

StreetWorks Safe Harbor Training 2/17/16

Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door & Working with Systems

In 2011, Minnesota became the fifth state in the nation to pass Safe Harbor legislation decriminalizing prostitution charges for youth under the age of 18. Through a statewide multidisciplinary collaborative process, Minnesota developed one of the most comprehensive models for responding to commercial sexual exploitation: No Wrong Door. Minnesota's No Wrong Door Response Model creates a statewide infrastructure for service delivery, specialized housing and shelter, training for systems professionals, and the development of community-specific protocols across the state. This presentation will give attendees an overview of the Safe Harbor/No Wrong Model in Minnesota, information on how to partner and collaborate with safe harbor organizations and best practices for working with exploited youth.

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.



Lauren Ryan J.D. is the Statewide Director of Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door program at the Minnesota Department of Health. She is responsible for the coordination, implementation, oversight and evaluation of Minnesota's Safe Harbor/ No Wrong Door model, which ensures sexually exploited youth are treated as victims rather than criminals and have access to trauma-informed, victim-centered and culturally and age appropriate services. No Wrong Door requires extensive training for professionals and community members, development of a statewide infrastructure for service delivery, creation of statewide model protocols, and multiple systems working collaboratively to identify youth, prosecutor traffickers and purchasers and ensure access to appropriate services. Lauren graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2008 and prior to accepting this position, she was a program manager at the International Institute of Minnesota, providing direct services to foreign born survivors of sex and labor trafficking. She is an active member of the MN Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force as a member of the Steering Committee and co-chairs the Data subcommittee.



Beth Holger-Ambrose is the Executive Director for The Link which is a nonprofit in Minneapolis, Minnesota that has three divisions of services: housing and supportive services for youth and young families experiencing homelessness; emergency shelter, housing and supportive services for youth who have been victims of sex trafficking and programming for youth who are at-risk of or who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Prior to this position she was the Homeless Youth Services Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Human Services directing the state's work in the areas of runaway, homeless and sex trafficked youth. Holger-Ambrose also worked for Avenues and the Bridge (both in Minneapolis) with street outreach, emergency shelter, and transitional living programs for runaway and homeless youth for eight years and worked for Kennedy High School coaching girls cross country and track and field for 14 years. Holger-Ambrose is a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters and a board member of Oasis for Youth. She was the recipient of the Virginia Mcknight-Binger Award in Human Services in 2005, the Ain Dah Yung Center's Native Ally of the Year Award in 2012 and is currently a Bush Leadership Fellow for the development work of the Safe Harbor Law/No Wrong Door Response. Holger-Ambrose has also had research published in the Journal of Adolescent Health (2/11) and the Journal of Child Sexual Abuse (5/13). Holger-Ambrose has a B.A. and a Masters Degree in Non-Profit Management and Administration with a certificate in Public Policy from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.