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Developing and Implementing an APS Assessment System

Agenda

- What is the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) system?
- The Minnesota story
- The Norfolk story
- Panel discussion

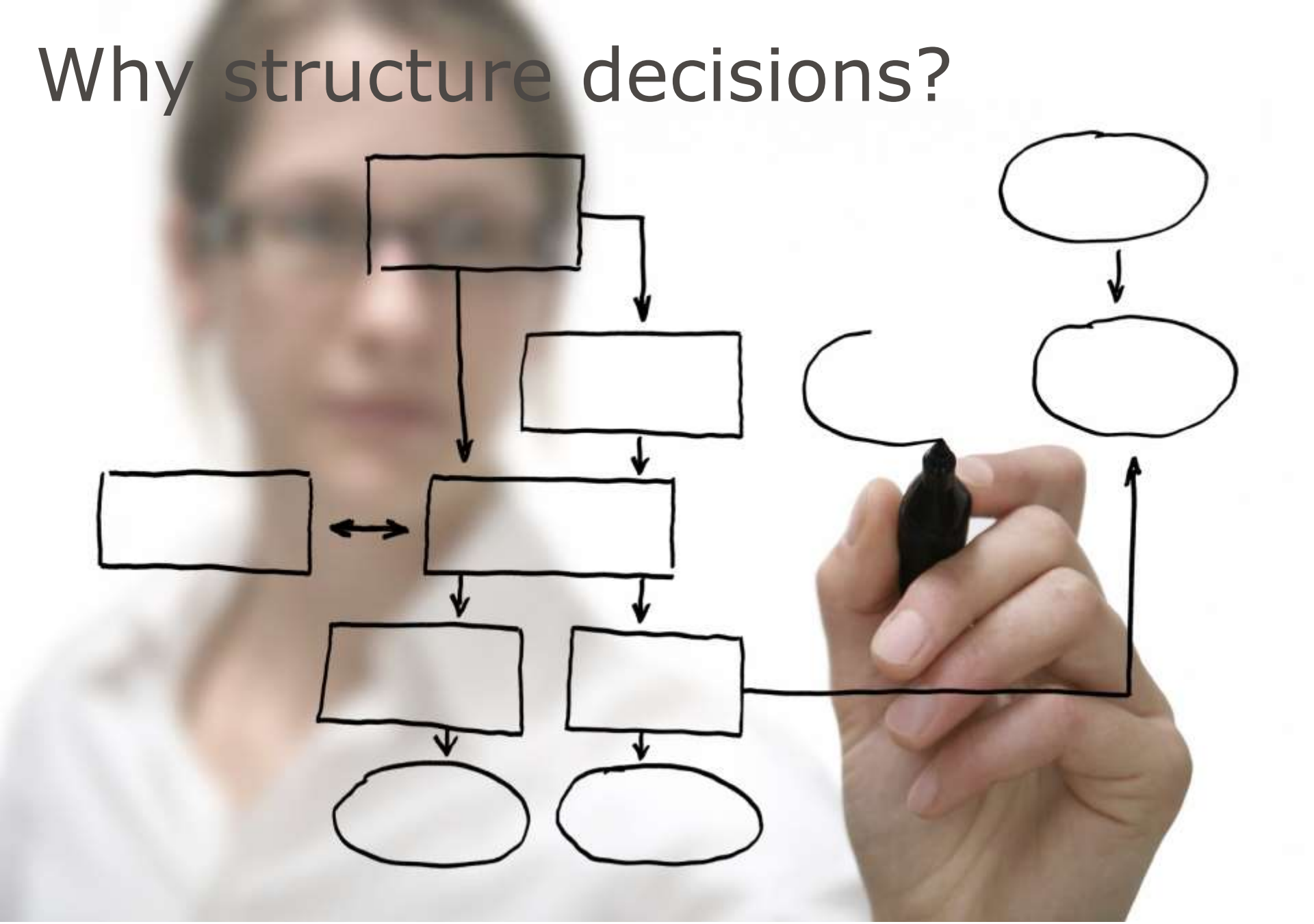
SDM® System Goals

Promote safety

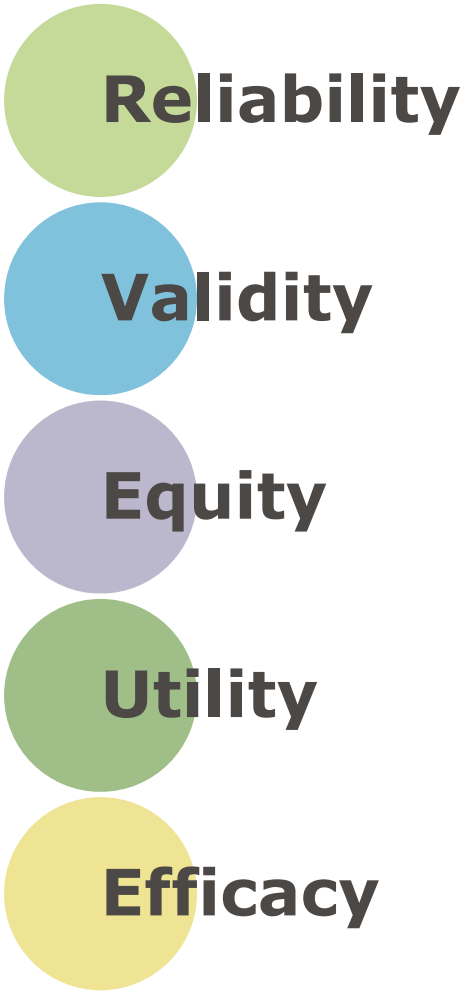
Identify needs

Reduce harm

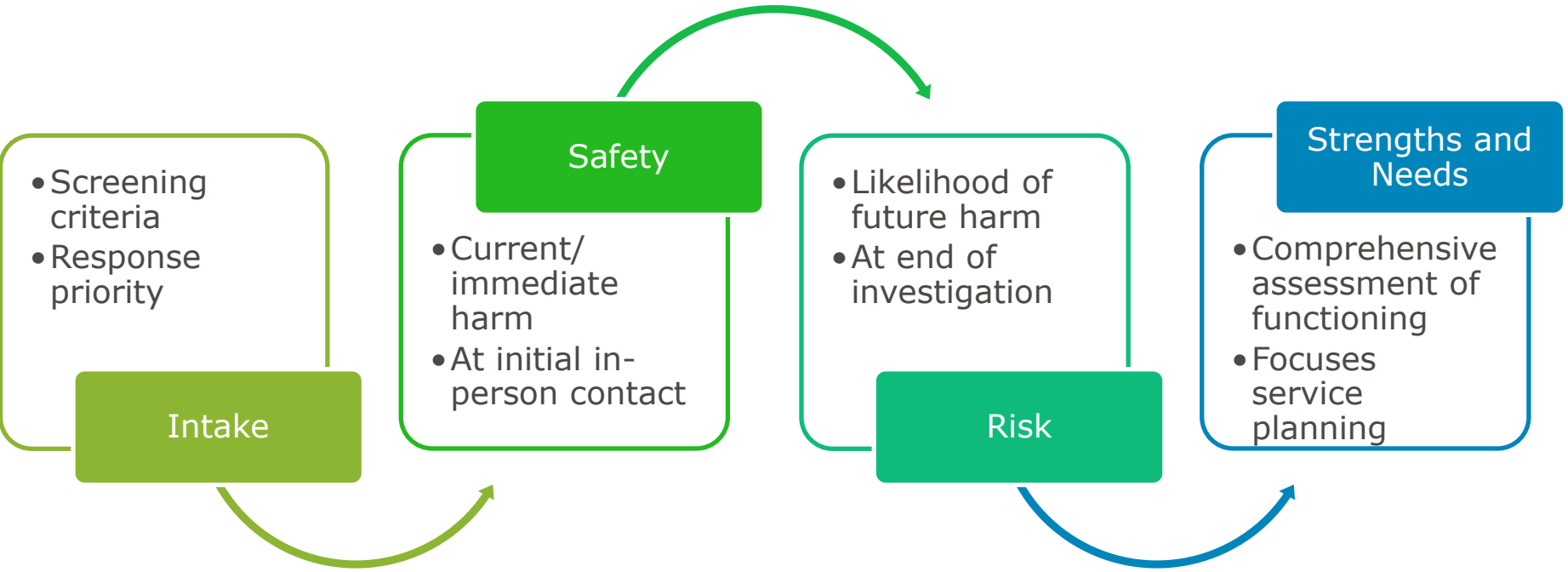
Why structure decisions?



