

# Brain Injury and the Clinical Justice Program: A Cross Collaboration Providing Comprehensive Support

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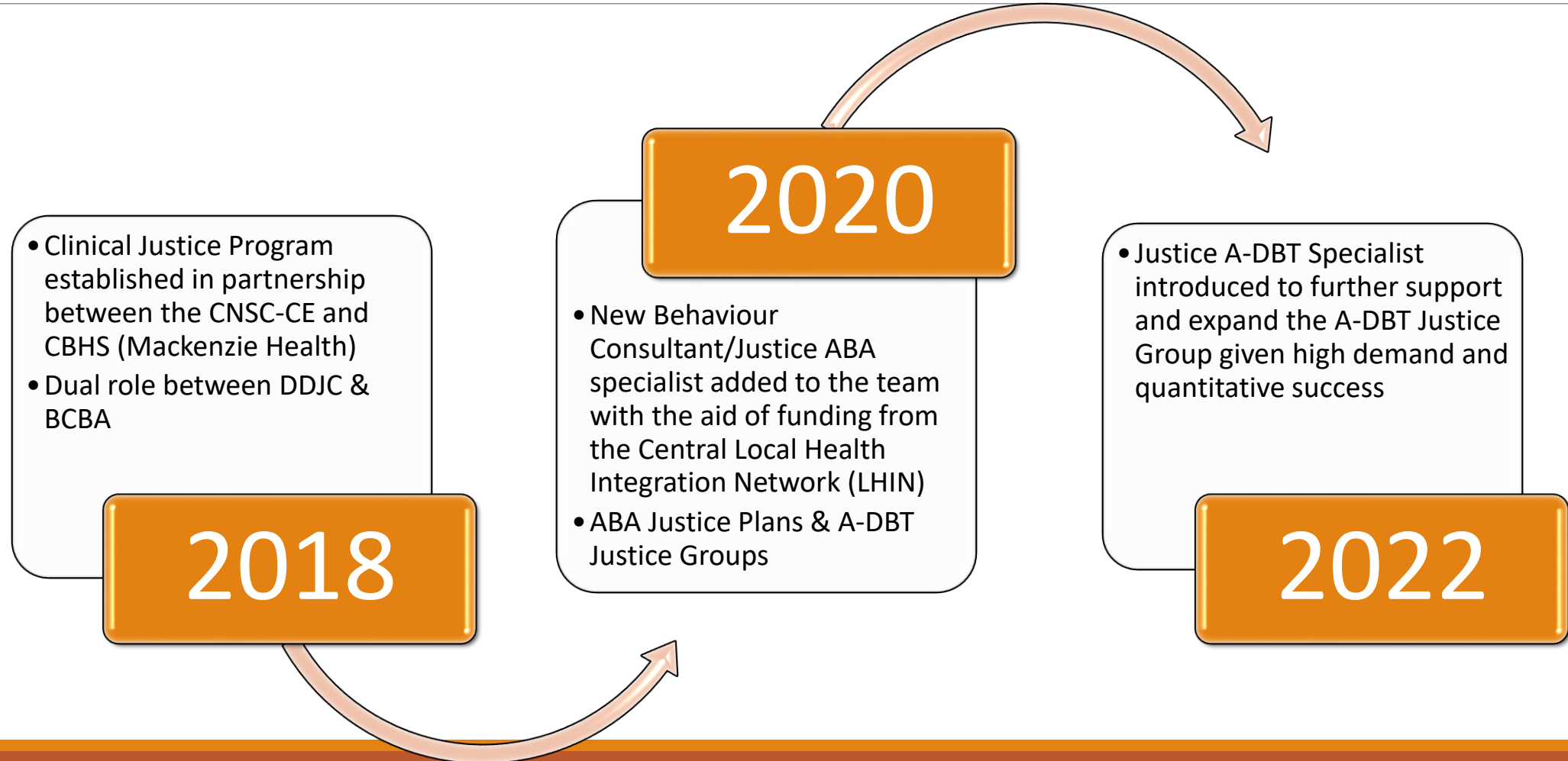
# SESSION AGENDA:

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- ✓ WHO we are
- ✓ WHY we are here
- ✓ HOW we can work together (case study)
- ✓ WHAT we can do to help
- ✓ WHERE we can go from here

