



## WALKING ALONGSIDE YOUNG PEOPLE

*Acknowledging and Honoring their Individual Journeys*

### Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door Overview

#### *StreetWorks, Training 1*

#### SUMMARY

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.

**Working definition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (who is eligible for services):** Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth occurs when someone under the age of 24 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.

#### KEY POINTS

- **Safe Harbor** is structured under MN Department of Health which offers a public health and public safety focus. A public health focus encourages victim-centered and harm reduction services, also allowing for prevention efforts. This view shifts the criminal justice focus to the perpetrators, such as the buyers and the traffickers, instead of on the exploited youth.
- **No Wrong Door Model** has a multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional approach. This ensures that no matter where a youth is identified, whether through schools, advocacy groups, clinics, child protection, law enforcement, or other avenues, every professional will be able to identify exploitation and will know where to refer the youth for services.
- **Values and philosophies** of No Wrong Door Response Model
  - Those who come into contact with youth should be trained to identify exploitation
  - Youth who are sexually exploited are victims of a crime
  - Victims should not feel afraid, isolated or trapped
  - Sexual exploitation is traumatic. Victim-centered services should be based in trauma-informed care
  - Services should be responsive to needs of youth (gender-responsive, culturally competent, age appropriate, and supportive for LGBTQ youth).
  - Services should be offered statewide
  - Youth have a right to privacy and self-determination
  - Services should be based in positive youth development
  - Sexual exploitation can be prevented
- **Regional Navigators** stationed throughout the state can help professionals with technical assistance, connect youth with services, provide professional and community trainings and assist with protocol development.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### *The process that resulted in implementation of MN's multidisciplinary response*

1. What is the Safe Harbor Law and No Wrong Door model?
  - a. Discuss some pros and cons of this model.
  - b. What difficulties or challenges can you see in efforts to implement the No Wrong Door Model?
2. Who is eligible for Safe Harbor services in Minnesota?
3. What is the difference between sexual exploitation and sex trafficking?

**Statewide efforts** to identify, serve and prevent exploitation, including resources available and opportunities for collaboration with Safe Harbor Organizations and systems.

1. What resources for housing and specialized services are available in your area?
2. Who would you refer an exploited youth to in your area?
3. What entities could you or your organization collaborate with to better serve victims of trafficking and exploitation? To help prevent exploitation?
4. Who is the Regional Navigator in your county? What organization are they with?

### *Best practices and guiding principles behind MN's NWD approach*

1. What are the Values and philosophies of the No Wrong Door Model?
2. Why should we think of sexually exploited or trafficked youth as victims?
3. How can we ensure victims do not feel afraid, isolated or trapped when we are looking to help them?
4. Discuss what trauma-informed care should look like for sexually exploited youth.
5. Are there culturally specific services in your area that are available for sexually exploited youth?
6. Discuss difficulties that may surround allowing youth to have privacy and self-determination.
7. What are ways that sexual exploitation can be prevented? What can you or your organization do to help prevention efforts?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- **Safe Harbor Website:** <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor>
- **Voices of Safe Harbor: Survivor and Youth Input for Minnesota's Model Protocol on Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Youth:** <http://www.hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/documents/no-wrong%20-door-voices.pdf?la=en>
- **Referral Map Showing Safe Harbor Grantees:** for services, housing and navigators. Webpage for PDF: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor/navigators.html>
- **Safe Harbor Protocol Guidelines:** Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault: <http://www.mncasa.org/trafficking>

