



BALANCING ENGAGEMENT AND THE DUTY AS LAW ENFORCEMENT IN TREATMENT COURT

MAINTAINING ACCOUNTABILITY WHILE
SUPPORTING RECOVERY

Lt. Faye Spaulding

Barrow County Sheriff's Office

Surveillance Officer



OBJECTIVE:

TO SHOW HOW ENGAGEMENT
SUPPORTS LONG TERM
RECOVERY WHILE
MAINTAINING
ACCOUNTABILITY

UNDERSTANDING THE TREATMENT COURT MODEL

-Collaborative approach to justice involving courts, treatment providers, and law enforcement.

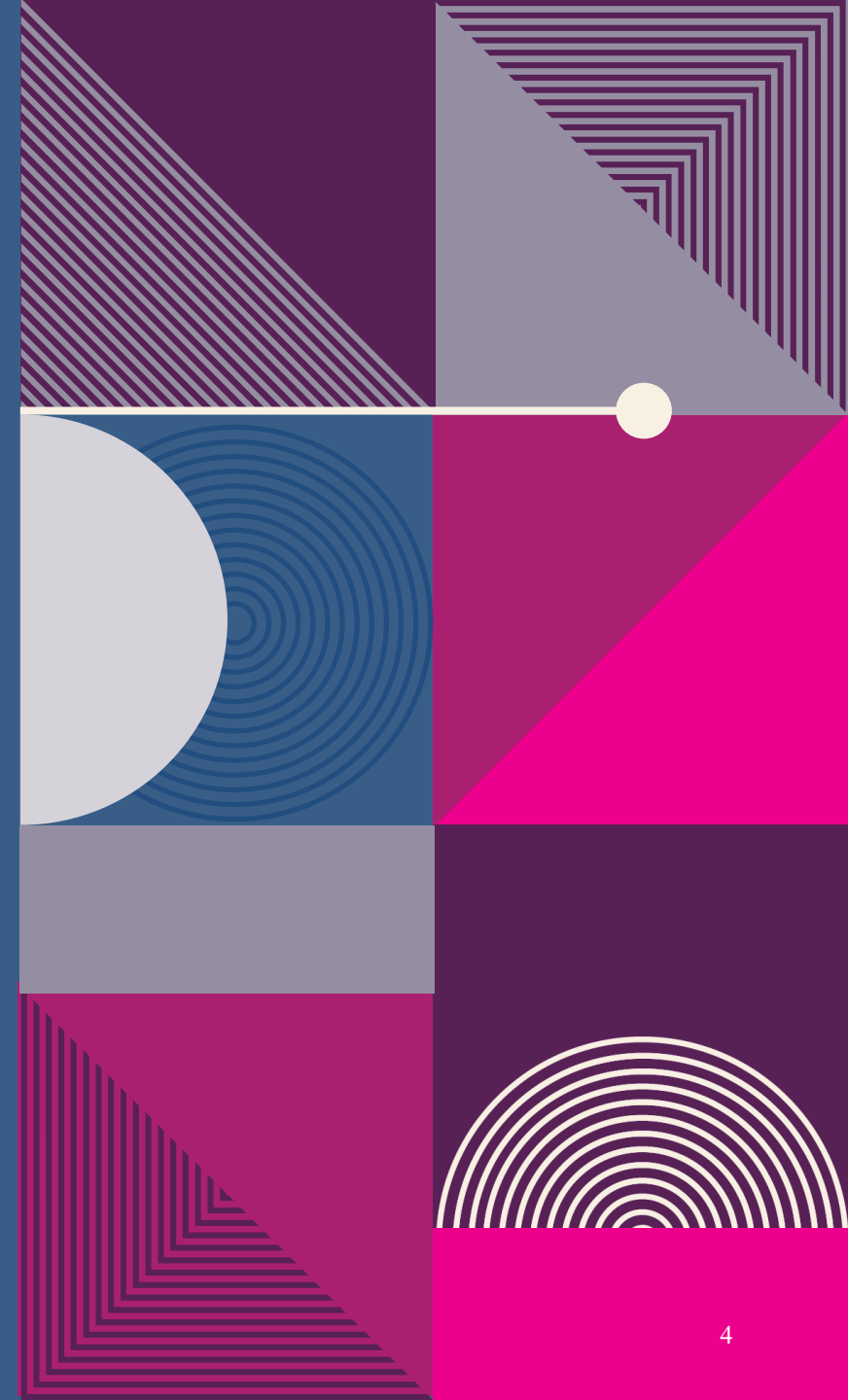
-Focuses on rehabilitation over incarceration.