# WHO We Are:

## Clinical Justice Program Timeline



# Clinical Justice Program

## Pillar I:

### The Justice Clinic

- ABA Justice Plans** - individual skills/behaviour training
- Court Support Plan** - teaches justice professionals accommodations for clients in trial

## Pillar II:

### A-DBT Justice Group

- Teach coping skills** in areas of mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance and interpersonal effectiveness

## Pillar III:

### Justice App

- Building Capacity** - clients, support systems & general public

## Pillar IV:

### Justice ABI Clinic (In Development)

- ABI Justice Plans**  
- Individual skills/behavior training specialized to meet the needs of those with a history of ABI

# Clinical Justice Program Spotlights

Feature in Lawyer's Daily:

<https://www.thelawyersdaily.ca/articles/25374/justice-clinic-improves-outcomes-for-persons-with-developmental-disabilities-?spotlight=1>

Feature in Connected, CLH DSS Foundation Magazine:

<https://www.clhmidland.on.ca/docs/2021-winter-connected/>

Justice App:

<https://justiceapp.community-networks.ca>

Justice App featured in OASIS July 2022 newsletter

**Pillars of Justice**  
BRINGING INNOVATION AND SPECIALIZED SUPPORT TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

When CLH Developmental Support Services (CLH DSS) took its new name, it reflected the wide breadth of services CLH DSS provides, and their geographic reach across the province.

The Community Networks of Specialized Care - Central East (CNSC-CE) may not be as well known to our North Simcoe community as other CLH adult services, but its impact is significant. The CNSC-CE provides support to adults who have developmental disabilities with high support and complex care needs. One focus is Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordination, which supports individuals who have come in contact with the justice system to ensure they receive the supports they require.

The Clinical Justice Program was established in 2018 as a collaboration between the Community Networks of Specialized Care-Central East (CLH Developmental Support Services) and Centre for Behavioural Health Sciences (Mackenzie Health) beginning with a dual role between the Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator and a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA). It has transformed into a larger clinical model of justice support for persons with developmental disabilities who need comprehensive support to access the justice system.

The Justice Clinic (the first pillar) uses Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as a tool to construct and implement individualized Justice Plans and Court Support Plans. The goal of a Justice Plan is to build skills and behavior for the individual to participate successfully. Court Support Plans involve every person who has a court role during a trial with recommendations and accommodations to ensure the individual can provide their evidence. Courtney and Vicky have hosted workshops, seminars, and "lunch & learns" to reach local agencies, community health practitioners and courthouse professionals. Courtney says, "The real light bulb moments come when you have an agency that has enlisted every option for support, and then they see the positive benefit/change, and they come back with more and more referrals."

Victory and Courtney bring complementary skillsets and experience to their working partnership. They share a commitment to finding ways of supporting individuals who

would otherwise find themselves alone in the court system. Says Vicky, "We work really well together - I bring ABA and developmental sector knowledge where Courtney is experienced and knowledgeable in justice and the court."

Vicky is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) with extensive experience working with individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Dual Diagnosis, including 14 years' experience working at both the Centre for Behavioural Health Sciences (Mackenzie Health) and Surrey Place ABA. A scientific problem-solving approach that aims to produce socially significant behavior changes - in this case, to help individuals participate in court, whether they're there as witnesses, victims of a crime or the accused. Vicky is also the Coordinator of the Justice Clinic in partnership with Centre for Behavioural Health Sciences (Mackenzie Health).

Courtney is the DDC for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge and Durham. In addition to her BA in Forensic Psychology and Masters in Criminology, she worked at Central East Correctional Centre in the Psychology Dept, and the Canadian Mental Health Association in Justice Services before joining the CNSC-CE in 2018, a few months before Vicky.

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The second pillar, Adapted-Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (A-DBT) is a form of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy which is proven to work really well for adults with a developmental

disability. Since 2008, the CNSC-CE in partnership with a variety of community agencies has been providing weekly A-DBT group sessions across Central East region. In 2020, funding from the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) gave lift-off to a pilot project to bring A-DBT and its focus on core mindfulness, interpersonal effectiveness, emotion regulation and distress tolerance to support individuals in the justice system. These have run (virtually) on a weekly basis with trained A-DBT therapists, with very promising outcomes.

