

Community Accountability Boards



Creating Opportunities for the
Peaceful Resolution of Crime

Community-based Decision Making



Process aimed at repairing the harm committed against victims and communities.

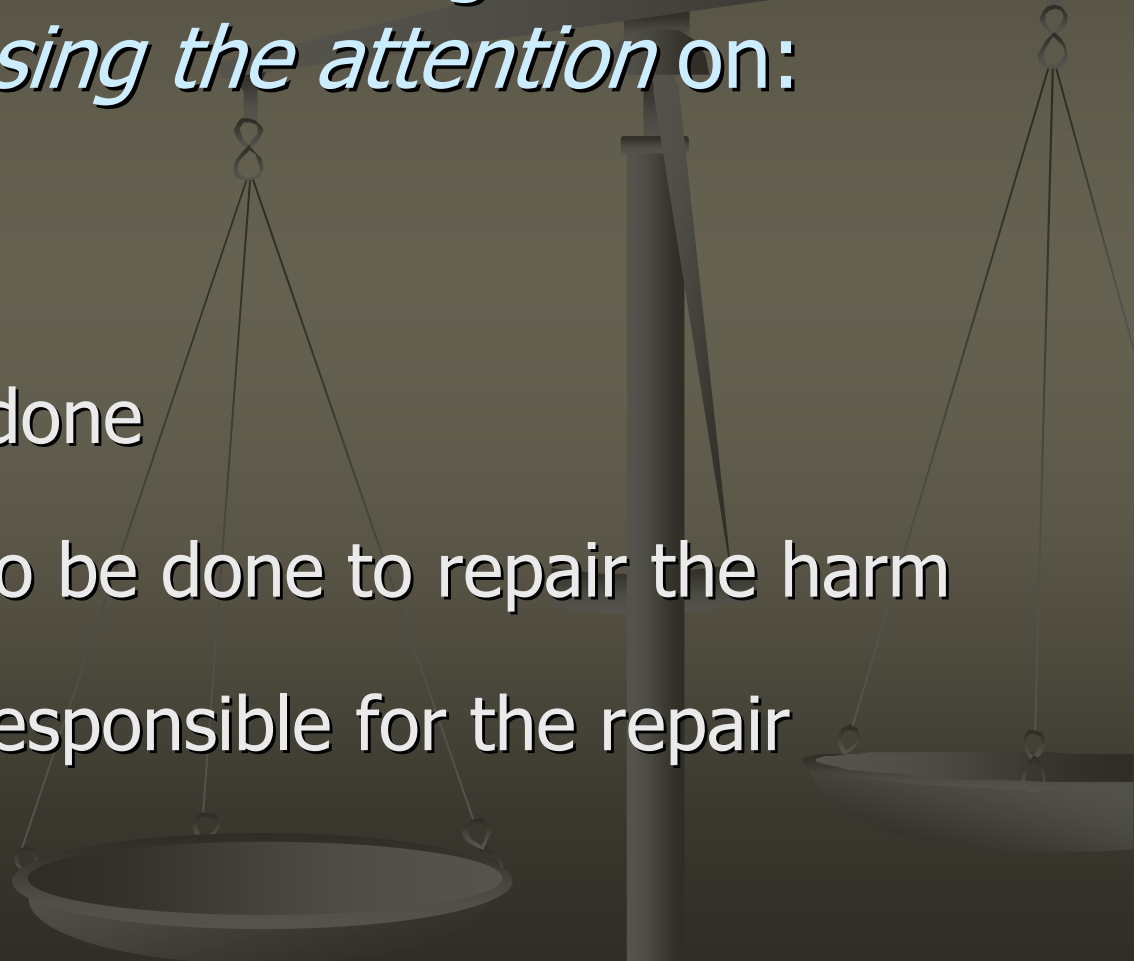
Instead of focusing on:

- Who broke the law
 - What laws were broken
 - How to punish the offender

Community-based Decision Making

This process views crime through a restorative justice lens, *focusing the attention on:*

- What harm was done
 - What needs to be done to repair the harm
 - Who is responsible for the repair



Fast Track Accountability



The response to crime should meet the needs of the victim, community, and the offender, involving each in the justice process to the greatest extent possible.

GOALS



- To provide the victim and the community with the opportunity to converse with offenders in a safe and productive manner
- To provide an opportunity for an offender to take responsibility and make amends

