



BC ASSOCIATION OF

Community Response Networks

Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.

CRNs 101

An Introduction to
Community Response Networks
& BC's Abuse/Neglect Laws

Today's Objectives

- To understand BC's abuse/neglect response – Decision Tree for Effective Referrals
- To illustrate how the CRN role addresses adult abuse and neglect in the community.
- To illustrate how CRNs partner with BC CRN.
- To show you the components of an effective CRN.

Agenda

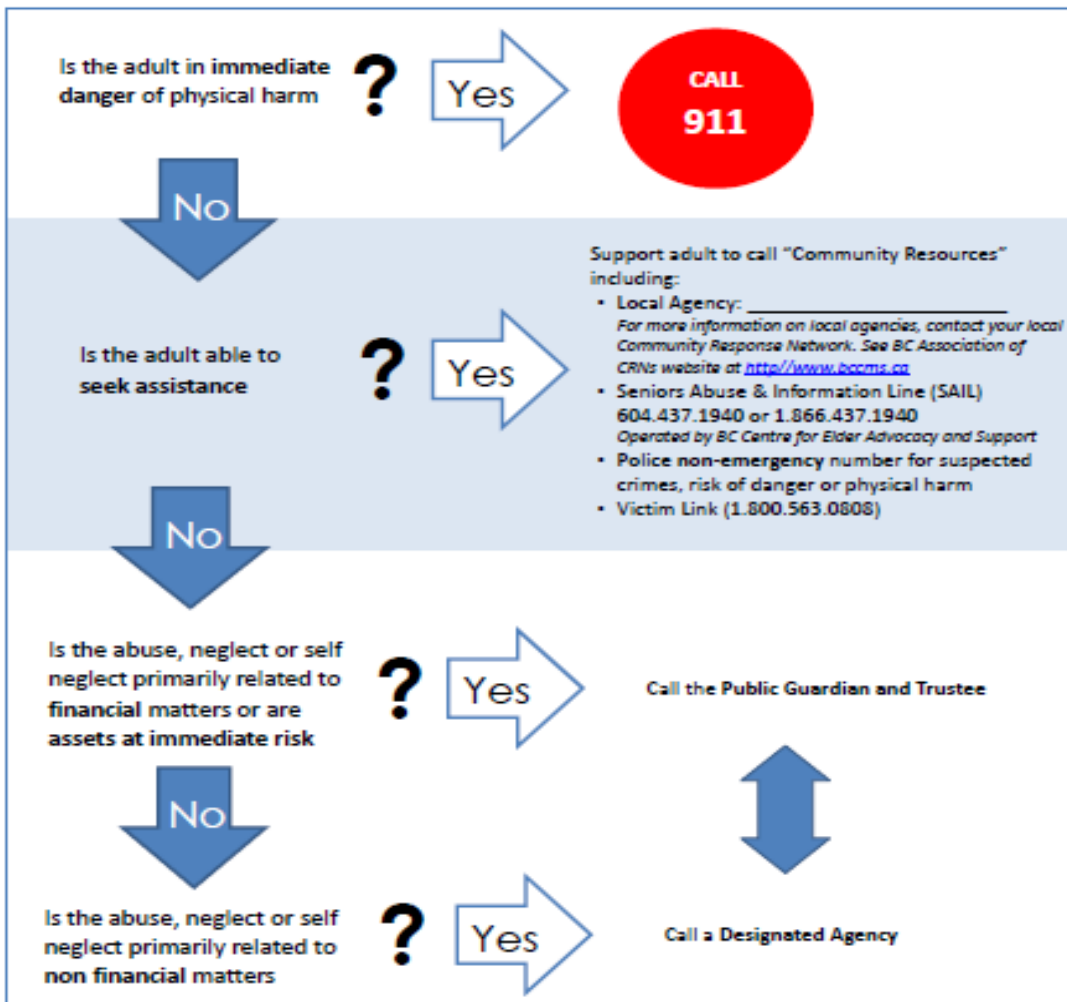
- BC's Abuse/Neglect Law – Decision Tree for Effective Referrals
- BC CRN Overview
- What a CRN is and How it Addresses Adult Abuse and Neglect in the Community
- Questions

The Four Acts of the Adult Guardianship Legislation

1. The Representation Agreement Act.
2. The Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act.
3. The Adult Guardianship Act.
4. The Public Guardian and Trustee Act.

