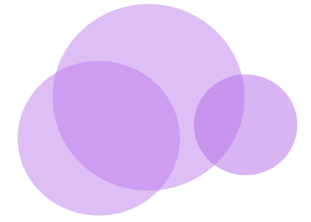


Your Role in Advancing Evidence-Informed, Behavioral Health Policymaking

Sarah Cusworth Walker, PhD
Jennifer Piel, MD, JD

University of Washington
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences



April 8: Focus on Training:

Forensic Mental Health and Training
Dr. Jennifer Piel

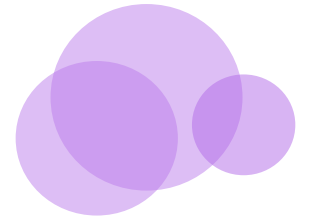
April 15: Focus on Policy:

Your Role in Advancing Evidence-Informed, Behavioral Health Policymaking
Drs. Sarah Walker and Jennifer Piel

April 22: Focus on Treatment:

Cognitive Behavioral Therapies for Serious Mental Illness in High Security Settings
Dr. Sarah Kopelovich

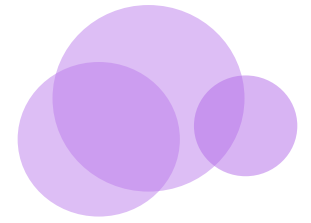
Defining Advocacy



Noun. Wide range of activities conducted to influence decision makers at various levels. Examples:

- Legislative changes through policy-making (today's focus)
- Elections through political campaigns
- Courts through litigation
- Social movements through education

Session Outline



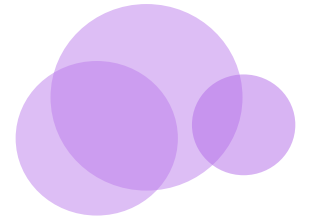
Policymaking and research
advocacy



Communicating with key policy players



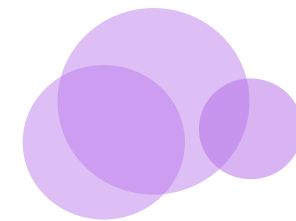
Successful example



Policymaking and Research-based Information

1. Policymakers use research to learn more about a topic (conceptual), to support their beliefs and proposals (symbolic), and to make decisions (instrumental)
2. Translation of research to concrete action is facilitated by trusting partnerships and relationships
3. Use of research is facilitated by tailoring the research conclusions to the policymakers' immediate need