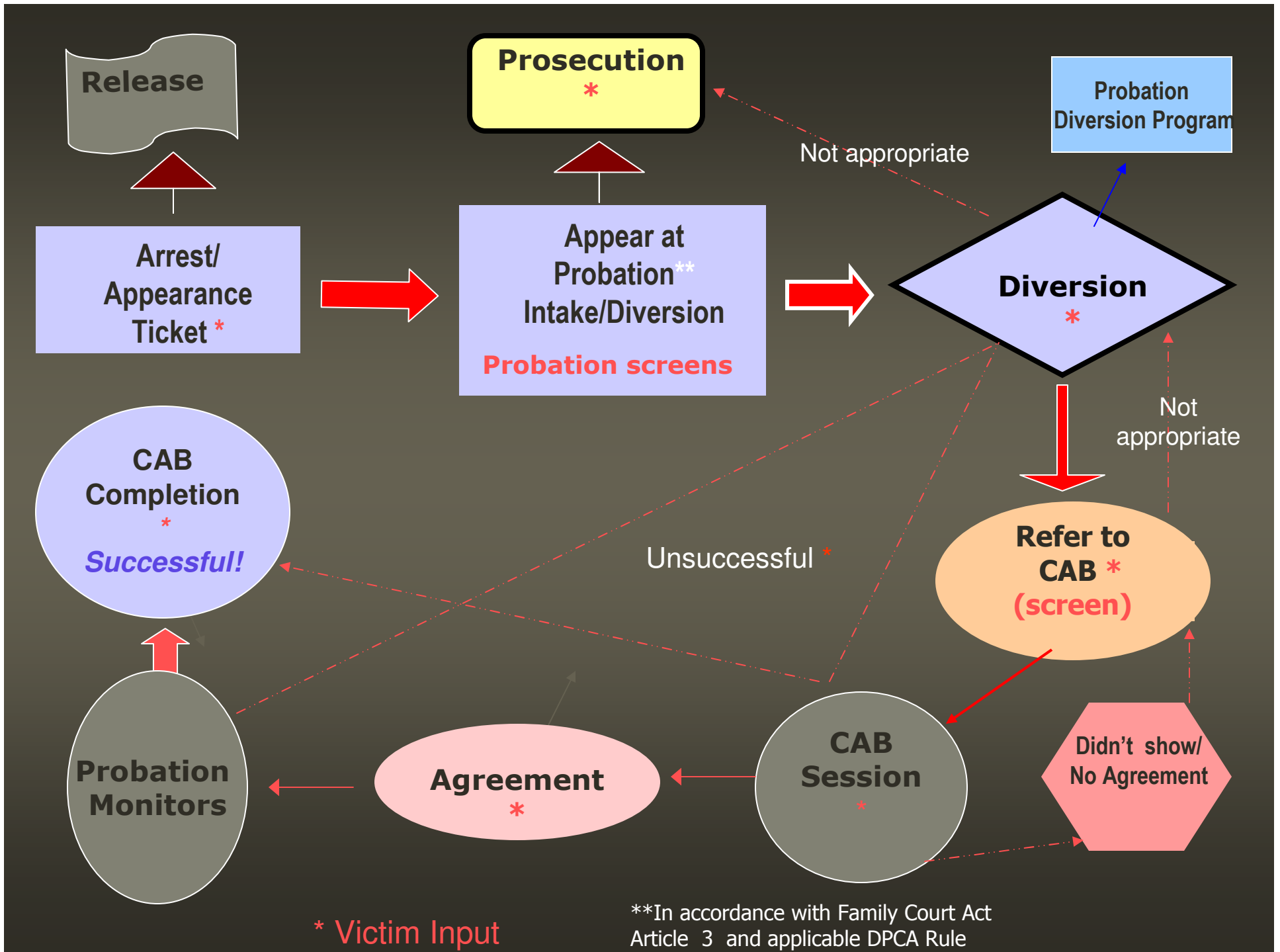
GOALS



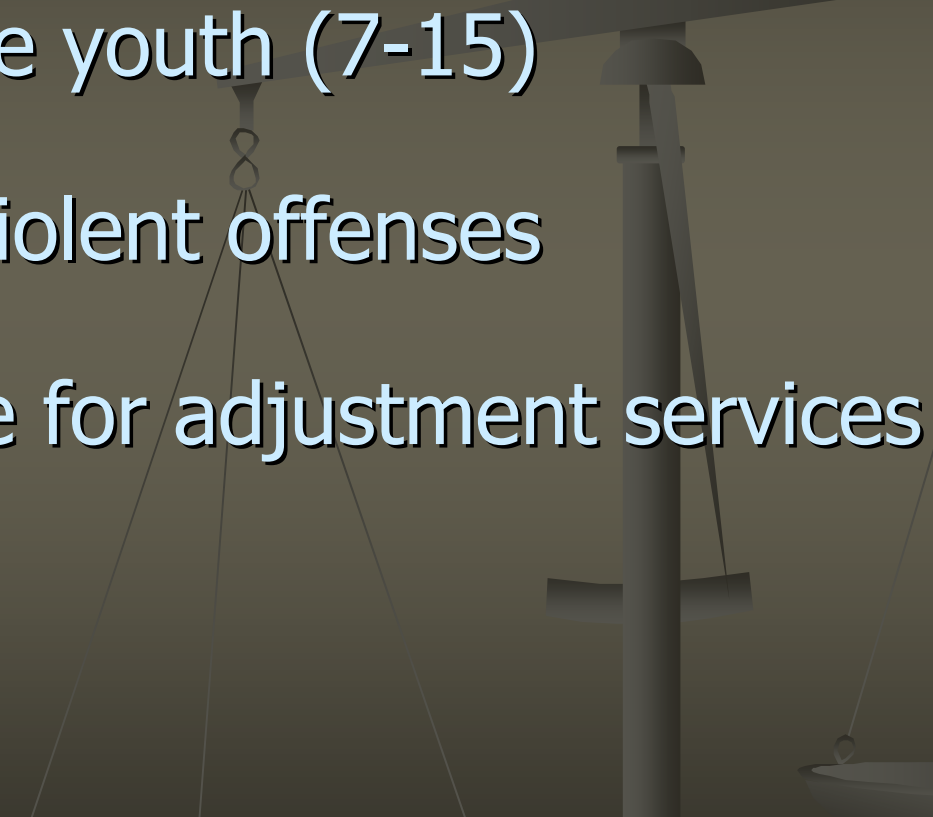
- To provide citizen ownership of and involvement with the justice system
- To provide a neighborhood response to “victimless” offenses
- To provide a timely, non-judicial response to non-violent offenses

What Is the Community Accountability Board Process?