-Law enforcement is a key partner in supporting participant success.



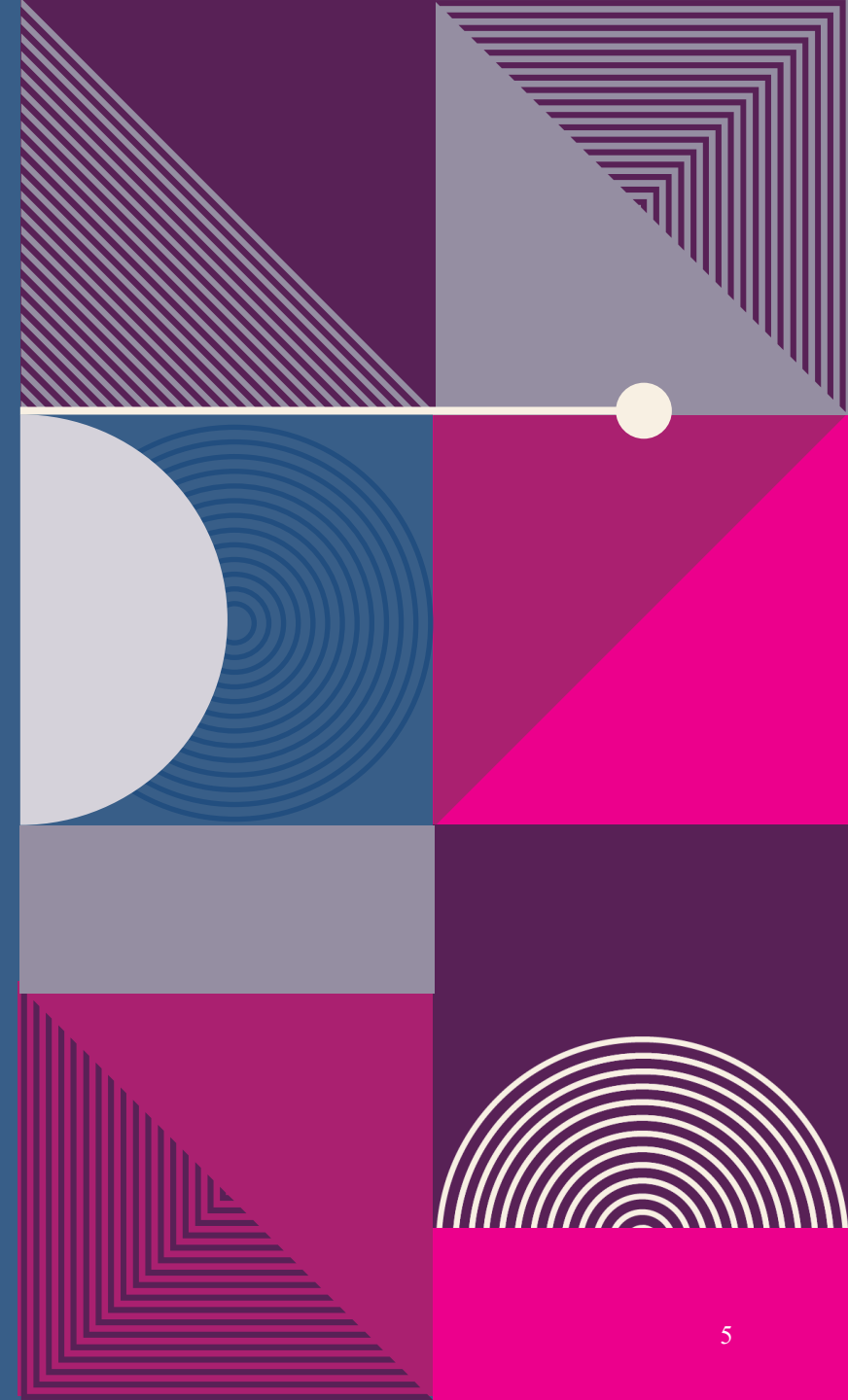
LAW ENFORCEMENT'S CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Protect public safety
- Ensure compliance with court orders
- Monitor behavior in the community
- Provide real-time information to the team
- Maintain professional boundaries