How to Assist an Adult Who is Abused, Neglected or Self Neglecting: A Decision Tree for Effective Referrals for Adults in BC Who may be Vulnerable and/or Incapable

For an introductory video to the law in BC on responding to abuse and neglect, and for information on how to use this decision tree, visit <http://www.trustee.bc.ca/reports-and-publications/Pages/Decision-Tree.aspx> and see page 2 for information about calling the police, Designated Agencies and the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT). For more information on Designated Agencies, the PGT, and Community Response Networks (CRNs) see the PGT publication *Protecting Adults from Abuse Neglect and Self Neglect* at <http://www.trustee.bc.ca>



PGT Decision Tree

Decision Tree videos



Adult Guardianship Act (Part 3): Guiding Principles

- Self determination.
- Presumption of capability.
- Different ways of communicating.
- Least intrusive, least restrictive, most effective forms of support.
- Court as the last resort.



Self Determination & Choice

- All adults are entitled
 - To live in the manner they wish.
 - To accept or refuse support, assistance, or protection as long as there is no harm to others, and they are capable of making decisions.



Most Effective, but Least Intrusive Support

- All adults should receive the most effective, but least intrusive and least restrictive form of support, assistance or protection when they are unable to care for themselves or assets.



Court as a Last Resort

- The court should not be asked to appoint, and should not appoint guardians unless alternatives (e.g. support, assistance) have been tried and carefully considered.



Adults are Presumed Capable

- Until the contrary is demonstrated, every adult is presumed capable of making decisions about
 - Personal care
 - Health care
 - Legal matters
 - Their own financial affairs, business, assets



Different Ways of Communicating

- An adult's way of communicating with others is not grounds for deciding that they are incapable of making decisions on
 - Personal care
 - Health care
 - Legal matters
 - Their own financial affairs, business, assets



Part 3 of Adult Guardianship Act

Organizations, agencies and individuals who have a role in supporting adults, or responding to abuse or neglect will continue to do so.

In addition...

...if a Designated Agency receives a report of abuse, neglect or self-neglect of an adult, or becomes aware of a situation through the course of its work, it must

- Look into the situation

- Involve the adult as much as possible

- Report criminal offences to the police

Mandate of Designated Agencies under Adult Guardianship Act (Part 3)

Abused, neglected, and self-neglected AND unable to seek support and assistance due to:

1. Physical restraint; or
2. Physical handicap that limits their ability to seek help; or
3. Illness, disease, injury or other condition that affects their ability to make decisions about the abuse and neglect.

Tools for Use by Designated Agencies Under Adult Guardianship Act (Part 3)

- Mandate
- Definitions
- Power to investigate
- Right of Designated Agency to information and duty to ensure confidentiality
- Gaining access
 - Emergency provisions
 - Access order
 - Warrant to enter for purpose of interview
- Interim restraining order – 90 days
- Support and assistance order – 1 year

ReAct: Tools Used by Health Authorities

ReAct guides staff in carrying out duties assigned to them under the Adult Guardianship Act.



Adult Abuse & Neglect
Manual for Staff

www.vchreact.ca/manual.htm



First Nations ReAct
Manual for Staff

www.vchreact.ca/bc_manual.htm

PGT Role Under the PGT Act

Consult on complex risk situations involving abuse, neglect or self-neglect of adults in vulnerable circumstances