ARREST/APPEARANCE TICKET

- Family Court age youth (7-15)
 - First time non-violent offenses
 - Offenses eligible for adjustment services
 - Victim input
 - Release
- 

APPEAR at PROBATION**

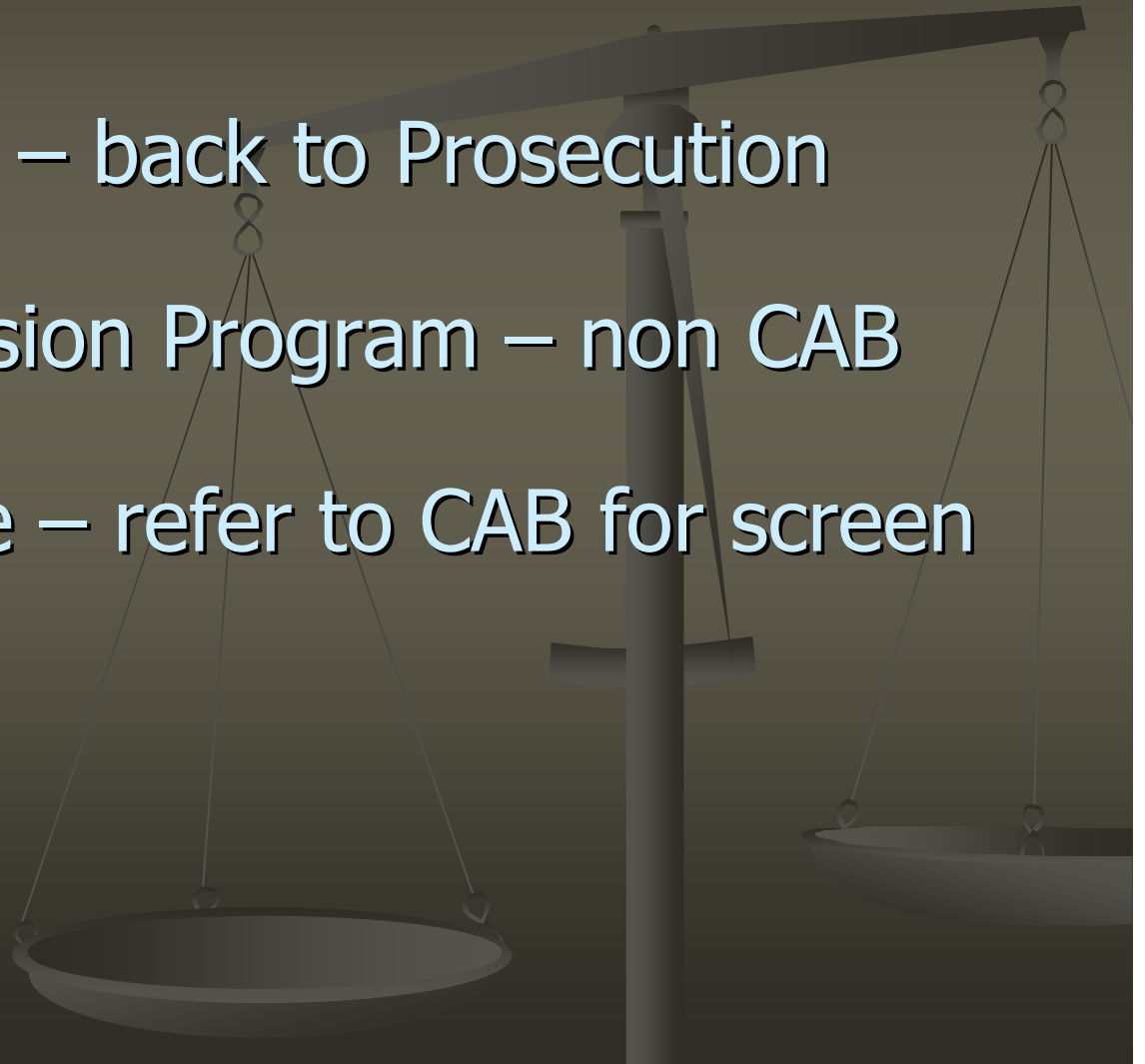


- Intake interview
- Diversion determination made
- Probation screens for CAB appropriateness
- Referral back to prosecution

**In accordance with NYS Family Court Act
Article 3 and applicable OPCA Rule

DIVERSION

- Not appropriate – back to Prosecution
- Probation Diversion Program – non CAB
- CAB appropriate – refer to CAB for screen
- Victim input

