

IMPLEMENTING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SYSTEM OF CARE

Senate Bill 124 Mental Health Facilities & Meds
Senate Health and Social Services Committee

April 27, 2021



Trust
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

Change is Needed

Currently, Alaskans in crisis are primarily served by law enforcement, emergency rooms, and other restrictive environments

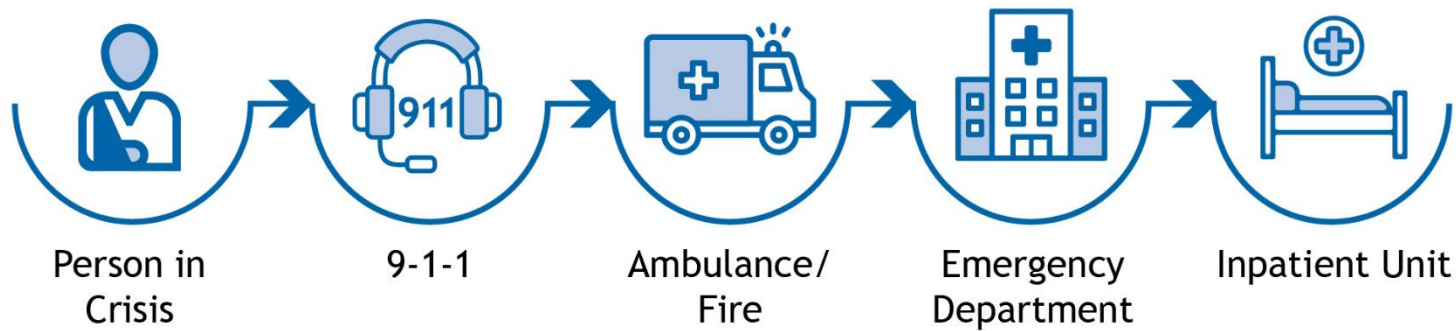
- Behavioral health crisis response is outside the primary scope of training for law enforcement, and reduces focus on crime prevention
- Emergency rooms are not designed for and can be overstimulating to someone in an acute psychiatric crisis

SB 124 will:

- Effectuate a “No Wrong Door” approach to stabilization services
- Enhance options for law enforcement and first responders to efficiently connect Alaskans in crisis to the appropriate level of crisis care
- Support more services designed to stabilize individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis
 - 23-hour crisis stabilization centers
 - Short-term crisis residential centers

GOAL: Design and implement a behavioral health crisis response system analogous to the physical health system

