



An Evaluation of the Bridges of Hope Outreach Program

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Outline

- Introduction
- Method
- Client characteristics
- Legal experiences
- Program involvement
- Model of change



Introduction

- Outreach programs help survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) (McFarlane, Soeken & Wiist, 2000)
- More research is needed about outreach program design (McFarlane, Soeken & Wiist, 2000)
- Program evaluation is a useful step (Sullivan & Alexy, 2001).
- The Bridges of Hope Outreach Program was created in April of 2008 at Transition House Regina
 - Maria Hendrika is the Executive Director
 - Kim Fellner is the Outreach Coordinator
- Current study is an evaluation of this new program (PAF)



Collecting Data

- Qualitative data collection
 - Qualitative interviews and focus groups (9 transition house employees, 9 outreach clients)
- Coding of client files
 - April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.
 - Qualitative and quantitative information about clients and program components



Program Clients

- 49 clients participated in the program between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009
- Average age upon beginning the program is 31 years (range is 20 – 47)
- 86% had children under the age of 18
- Average time spent at Transition House 23 days (SD 15 days)
- Cultural background
 - 27 (55.1%) status First Nations
 - 3 (6.1%) non-status First Nations
 - 2 (4.5%) Métis
 - 17 (34.7%) non-Aboriginal



Clients and Involvement

- 31.4% reported contact with the police due to abuse
- 44.9% reported charges had been pressed
- 28.6% had a peace bond or restraining order
- Average time participating in program was 139 days (SD 111 days)
- Program components included
 - 74% attended monthly group
 - 28% accessed the child counsellor

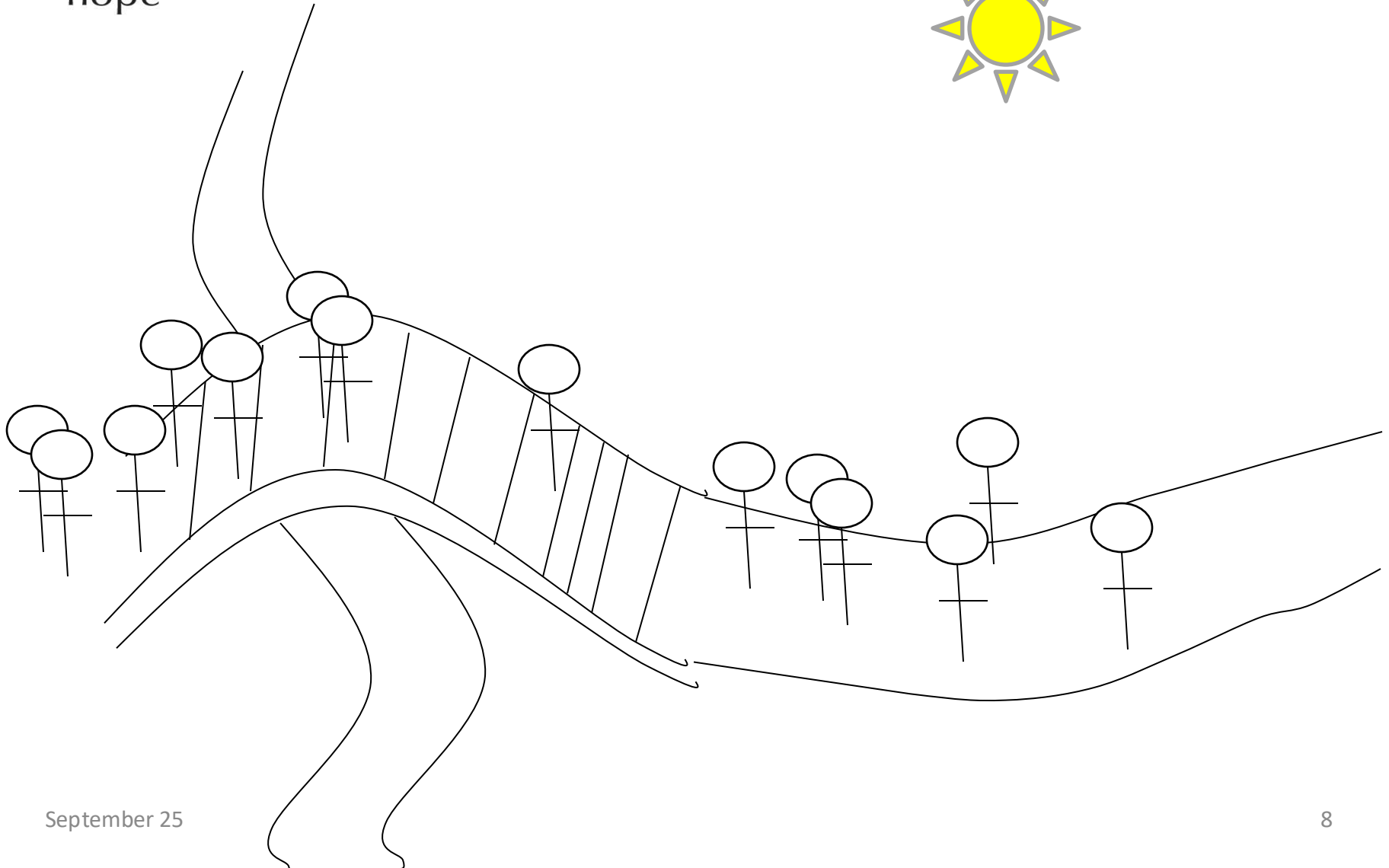
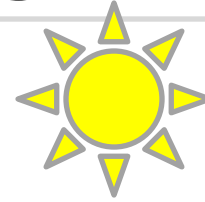