THE ENGAGEMENT FACTOR

- Build rapport with participants
- Attend court session and team meetings
- Provided encouragement during field contacts
- Recognizing positive changes and milestones
- Humanize the badge while maintaining authority



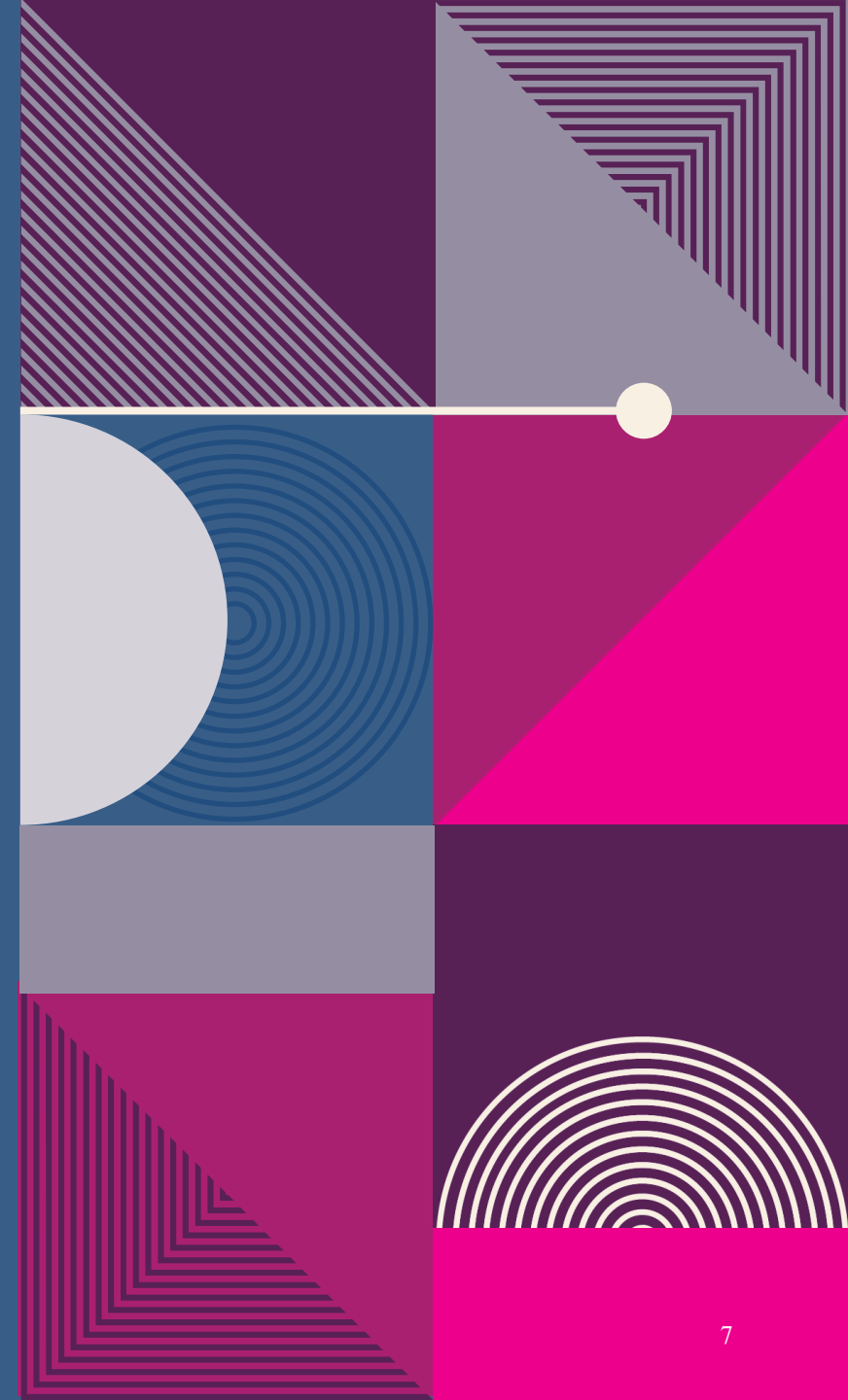
THE CHALLENGE OF BALANCE

- Avoid enabling or becoming too lenient
- Be supportive, not a “friend”
- Enforce consequences fairly and consistently
- Understand trauma and substance use behaviors without excusing them



TOOLS FOR BALANCING ENGAGEMENT AND DUTY

- Motivational interviewing techniques
- Trauma informed communication
- Use of discretion in field decisions
- Immediate reporting of violations but with context
- Celebrate small wins while upholding structure.



