

# Making the Shift to a Prevention-Focused Emergency Youth Shelter



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**Okanagan  
Boys & Girls Clubs**

# Snapshot of the Shelter

Shelter Intake

Natural Supports  
Framework

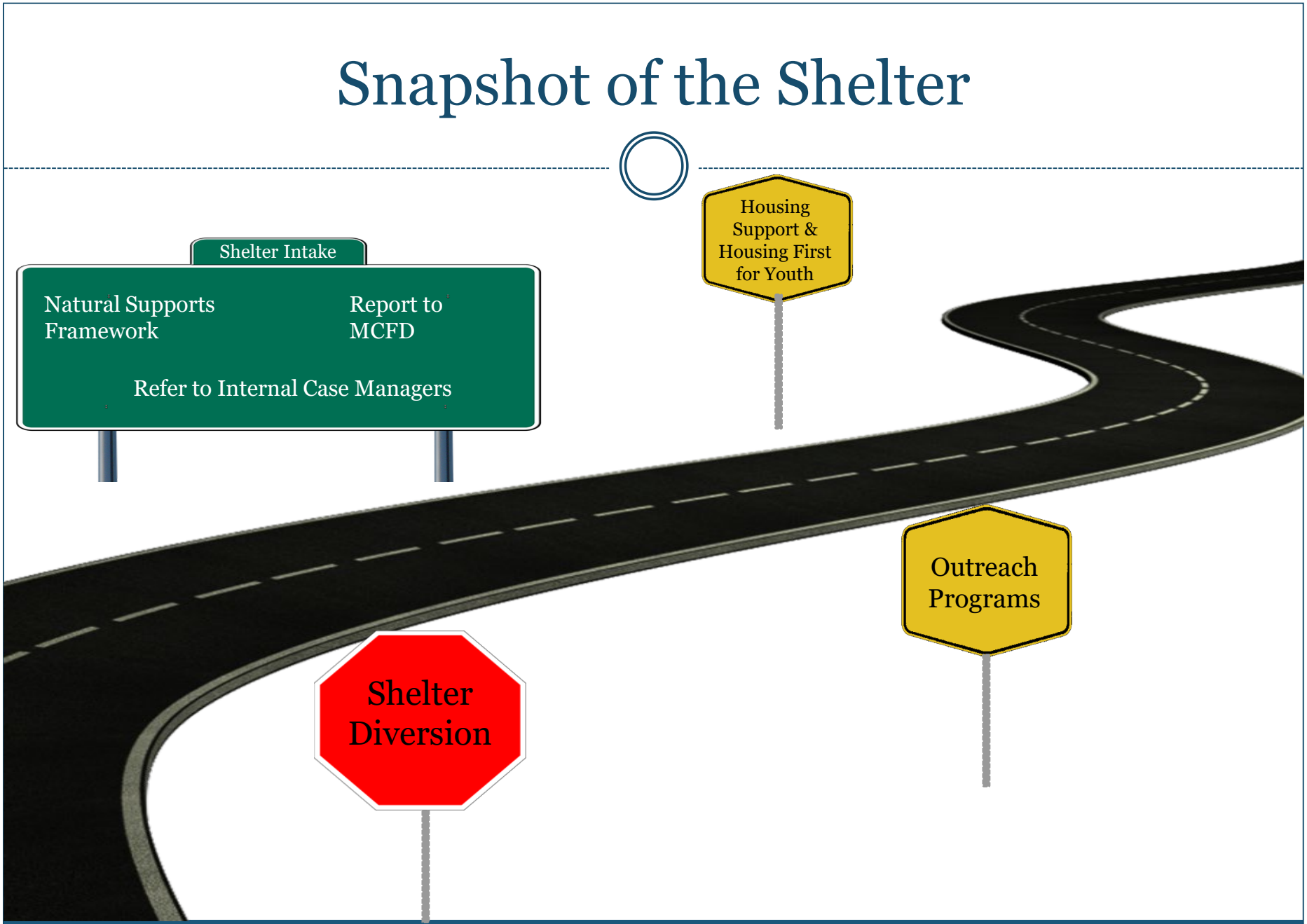
Report to  
MCFD

Refer to Internal Case Managers

Housing  
Support &  
Housing First  
for Youth

Outreach  
Programs

Shelter  
Diversion



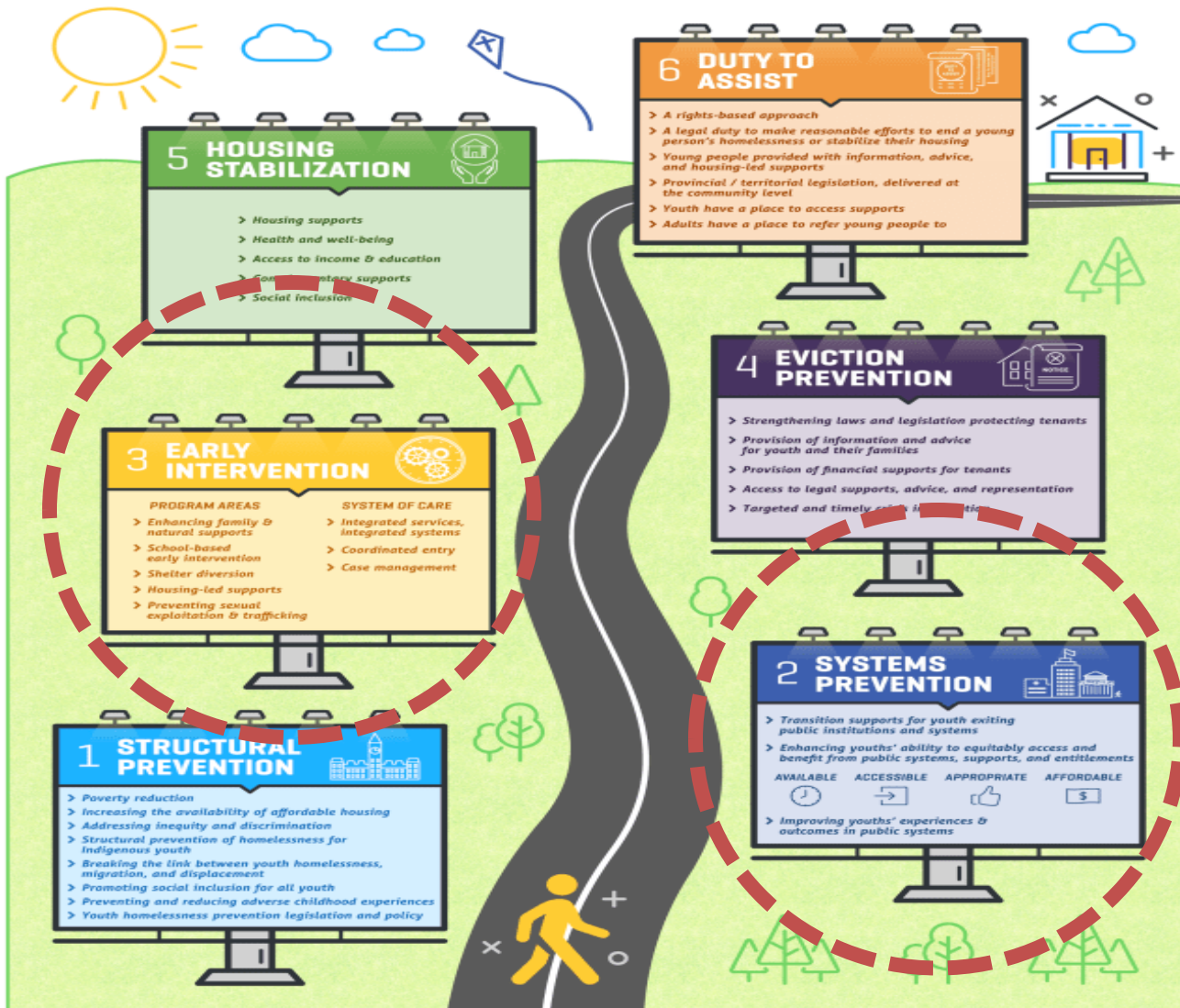
# Where We Were



**58%** of youth in the shelter were not on their first stay in the shelter

Before shelter diversion we were operating a **full house** every night and youth stayed for long periods of time

# The Roadmap for the Prevention of YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



# Where We Are



Family and Natural Supports

	October 2017 – October 2018	October 2018 – October 2019
Total Youth	53	29
Total Number of Shelter Stays	91	67
Total Number of Bed Nights	1218	800

## Adult Stays



Before Homelessness

Homelessness Occurs

After Homelessness

**Housing-Focused:**

- Re-start the process
- Support youth in building a housing resume
- Do not become complacent as staff with the regular shelter users and be housing-focused with every participant

**Trauma-Informed Practice:**

- Remind youth that they have gotten through this before and now they have more tools to do so again

**Natural Supports Framework:**

- Practice shelter diversion again as youth may have new options

**Housing-Focused:**

- Stay focused on youth's housing goals. Practice relentless engagement. Hold youth accountable.
- Remind youth of their housing plan

**Housing Focused:**

- Encourage youth to attend school/work and support them in finding ways there

**Trauma-Informed Practice:**

- Practice harm reduction
- Be non-judgemental
- When youth choose to sleep rough, focus on building a relationship with them

**Natural Supports Framework:**

- Practice diversion to divert youth from free time, substance use and anti-social peers. Ask family and natural supports what they can offer. I.e: can they spend time with youth during the day?

**Housing-Focused:**

- Encourage youth's momentum with their case managers
- Practice housing loss prevention to check in with previous shelter participants. Provide referrals and support for previous participants who are at risk of falling back into homelessness.

**Trauma-Informed Practice:**

- While youth are in program, ensure we are supporting them to learn life skills they will need to be successful in their new housing
- Although youth are now housed, ensure that they are connected to aftercare supports

**Natural Support Framework:**

- Call parent/guardian to inform them of the youth's plan and to inform them that they are no longer accessing the shelter

**Street**

- Youth connecte
- entrenc
- families
- pro-

**Nat**

- Ask natur
- meeting t