

Community-based Rehabilitation of Offenders in Singapore



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Overview

- Singapore's approach
- Criminal Justice Developments
- Community-based rehabilitation by MSF

Singapore's Approach

- Graduated approach
- Focus: Reintegration
- Shared responsibility: Family & Community
- Balance: Offender's best interests and public safety
- Shift towards community based rehabilitation

Criminal Justice Developments

The Underlying Question: Why Punish?

“Each time a judge decides to punish an offender, he must remember to ask himself the additional question: Why punish? This will remind him that the punishment imposed should achieve a societal purpose and cannot be an end in itself. Punishment is senseless if it is without an objective...”



- Former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong
27 Sept 2006, 2nd Yellow Ribbon Conference

The Community Court

- Community Court, launched in 2006
- Adopts a non-traditional, problem-solving approach that taps on community resources.
- Not merely punishment, but addresses the root causes of the offending behaviour.

CREATIVE SENTENCING?

Community Courts may set a marker for other courts to follow

Those who keep abreast of the news will recognise such categories of cases as having generated widespread interest in relation to particular cases.

newscomment

we set you thinking

The Community Court

- Focuses on certain special categories of cases:
 - Youth offenders aged between 16 and 21
 - Offenders with mental illness
 - Neighbourhood disputes
 - Family violence
 - Cases involving racial or religious issues

Types of Community Sentences

Implemented in 2011 with amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code

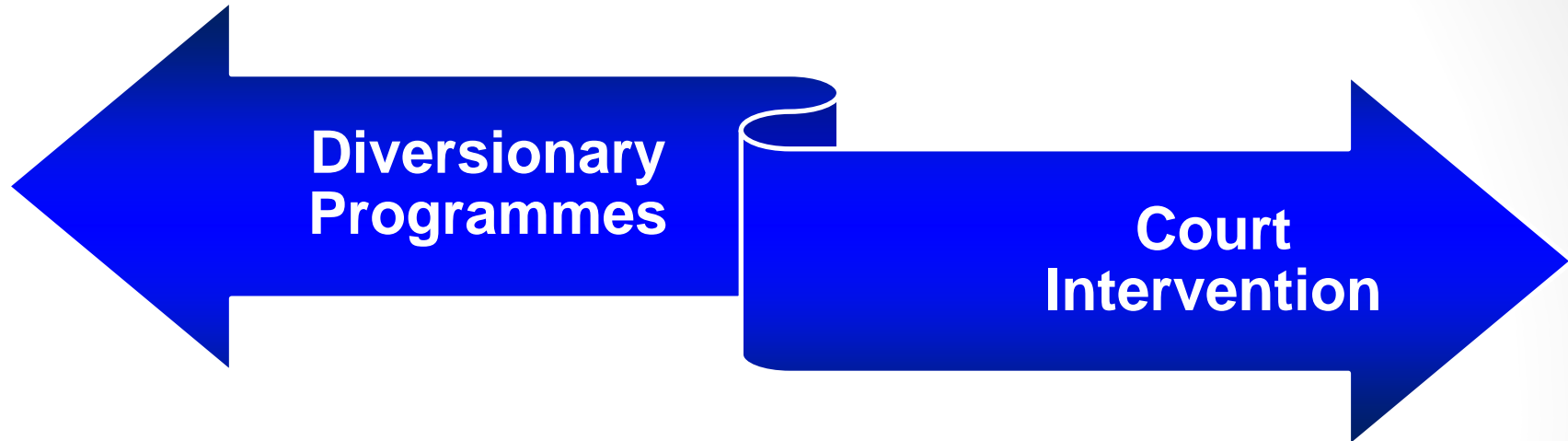
- Mandatory Treatment Order – [Institute of Mental Health](#)
- **Community Service Order** – [MSF](#)
- Day Reporting Order – [Singapore Prisons Service](#)
- Short Detention Order – [Singapore Prisons Service](#)
- Community Work Order



Community-based Rehabilitation of Offenders

Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)

Community-based Intervention



Youth

Guidance Programme

Streetwise Programme

Youth Enhanced Supervision Programme

Juvenile and Adult Offenders

Probation

Community Service Order
(Community Order)

Community Service Order
(Maintenance Defaulters)

Legislation

- ◆ Children and Young Persons' Act
- ◆ Probation of Offenders Act
- ◆ Criminal Procedure Code



Guiding Principles

- Every offender has a capacity to change and grow, if given the opportunity, support, and understanding
- The offender has to take ownership of his/her rehabilitation and be accountable for his/her actions
- The family needs to be preserved and strengthened to provide care and supervision to the offender
- Community involvement to provide a continuum of care and control and to support offenders in the community
- Institutionalization as the last resort

To reduce risk of re-offending to ensure public safety

Diversionary Programmes

Rationale

- Offending can be adolescent- and time-limited
- Level of maturity / cognitive ability
- Avoid over-familiarity with Criminal Justice System
- Intensity of intervention to commensurate with the gravity of the offence
- Rehabilitate youth in the community

Diversiónary Programmes - Target Group

Guidance Programme *

- Minor offences
- Age: 10 to below 19 years old

Streetwise Programme Enhanced Streetwise Programme *

- Gang members or associates
- May also be used as a condition of Probation Order
- Age: 13 to below 19 years old

Youth Enhanced Supervision Programme

- First arrest for drug consumption
- Required to undergo urine supervision
- May also be used as a condition of Probation Order
- Age: below 21 years old

Diversionary Programmes - Programme

- 6 months (extendable to 12 months)
- Case management programme by social service agencies
- Individual, group and family sessions
- Guidance Programme and Enhanced Streetwise Programme – in lieu of prosecution in Court

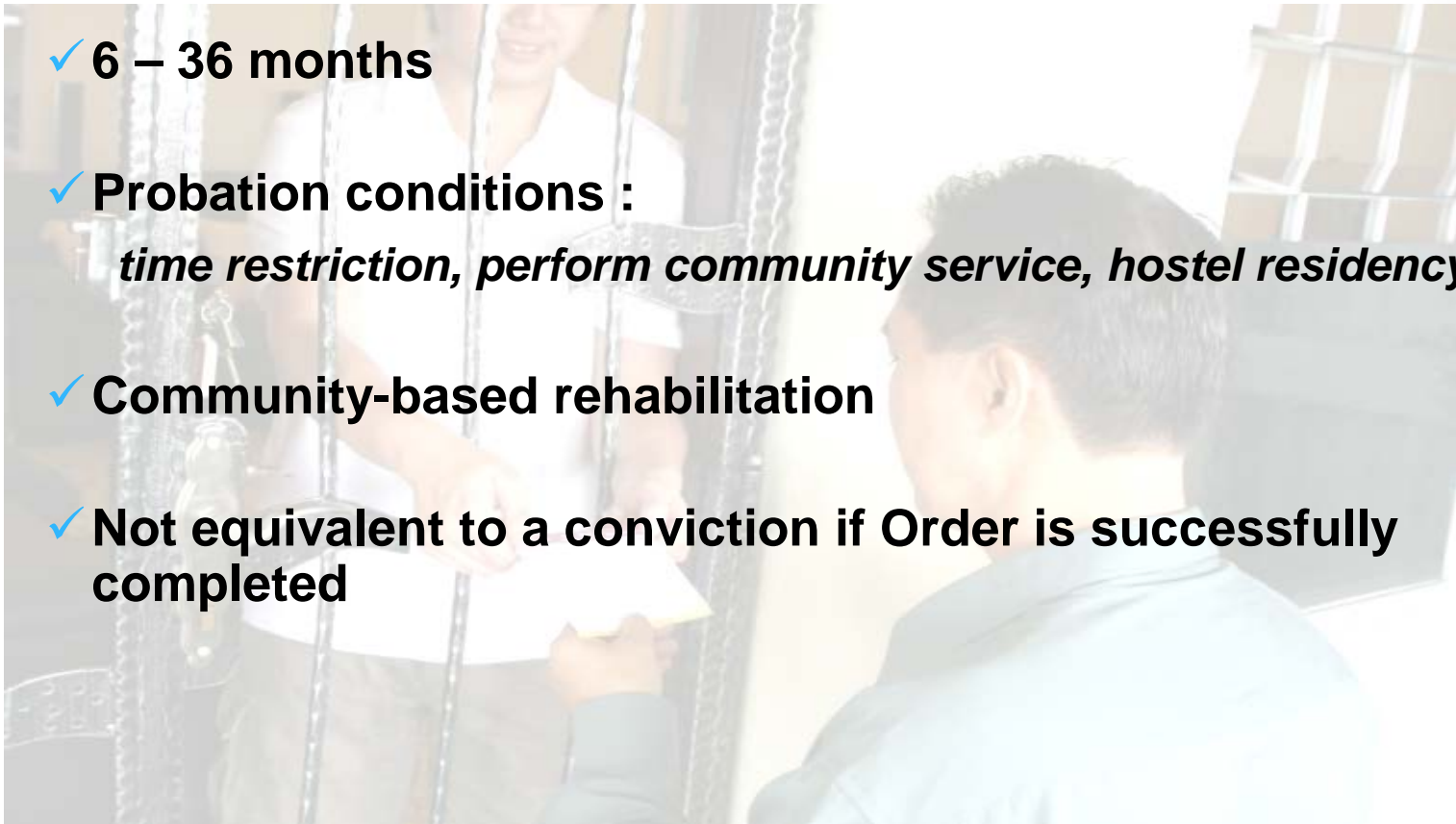
Diversionary Programmes - MSF's Role

- Oversee the programme and agencies
- Programme development & evaluation
- Training of social service agencies
- Funding
- Conduct service audits
- Joint Partnership with agencies
 - Singapore Police Force
 - Central Narcotics Bureau
 - Secret Societies Branch
 - Attorney General's Chambers
 - Schools

Probation

Court Order

- ✓ 6 – 36 months
- ✓ Probation conditions :
time restriction, perform community service, hostel residency etc.
- ✓ Community-based rehabilitation
- ✓ Not equivalent to a conviction if Order is successfully completed



Serving A Safe Probation Order

**Time Restriction
Automated Check
(TRAC)**



For probationers with
curfew

**Electronic
Monitoring
Scheme**



For higher-risk
probationers

**Hostel
residency**



For higher-risk
probationers

**Periodic Court
Reviews**



Rigour in risk assessment

Above 18 years

LS/CMI

Level of Service
Case Management Inventory

18 years and below

YLS/CMI

Youth Level of Service
Case Management Inventory

Evidence-based intervention approaches

**Risk-Needs-Responsivity
Model**

Good Lives Model

Restorative Practice

Motivation Approaches



Scalable

Simple



Value

Innovative

**Technology with
a human touch**



**Time Restriction Automated
Checks (TRAC)
System**
using Voice Biometric technology



**Electronic Monitoring
Scheme**
for higher-risk probationers



Integrated Case Management System

Operational Support

Streamline work processes

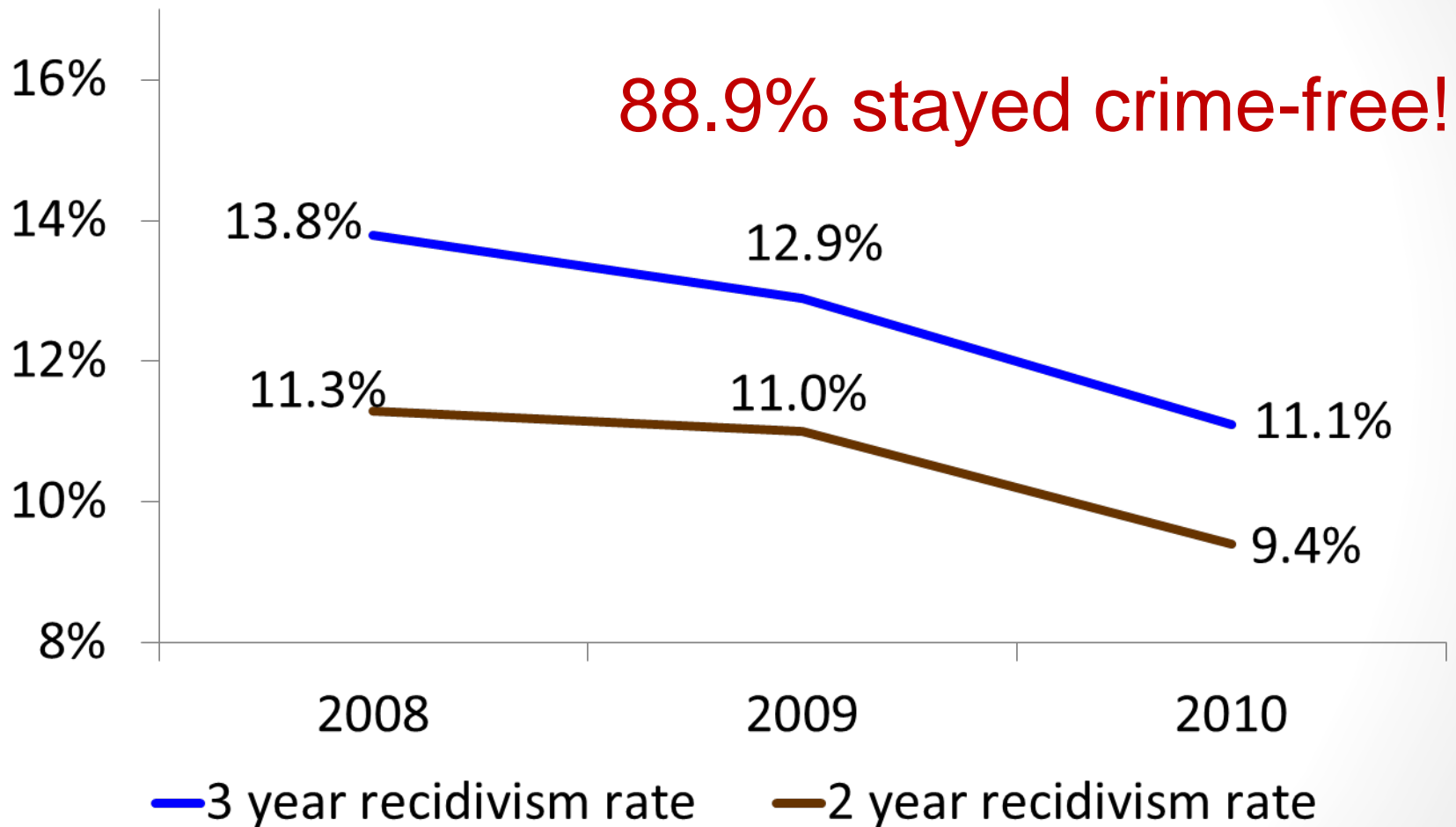
Client Information

Seamless and effective case management

Trends analysis and information management

Information sharing across Division

Recidivism Rate



Thank you