The newest CNSC-CE initiative (and third pillar) is the Justice App. A "what if" conversation in September 2020 about using technology to serve their high needs clients during the pandemic led Vicky, Courtney and Marie to go to work on a solution. By spring 2021, with help from colleague Justin Nelson, a newly developed app was tested, and then refined. The final version was publicly launched in November 2021. The Justice App contains

helpful information about navigating the court system when it's most needed. With step-by-step photos and examples, supported individuals, their families, and their direct support professionals can walk through the processes and definitions, and better understand the terminology, stages and expectations of the court system. As Vicky and Courtney make their way through wait lists and the increasing demand for services, the app can provide individuals and family members access to information they need all in one place - in the palm of their hand.

Funding for these initiatives is not permanent, provincial support is currently in place until March 2022. Recognizing the tremendous outcomes for individuals who have successfully participated in these programs, CLH Developmental Support Services and CLH Foundation are committed to finding long-term funding solutions.

Left: Courtney Hutson  
Right: Vicky Simas

**About the Community Networks of Specialized Care (CNSC) - Ontario**  
The Community Networks of Specialized Care (CNSC) bring specialized services and professionals to collaborate and develop complex support plans for adults who have developmental disabilities with high support and complex care needs. The CNSC bring together people from many sectors including developmental services, health, research, education and justice in a common goal of improving navigation, access and quality of services. The CNSC works in four focus areas: Complex Support Coordination, Health Care Facilitation, Service System Resources and Dual Diagnosis Justice Case Management.

CLH Developmental Support Services serves as the accountable agency for the CNSC in Central East, which includes Simcoe, York, Durham, Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge. The mandate focuses on providing complex support and support coordination for individuals, and acting as a resource for other service agencies. Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) and local planning tables. Additionally, CNSC-CE builds sector capacity through education and mentorship to other case managers and service agencies and provides provincial coordination of videoconferencing and French language resources.

# WHO We Are: BIST Overview

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- BIST provides programs and services to people living with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), their families and caregivers
- We are a charitable non-profit organization funded by donations, money raised by events, and sponsorship programs
- Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of people living in the City of Toronto with an ABI, through advocacy, awareness, education and support
- Visit us at [www.bist.ca](http://www.bist.ca)

# WHY We Are Here:

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- A case study will be presented to highlight the effectiveness of cross-sectoral collaborations (CNSC-CE & BIST) in the justice system
- Will show how an ABI Community Coordinator, a Behaviour Consultant/ABA Justice Specialist, and a Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator can work together to provide comprehensive, qualitative programming to best serve the needs of our clients
- Learn how many different disciplines and models of support can work together to provide comprehensive programming and justice support
- Discuss observed gaps in service and address how we as a multidisciplinary community can build capacity to enhance the programs we offer and partnerships we share

# HOW We Can Work Together:

How the collaboration between CJP & BIST came to be

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- Vicky Simos (Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator) and Melissa Vigar (Executive Director- BIST) connected to discuss resources and supports for potential collaboration
- Agreed to pilot collaboration for a couple of clients in need of ABA programming
- Samantha Airhart (Behaviour Consultant/ABA Justice Specialist) and Laura Bellon (Community Coordinator Homeless Prevention Program) connected to initiate support for clients in pilot collaboration