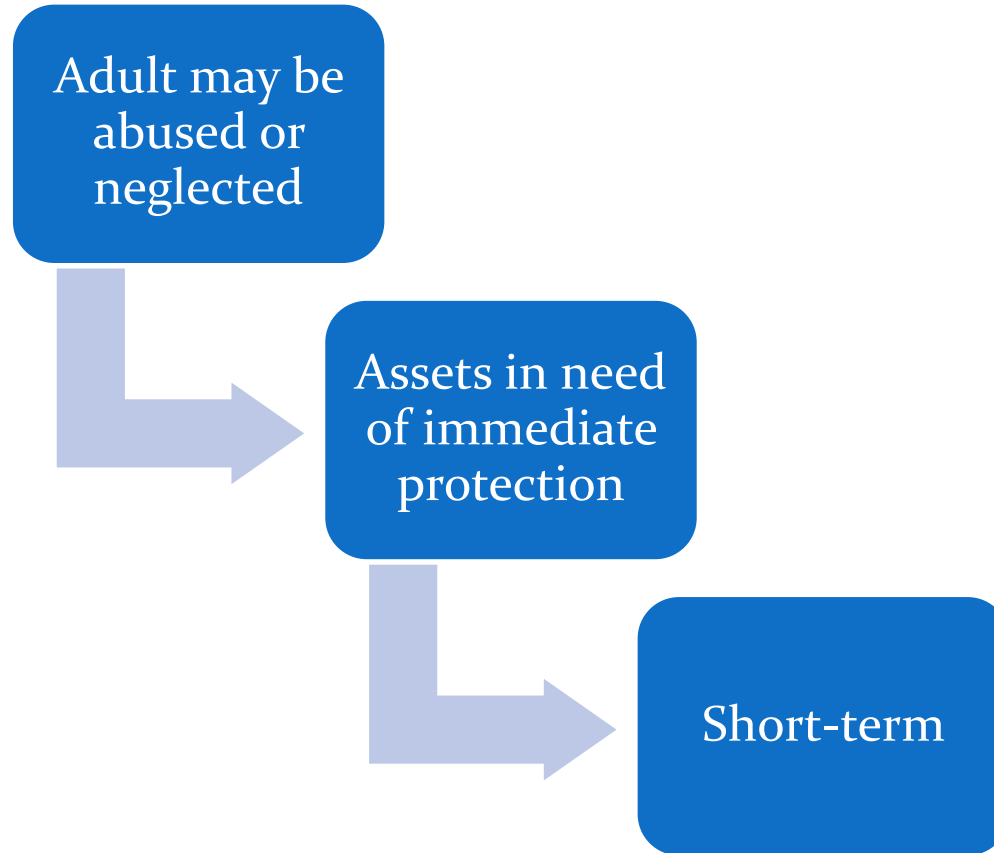
Provide information and guidance for informal and more formal options to resolve situations

Investigate actions of trustees, representatives, or attorneys under Power of Attorney and others when the adult is allegedly incapable and concerns about financial management have been raised.

PGT CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION



PGT Protection of Assets in Urgent Cases



Role of Police Under Criminal Code

- Protect and preserve life and property
- Respond to 911 calls – imminent danger or crimes in progress
- Respond to non-emergency calls
 - Where there is a risk of harm to anyone
 - Respond to calls where a Criminal offence is occurring, has occurred, or it's believed is about to occur
 - Investigate criminal offences – recommend charges when appropriate or request 810 Peace bonds
 - Keep the peace – ensure safety
 - Check on the wellbeing of citizens



Adults have the right to live at risk
as long as their rights do not infringe on others, or
expose themselves to harm.



Why Should I Get Involved?



- Legislation alone doesn't keep people safe. Communities keep people safe.



BC CRN's Vision



- Safe communities where adults are valued, respected, and free from abuse and neglect.

What is BC CRN?