Physical Health Emergency



Behavioral Health Emergency



Stakeholder Engagement

Healthcare
Providers

State
Agencies

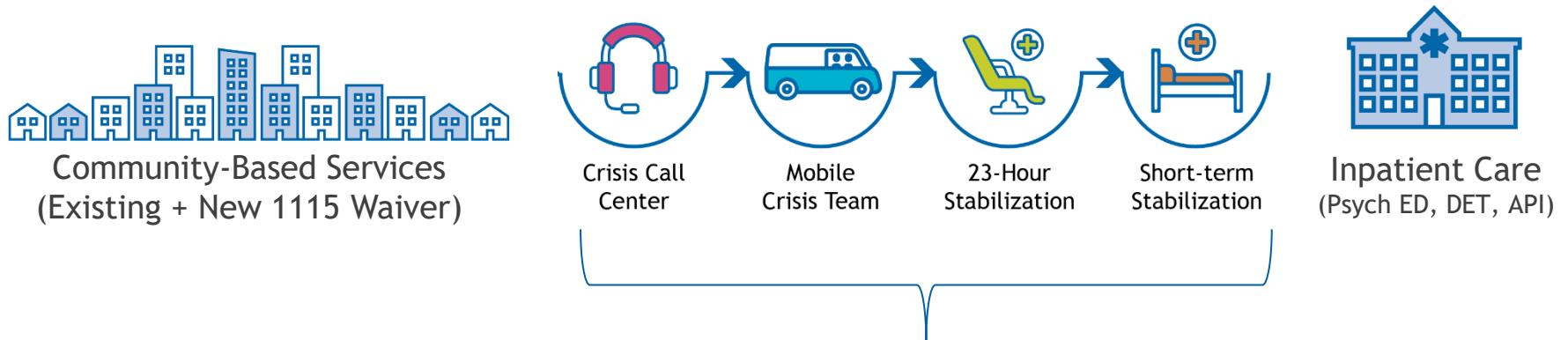
Law
Enforcement
and First
Responders

Beneficiary
Advocates
and
Nonprofits

Local
Governments

Tribal
Organizations

Enhanced Psychiatric Crisis Continuum of Care



Adding acute intervention services reduces cycling
Connection to appropriate community services at any point

Crisis Stabilization (23 hour)

Provides prompt crisis observation and stabilization services, offers low barrier access to mental health and substance use care in a secure environment

- No wrong door - walk-in, referral and first responder drop off
- High engagement/Recovery oriented (Peer Support)
- Staffed 24/7, 365 with a multi-disciplinary team
- Immediate assessment and stabilization to avoid higher levels of care where possible
- Safe and secure
- Coordination with community-based services



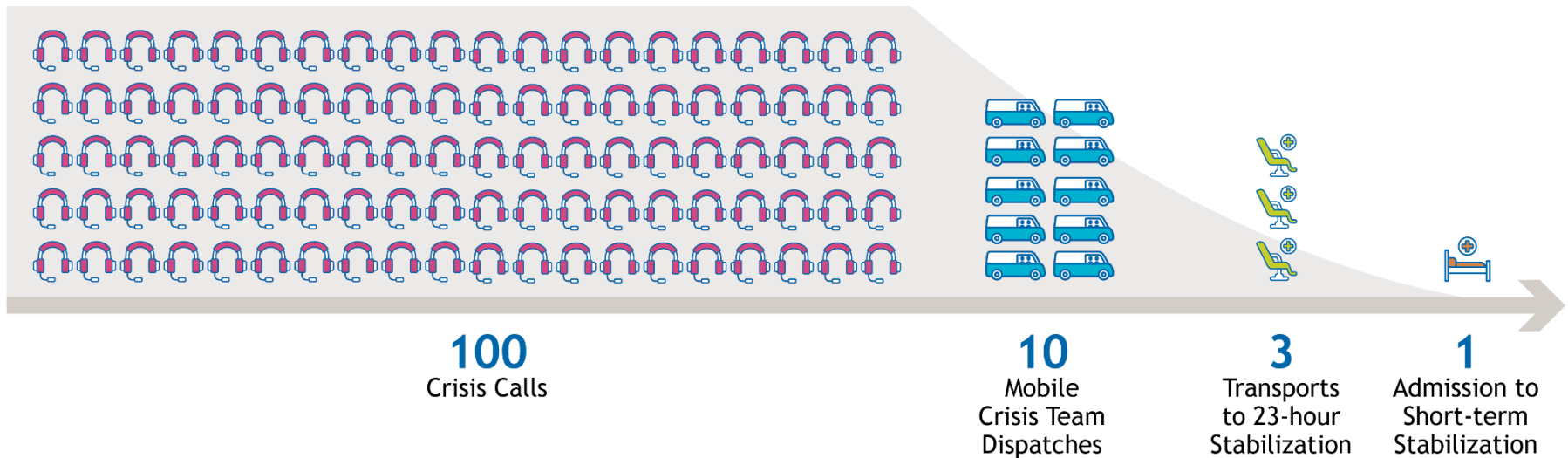
Short-Term Crisis Residential Stabilization

A 24/7 medically monitored, short-term, crisis residential program that provides psychiatric stabilization

- Safe and secure - serves voluntary and involuntary placements
- High engagement/Recovery oriented (Peer Support)
- Multi-disciplinary treatment team
- Short term with 16 or fewer beds
- Stabilize and restore - avoid need for inpatient hospitalization where possible
- Coordination with community-based services



Enhanced crisis response would reduce the number of people entering the most restrictive levels of care



