



WELCOME

SWC Safe Harbor Training 2/17/16



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
for changing lives



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Minnesota's Safe Harbor System

Lauren Ryan, Safe Harbor Director
Minnesota Department of Health

Safe Harbor

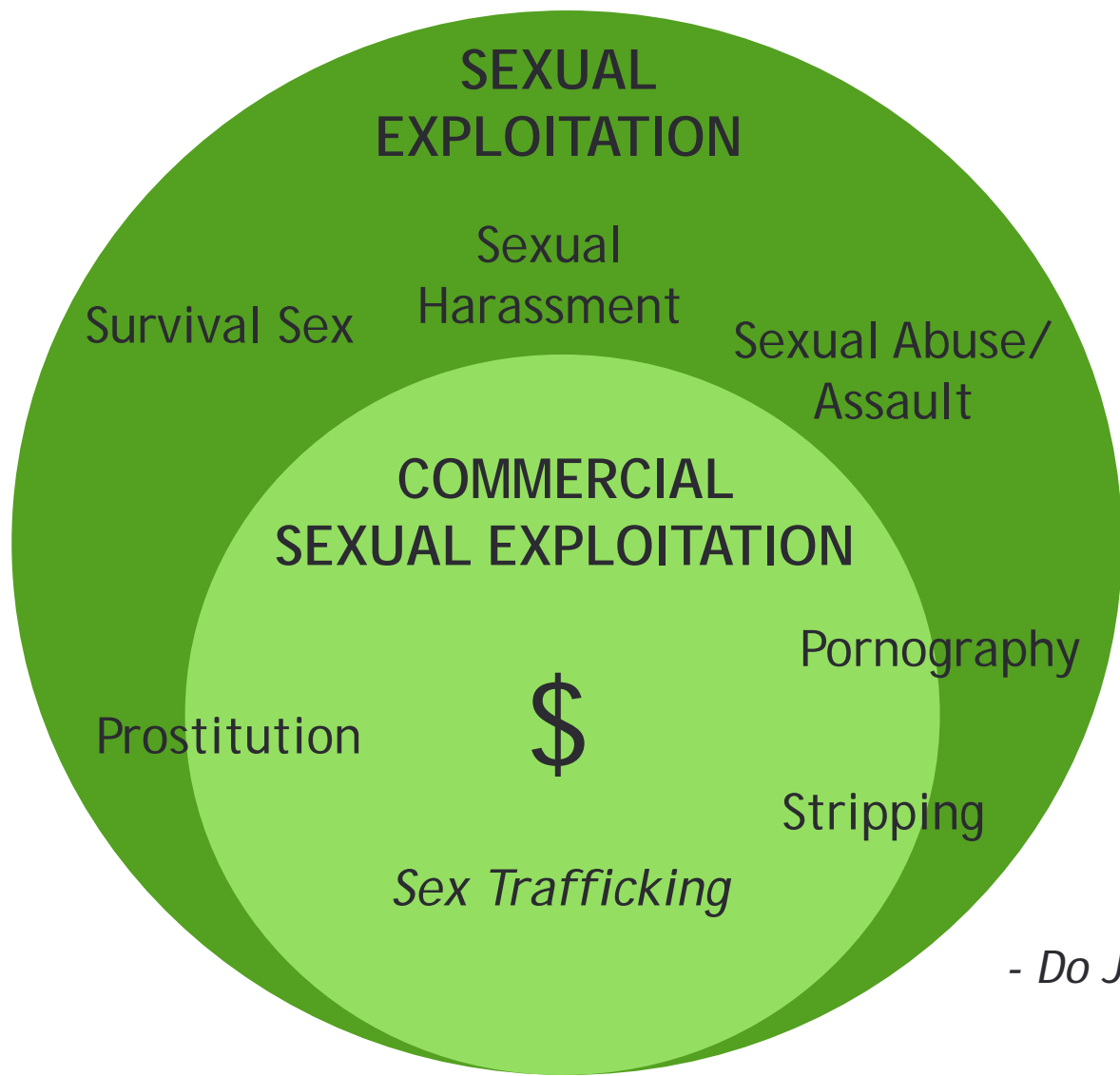
- ▶ The state of Minnesota's model to respond to sexually exploited youth and hold perpetrators accountable
- ▶ Recognizes that sexual exploitation is a public health and public safety issue
- ▶ Multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional

Learning Objectives:

1. Attendees will learn the process that resulted in the development, funding, and implementation of Minnesota's comprehensive multidisciplinary response to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of youth.
2. Attendees will be given an overview of statewide efforts to identify, serve and prevent the exploitation of MN youth, including resources available and opportunities for collaboration with Safe Harbor organizations and systems.
3. Attendees will understand the best practices and guiding principles behind Minnesota's No Wrong Door approach to minor commercial sexual exploitation.

Minnesota Department of Health's Definition

- ▶ Minor Commercial Sexual Exploitation occurs when someone under the age of 18 engages in commercial sexual activity. A commercial sexual activity occurs when anything of value or a promise of anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group) is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity. A third party may or may not be involved.



- Do Justice LLC 2014

Safe Harbor Law

Included definition of sexually exploited youth in Minnesota's child protection statutes/laws (effective: 2011)

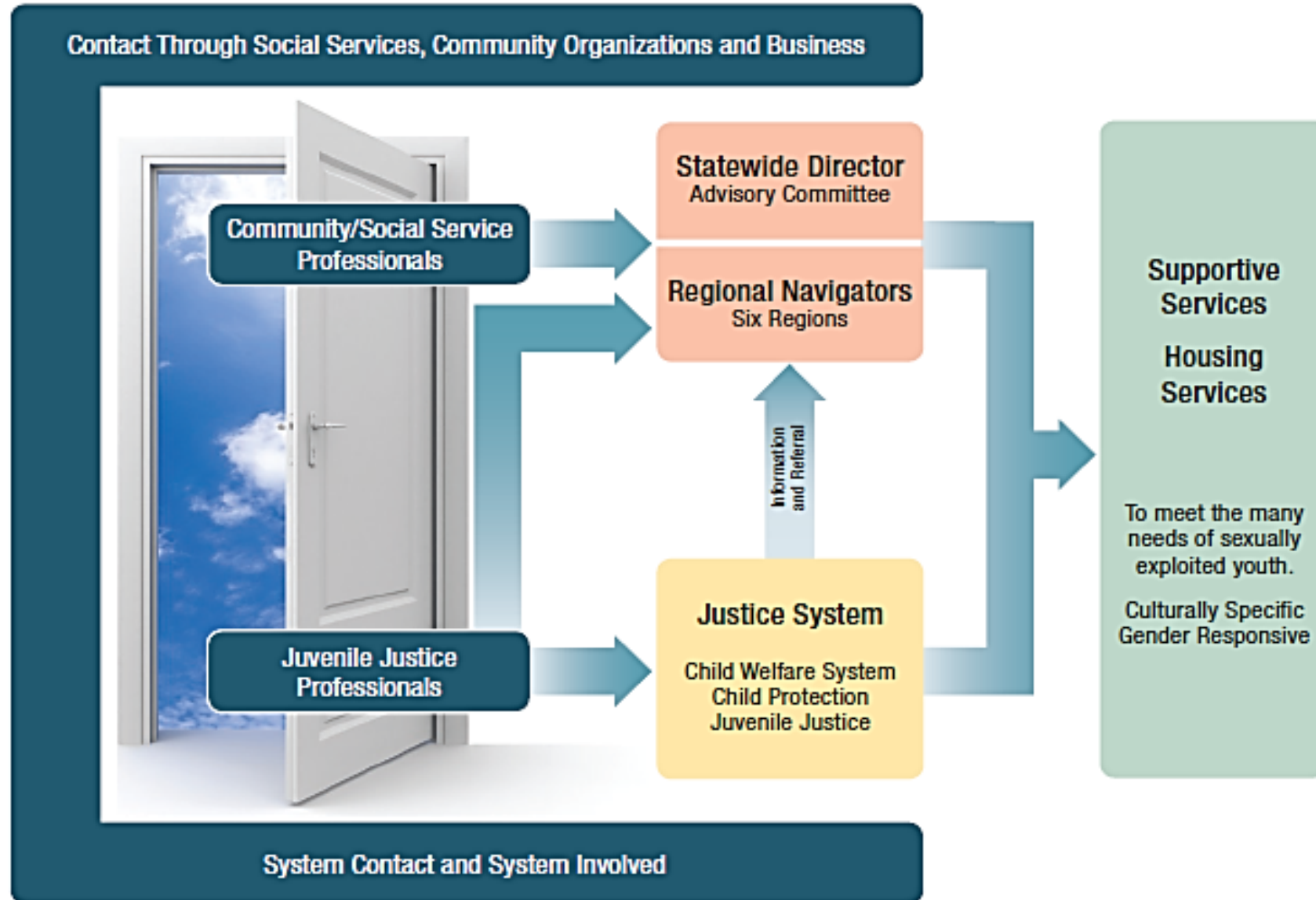
Increases penalty against purchasers of adult victims ("Johns") (effective: 2011)

