Agenda

Executive summary - Elizabeth

Our approach - Elizabeth

Defining the focal system - Elizabeth

C(S)ATWOE - Cameran

CLD - Adrian

Realistic Evaluation - Cameran

Leverage & Recommendations - Adrian

Executive Summary

Project: Case study of tenant right to counsel ballot initiative in Multnomah County, applying holistic systems approaches

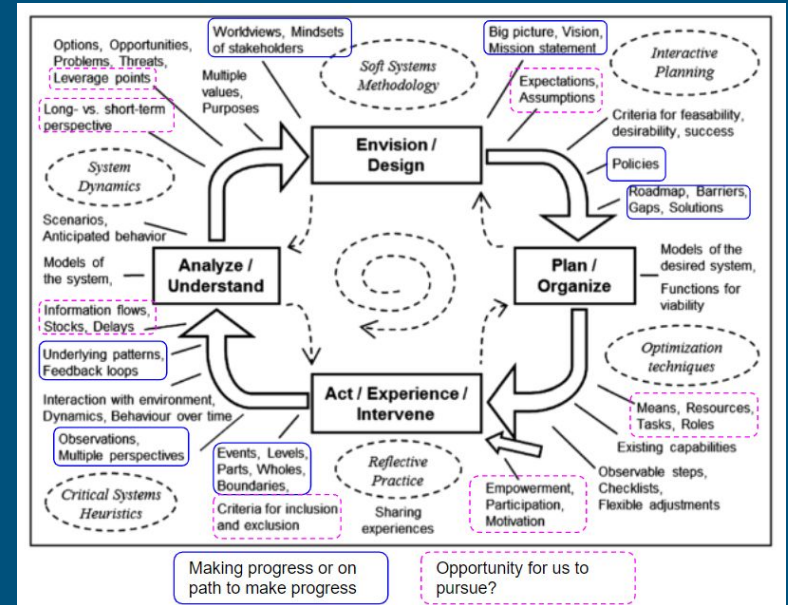
Context: Goal of the ballot initiative is to provide a legal right to counsel in eviction court, paving the way for a fair trial, reducing unfair evictions and lessening harm from evictions

Approach: Define the focal system, applying soft systems principles, create a CLD to represent system dynamics, identify leverage points and recommendations

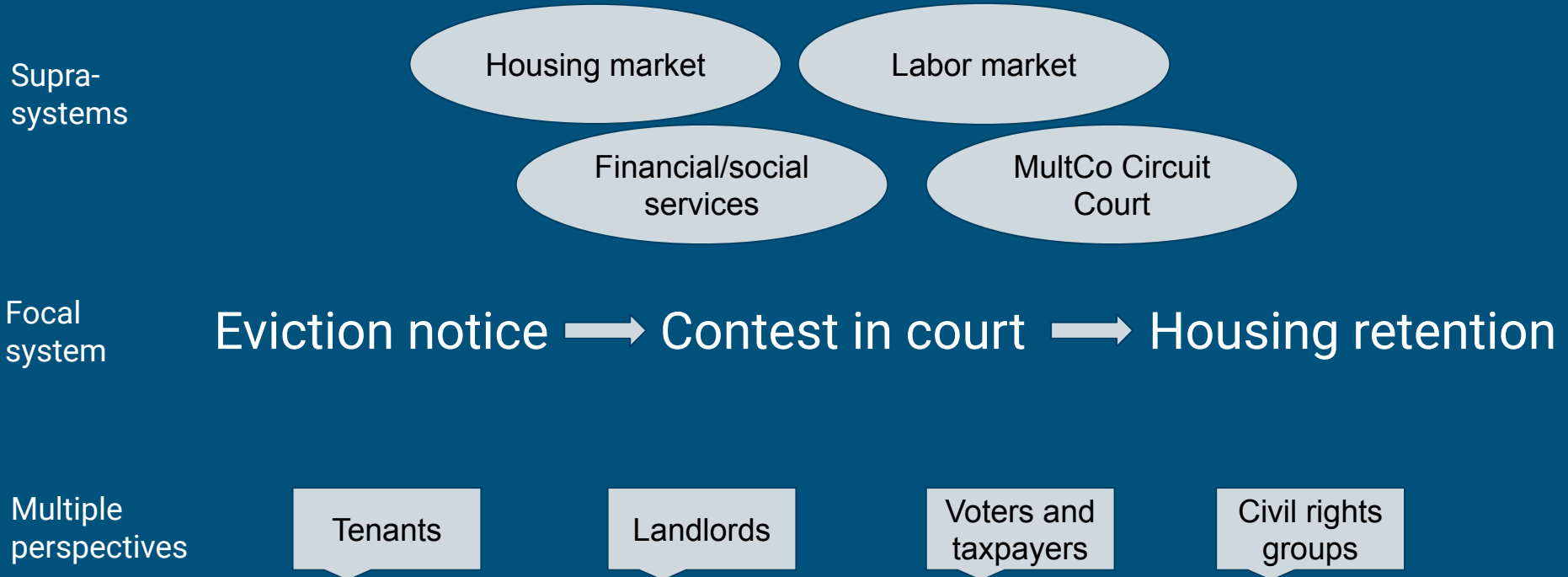
Recommendations: 1) Comprehensive educational outreach on tenant rights, 2) Mediation services, 3) Post-court mental health services