Model of Change

- Inputs
- Target Group
- Goals
- Activities
- Outputs
- Environmental Influences
- Challenges
- Outcomes



Model of Change

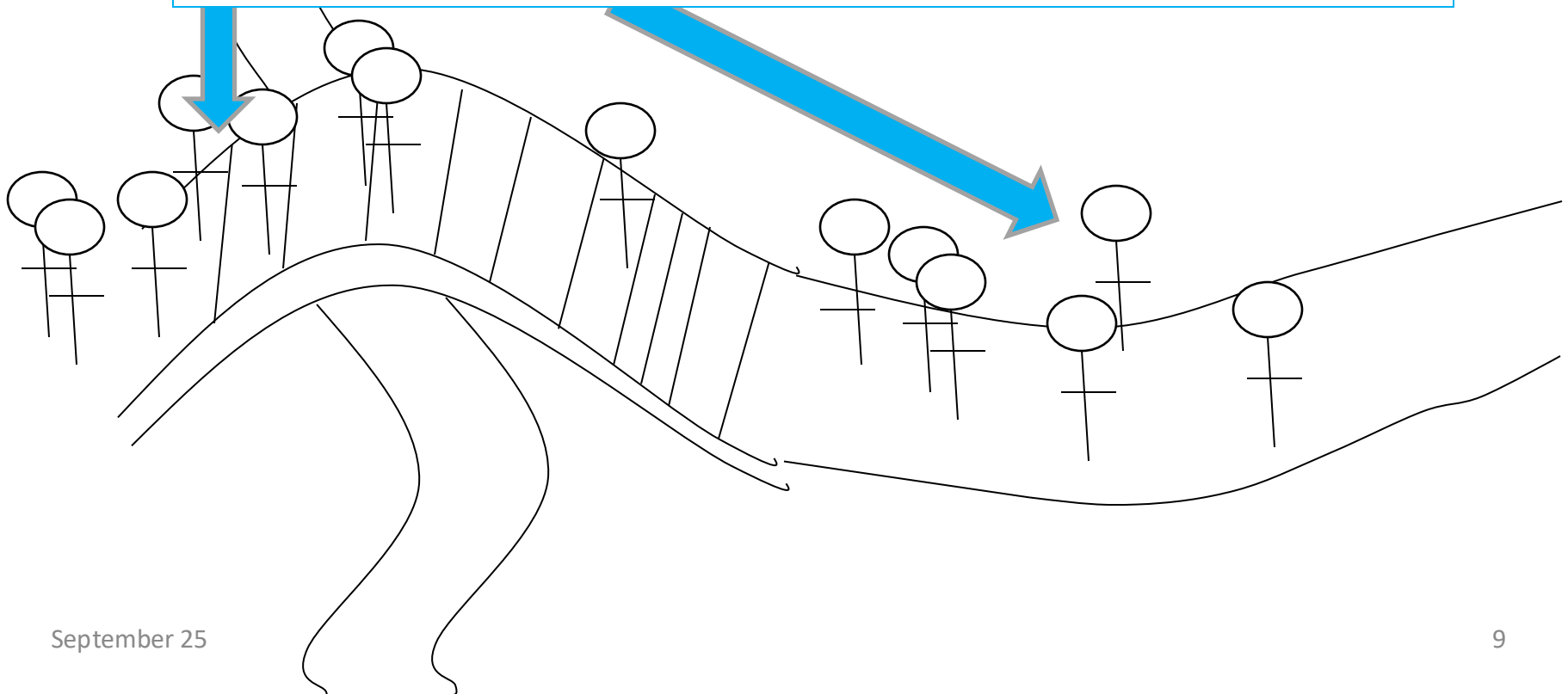




Target Population

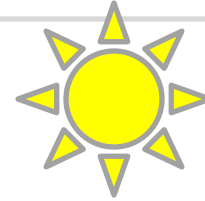
Target Population and Their Needs

- Addiction, advocacy, meeting basic needs such as food and housing, providing for their family at Christmas, receiving education, securing employment, legal support, life skills development, meeting children's needs, receiving parenting support, reconciling their relationship, skill building, meeting special needs, and transportation.





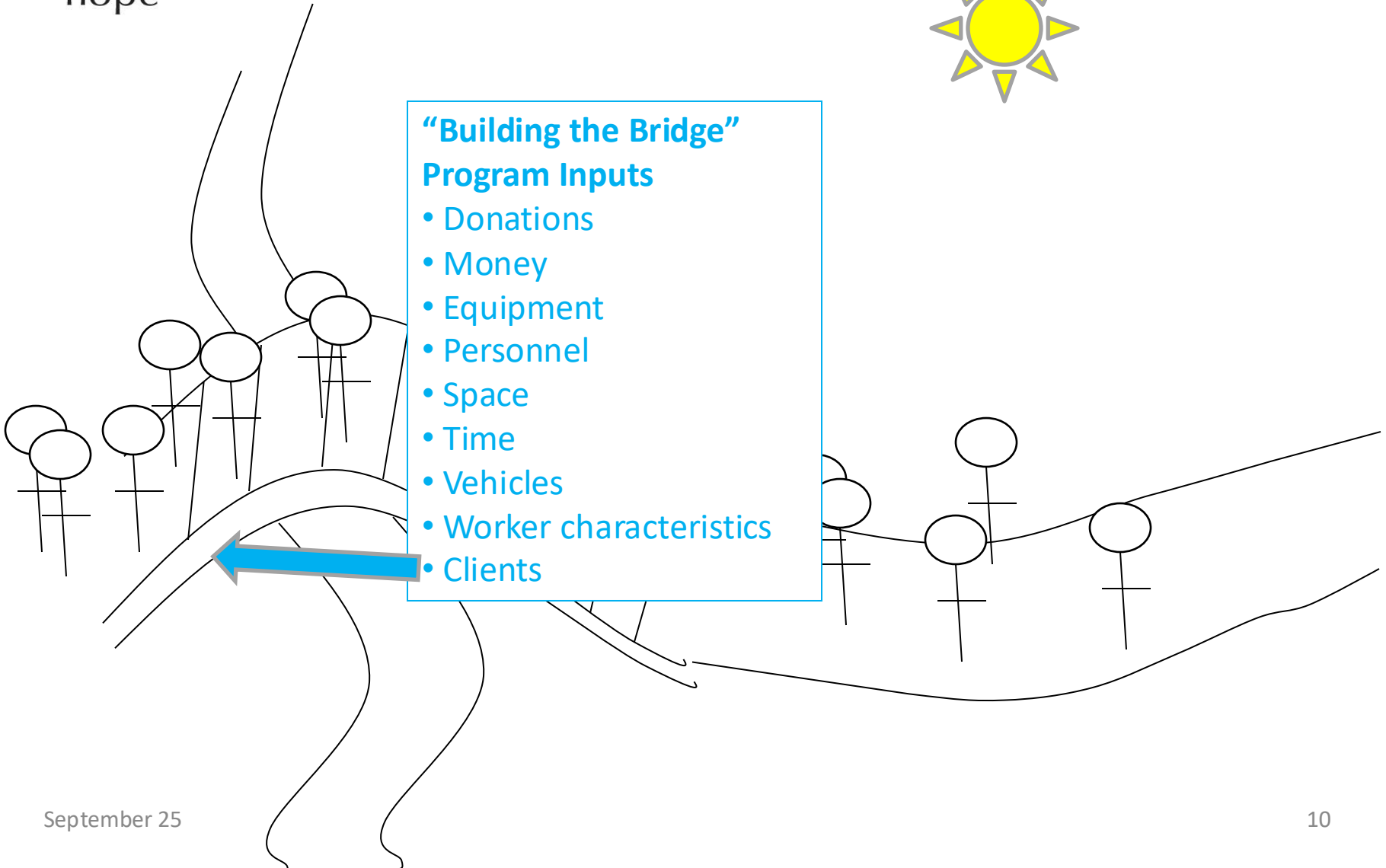
Program Inputs



“Building the Bridge”

Program Inputs

- Donations
- Money
- Equipment
- Personnel
- Space
- Time
- Vehicles
- Worker characteristics
- Clients



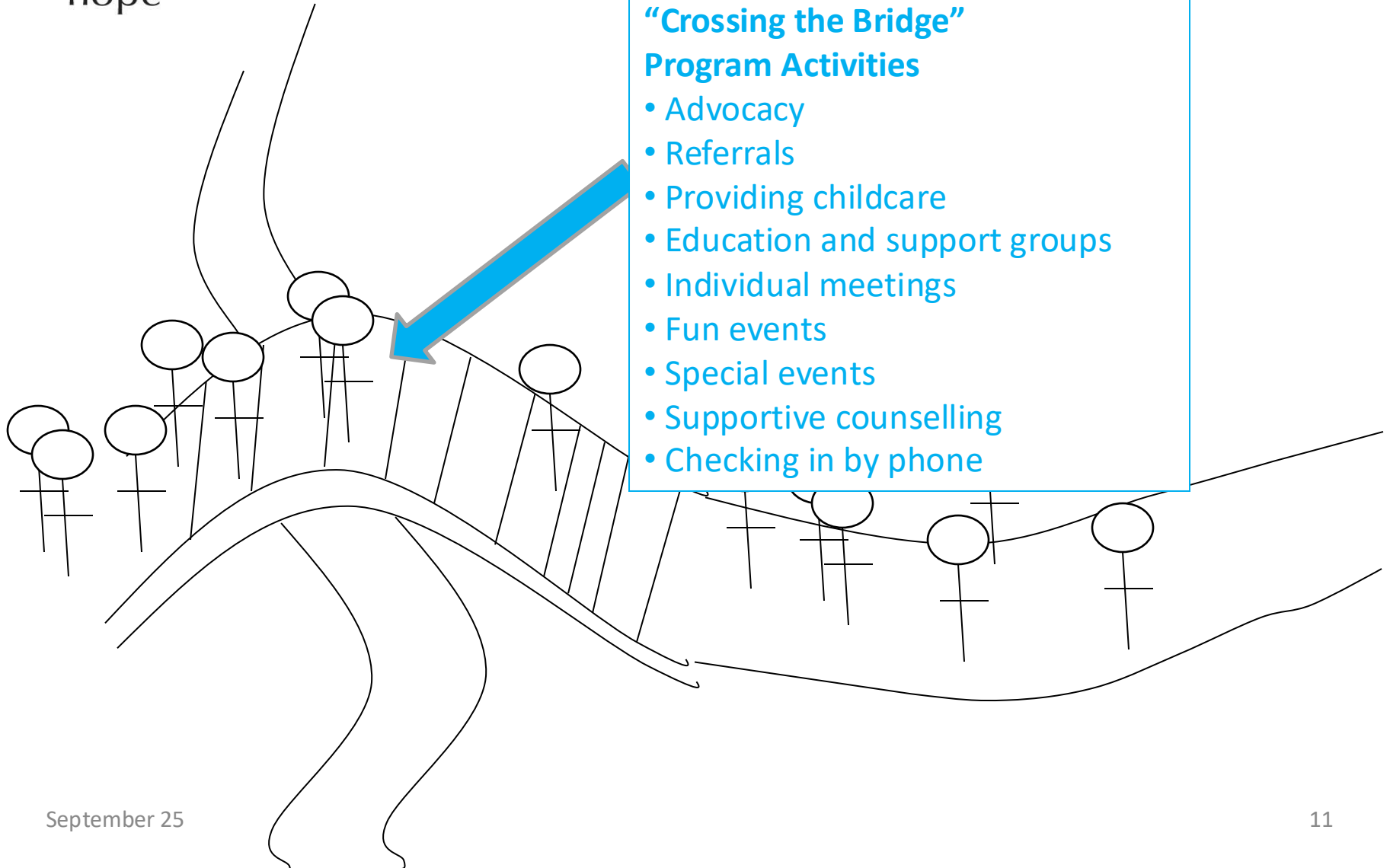


Activities

“Crossing the Bridge”

Program Activities

- Advocacy
- Referrals
- Providing childcare
- Education and support groups
- Individual meetings
- Fun events
- Special events
- Supportive counselling
- Checking in by phone





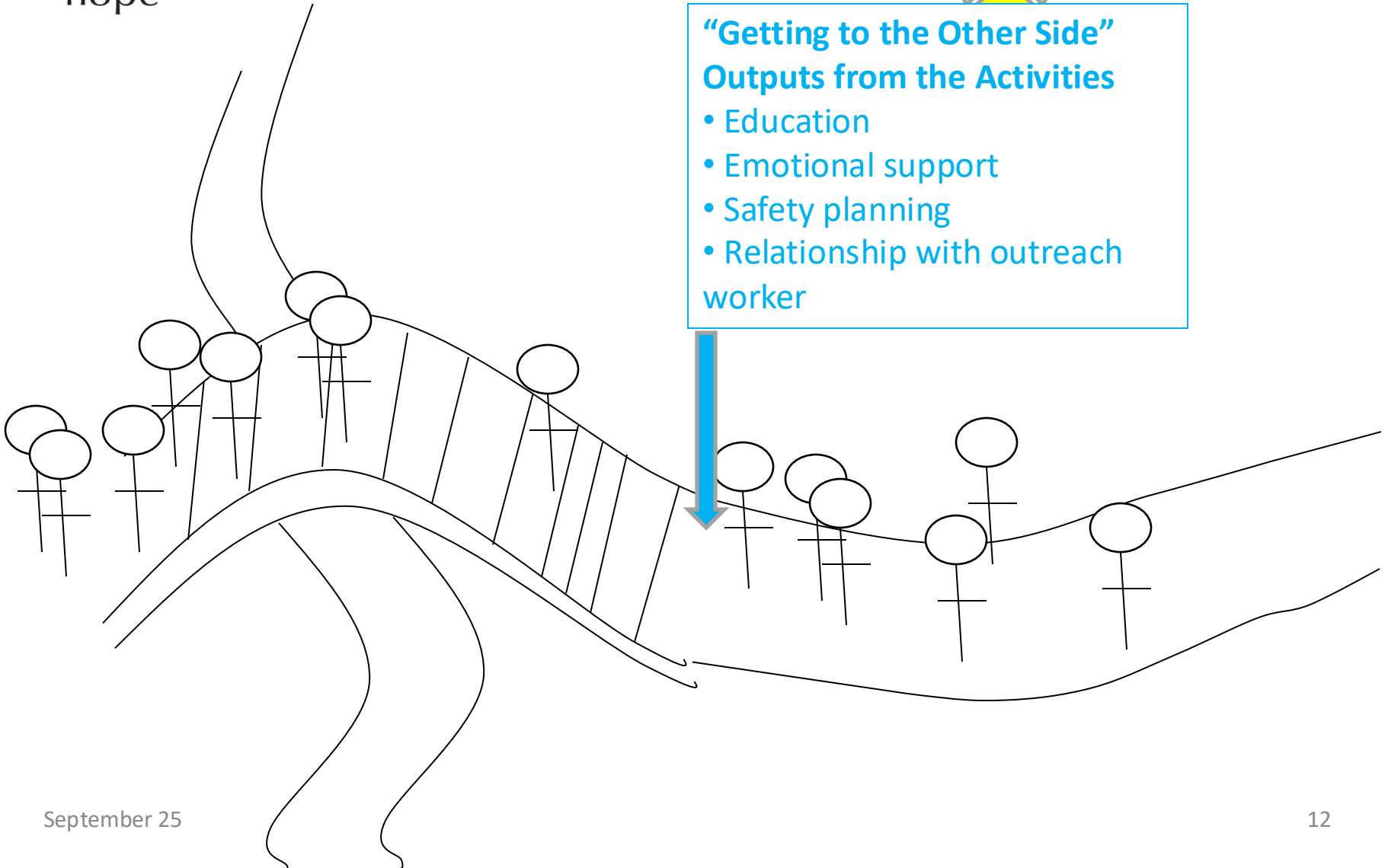
Outputs



“Getting to the Other Side”

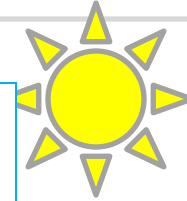
Outputs from the Activities

- Education
- Emotional support
- Safety planning
- Relationship with outreach worker



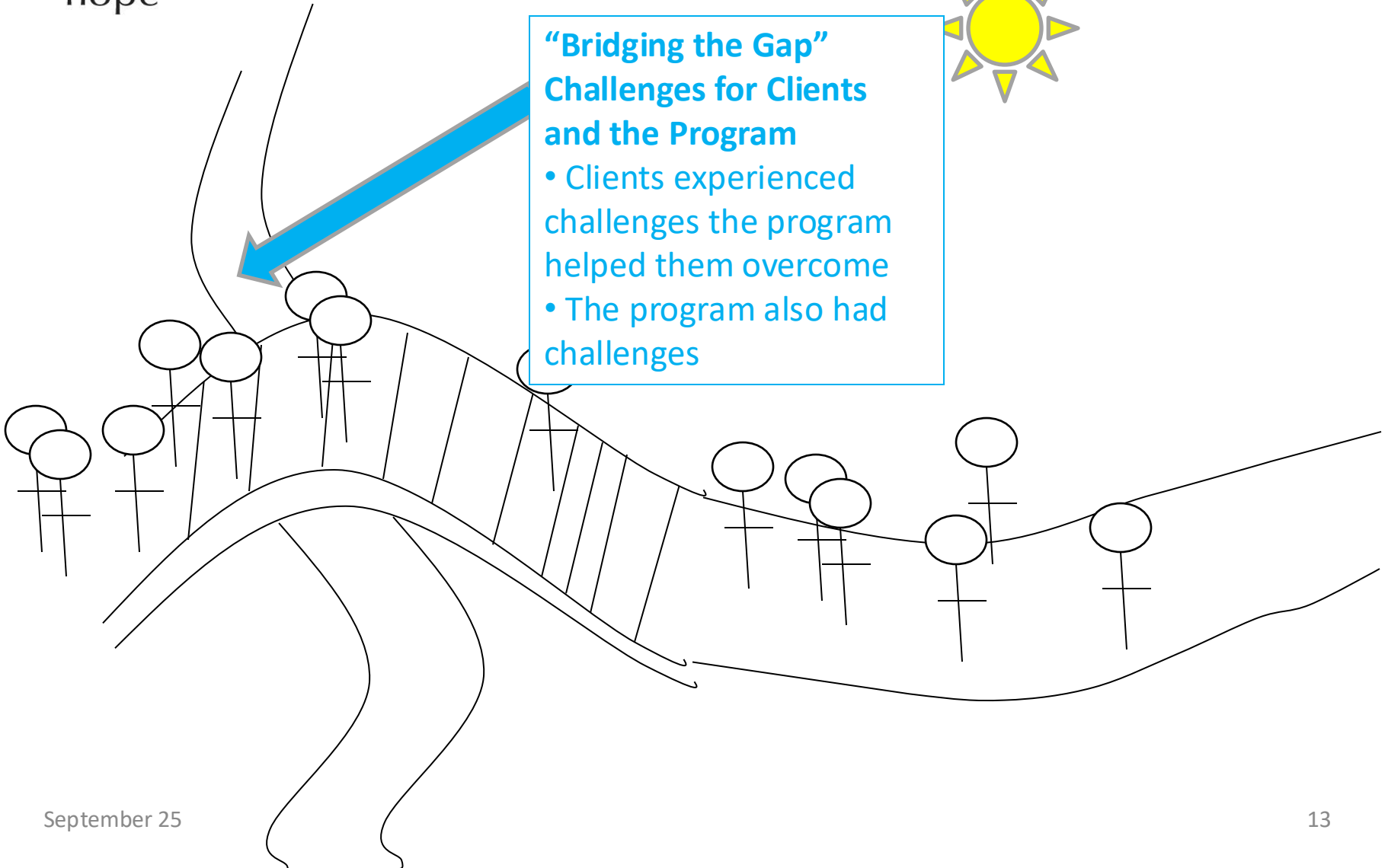


Challenges



“Bridging the Gap” Challenges for Clients and the Program

- Clients experienced challenges the program helped them overcome
- The program also had challenges

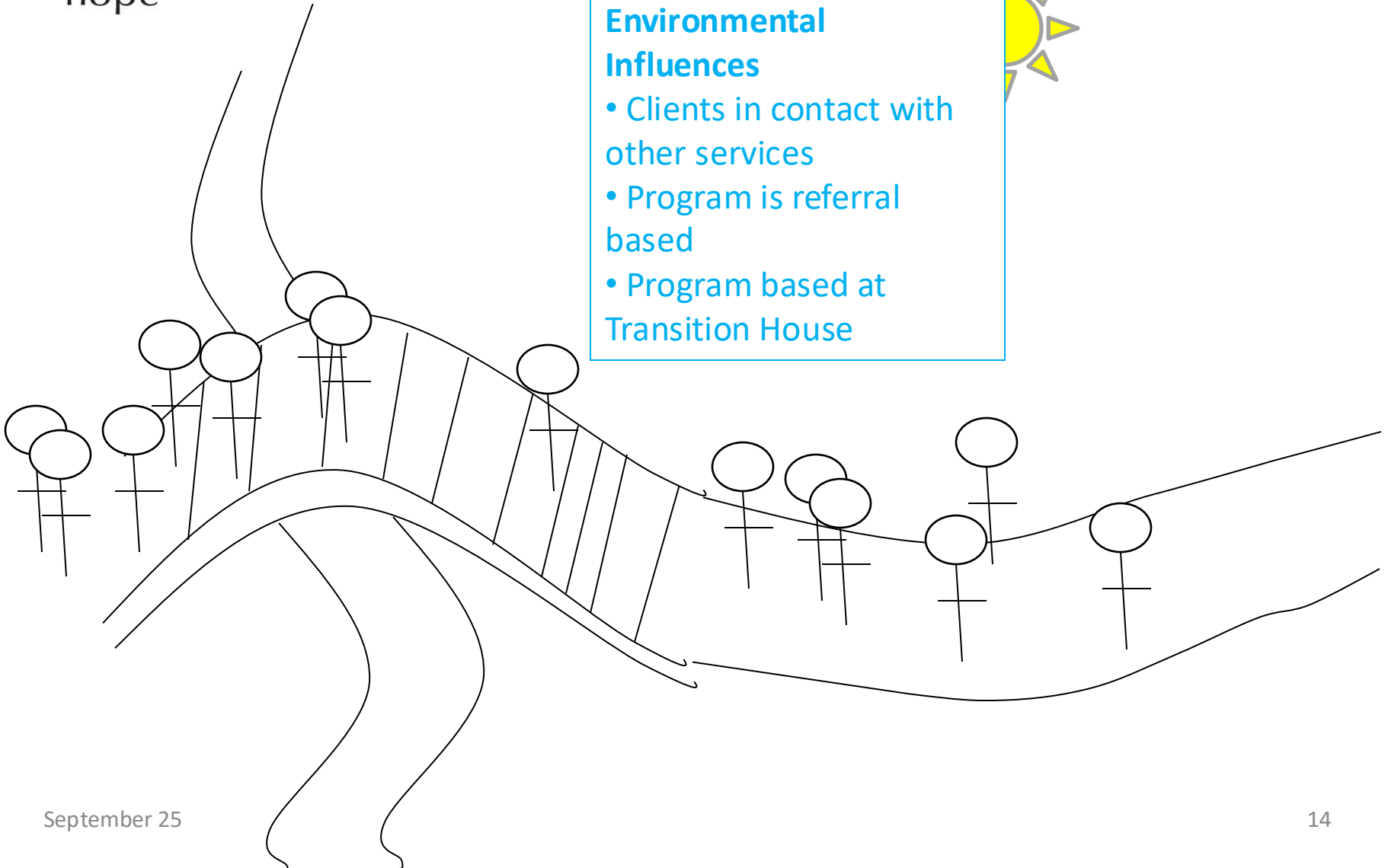
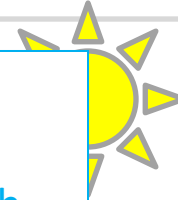




Environmental Influences

Environmental Influences

- Clients in contact with other services
- Program is referral based
- Program based at Transition House





Outcomes



“On the Road to the Destination”

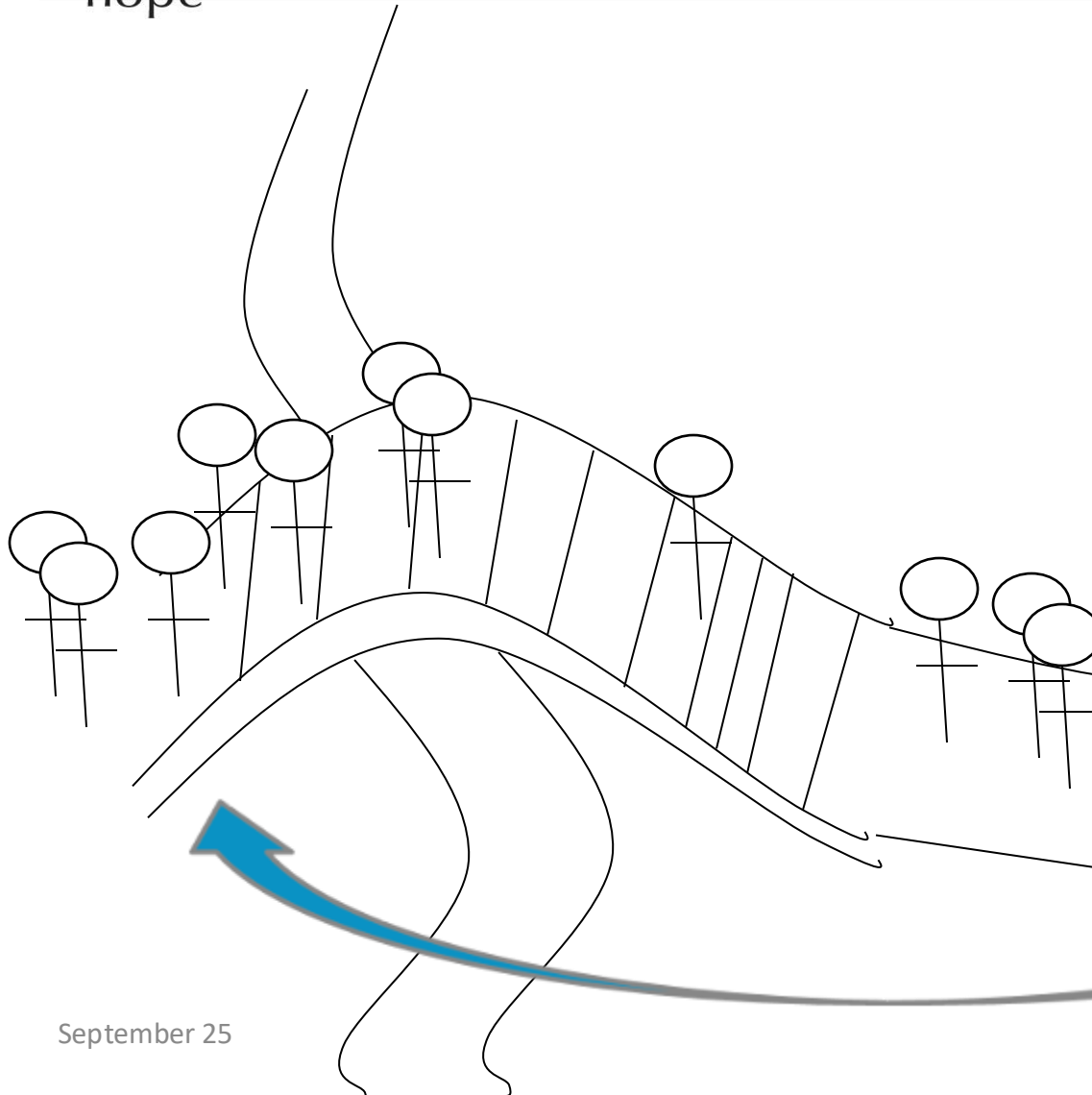
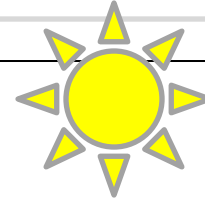
Program Outcomes

- Quality of life
- Reduced isolation
- Connection to services
- Awareness
- Safety
- Empowerment
- Violence free
- Benefits to staff





Future Directions



- “Maintaining the Bridge”
Future Program Directions**
- Mentorship program
 - Groups (frequency, topics)
 - Legal support
 - Basic needs after leaving the shelter
 - Increased Elder involvement



Concluding Remarks

- “The Outreach Coordinator would say, ‘Look at all you’ve done and you did this all on your own. You told me that last time anything you tried to have, he took away. And look at all you have now.’ And she just helped me like that and reminded me about the good things I’ve done and that I’ve done it on my own.”
- “You feel like you’ve got somebody on your side.”



Thank-you to the PAF for funding this study