Excluded sexually exploited youth under 18 from the definition of a delinquent child (effective: August 2014)

Delayed effective date of decriminalization until 2014

Ordered development of a statewide model response

No Wrong Door: Providing Safe Harbor for Minnesota's Sexually Exploited Youth



Underlying Values and Philosophy

- ▶ Those who come in contact with youth should be trained to identify sexual exploitation.
- ▶ Youth who are sexually exploited are victims of a crime.
 - ▶ “Victims shouldn’t be locked up so they know it’s not their fault”
 - ▶ “Some victims may not see themselves as victims”
- ▶ Victims should not feel afraid, isolated or trapped.
 - ▶ “Don’t push the help. Come as a friend...be open, DON’T JUDGE. [...] Operate in their humanness while being an expert”
- ▶ Sexual exploitation is traumatic. Victim centered services should be based in trauma-informed care.

Underlying Values and Philosophy

- Services should be responsive to needs of youth (gender-responsive, culturally competent, age appropriate, supportive for LGBTQ youth).
 - “They need to stop labeling Indians as drunk, or label as prostitutes blacks and Native Americans, they are labeled really bad, a black dude is a drug dealer, [there are] stereotypes and racism.”
- Services should be offered statewide.
- Youth have the right to privacy and self-determination.
 - “Confidentiality invites trust - will get more people to seek help”
- Services should be based in positive youth development.
- Sexual exploitation can be prevented.

Implementation of Safe Harbor and No Wrong Door



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graph TD; A[Implementation of Safe Harbor and No Wrong Door] --> B[Training, Protocols and Education for professionals]; B --> C[Housing for sexually exploited youth]; C --> D[Services and outreach for sexually exploited youth];
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Training, Protocols and Education for professionals

Housing for sexually exploited youth

Services and outreach for sexually exploited youth

Implementation of Safe Harbor Coordination

STATEWIDE SAFE HARBOR DIRECTOR - Responsible for training and communication, policy development, identification of best practices, evaluation, securing federal victim services funding, and managing grant program and data sharing protocols for Regional Navigators.