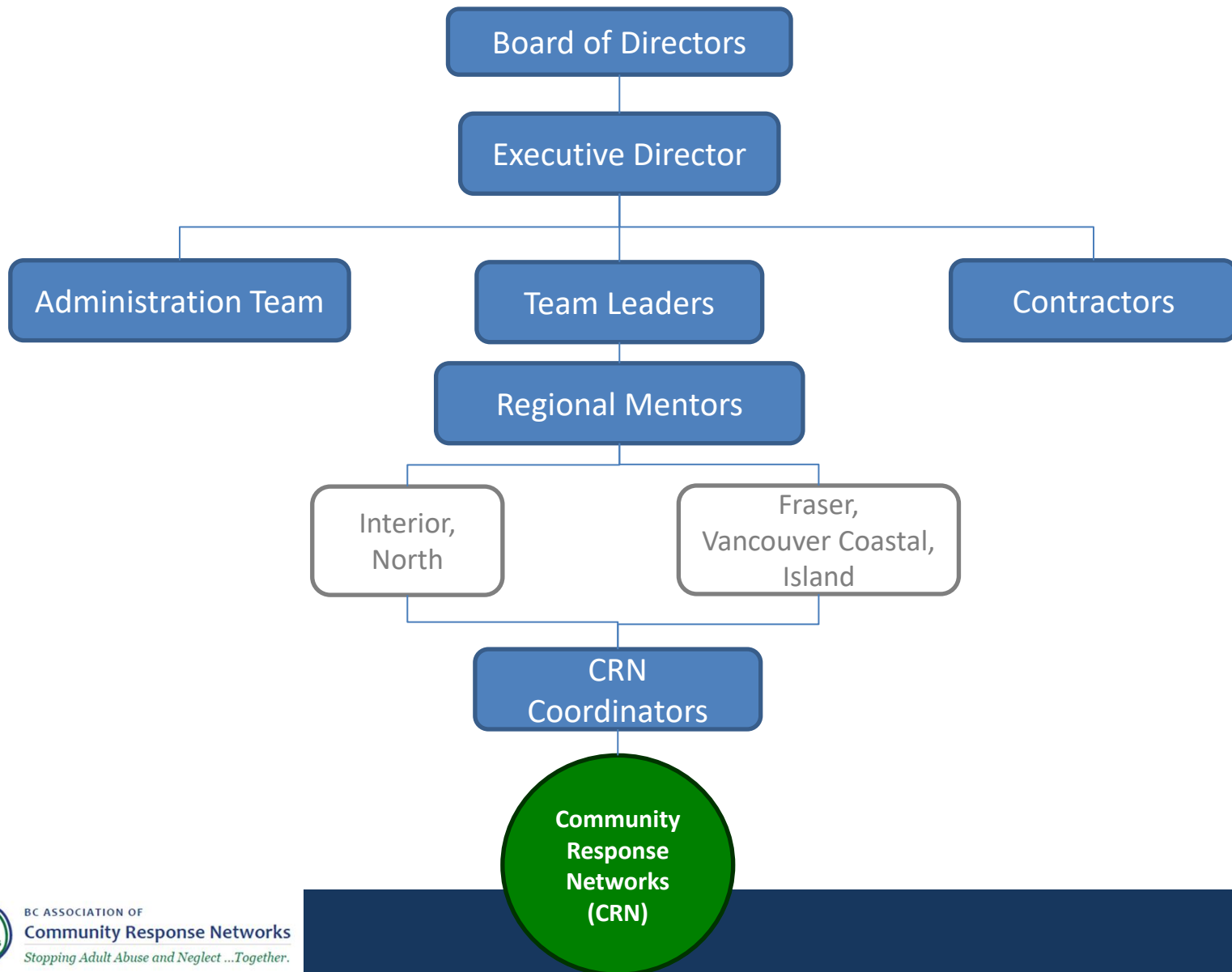
- Provincial umbrella organization.
- Supports development of coordinated community responses.
- Provides education, resources.
- Supports provincial, national, international initiatives.



BC CRN's Mandate

- Promote safe communities, prevent adult abuse and neglect.
- Support community responses to cases of abuse, neglect.
- Support CRNs through programs, resources.
- Support other provincial, national initiatives that focus on prevention of abuse, neglect.

BC CRN Organizational Structure



BC CRN Guiding Principles

- Inclusion.
- Meaningful participation.
- Sharing leadership and influence.
- Assumption of capability and building capacity.



Currently there are
78 active CRNs **224**
communities.



Components of an Effective CRN



Who Joins a CRN?

- People personally affected by abuse, neglect, self-neglect.
- People from non-profit, other sectors:
 - Seniors' centres/programs.
 - Transition houses.
 - Faith communities.
 - Multicultural agencies.
 - Service clubs.
 - Financial institutions.
 - Businesses.
- Representatives from formal systems:
 - Health authorities.
 - Community Living BC (CLBC).
 - Police.