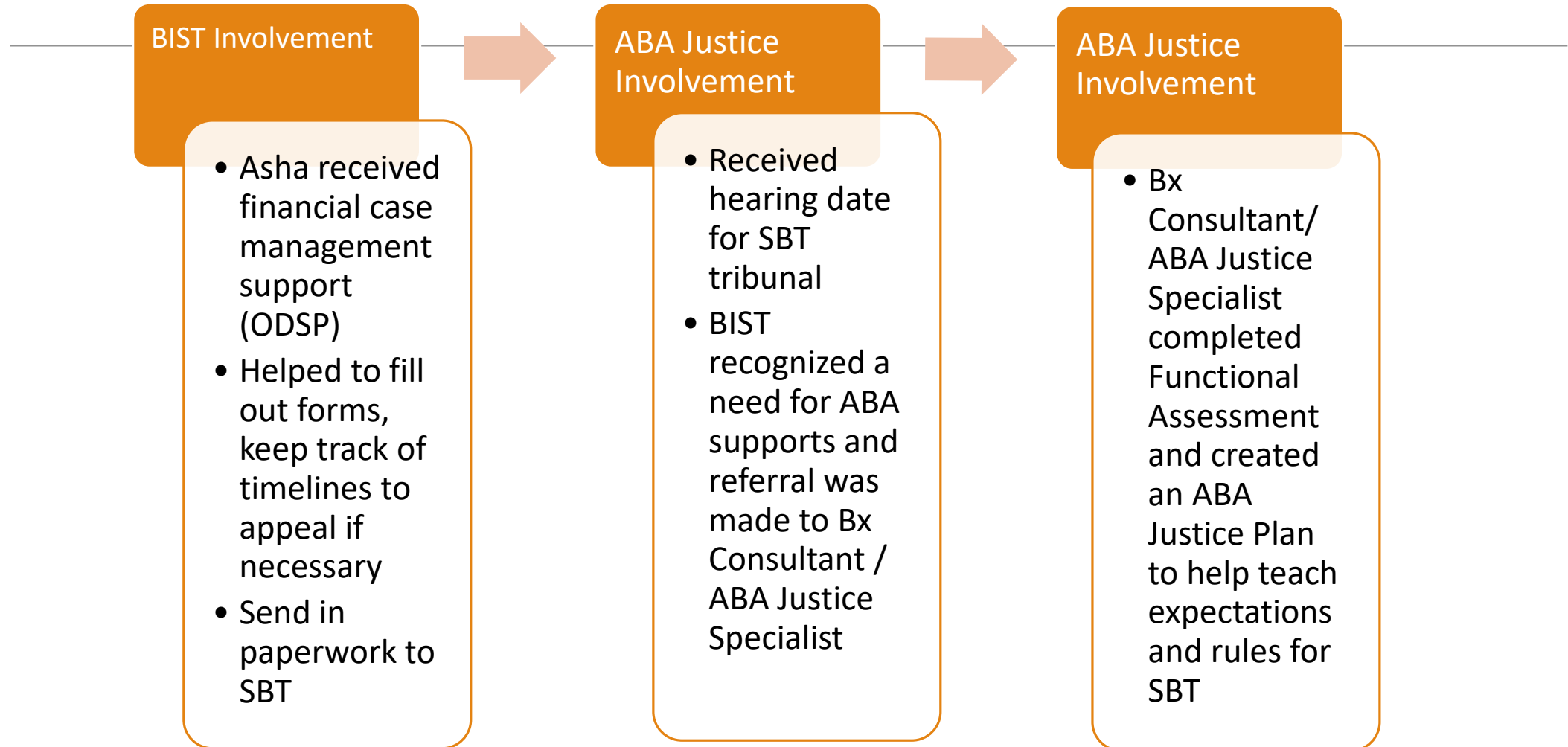
# Person Profile: Asha

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- 27 year-old female
- Living in one bedroom apartment in GTA
- Young single mother
- Diagnosed with Anxiety, Depression, Learning Disability, OCD, ABI, PTSD, Mood Disorder and other health related conditions
- Suffered multiple concussions which resulted in ABI
- Appealing ODSP application decision through Social Benefits Tribunal (SBT)

**\*\* Disclaimer: All names and identifying information has been changed to protect confidentiality**

# Case Example: ABA & SBT Timeline



# Goals for ABA Justice Programming:

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- Teach expectations for SBT and virtual rules



**Tribunals Ontario**

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Social Benefits Tribunal

*\*Note ABA Justice Programming does not coach any evidence*

# Who will be present at your SBT hearing?

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A SBT member (decision maker- mediator of the meeting)

A representative from ODSP

Yourself

Witness (Laura)

Support person (Sam)



**Tribunals Ontario**

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Social Benefits Tribunal

# What is the role of the SBT “member”?

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Role includes:

- Explaining process of hearing
- Will ask you questions to better understand your position and evidence
- Records the hearing
- Reviews all evidence and makes final written decision



# Your Expectations for SBT hearing

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1. Call in 5-10 minutes early