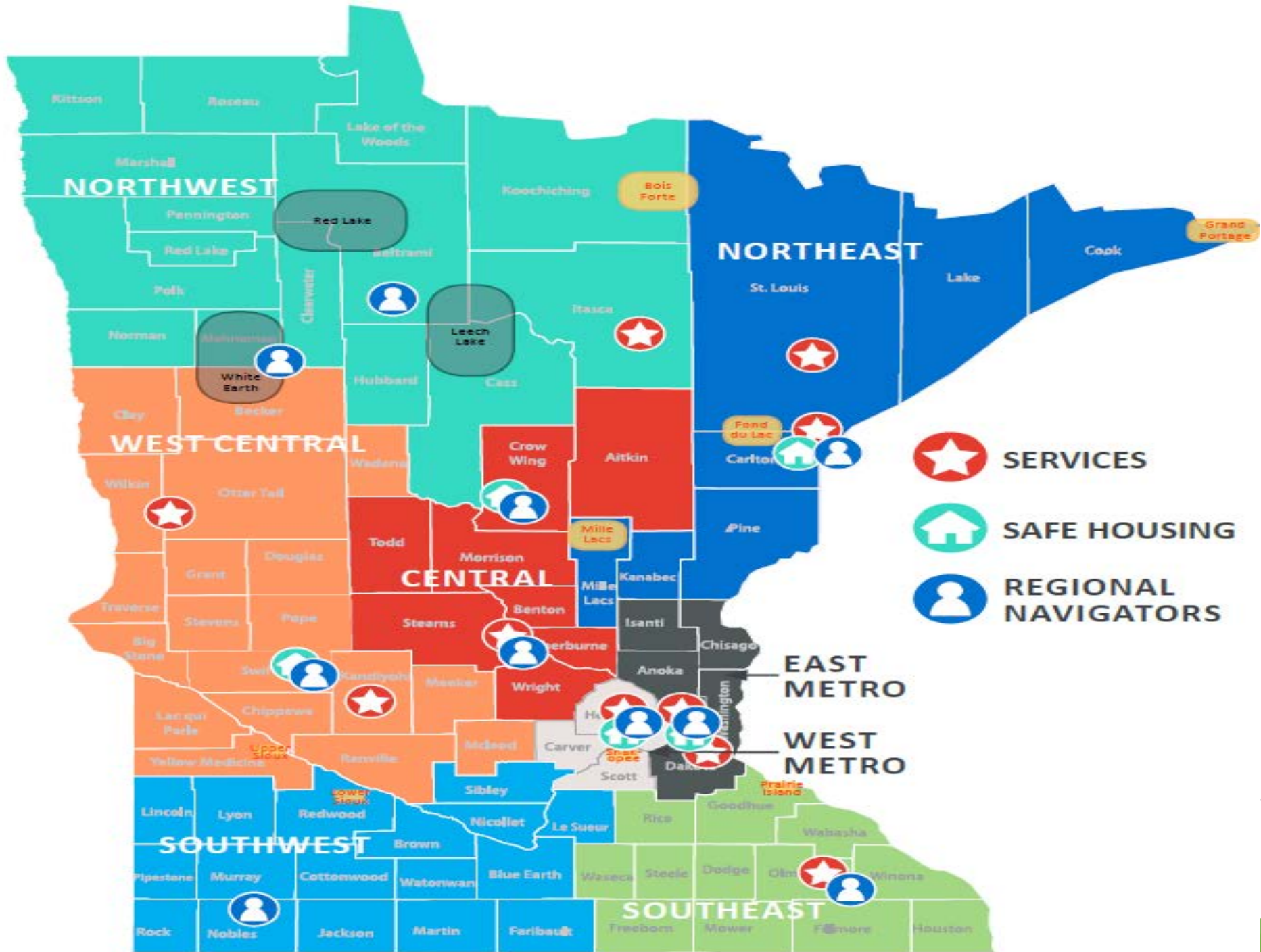
REGIONAL NAVIGATORS - 8 organizations are the base for Regional Navigators - the main points of contact for sexually exploited youth and concerned agencies throughout Minnesota. Navigators connect youth with services and serve as regional experts for communities.

Shelter/Housing



Safe Harbor Housing Grantees

The State of Minnesota
awards funding to support
housing for sexually
exploited youth.



Protocols, Law Enforcement Training

- ▶ MNCASA to release Safe Harbor Protocols in late Spring
 - ▶ Coordinating teams to implement Protocols
- ▶ Ramsey County Attorney's Office
 - ▶ Training Law enforcement, investigators and prosecutors through out the state

Evaluation

- ▶ MDH Commissioner must report to the legislators September 1, 2015 on the progress of No Wrong Implementation.
 - ▶ Regional Navigators served 163 at-risk and exploited youth
 - ▶ Service Grantees served 121 and housing 74 at-risk and exploited youth
 - ▶ Some notable differences between metro and greater MN.

Successes, Challenges, and Recommendations

▶ Successes

- ▶ Training of professionals on trafficking, identification and NWD model successful.
- ▶ Availability of funding and resources, infrastructure in place
- ▶ Youth are being served
- ▶ Multidisciplinary approach

▶ Challenges

- ▶ Debate over locked placements for youth
- ▶ Mandated reporting and CPS involvement
- ▶ Lack of role clarification or engagement from systems
 - ▶ CPS, medical community, schools, etc
- ▶ Identifying clients

▶ Recommendations

- ▶ Expand age limit, more funding, more services

Metro Navigators

- ▶ Kristy Collier, The Link

- ▶ 612-232-5428

- ▶ kcollier@thelinkmn.org

- ▶ Allison Dahlen, Tubman

- ▶ direct: 651.789.6753

- adahlen@tubman.org

- ▶ crisis: 612.825.0000

Tubman's History



- ▶ 40+ years recognizing sex trafficking as a form of victimization...and commitment to serve!
- ▶ Ensuring Access - 24/7
- ▶ Youth development program designs and outreach
- ▶ Youth violence prevention and leadership
- ▶ Ecological approach
- ▶ Expertise on complex trauma, diversity, and client-centered services
- ▶ Comprehensive service scope
- ▶ Inclusive and responsive continuum of care
- ▶ Specific assessments and evaluations to assess needs, progress, and remaining challenges

Accessing Services at Tubman



- ▶ 24/7 phone help
- ▶ 2 text line options
- ▶ E-mail
- ▶ Social media pages
- ▶ Drop-In
- ▶ Outreach hubs and training to referral sources

Tubman's Comprehensive Trauma-Informed Services



- ▶ Shelters & Housing
- ▶ Legal Services
- ▶ Counseling & Therapy
- Youth & Family Programs
- Community Education
- Public Information Campaigns

Family Crisis &
Support Services



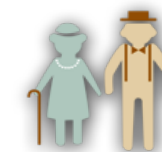
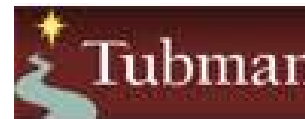
Shelter



Legal



Youth



Seniors



Counseling & Therapy



Community Education

Twin Cities Metro Area Service Provider Highlight: The Link

Beth Holger-Ambrose, Executive Director (and staff)

The Link

West Metro Regional Navigator

Kristy Collier, The Link

- centralized point of contact for sexually exploited youth within Hennepin, Scott & Carver counties,
- provide screening for sexual exploitation
- safety and needs assessment
- crisis intervention
- assistance with any basic needs supplies
- mobile case management and advocacy
- coordination with systems (child welfare, children's mental health, courts and juvenile justice)
- intake referrals into Passageways
- training and technical assistance for community and systems on best practices with sexually exploited youth and the Safe Harbor Law/NWD Response (in coordination with other Link adult and youth staff)

Overview of Link Programs

Beth Holger-Ambrose, Executive Director

The Link

Juvenile Justice Division (Juvenile Supervision Center, Evening Reporting Centers, Parent Support Program, Girls Club and School Matters)

Housing & Homeless Youth Services Division (Lindquist Apartments, Lincoln Place, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, The Young Families Program, Project Live Out Loud, C.O.R.E. Drop-In Center and The Street Outreach Program)

Safe Harbor Division (West Metro Regional Navigator, Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program, Aftercare & Outreach Program and Mental Health & Family Reunification Counseling Program)

Passageways Shelter and Housing Program

Model is grounded in:

- Safe Harbor Law-No Wrong Door State-Wide Response Model
- Academic Research (list included later in presentation)
- Youth Themselves, The Link's Survivor Advisory Committee
- Best Practices for working with Sex Trafficking Victims (Positive Youth Development, Victim-Survivor-Leader, Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction, Incentive Based Programming and Culturally Inclusive Programming)
- Multidisciplinary Approach
- Information learned from other states (Bush Fellowship Research)
- Staff experience working with Sex Trafficking Victims, Juvenile Justice Diversion & Homeless Youth Work Experience
- Feedback from many local and national stakeholders/experts

Cities/States Consulted-Safe Harbor & Emergency Shelter, Services & Housing for Sex Trafficked Youth

- ▶ New York City
- ▶ State of Connecticut
- ▶ Boston
- ▶ State of Vermont
- ▶ State of New Hampshire
- ▶ Newark, New Jersey
- ▶ State of Georgia
- ▶ Miami, Fort Lauderdale & Orlando and state of Florida
- ▶ Houston & Dallas
- ▶ L.A., San Francisco, Oakland/Alameda County & Sacramento
- ▶ Seattle/King County
- ▶ Portland/Multnomah County
- ▶ Chicago/Cook County
- ▶ Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Esterville, Iowa (Forest Ridge)

The Link's Passageways Program Model

- ▶ Safe Harbor Law/No Wrong Door Response: The Link is one of four agencies in the state selected to provide Safe Harbor emergency shelter or housing through Safe Harbor funding.
- ▶ The Link will work in close partnership with the other three agencies selected: Life House (Duluth), LSS Brainerd (Brainerd) Brittney's Place and Tubman (St. Paul) and Heartland Girls Ranch (Benson).
- ▶ The Link provides 6 emergency shelter beds for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 (there may be some exceptions made for younger youth) who have been sexually exploited/trafficked and 5 units of longer term housing for sexually exploited youth between the ages of 16 and 23 (who are also homeless).
- ▶ The program serves all gender identities. Transgender youth will be served according to best practices as their self identified gender.
- ▶ Parenting youth with one child can be served in the housing program.

Passageways Video

Referrals to Passageways

Referrals can come from anywhere in alignment with the No Wrong Door Philosophy and can include:

- ▶ Youth Themselves
- ▶ Regional Navigators & Day 1 Hotline
- ▶ Law Enforcement (federal, local, etc.)
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Health Care Professionals
- ▶ County Staff (child welfare, juvenile justice diversion, etc.)
- ▶ The Link's Juvenile Supervision Center and other programs,
- ▶ Other Safe Harbor Shelter & Housing Programs
- ▶ Homeless Youth Programs
- ▶ Street Outreach Workers
- ▶ Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services

How to Refer to Passageways

The Link-West Metro Regional Navigator, Kristy Collier

Cell Phone: 612-232-5428

Email: kcollier@thelinkmn.org

If she is not the person on-call she would have another staff member's name and phone number on her cell phone to call.

Back-ups to this are:

Quisha Stewart 952-885-4454

Beth Holger-Ambrose 612-767-4467

Passageways Supportive Services

- ▶ Emergency Shelter up to 90 Days (with exceptions in some cases) and Housing is an unlimited length of stay
- ▶ Intensive Staffing & Case Management (1 CM to 6 Client Ratio)
- ▶ Access to Health and Mental Health Assessment w/in 24 Hours
- ▶ Access to Short & Long Term Health Care Services
- ▶ On-Site Mental Health Therapy and Family Reunification Therapy
- ▶ On-Site Chemical Dependency Program
- ▶ Connection to Education-Partnership with the Prior Lake School District with on-site education program
- ▶ Survivor Mentorship Program

Safe Harbor Supportive Services Programming

- ▶ Mental Health Therapy
- ▶ Family Reunification Therapy & Services
- ▶ Aftercare & Outreach Program

Some Research & Resources

Holger-Ambrose, B.; Langmade, C.; Edinburgh, L. *Identifying Effective Outreach Strategies for Sexually Exploited Youth*, Journal of Adolescent Health, Volume 48: Number 2S: February 2011.

Holger-Ambrose, B.; Langmade, C.; Edinburgh, L. & Saewyc, E. (2013): *The Illusions and Juxtapositions of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Youth: Identifying Effective Street Outreach Strategies*, Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 22:3, 326-340.

[Link to Runaway Intervention Program Research:](#)

www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0102/article06.htm

Minnesota Women's Foundation Website: <http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org>

MN. Indian Women's Resource Center, Cost Benefit Study Link:

http://www.miwrc.org/system/uploaded_files/0000/0147/Benefit-Cost-Study_Full_Report_9-4-2012.pdf

No Wrong Door Legislative Report: [https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/!2012%20Safe%20Harbor%20Report%20\(FINAL\).pdf](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/!2012%20Safe%20Harbor%20Report%20(FINAL).pdf)

Thank you!

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JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT TRAINING:

SWC Safe Harbor Training Save-the-Date

April 20th 11:30-1:00 LSS State Center

Sexual Exploitation 101:
Identification/Forms/Recruitment/Pimps