Goals of a CRN

- Improve community response to individuals experiencing adult abuse, neglect.
- Educating communities about abuse and neglect prevention.
- Developing community's ability to respond to adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect.

Role of a CRN

What it Does

- Address adult abuse, neglect as a community issue affecting everyone.
- Build awareness, relationships.
- Educate.
- Advocates for better coordination of supports and services.

What it is Does Not Do

- Manage individual cases.
- Monitor, supervise designated agencies.
- Deliver services, programs to individuals.
- Act as a legal entity.

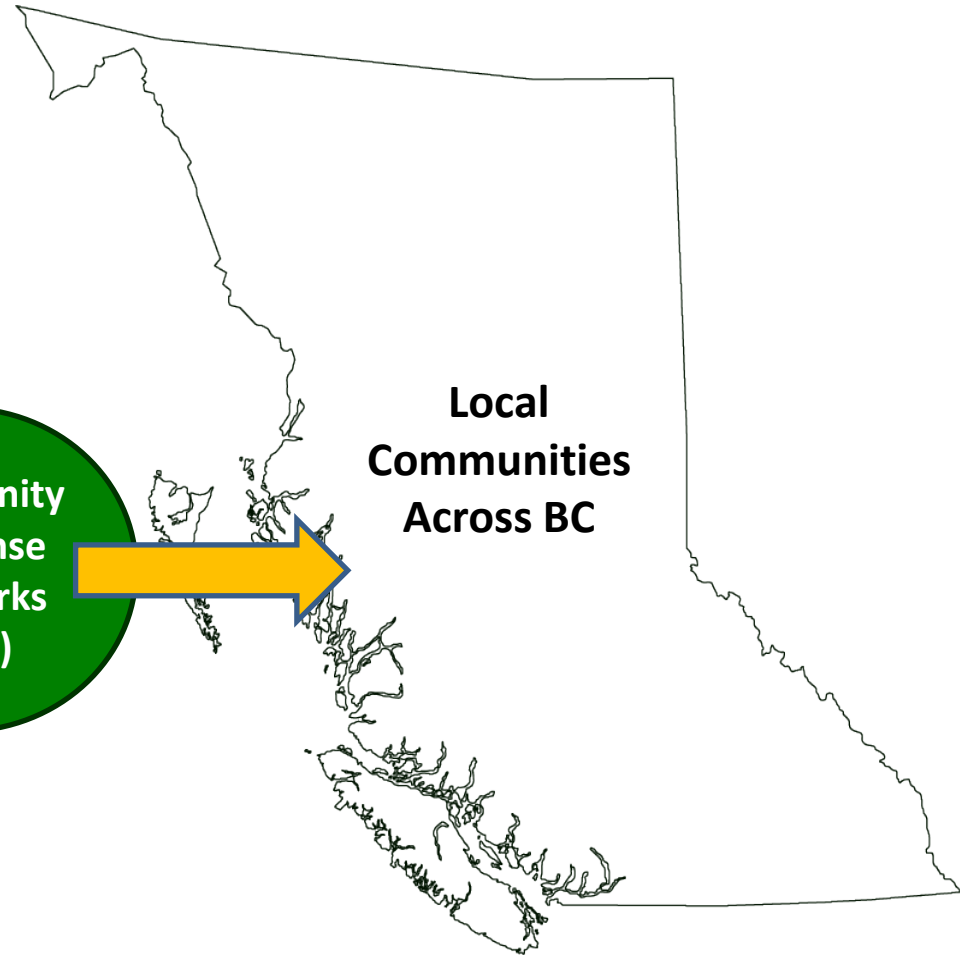
BC CRN's Key Relationships

- BC's abuse/neglect laws
- Ministry of Health, Community Gaming, other project funders
- *Together to Reduce Elder Abuse (TREA) Strategy* – CREA & BC Abuse/Neglect Collaborative
- Provincial, national, international organizations