2. Mute microphone when not speaking



3. Have all documents ready and available for reference



4. Answer all questions that are asked by the “member”

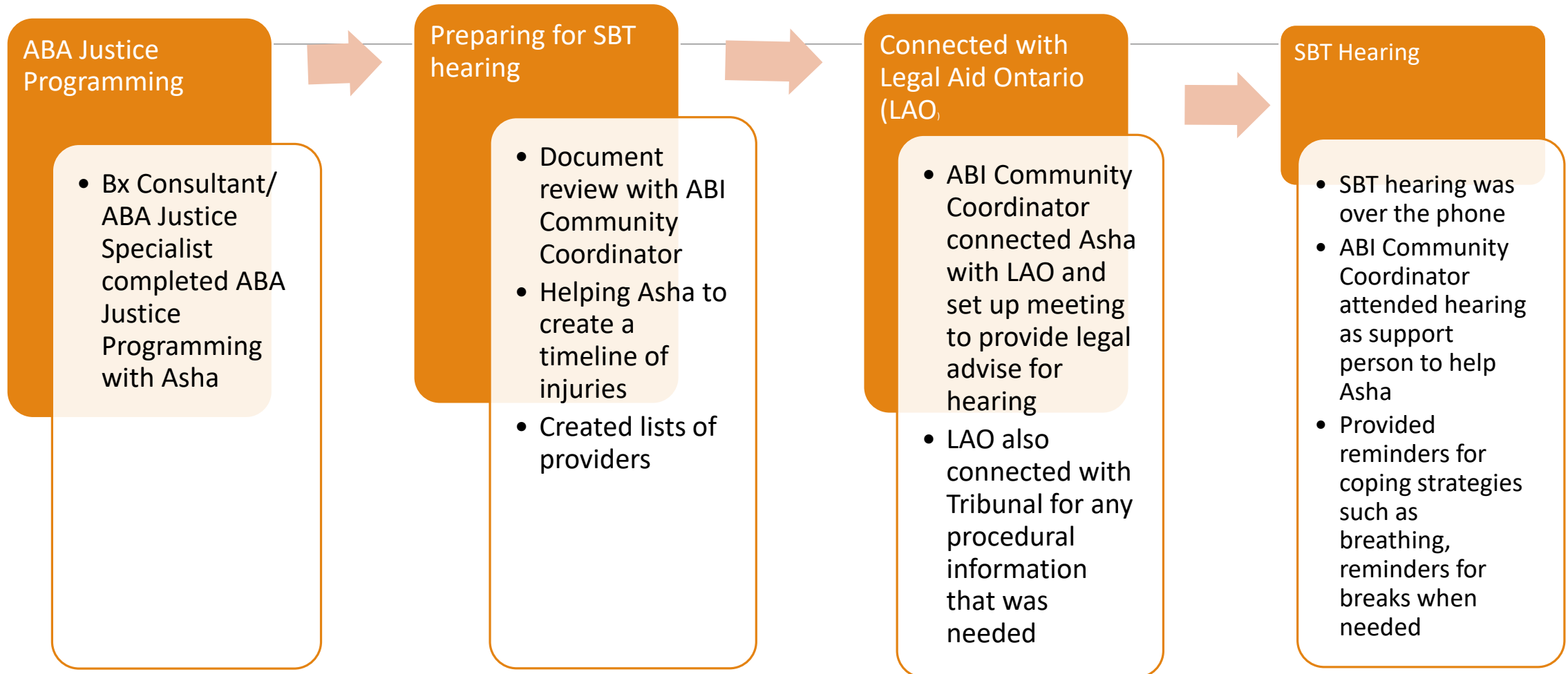


5. Only discuss topics/medical diagnosis that were submitted to the SBT

6. Ask questions if you need clarification



# Case Example: ABA & SBT Timeline





# Outcome of SBT

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Successfully participating  
in the hearing

Decision was approved  
and was granted ODSP

# WHAT We Can Do To Help:

Tip highlights – “Prepping the process, not the evidence”



1. Provide visuals/ written instruction (Justice App/ABI Justice Toolkit) – break down steps/simple language
2. Communication – “interpreter”, ask client to summarize – check comprehension
3. Coordinate steps in justice process (e.g., arranging transportation, connecting with legal supports / other professional team members, arranging documents, etc.)
4. Include family or other support systems in the process / communications
5. Promote equitable engagement in justice system – preparation/practice – justice process should be happening “with” the individual, not “to” them – provide paced structure, breaks, tailored reinforcements, eliminate distractions when possible
6. ABA Justice Plans
7. ADBT Justice Group
8. Collaborate, build capacity, work at a systems level when necessary – advocate
9. Link to community resources for ongoing/long term support – provide a take-away/connection for client which extends beyond justice system
10. Screen for co-morbidities

