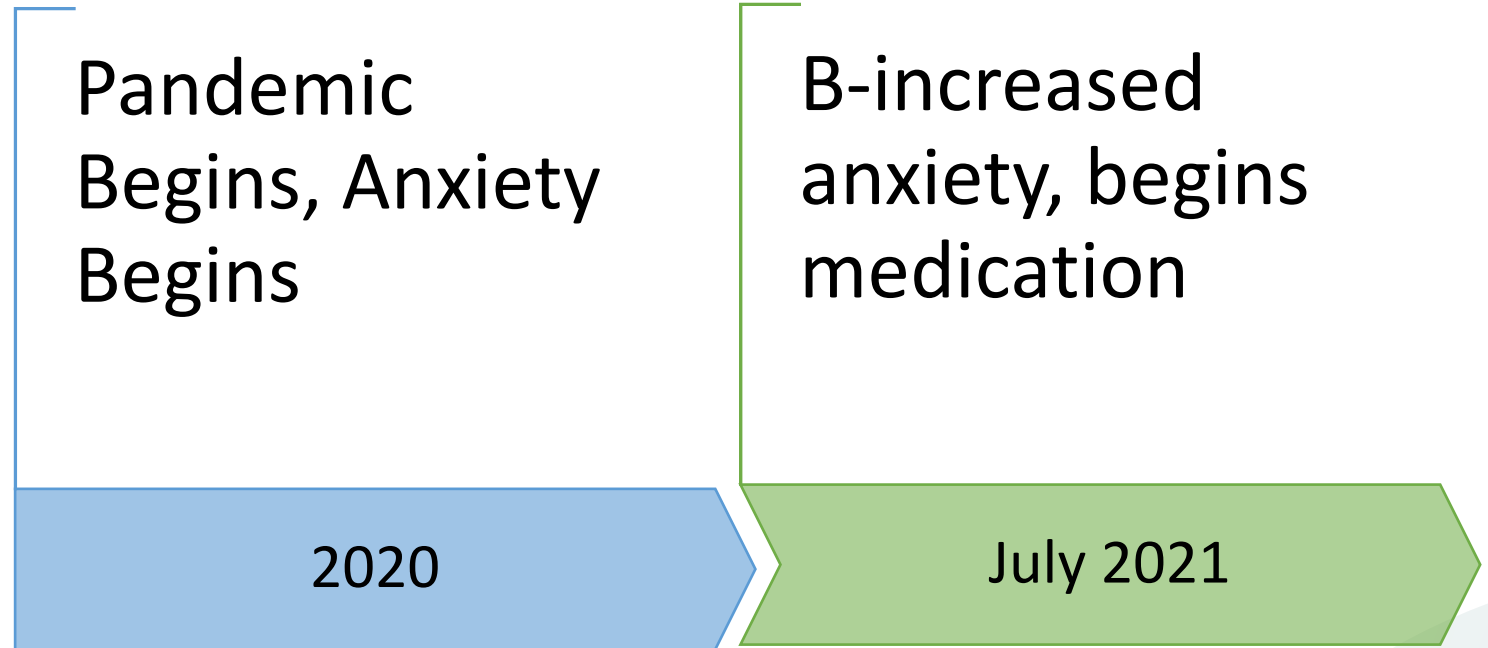




Mental Health is Medical Health:

A Family/Professional Story of Youth Catatonia

Timeline of Catatonia for B



In about March of 2022 B
profound panic attacks
related to school,
discontinues school.

Mar. 2022

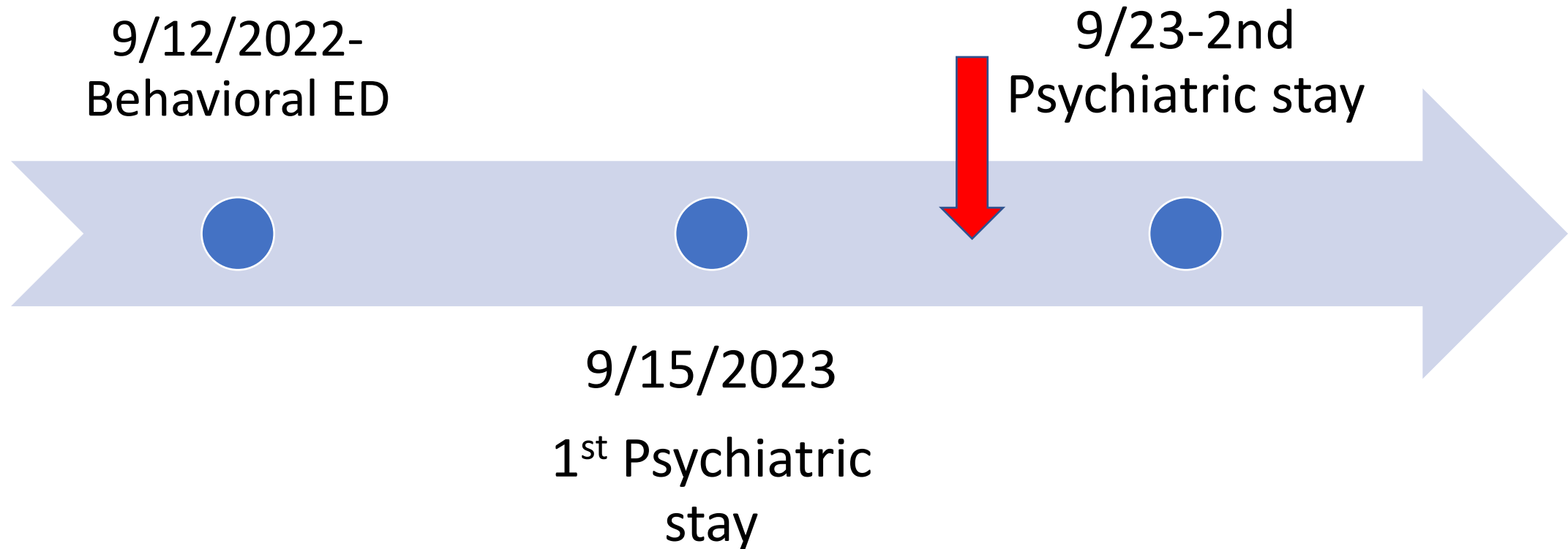
Referred for
Psychiatry.

