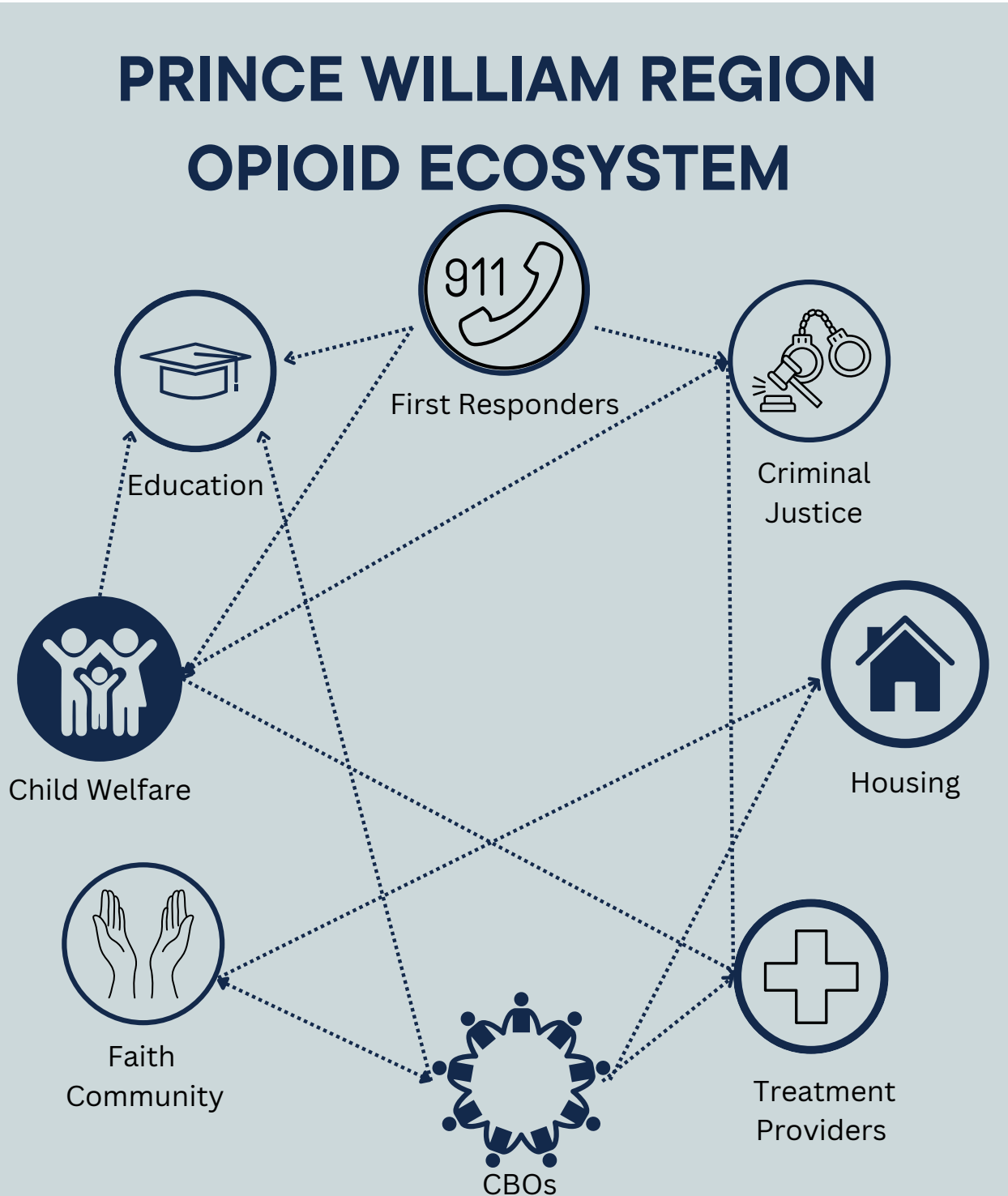# The Greater Prince William Region Opioid Ecosystem

" It's a system, but we work with people. "

From June 2023 to July 2024, the Prince William Health District conducted a community-based assessment on opioid needs. We worked to gauge the challenges and strengths individuals and families face when accessing resources related to opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery. To do this, we met with various individuals across the opioid ecosystem.

Key themes from these interviews underscore the need for a unified approach to reduce fatalities and injuries linked to substance use disorders. Collaboration through new communication strategies to facilitate data sharing, resource pooling, and reviews of best practices among all care systems will improve access to care. Strengthening social and physical infrastructure to support a comprehensive approach will enhance our response to the complex addiction crisis.

PRINCE WILLIAM REGION OPIOID ECOSYSTEM

Diagram sectors: First Responders (911), Education, Criminal Justice, Child Welfare, Housing, Faith Community, Treatment Providers, CBOs

The opioid ecosystem involves the interplay of various sectors influencing an individual's social determinants of health. The diagram above shows the interconnected nature of these sectors and identifies areas where we can work to bridge gaps in care.

Key Themes from Interviews

Barriers

Communication	• Available resources • Data sharing
Approach	• Standard operating procedures • Knowledge of available resources
Resources	• De-stigmatizing campaigns • Lack of trained staff

Recommendations

Education	• Understand available resources • Capacity building to increase skilled staff
Collaboration	• Bridge to services to address gaps • Data communication to understand breadth
Holistic Approach	• Connected issues such as housing and mental health • Adolescent outreach

" "Substance use is not a crime, it's an illness, but it can be **related to ancillary issues** like prostitution, theft, violence, death, loitering, panhandling, all paired with an underlying mental health issue. Our ability to use law enforcement as a connection to recovery seems impossible."

VDH — VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH