

# Justice Sector Constellation

## Synopsis Update

### December 2021



The Justice Sector Constellation (the “**Constellation**”) seeks to intervene at the intersection of poverty and the legal system so that everyone facing a legal issue can access the justice sector resources and services they need. The Constellation has been working to this end since April 2013.

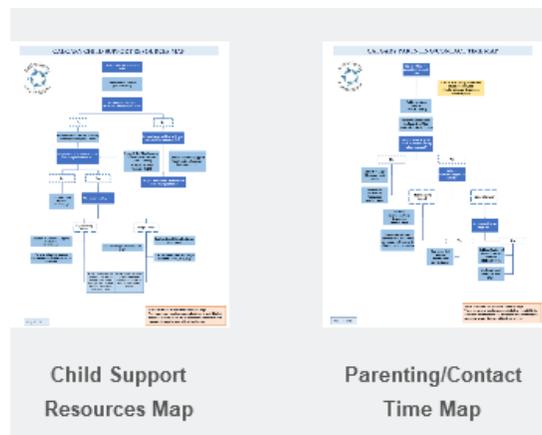
### Update

Since the last Synopsis Update, the Constellation has advanced work toward each of its outcomes and undertaken a strategic planning process. Some of that work is described below.

#### Access to Justice Sector Services

Family law matters are difficult to navigate, from both an emotional and legal perspective. [Client Journey Maps](#), visual representations of the process individuals can follow to find support and resources, were developed to assist with Child Support and Parenting/Contact Time matters.

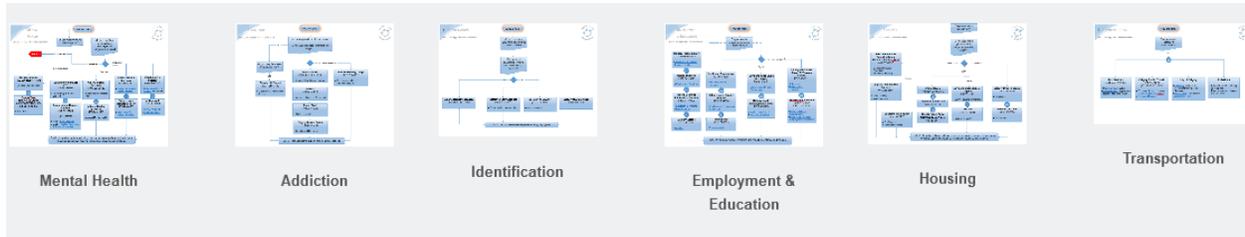
Thanks to funding from the Calgary Foundation Strategic Opportunities Fund, the maps are being translated into six languages commonly used in Calgary: Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu. In addition, Indigenous Elders are informing the process of having the maps translated into Indigenous languages. The English version and translated maps will be available in pdf [portable document format] at the link above, and may be printed or shared.



#### Coordination of Justice Sector Services

Individuals remanded in custody or serving time in custody must overcome many barriers to achieve reintegration into society after release. To help connect individuals with the appropriate agencies and resources to meet essential needs and foster successful community integration, [Client Journey Maps](#) were developed for specific areas of need: addiction, education and employment, housing, identification, mental health and transportation.

Like the family law Client Journey Maps, these maps are being translated into the languages set out above, thanks to funding from the Calgary Foundation Strategic Opportunities Fund. The English version and translated maps will be available in pdf [portable document format] at the link above, and may be printed or shared.



## Education and Engagement

The Justice Sector Constellation had the privilege of presenting eight sessions at the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (the “ACPS”) conference in October, 2021. Special focus was given to the intersection of poverty and the legal system in the context of the work of prosecutors. Participants included Alberta prosecutors and staff, Saskatchewan prosecutors, and federal prosecutors. Seminars were presented on:

- The intersection of poverty and the law
- The lived experience of poverty and the law through the Drug Treatment Court
- A closer look at the lives of accused, offenders, victims and witnesses
- Adult probation and the Innovation Offender Management System
- Youth probation
- Case Development Groups and Integrated Offender Management
- The unique dynamics of violence and abuse and its impact on families
- Resources and services in Northern and Southern Alberta

The conference organizer commented on “the stunning array of expertise and wisdom that was brought together by the Justice Sector Constellation... We were fortunate to have a wide range of speakers from all across the province, coming together to share important information on justice-involved individuals and the resources and services available to them: much was learned!”

Important connections were also made. The ACPS is furthering educational opportunities in Indigenous justice, restorative justice, mental health diversion and domestic/intimate partner violence with organizations or speakers that the Constellation provided as presenters.

Slides from two of the presentations may be found on the Constellation’s website under [Projects-Education & Engagement](#).

## Sustainability

The Constellation has an audacious goal: *Legal issues do not contribute to poverty; poverty does not contribute to legal issues*. The developmental evaluation process recently undertaken by the Constellation found that while the Constellation is making early progress towards achieving its intended outcomes, substantial work remains ahead. To that end, the Constellation is moving into 2022 with new chairs and renewed vision to advance its work.

## For More Information

For more information about the Constellation and its work, please visit the [Justice Sector Constellation website](#).