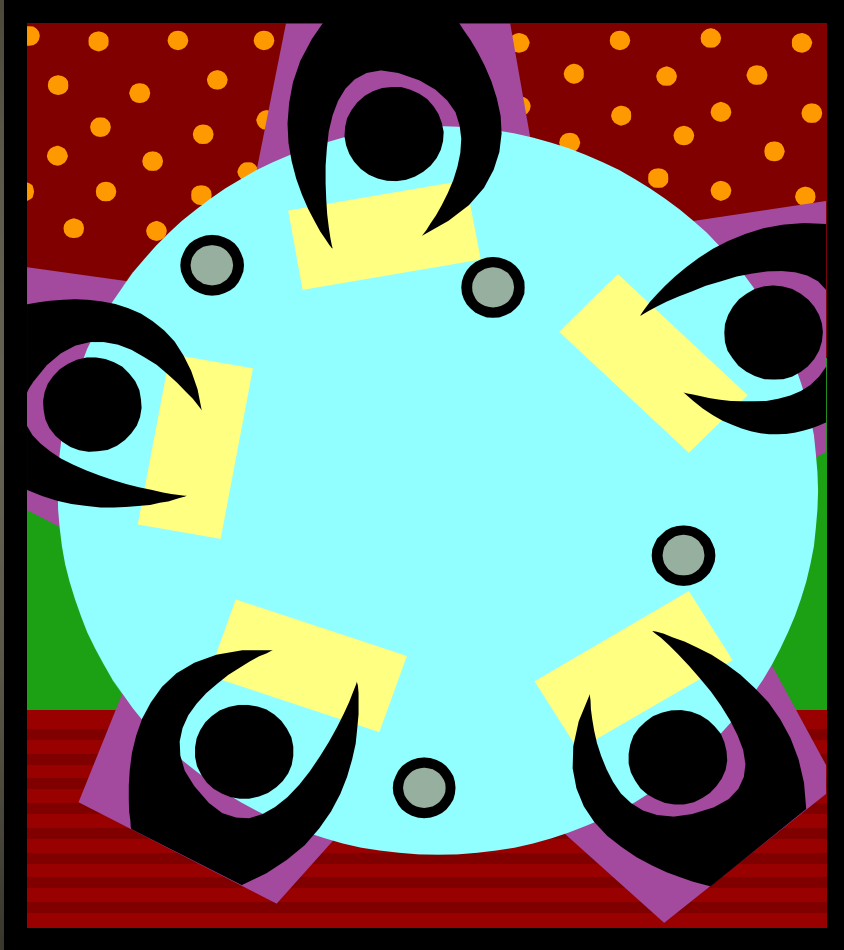


REFER to CAB



- CAB receives referral
- Pre-CAB interview/preparation of offender
- Pre-CAB interview/preparation of victim (if identified)
- Determination made - case is appropriate
- CAB session scheduled
- Victim input

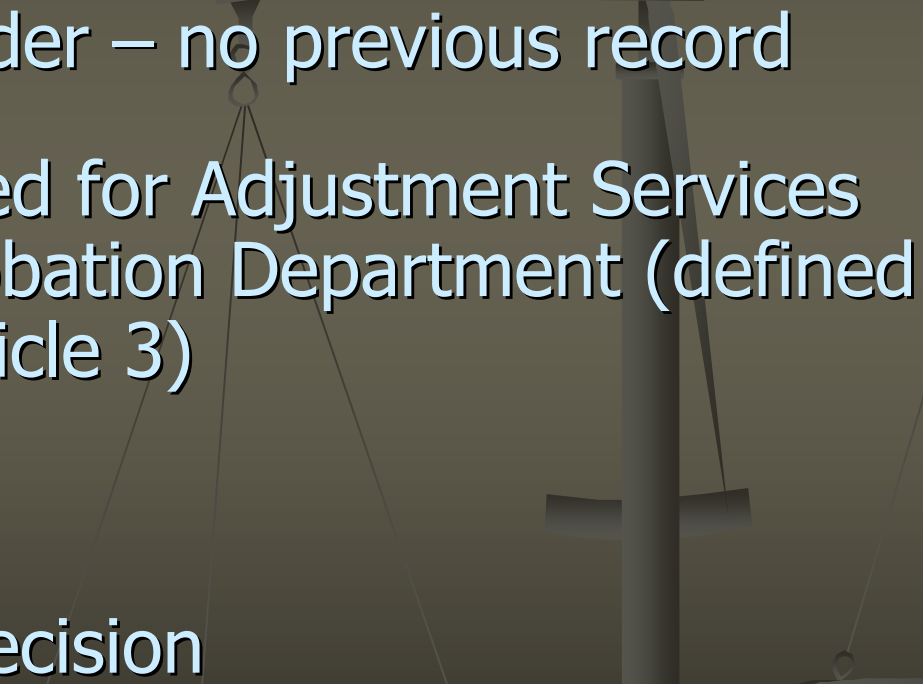
CAB Members



- Neighborhood residents
- Community-based service providers
- Business leaders
- Faith community
- Code enforcement
- Youth service officers

Who Is Involved in the Process

■ The offender:

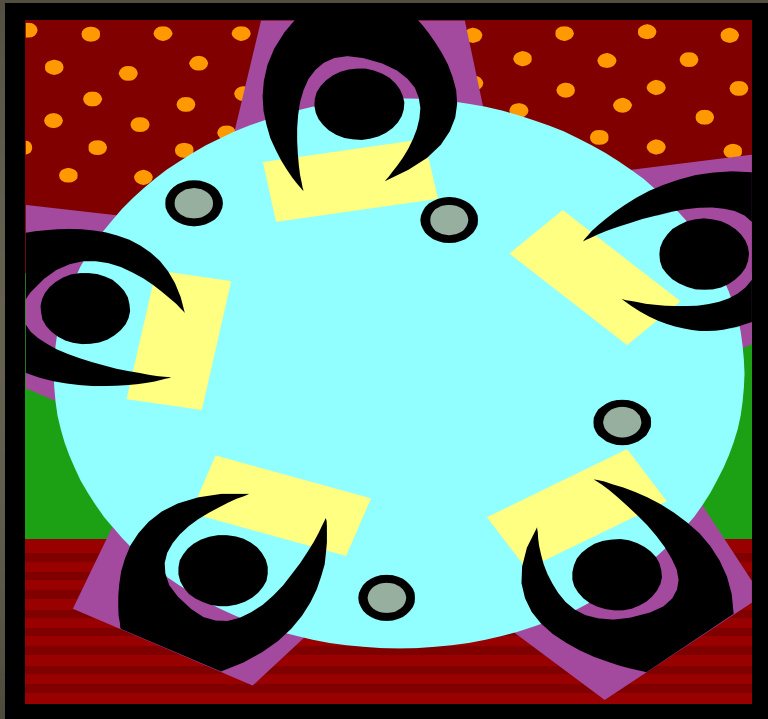
- ✓ First time offender – no previous record
 - ✓ Cases designated for Adjustment Services through the Probation Department (defined by NYS-FCA Article 3)
 - ✓ Police diversion
 - ✓ Case-by-case decision
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Who is involved...