Our Approach

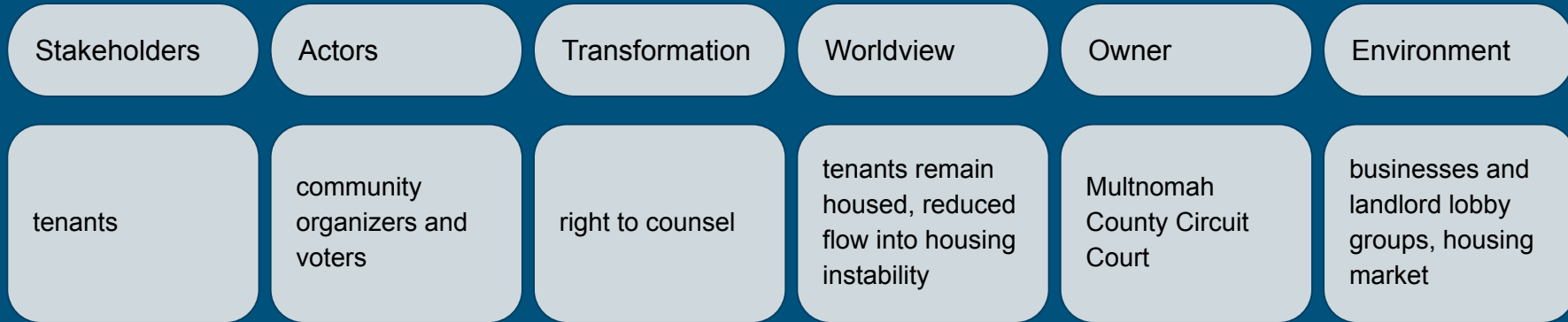
- Shared interests
- Grounded in systems issues around homelessness
- Developed shared mental model on right to counsel as leverage point
- Leveraged Hieronymi's synthesis of systems constructs to help us anchor our work