SDM® Principles

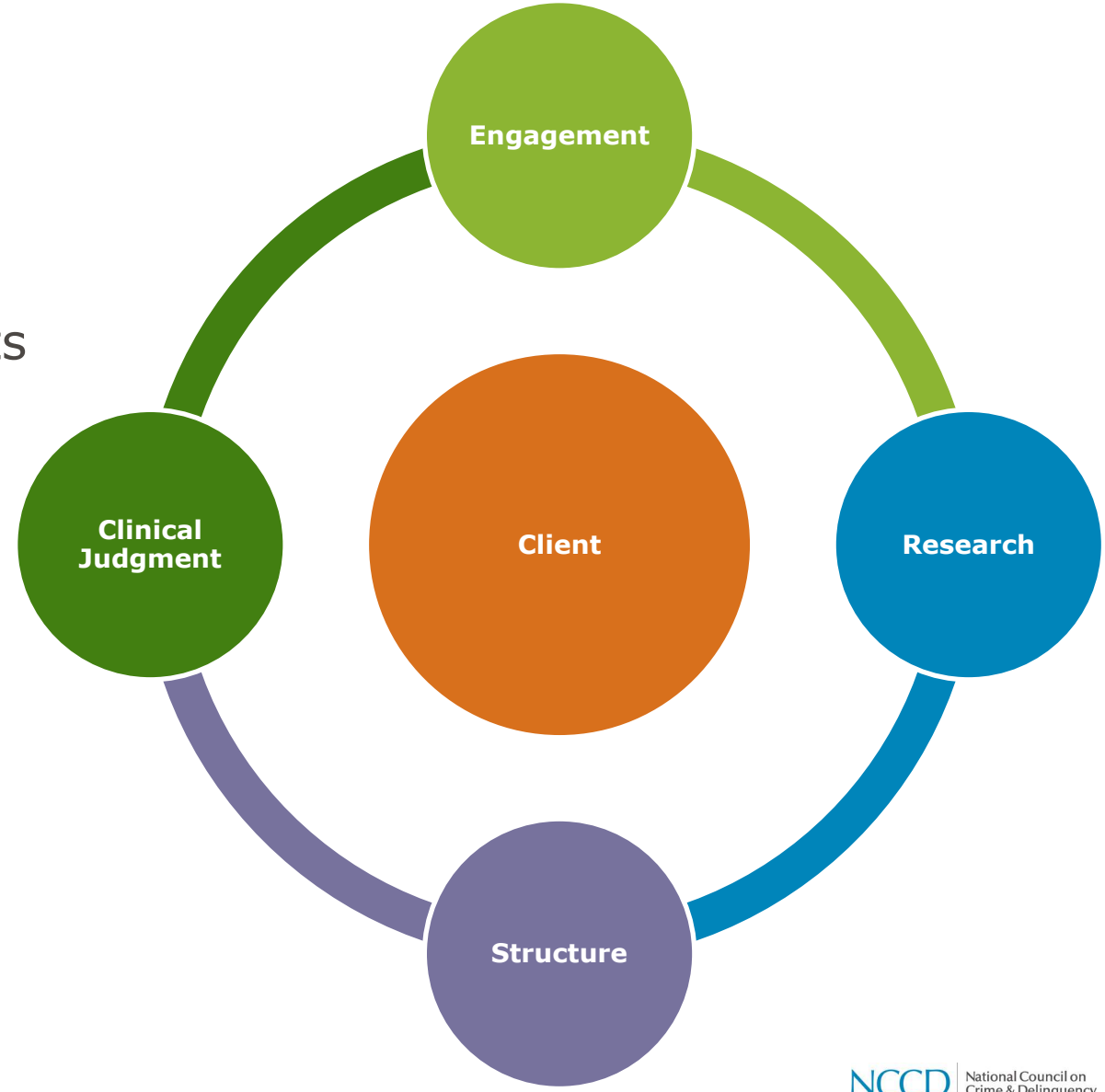


The SDM® Assessments



The SDM® Model as Part of a Broader, Client-Centered Practice Framework

- Assessments do not make decisions … people do.
- Research and structured assessments can help guide and support decision making to improve outcomes.
- The SDM® model should be integrated within a context of client engagement strategies and strong social work practice approaches.



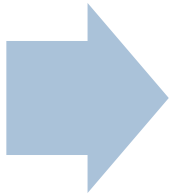
Intake Assessment

Components

- Determination of eligibility
- Allegations criteria
- Overrides
- Screening decision

Screening assessment:

Do we investigate?



Response priority:

How quickly?

Safety Assessment

Components

- Factors influencing vulnerability
- Current danger factors
- Interventions
- Safety decision

Is there a current threat of serious harm to the alleged victim?

What interventions are recommended to address threats to safety?

Based on client and caregiver acceptance of interventions, what is the safety decision?

Developing the Risk Assessment

US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice grant (October 2008)

- Development of an APS actuarial risk assessment
- New Hampshire Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services

This research was made possible by the National Institute of Justice grant 2008-IJ-CX-0025, "Developing an Actuarial Risk Assessment for Adult Protective Services."

What is actuarial risk research?