- The victim of the offense/harm
 - ✓ If identified, they have the option of participating or submitting a victim impact statement
- Victim surrogate representation
- Affected neighborhood residents
- Affected community

CAB Session



- Opening
- Impact
- Agreement
- Closing

- Did not show -
- No Agreement -
case goes back to
Probation

OPENING



■ Introduction

- Interest and role
- Relationship to community or neighborhood
- Relationship to crime – offender or victim

■ Purpose and goals

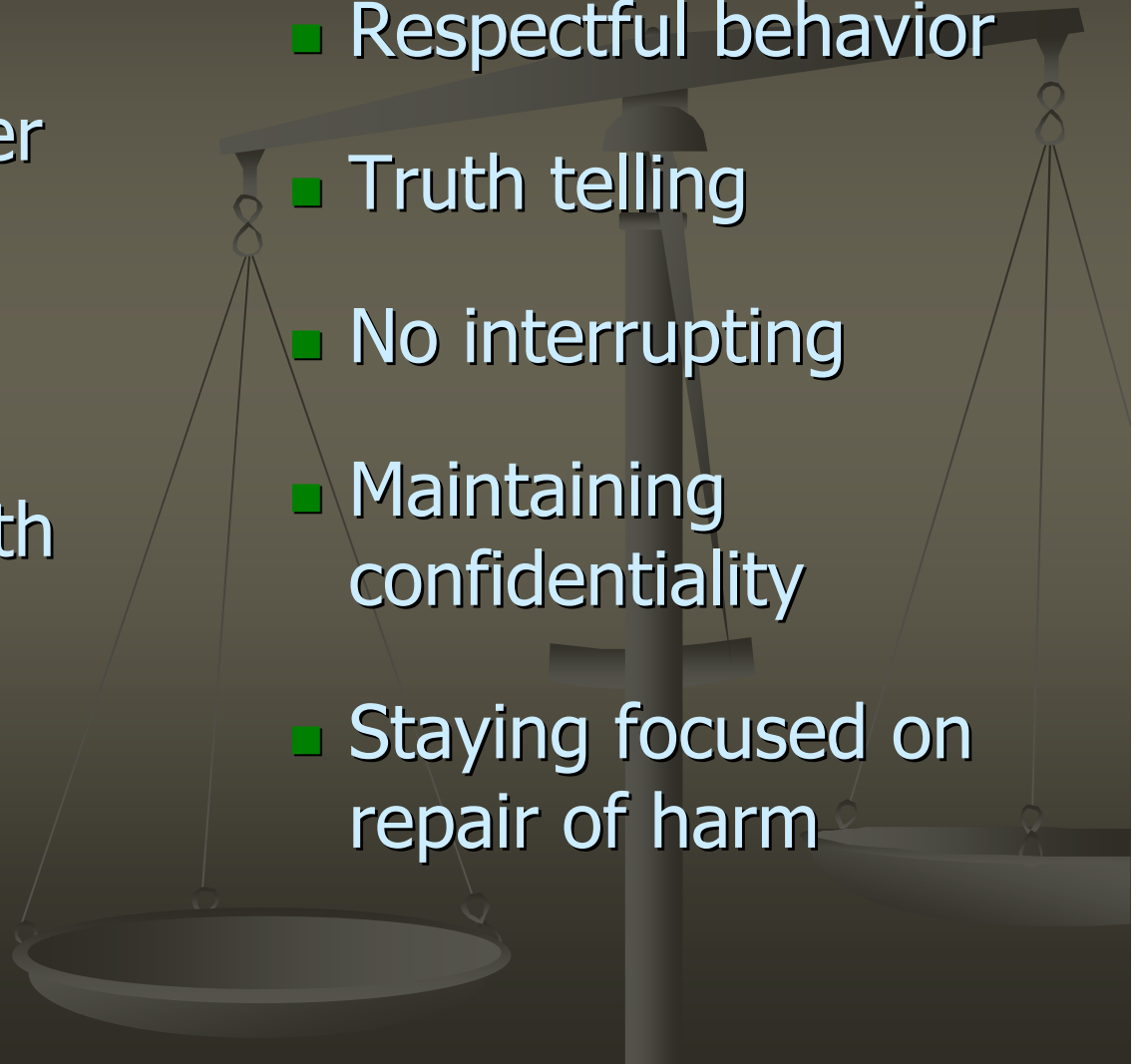
- Understand the harmful impact of the behavior/offense
- Determine together what can be done to make it right

■ Process

- Description of offense – offender
- Description of impact – victim
- Supporters of both – impact
- CAB members – impact