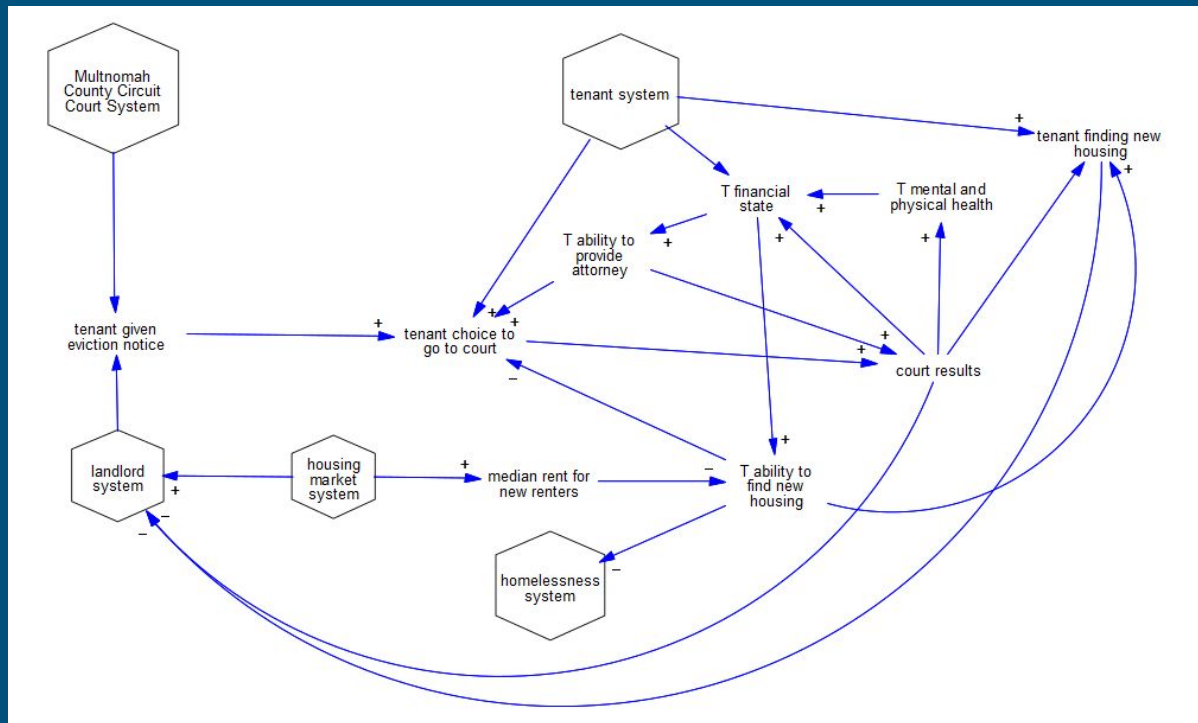
Defining the Focal System



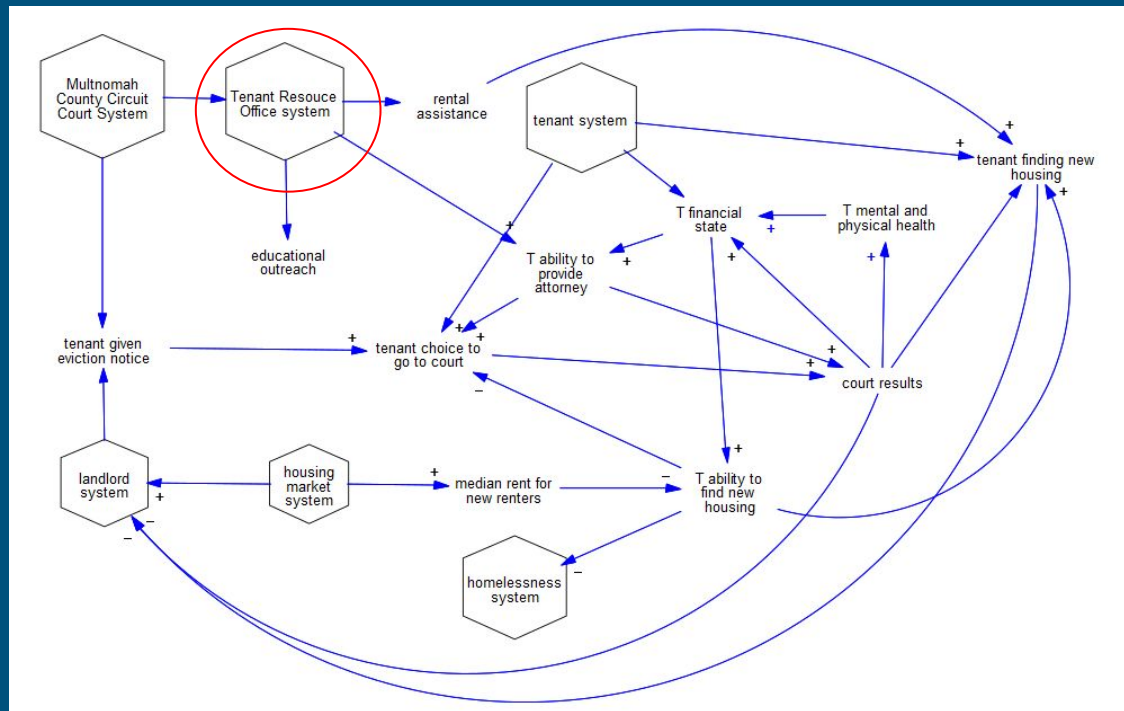
Soft Systems Principles - C(S)ATWOE



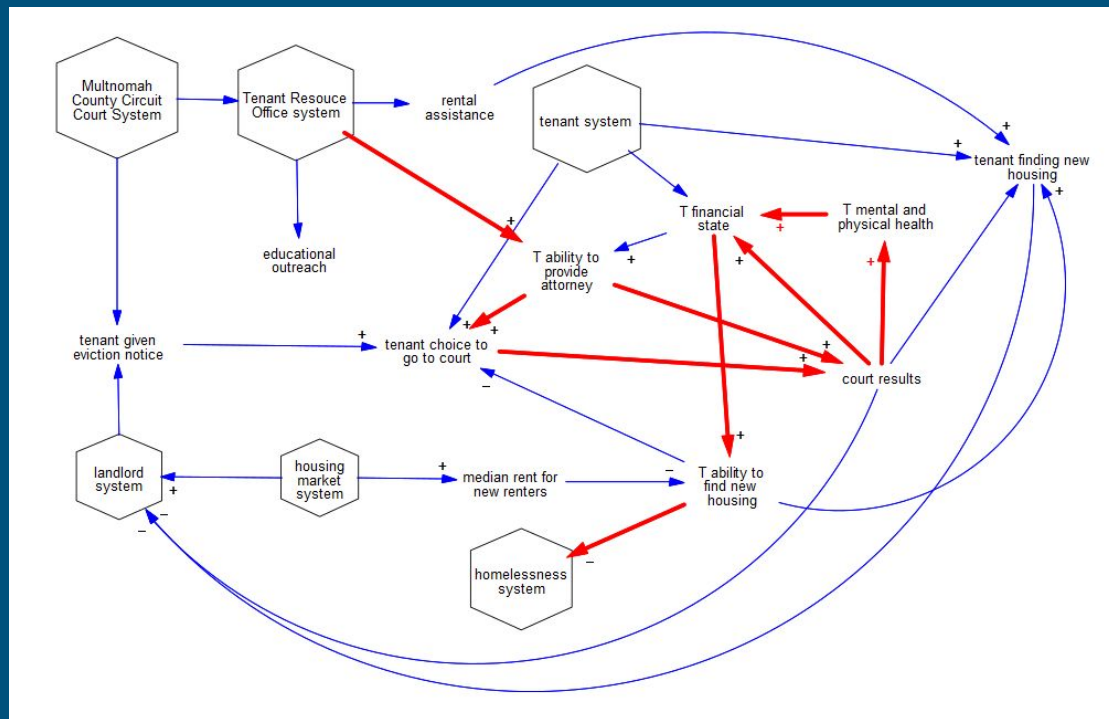
a system by which tenants remain housed, avoiding outcomes related to housing instability, through community organizing and voting to approve the ballot initiative, ultimately receiving the right to counsel in Multnomah County Circuit Court despite competing interests from conglomerate landlord groups and a volatile housing market



CLD



CLD



Realist Evaluation Principles

Landlords + Evictions (filing a notice + tenant leaving) = ability to retain control of their property