Apr. 2022

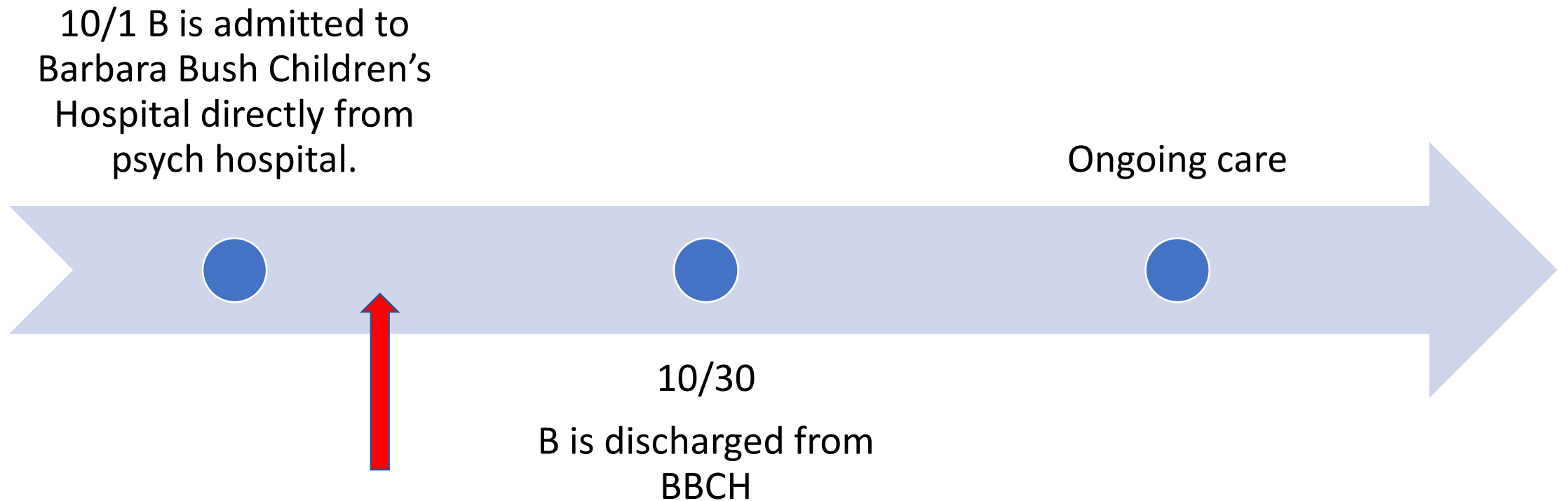
B became non-
verbal, wouldn't
leave bedroom,
slows eating

End of July

Entering the Psychiatric Hospital System



Finally, support...





Pediatric Catatonia: The Basics

Types Of Catatonia

1. Akinetic Catatonia



2. Excited Catatonia



3. Malignant Catatonia





**start
with why**

Consequences of Untreated Catatonia

Dehydration/Malnutrition

Rhabdomyolysis

Blood clots

PNA/infections

Pressure ulcers

Death

> [Schizophr Res.](#) 2009 Sep;113(2-3):233-40. doi: 10.1016/j.schres.2009.04.021. Epub 2009 May 13.

Association of adolescent catatonia with increased mortality and morbidity: evidence from a prospective follow-up study

Françoise Cornic ¹, Angèle Consoli, Marie-Laure Tanguy, Olivier Bonnot, Didier Périssé, Sylvie Tordjman, Claudine Laurent, David Cohen



Kids vs Adults



- Higher prevalence of psychotic illnesses
- Higher rate of inciting non-psychiatric cause
- Neurodevelopmental Disorders



Common Diagnostic Challenges

Etiology often unclear

Initial patient impairment

Lack of provider awareness

Additional Challenges

- Few studies in children.
- No standardized or widely accepted guidelines or pathways.
- Current approaches are either well established in adults or anecdotally supported in pediatrics.



What's The Message?

- Listen
- Lead from the parent
- Believe the story
- Understand *where* the parent(s)/family members are-grief/acceptance cycle, connection/disconnection
- Be humble enough to say “I’m not sure, I’m going to think about this with YOU and others” as a medical professional
- Align and make decisions together
- Develop deep trust with families in this kind of complex situation
- Don’t ever lose that these patients are humans first
- Mental health is medical health

This message
is so simple,
yet it gets forgotten.
The people living
with the condition
are the experts.

Michael J Fox