# WHERE We Can Go From Here: CNSC-CE's JUSTICE ABI CLINIC:



## Part of CNSC-CE's Strategic Plan for 2022/2023:

- Development of CNSC-CE's Justice ABI Clinic – need identified

STAT: Approx **80%** of adults in the criminal justice system have a history of a TBI (Shiroma et al., 2010; Allely, 2016)

STAT: Men and women who sustained a TBI were about **2.5X** more likely to be incarcerated compared to those without a TBI (Matheson et al., 2016)

- Provide justice focused skills & behavioural training adapted to support the neurodiverse needs of the many populations we serve – promote a fair and equitable process for those justice involved and work to reduce recidivism - access to longer term and specialized community supports
- Build capacity amongst community partners and service providers – comprehensive collaboration, identifying gaps and working to bridge them
- Secure funding for the continuation of the Clinical Justice Program so ongoing, tailored, clinical support can be provided for individuals with a developmental disability and/or ABI who are involved within the justice system

# Referral to Clinical Justice Program – CNSC-CE

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## DDJC Referral Process:

Referral is made to the Developmental Services Ontario East Region (DSO CER) by an agency, family, person by calling:

1-855-277-2121



**C O N T A C T   U S**

**1.855.277.2121**

**8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday**  
THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS SERVICE

Access point for all developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in Ontario

Must have a developmental disability, live in Ontario and be 18 years old

If you suspect a person has a disability and would benefit from supports, call DSO

- Referral to the Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator can be made while pending eligibility

# Referral for Justice Specialist Behaviour Consultant

Email Vicky Simos (DDJC) to inquire about a potential referral

[vicky.simos@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:vicky.simos@clhmidland.on.ca)

Status of charges	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Region:	Date of Referral: (M/Y)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolved				
Individual name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Probation				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentence				
Clinical Justice Program (CJP) staff supporting client (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim/Witness				
Contact/Referral Source (Name)	<input type="checkbox"/> Courtney Huston, Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator (DDJC) - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge & Durham <input type="checkbox"/> Vicky Simos, Dual Diagnosis Justice Coordinator (DDJC) - York/Simcoe <input type="checkbox"/> Marrie Lye, Justice Adapted-Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Specialist		D.O.B: (M/Y)		
	Relationship	email	Telephone		
Primary:			Home	Work	Cell
Alternate:					

Complete form and send to Vicky Simos for approval at: [vicky.simos@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:vicky.simos@clhmidland.on.ca)

<b>Reason for Referral</b> (mental health diversion requirement, probation programming, virtual court skill building, trial/statement preparation)
<b>Justice Involvement</b> (accused or victim/witness, next court date, courthouse & type of charges example: criminal, tribunal, highway traffic act), how many court appearances thus far (dates)
<b>Current Diagnoses (list all)</b>
<b>Current Behavioural Supports</b> (outline any goals being targeted by any Behavioural Consultants/Team)
<b>Justice Supports</b> (name, phone, email)
<b>Lawyer</b> (indicate if legal aid or private)
<b>Mental Health Agency (MHA, etc)</b>
<b>Victim/Witness Assistance Program</b>
<small>By: M. Simos</small>

# Referral to BIST

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## BIST Referral Process:

1. Identify with having a brain injury or cognitive impairment, Adult (24-65yrs), living in the GTA
2. Self- referral process by connecting with BIST directly

***If you need help looking up a number or calling with a question, BIST can help!***

WARM LINE – 416.830.1485

Website: [www.bist.ca](http://www.bist.ca)

Email: [info@bist.ca](mailto:info@bist.ca)

Address: 40 St. Clair Avenue East  
Suite 205  
Toronto, ON M4T 1M9



# Additional Resources

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[Justice App – Navigating the Ontario Justice System \(community-networks.ca\)](https://community-networks.ca/justice-app)



[ABI Justice – Survivor](#)



[Development-Disabilities-Toolkit-6Nov17.pdf \(community-networks.ca\)](#)



[BIST](#)



[CNSC | Community Networks of Specialized Care \(community-networks.ca\)](#)



[Homepage | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#)



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!

ANY QUESTIONS ?





# Contact Information:

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Samantha Airhart - [samantha.airhart@mackenziehealth.ca](mailto:samantha.airhart@mackenziehealth.ca)

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Courtney Hutson – [courtney.hutson@clhmidland.on.ca](mailto:courtney.hutson@clhmidland.on.ca)