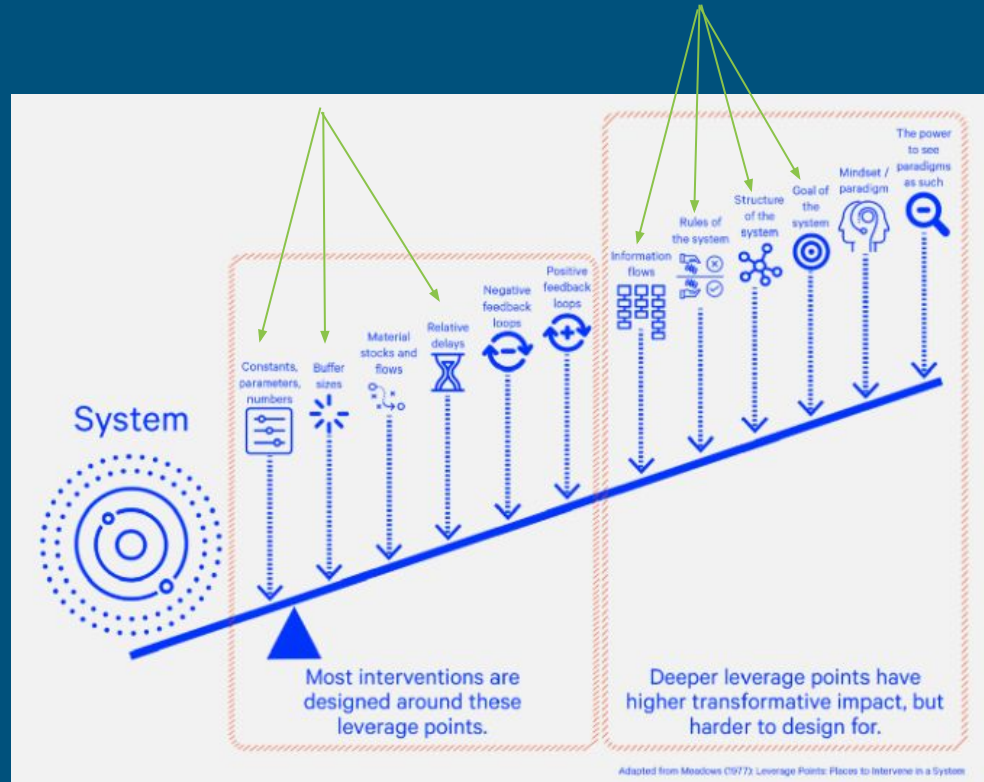
Tenants + Right to Counsel (Tenant Resource Office + legal representation) = prevention of housing instability/houselessness

Right to Counsel + Continued advocacy (rise in representation + drop in eviction filings) = dramatic increase in tenants remaining housed

Leverage

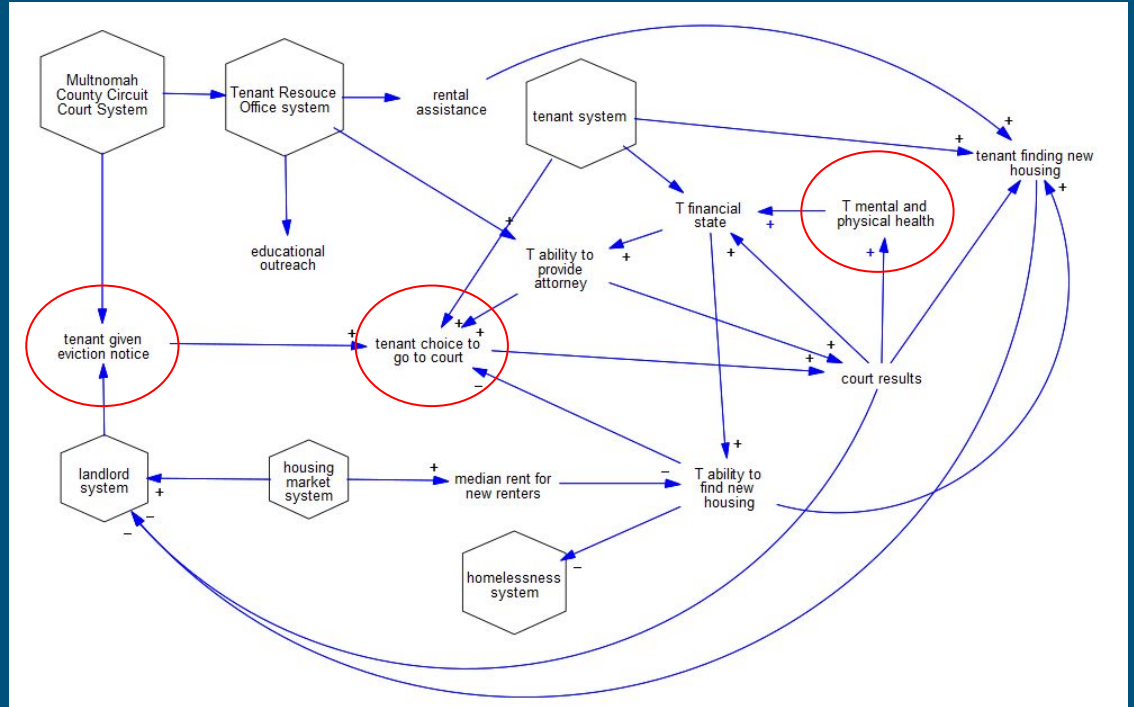
Right to Counsel serves as an intervention and future/potential leverage point within Multnomah County housing systems