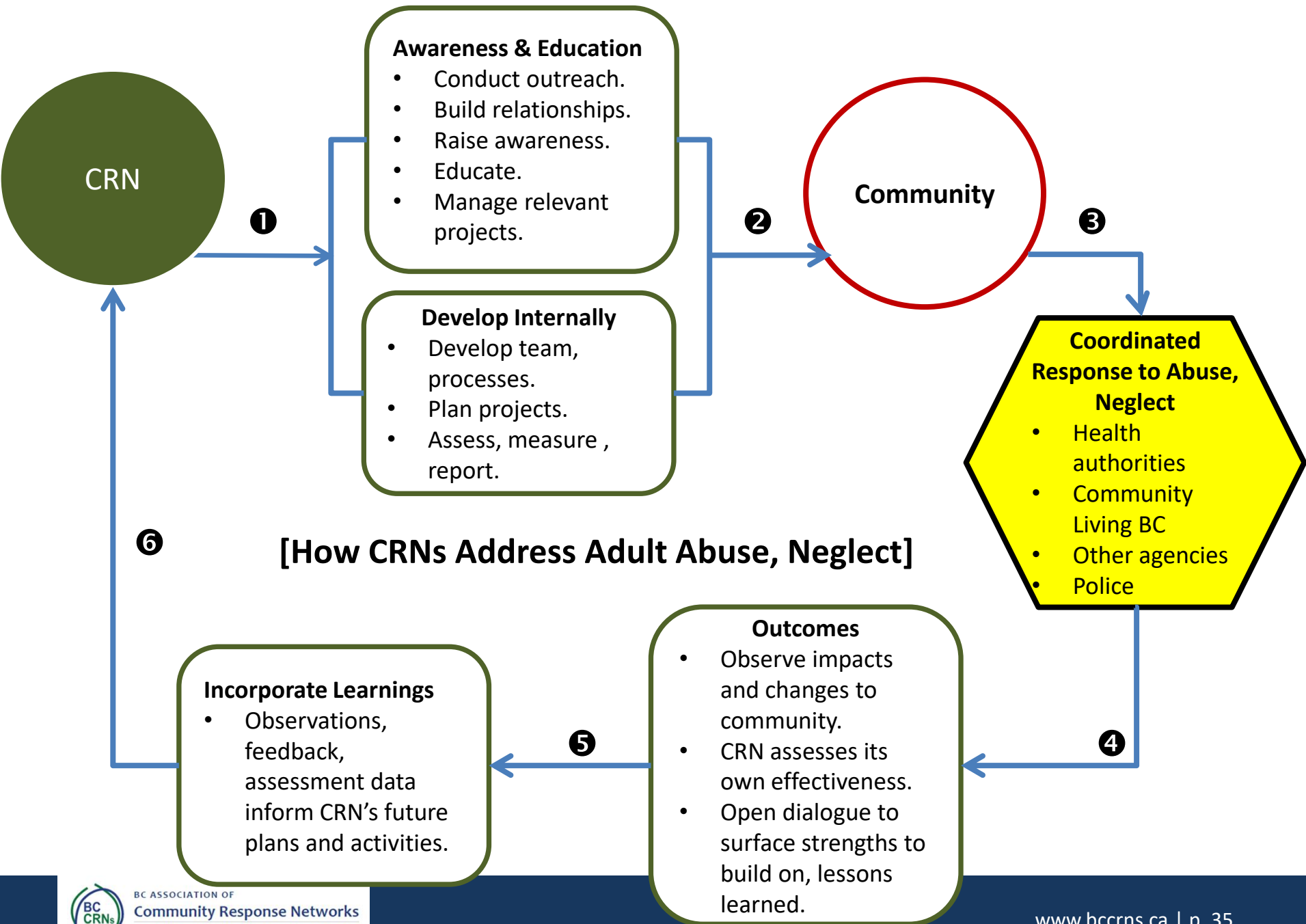
Community Response Networks (CRN)

Local Communities Across BC



How CRNs Work

- CRN team signs agreement with BC CRN.
- CRN determines geographic scope, leadership/working/administrative processes, meeting schedule.
- CRNs members work together to plan activities relevant to the needs of their community.
- BC CRN provides resources, materials, support of regional mentor.



Questions?