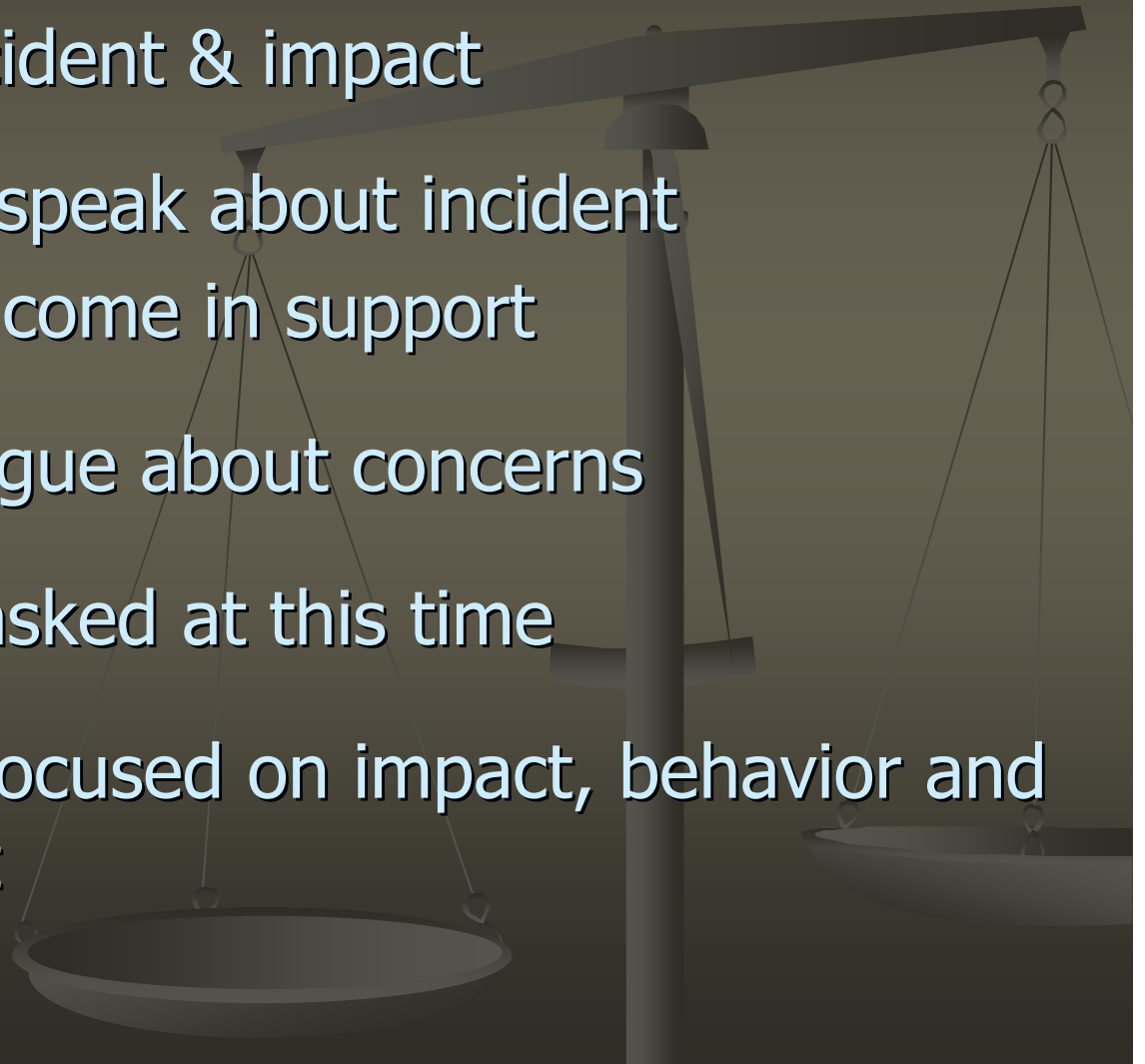
■ Ground Rules

- Respectful behavior
- Truth telling
- No interrupting
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Staying focused on repair of harm