Polycymaking

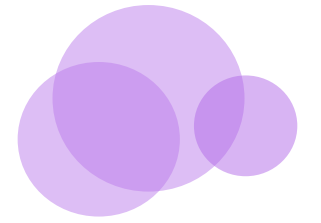


BIG P



Little P

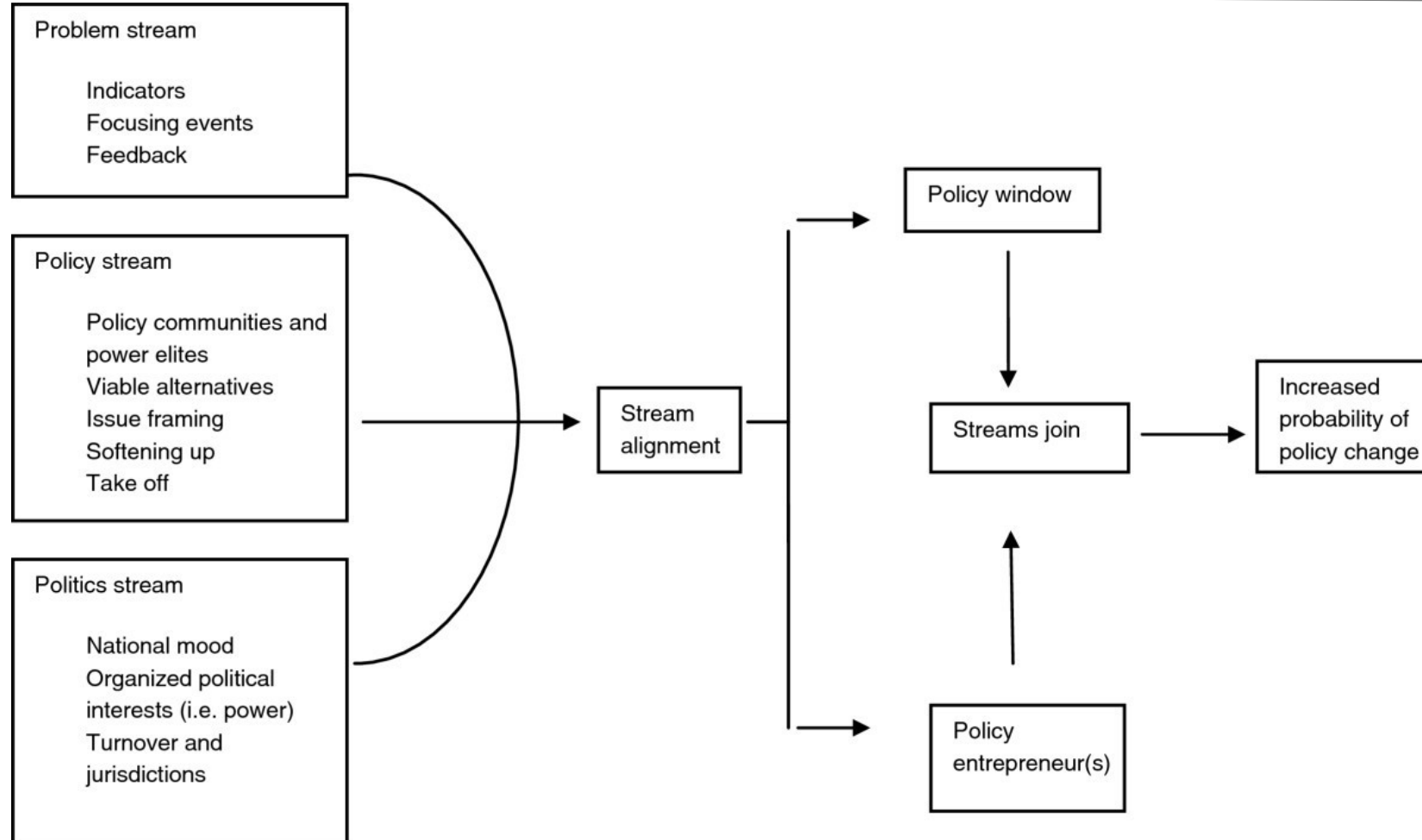
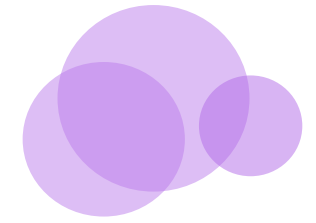
Policymakers need answers to complex questions



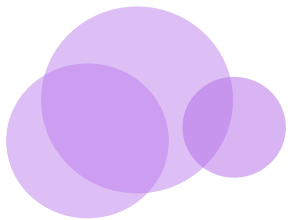
← Policy question

← Research

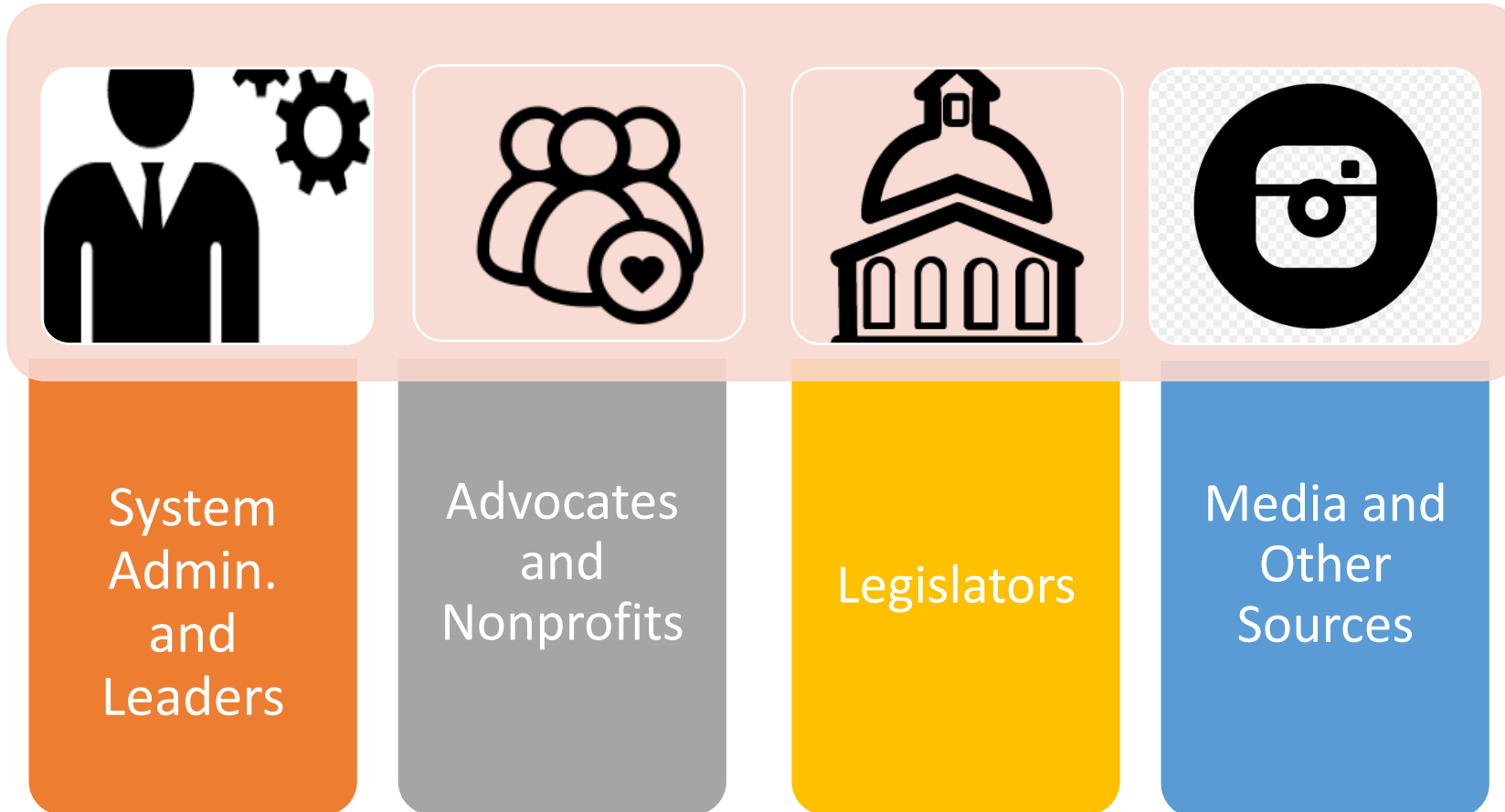
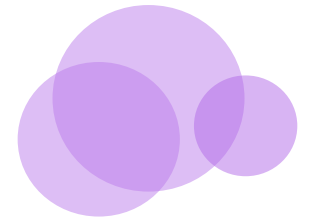
Policymaking



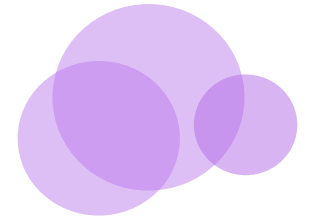
Communicating with Key Policy Players



Who are the Key Policy Actors?



System Administrators and Leaders



Examples:

- State Health Care Authority Secretary, Director, Manager, Supervisor, Program Lead
- Superior Court Judge, Court Administrator
- Regional Health Services Director or Manager
- County Human Services Director or Manager

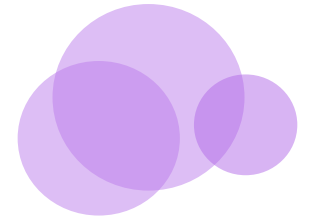


Avenues to policy:

- Contracts with service providers (performance standards)
- Can be very effective to demonstrate best practice models with local jurisdictions before taking models to scale or pursuing legislation



Advocates and Nonprofits



Examples:

- Consumer groups
- Professional associations (e.g., American Medical Association)

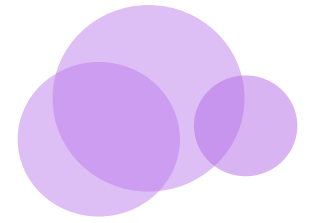


Avenues to policy:

- Internal resolutions making organizational policy and/or creating fiscal note for organized advocacy efforts on the issue
- Amicus briefs in legal cases
- Direct contacts with legislators and lobbying efforts



Legislators



Get to Know the Legislators

Identify Potential Supporters and Opponents

Direct Interactions with Legislators and Staffers

Engage in Discussion

What are your technical (research) interests?

What do you want/envision?