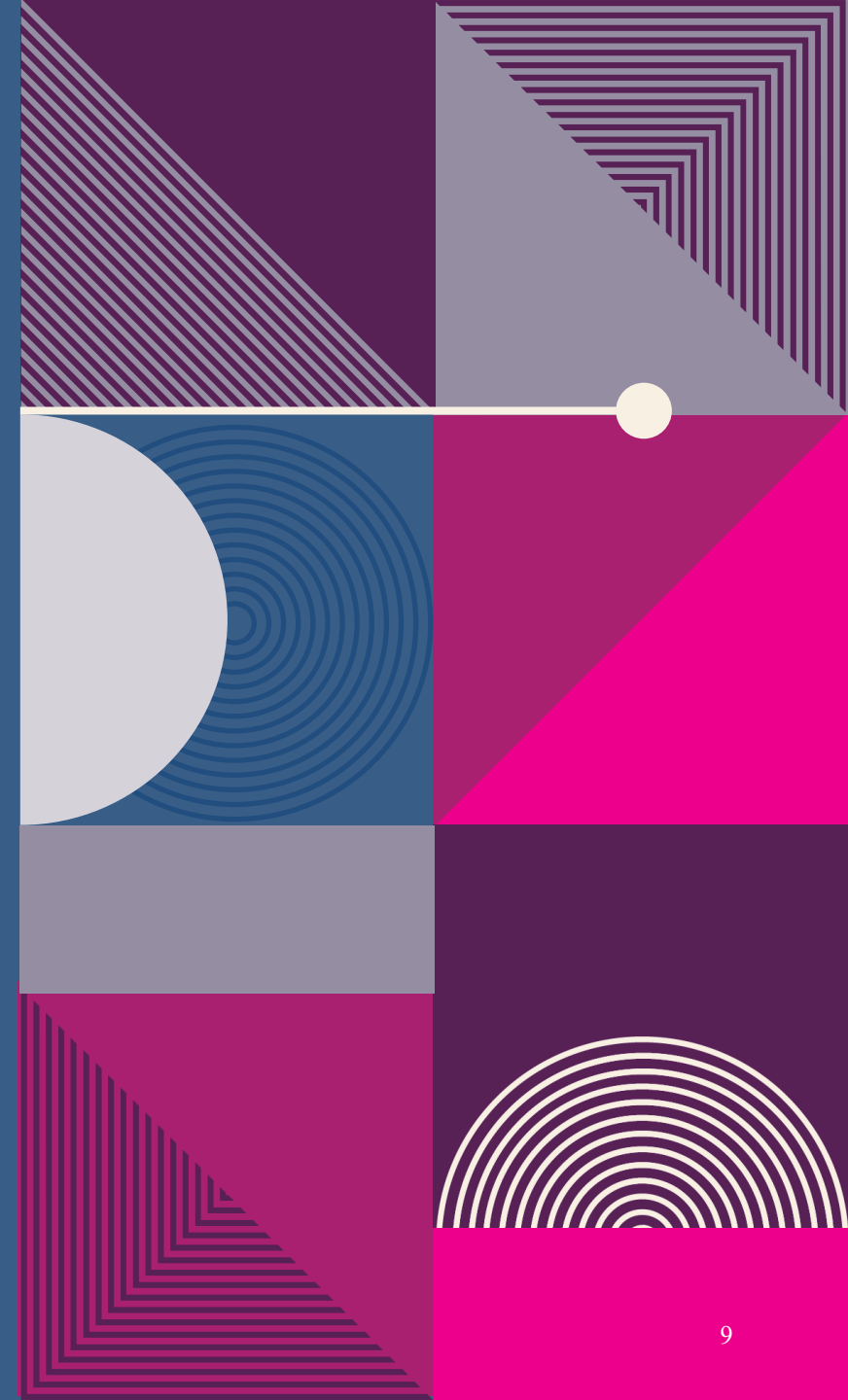
REAL LIFE SCENARIOS

(CLASS PARTICIPATION)

1. A participant relapses and inform you in the field. Do you refer to treatment or arrest?
2. A participant is thriving. How do you recognize success professionally?
3. A participant misses curfew. How do you report while encouraging reengagement?