- A simple statistical procedure for estimating the probability of a "critical" event occurring at some future time.
- In this case, the critical event is the **likelihood of future self-neglect or abuse/neglect by another person.**

Risk Assessment

Components

- Self-neglect index
- Maltreatment by another person index
- Scored risk level
- Overrides

What is the likelihood of future harm?

Should ongoing intervention services be provided?

What level of service/ engagement is required?

Strengths and Needs Assessment

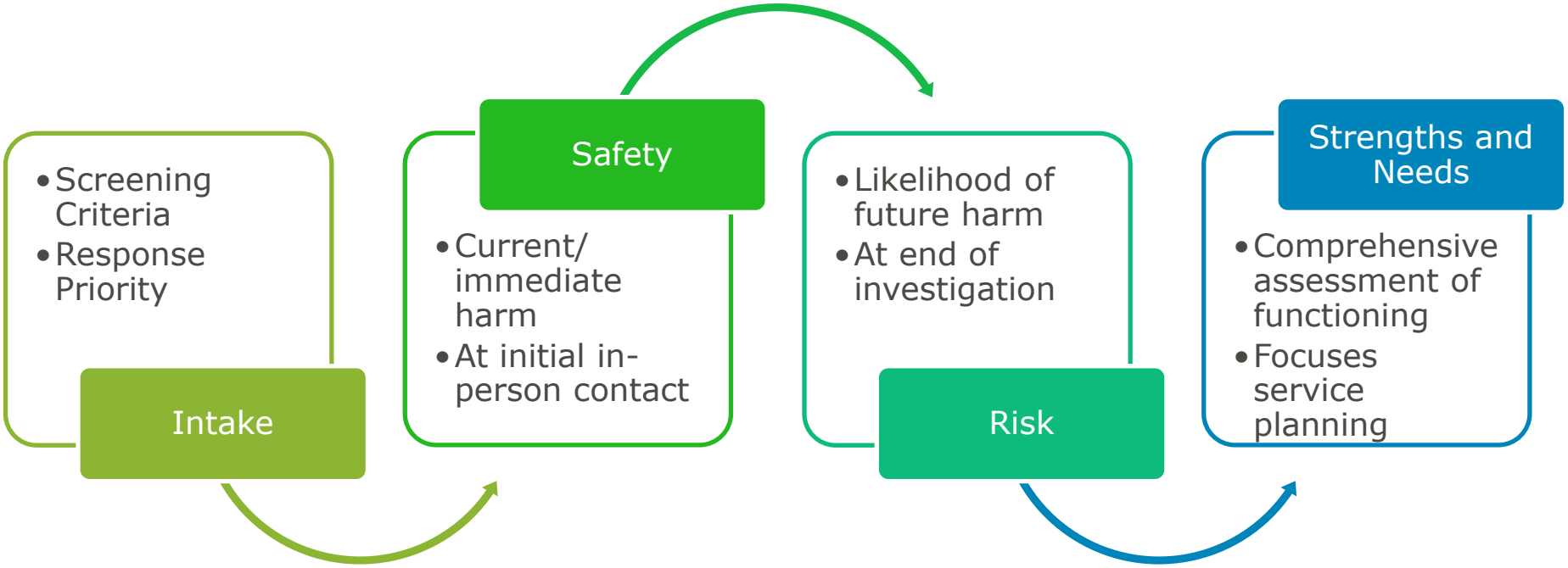
Components

- Client domains
- Caregiver domains
- Prioritization

What priority needs should be addressed in service planning?

What existing strengths can be used to address those needs?

The Full System



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Our Panel

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The Minnesota Story

Development

- 2009
- Six counties
- Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, Steele, Washington
- Collaborative development

Expansion

- 2012
- Statewide
- Legislative support
- Building buy-in

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The Norfolk Story

Context

- 120 Local Jurisdictions in Virginia
- Modern port city, where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean
  - 2nd largest city, behind neighboring Virginia Beach
  - One of 9 cities and 7 counties, making up “Hampton Roads" metro area
  - Population of 245,803 (as of 2012)
- Local APS programs serve a transient clientele due to close proximity of cities / counties as well as large military bases

Context

Adult Services / Adult Protective Services:

- 2 units with 2 Supervisors:
  APS Investigation and APS Ongoing
- Each unit consists of:
  - 5 Investigators / 5 Ongoing Workers
  - 1 APS Hotline Worker
  - 2 Office Support Staff
- Total Investigations Per Year (2012): 874
- Total Adult Services (2012): 944
  - ALF / NH Assessments, Companion Services, Case Management services

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Where are you now, and what do you wish you had known when you started out?

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Questions?

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