Remember to build in a clear transition to next slide/presenter



Leverage

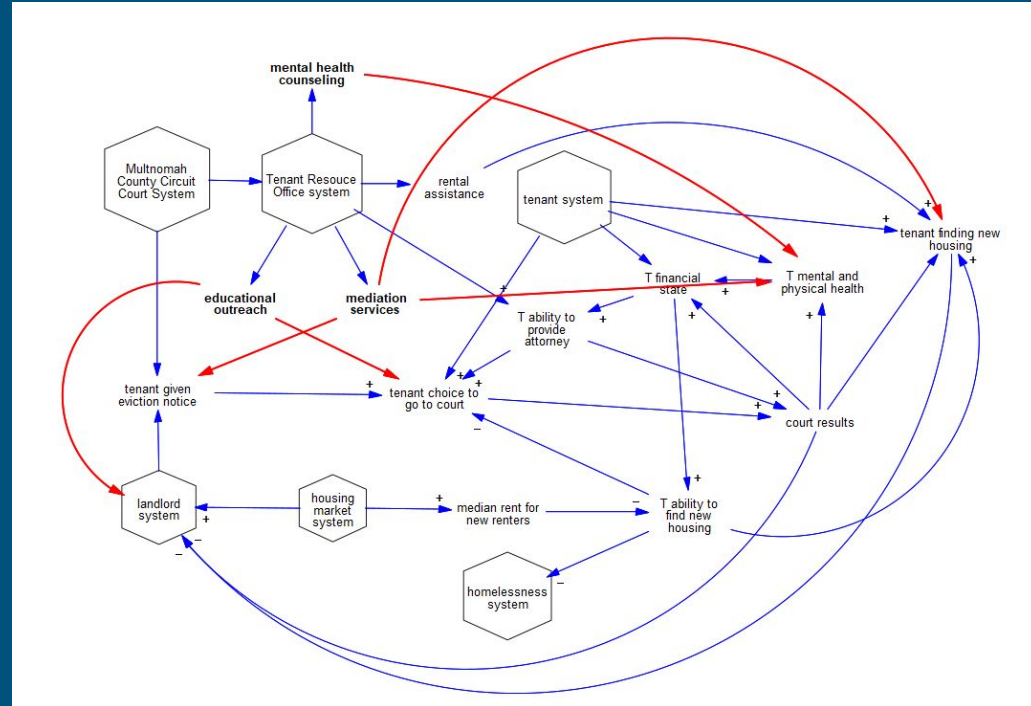
Points where flows can be restricted to homelessness system



Recommendations

Specific to Multnomah County's
Ballot Initiative:

- Comprehensive Educational Outreach component
- Addition of mediation services pre and post court proceedings
- Post-court mental health counseling



Questions?

Presentation Checklist (remove before presenting)

- Effective use of time
- Clarity in delivery
- Audience engagement
- Demonstrated understanding
- Quality of presentation materials
- Gestalt of the team effort (e.g., involvement of everyone, clear transitions, logical sequencing)
- Handling of questions