IMPACT OF BALANCED ENGAGEMENT

- Increases participant trust in the system
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes in recovery and behavior
- Enhances community trust in law enforcement
- Strengthens the treatment court TEAM



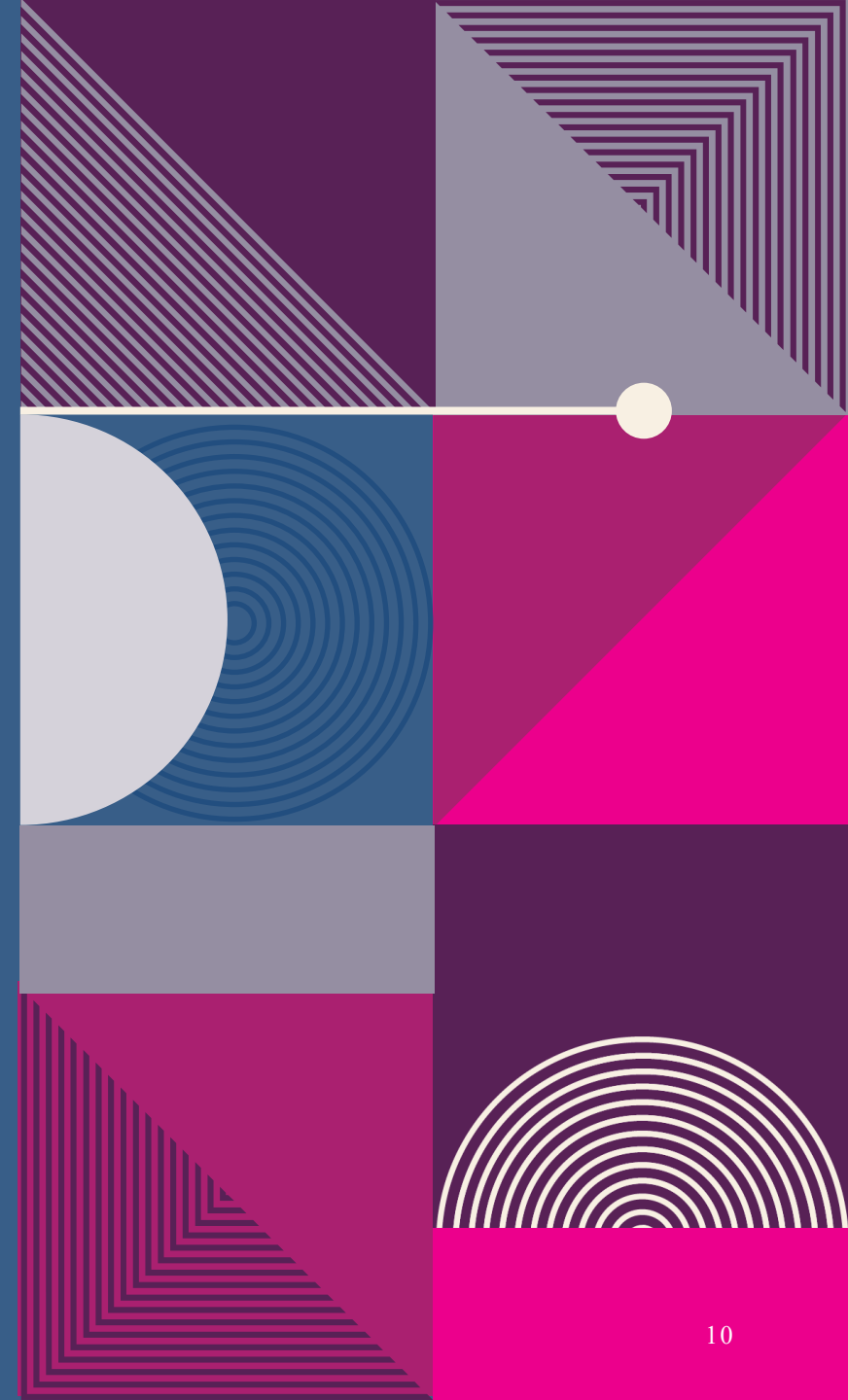
PERSONAL REFLECTION

What has their role taught me about empathy, accountability, and transformation?

How do I maintain wellness and boundaries while this work?

Why this balance matters for participants and officers?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?????



CONCLUSION

- Law enforcement in treatment court must walk a line between STRUCTURE and SUPPORT
- Engagement is strategy not WEAKNESS
- Our DUTY is to PROTECT and help build better FUTURES



QUESTIONS
OR
FEEDBACK

???