What experience do they have with the topic?

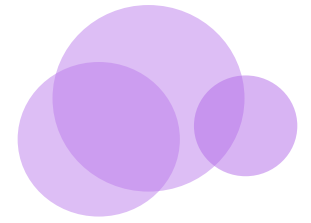
Why should they care about this?

What do they need to support/advance your goal?

How do we begin together?

Establish Relationships Over the Long Term

Indirect: Media and Others



Raise

Raise awareness

Provide

Provide education

Influence

Influence public opinion

Influence

Influence policymakers

Step 1: What is your media agenda: Do you want topics covered that are not currently a focus? Do you want the public to know more about an issue? Do you want policymakers to take notice, be held accountable?

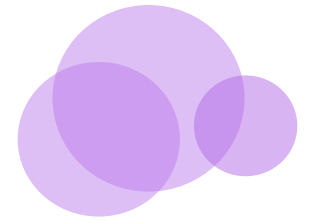
Step 2: Cultivate media relationships: Reach out to reporters that cover your “beat.” Offer to connect them to people to interview, who have compelling stories. Write an op-ed.

Step 3: Think about whether you are launching a media campaign or a one time story.

Good Resource:

American Public Health Association Media Advocacy Manual

How to Bridge the Communication Gap?



Goals



Information Type



Level of Detail



Form of Communication

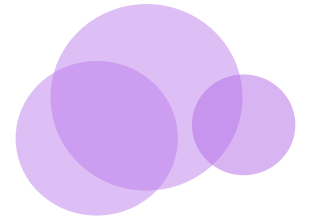


Timing

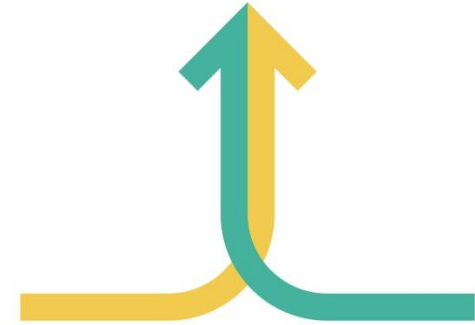


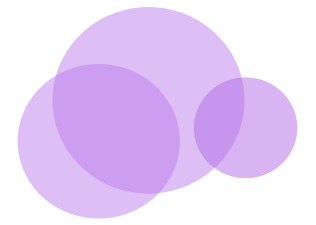
Establish Credibility/Relationships

Coalition Building



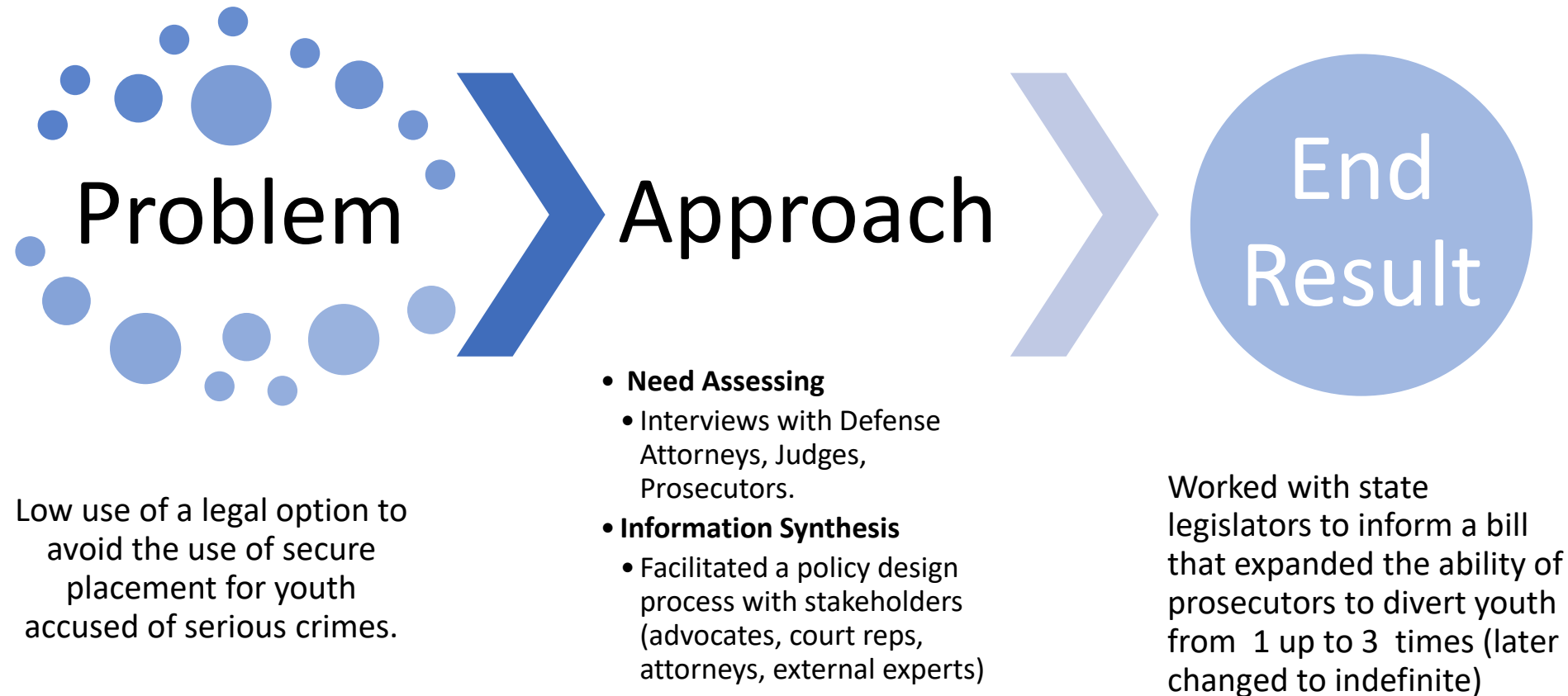
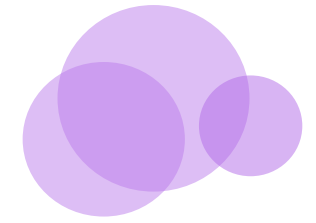
- Built upon common agenda
- Alliance for combined action
- Formal or informal
- Short or long-term
- Focus may be specific policy or programmatic/ideologic
- Harness existing resources
- Broader base = stronger advocacy