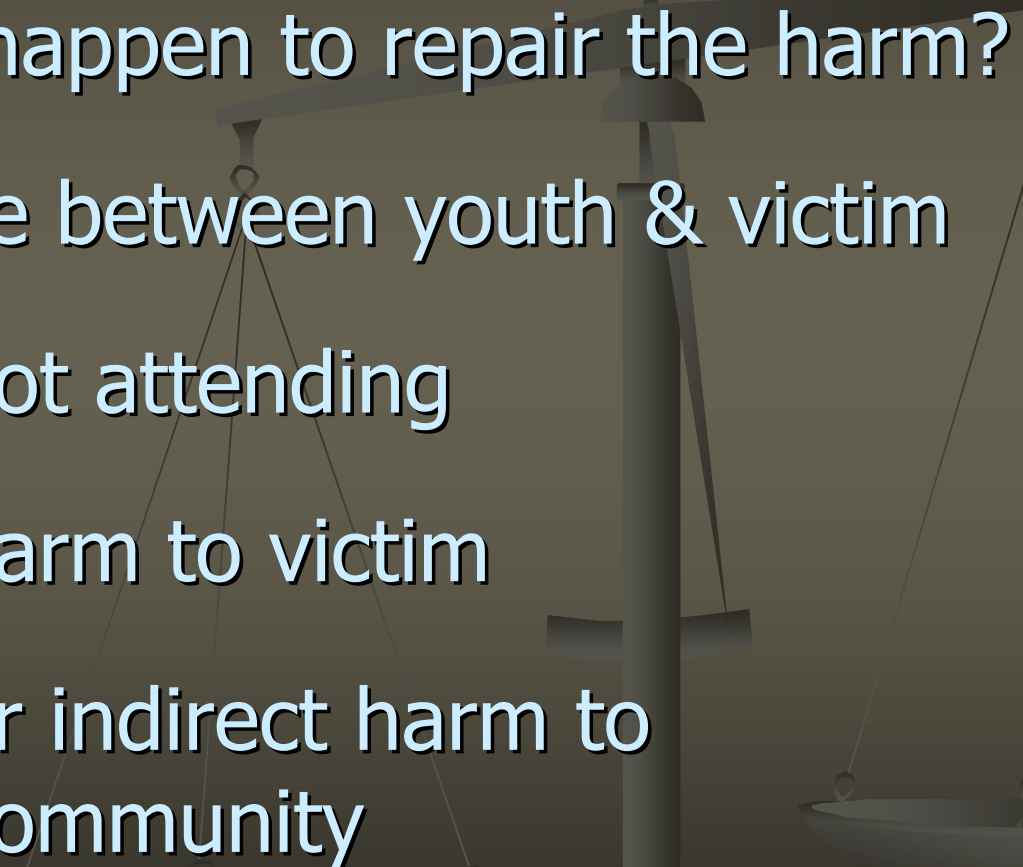


HEARING the IMPACT

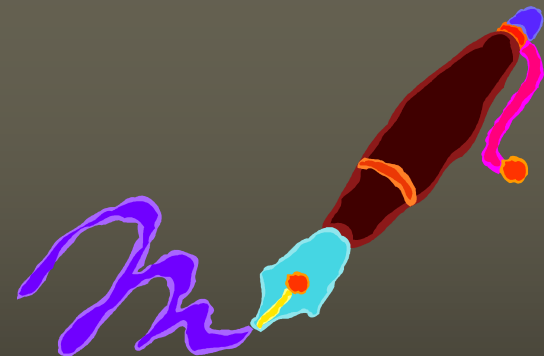
- Youth describes incident in detail
- Victim describes incident & impact
- Supporters of both speak about incident and why they have come in support
- CAB members dialogue about concerns
- Questions may be asked at this time
- Continue dialogue focused on impact, behavior and move to agreement



BUILDING the AGREEMENT

- What needs to happen to repair the harm?
 - Primary dialogue between youth & victim
 - Victim input if not attending
 - Focus - Direct harm to victim
 - Focus - Direct or indirect harm to neighborhood/community
- 

- Build agreement when all are satisfied
- Time lines and expectations clearly defined for probation monitoring
- Clarify often, ensuring agreement is accurate
- Review agreement
- Read aloud
- If acceptable, everyone signs



CLOSING



- Allow time for anyone wishing to offer closing words
- Express hope that session met victim needs & offered voice in the process; thank victim for participating
- Thank offender for efforts to make things right
- Thank supporters and CAB members for participation and input
- Break bread

What Are Outcome Possibilities?

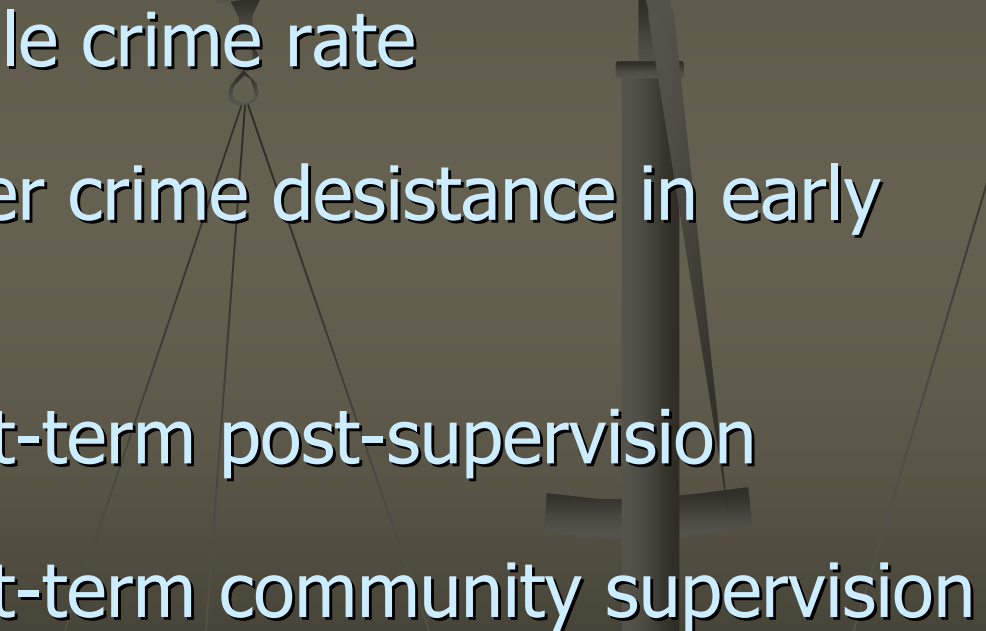
- Oral or written apology
- Financial restitution to the victim
- Community service projects
- Educational/vocational/mentoring
- Screening and assessment for alcohol or substance use/abuse

All outcomes are competency based - SAM:

- ***Specific, achievable and measurable***

Measuring What Matters

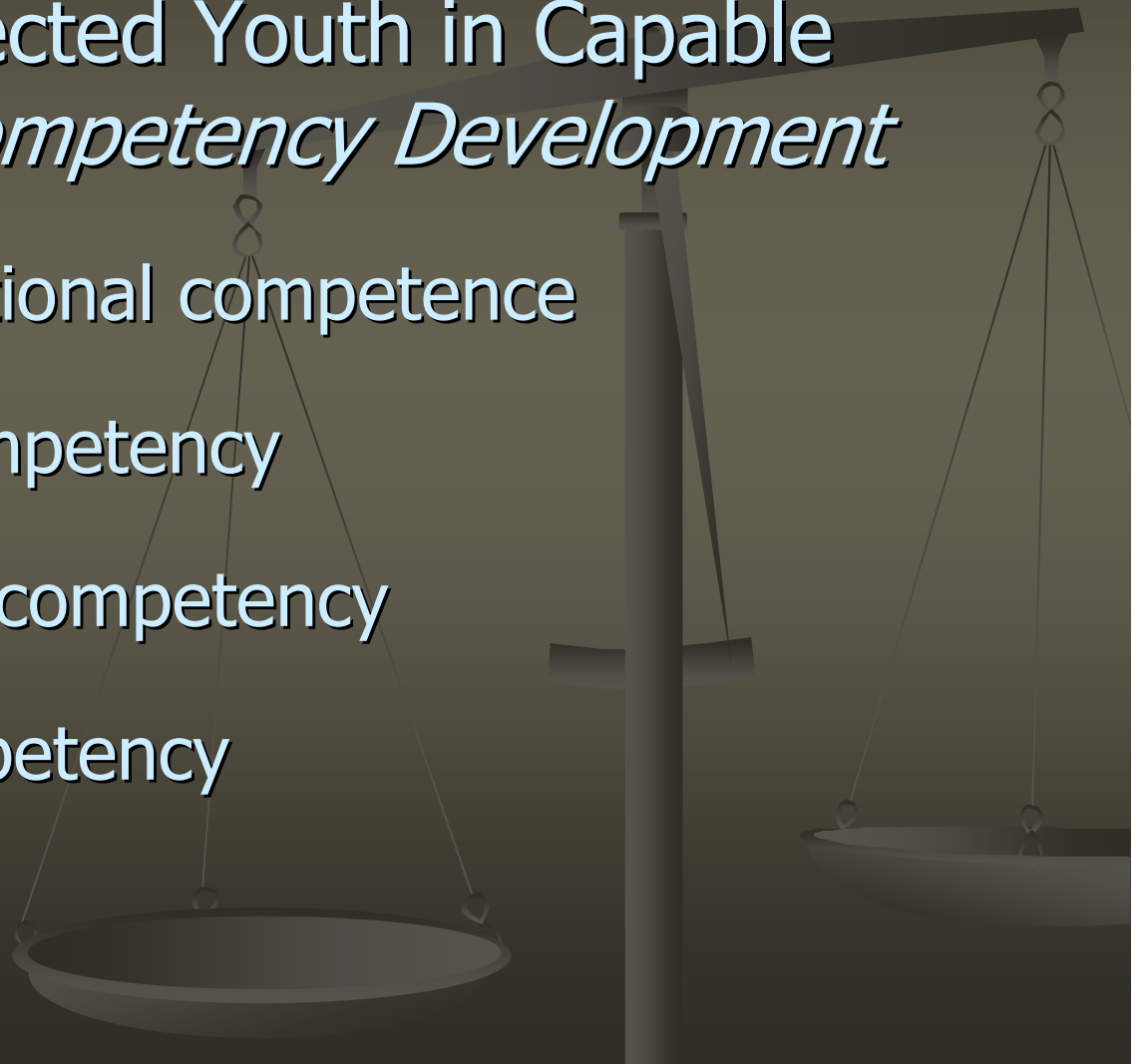
Creating Safer Communities

- Declining juvenile crime rate
 - Juvenile offender crime desistance in early adulthood
 - Crime free short-term post-supervision
 - Crime free short-term community supervision
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Measuring What Matters

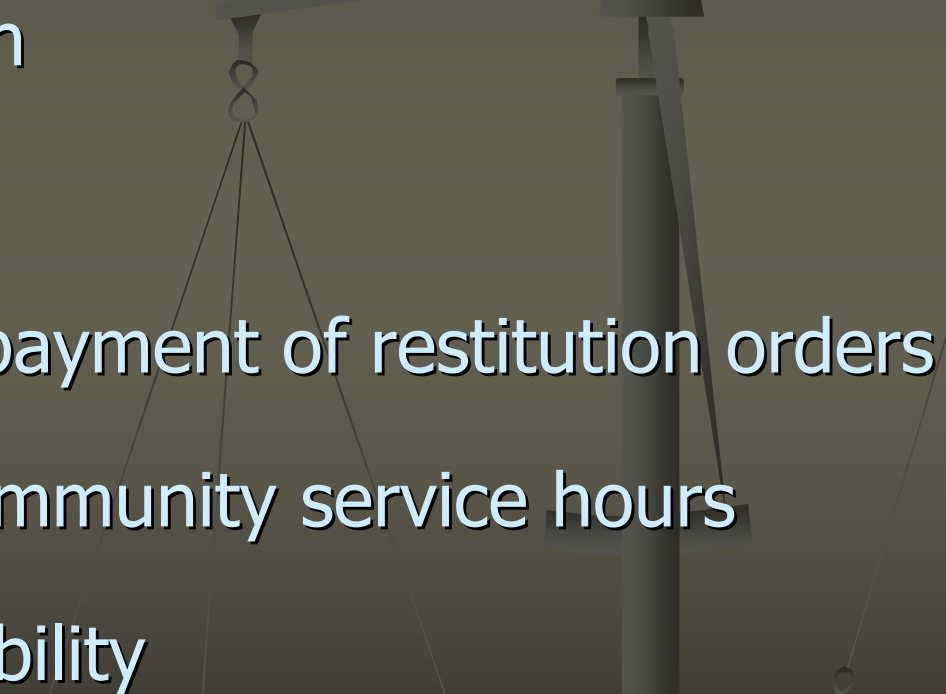
Skilled and Connected Youth in Capable Communities: *Competency Development*

- Academic/educational competence
- Occupational competency
- Drug Resistance competency
- Community competency



Measuring What Matters

Accountable Offenders and Systems

- Victim satisfaction
 - Offender impact
 - Completion and payment of restitution orders
 - Completion of community service hours
 - System accountability
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Successful Completion



- Agreement terms met
- Victim satisfaction
- Community satisfaction
- System satisfaction
- In right relationship

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