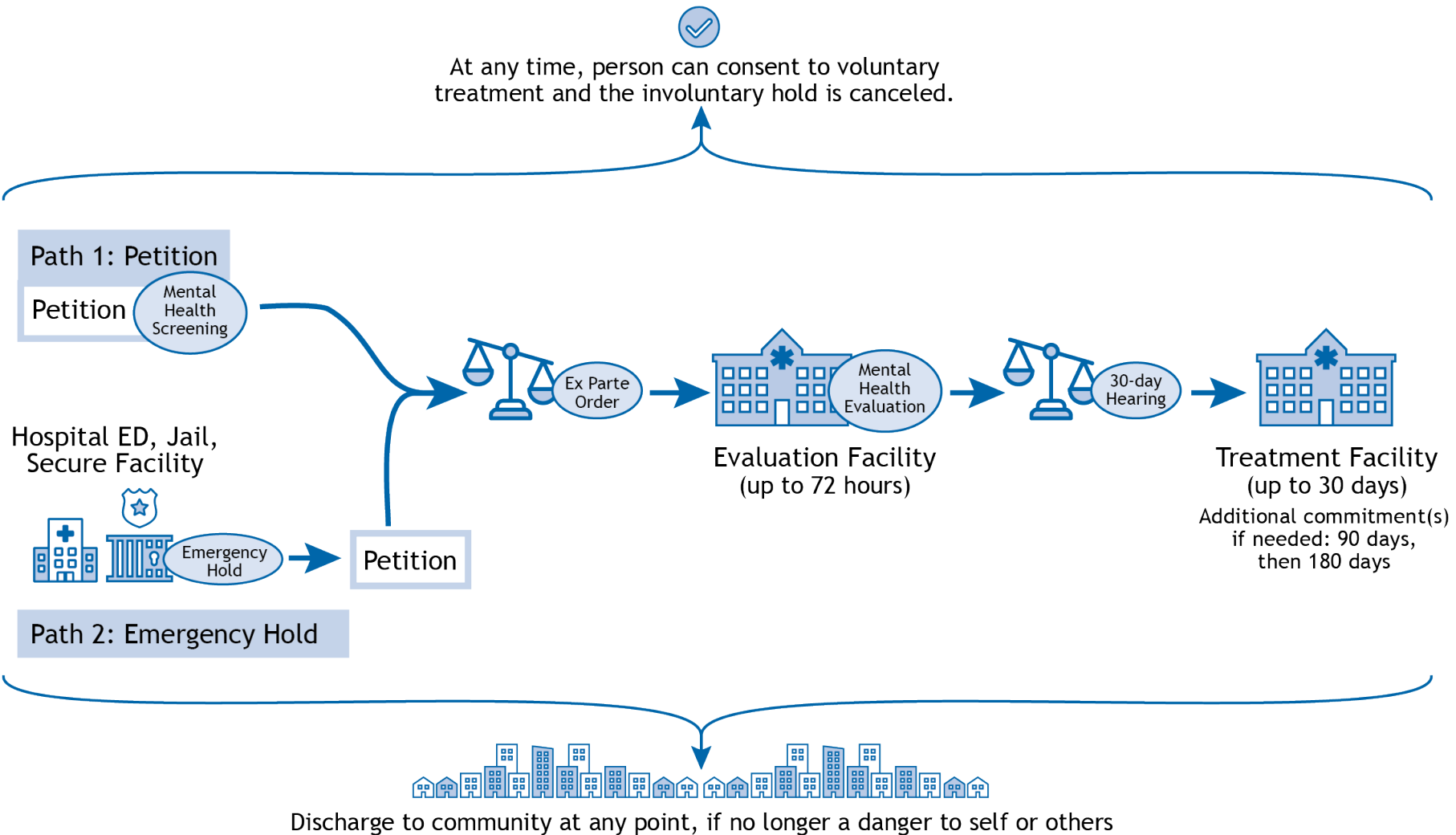
Alaska Statute Title 47

Collaborative Approach to Improving
our Response to Alaskans in a Behavioral
Health Crisis