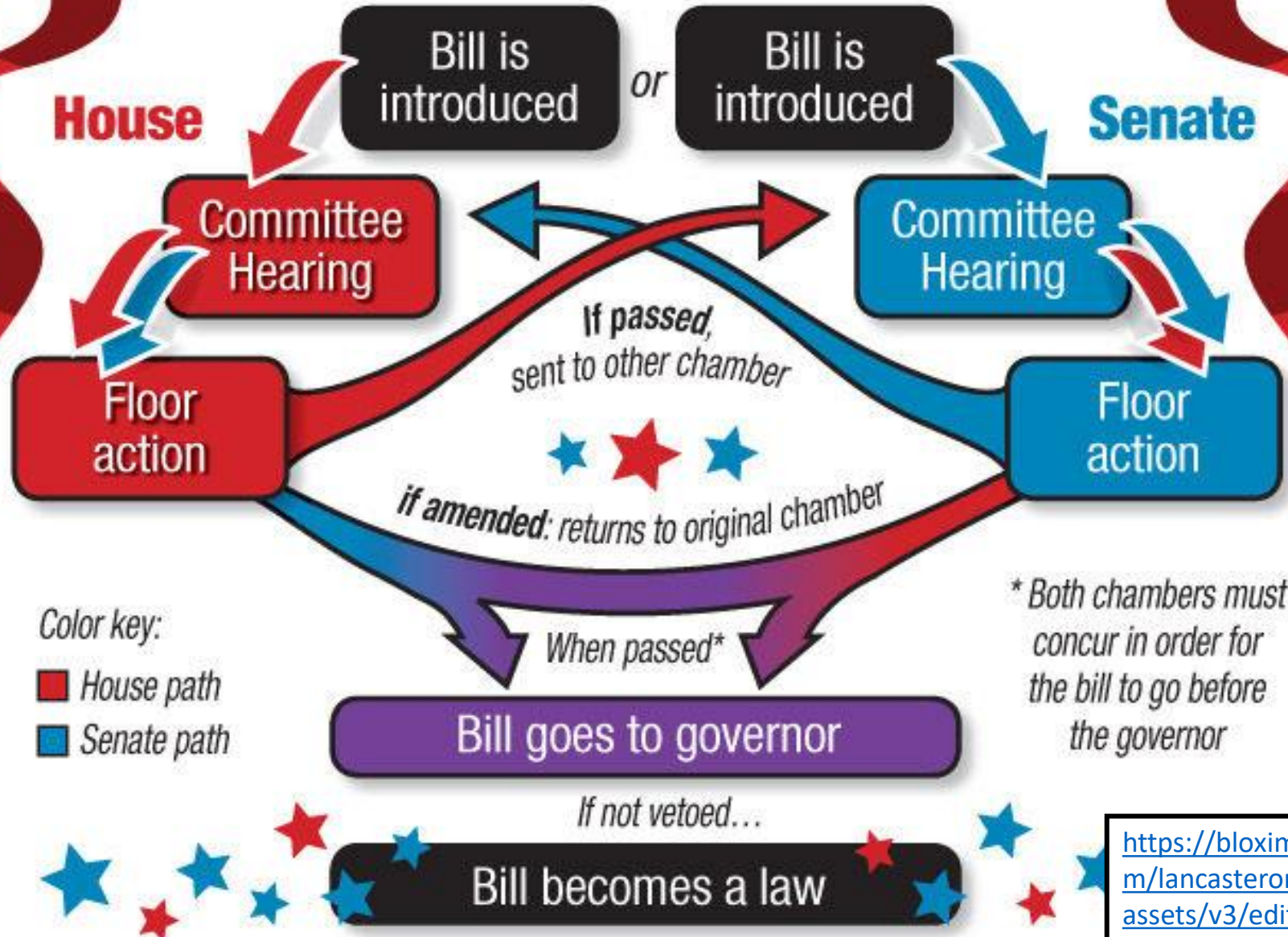


Successful Example

Example: Mental Health Diversion Project

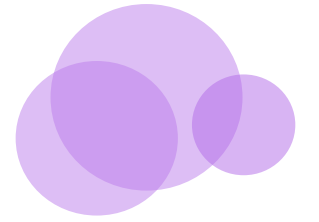


How a bill becomes a law



<https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/lancasteronline.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/5/dc/5dc713e8-7fb5-11e4-b181-ff68652f12fd/548710fbbfc4b.image.jpg>

Getting Started



Find out who is already doing bill analysis and policy work in your interest area:

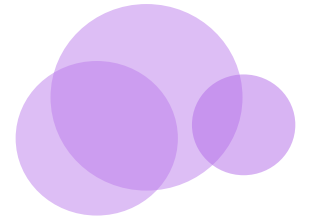
Partners for Our Children: all things child and adolescent social development

related. <https://partnersforourchildren.org/policy/updates>

National Alliance on Mental Illness:

<https://www.namiwa.org/index.php/programs/advocacy/nami-lobby-day>

Getting Started



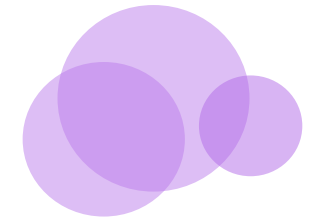
Identify the state legislators who have specialty interests in your area :

1. Washington State Legislature Page

2. Bill look up: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

3. Keyword searches for bills, “behavioral health, “mental health” look for the Prime Sponsor

Sign in support of bills and/or testify!



SB 5151 - 2021-22

Concerning foster care and child care licensing by the department of children, youth, and families.

Sponsors: **Wilson, C., Das, Kuderer, Nobles, Saldaña**

By Request: Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Bill Status-at-a-Glance ⓘ
See **Bill History** for complete details on the bill

As of Tuesday, April 6, 2021 04:50 PM

Current Version: Substitute - SSB 5151	Current Status: HPassed 3rd
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Where is it in the process?

	Introduced	In Committee	On Floor Calendar	Passed Chamber
In the Senate:	●	●	●	●
In the House:	●	●	●	●
After Passage:	○	○	○	○
	Passed Legislature	On Governor's Desk	Governor Acted	Session Law

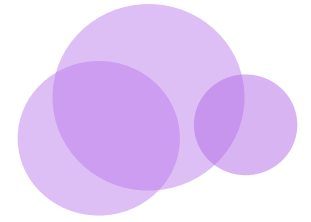
- [Comment on this bill](#)
- [Get Email Notifications](#)
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Sign up for alerts for when bills are scheduled for hearings in committee. If you would like to testify, Go to the comment link to write in your support or opposition at any time.

[Go to documents](#)

Thank You



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