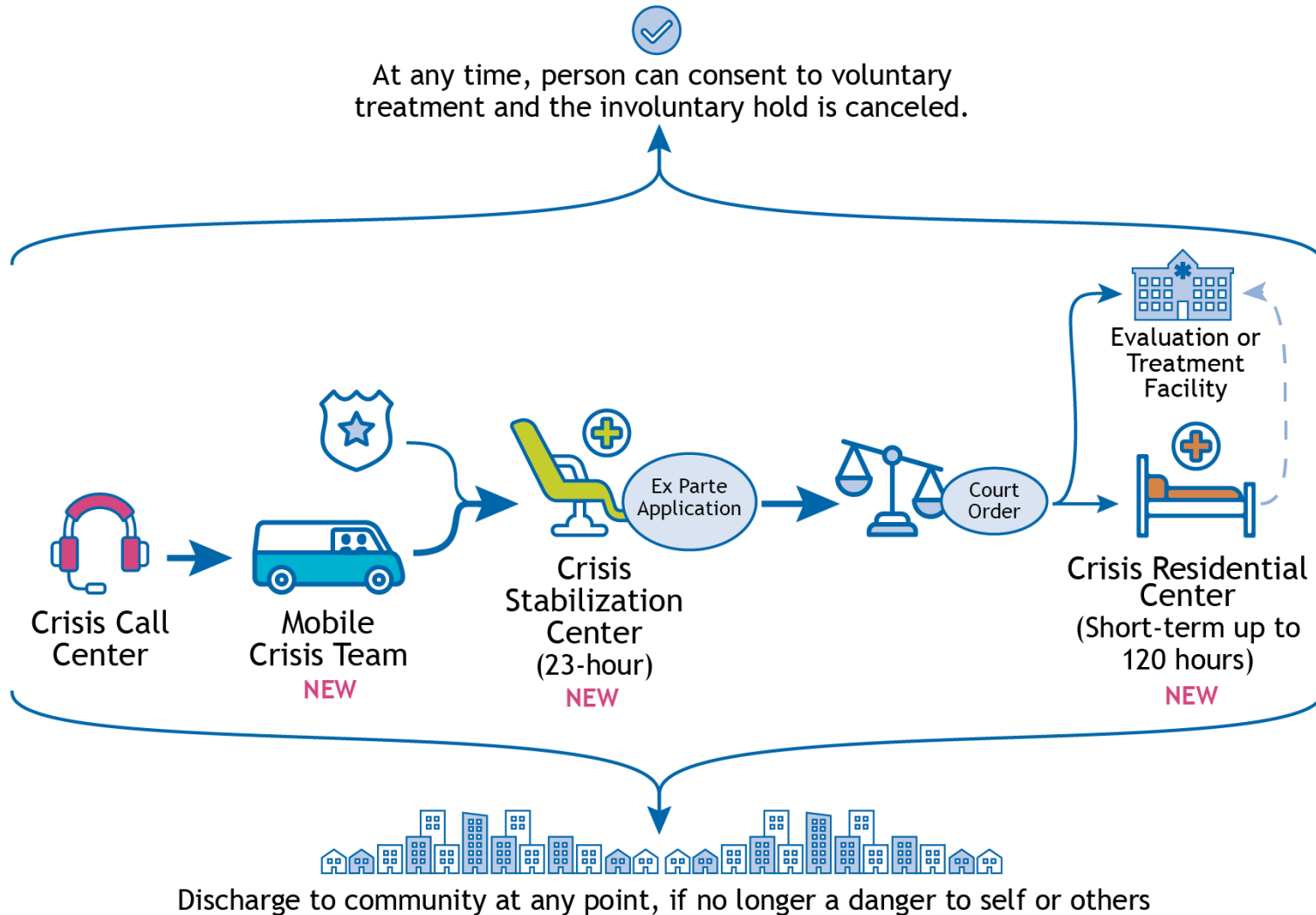
SB124 Mental Health Facilities & Meds

Current Flow for Involuntary Commitment

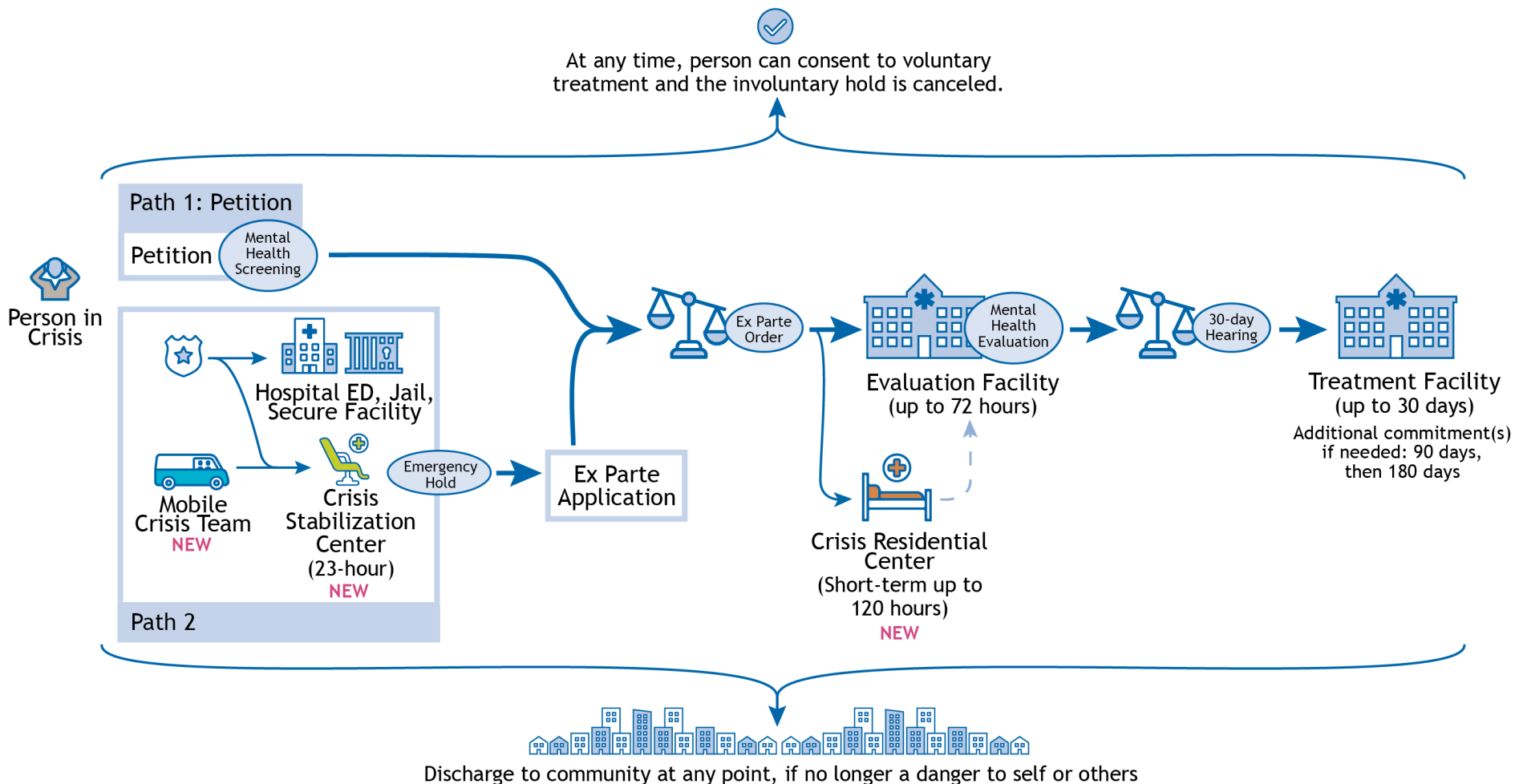
At any time, person can consent to voluntary treatment and the involuntary hold is canceled.



Proposed Statutory Changes



Flow for Involuntary Commitment with Statutory Changes



Senate Bill 124

Sectional Analysis

Thank you

Questions?

alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/crisisnow



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