
WI ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE MEETING

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SAFE HARBOR DIRECTOR

MDH

Minnesota
Department
of Health

OVERVIEW

- Safe Harbor History in Minnesota
- Implementation of No Wrong Door
- Evaluation/Challenges

- “Minnesota is the **only state to implement Safe Harbor interventions through its public health sector**, rather than through criminal justice or human services departments.”

- “A **public health approach**, with its preference for **systems thinking** and primary prevention, **reframes the issue** to better understand its causes on many levels and how to prevent it. By this public health approach, the No Wrong Door program seeks to embody the fundamental principles of public health – **prevention, population focus, collaboration, and client-centeredness.**”*



**A Public Health Approach to the Sexual Exploitation of Youth: Public Health Models to Inform the Work of Safe Harbor Minnesota* Bethany Divakaran, RN, PHN, BSN

SAFE HARBOR HISTORY IN MN

2007 →

Laying
the
Foundat
-ion

*Minn Stat
609.321*

2011

- Safe
Harbor
enacted
- SEY
defined
and
added to
CPS
codes

2011-
2012

The Plan:

No
Wrong
Door
statewide
services
model

2013

- Safe
Harbor
amended
(under
18)
\$\$\$
Initial
funding
secured

2014

- Safe
Harbor
takes
effect
8/1/2014
- SEY
excluded
from
delinquency
definition

2015

\$

• Services
• Housing
****Protocol**
(Evaluation)

2016

\$

• Services
• Housing

2017 →

From
Guidelines
to
Protocol:
Developing
Community
Specific
Response

Department of Health

Navigators and Service Grants

Evaluation

Protocol Implementation

Training Professionals

Department of Public Safety

Training Law Enforcement/ Prosecutors

Statewide Protocols

Grants to Law Enforcement - Investigations

Department of Human Services

Housing and Shelter Grants

Outreach Funding

Safe Harbor Appropriations
2013-2017

NO WRONG DOOR IMPLEMENTATION



“[We need] a new community resource- to get help...to a live stable lifestyle, course(s) on the effects of sex trafficking on your health, parenting courses, finances, counseling, housing program [...] A place in the community that youth and young adults can go to that’s safe.”

- Voices of Safe Harbor

NO WRONG DOOR: 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.**

NO WRONG DOOR: 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

- Defining population

Regional Navigators and Services for sexually exploited youth

Housing/Shelter for sexually exploited youth

Training and education for professionals that interact with youth

Protocol Guidelines and Implementation

LANGUAGE MATTERS: MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S DEFINITION OF MINOR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

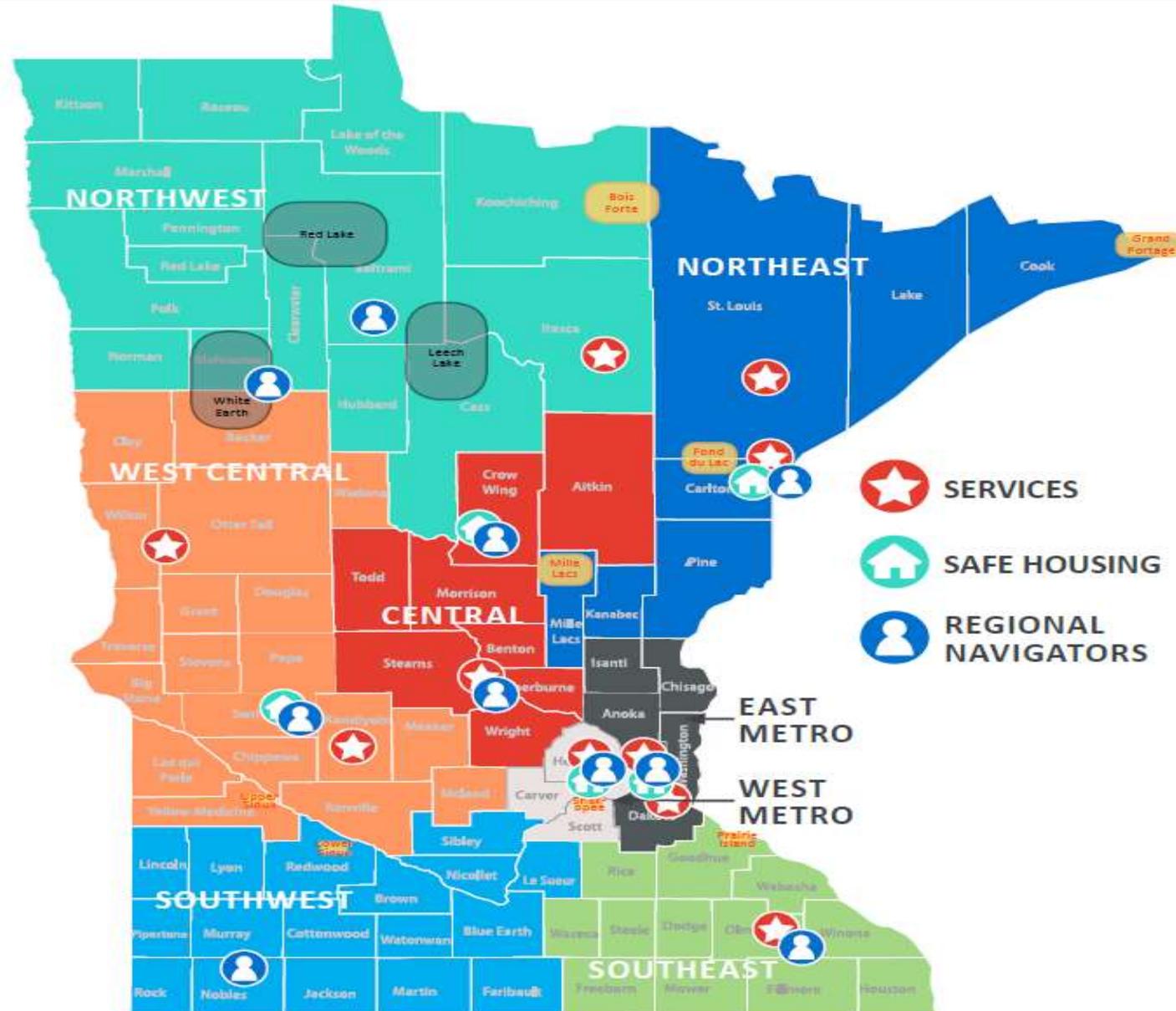
Minor Commercial Sexual Exploitation occurs when someone under the age of 24 engages in commercial sexual activity.

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.



Services

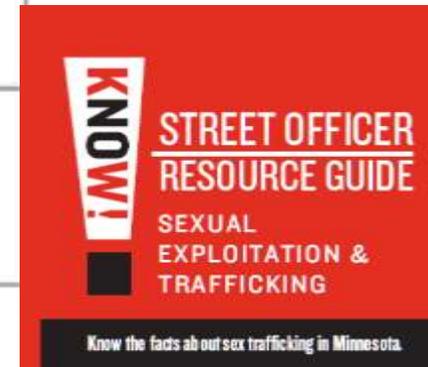


-  SERVICES
-  SAFE HOUSING
-  REGIONAL NAVIGATORS

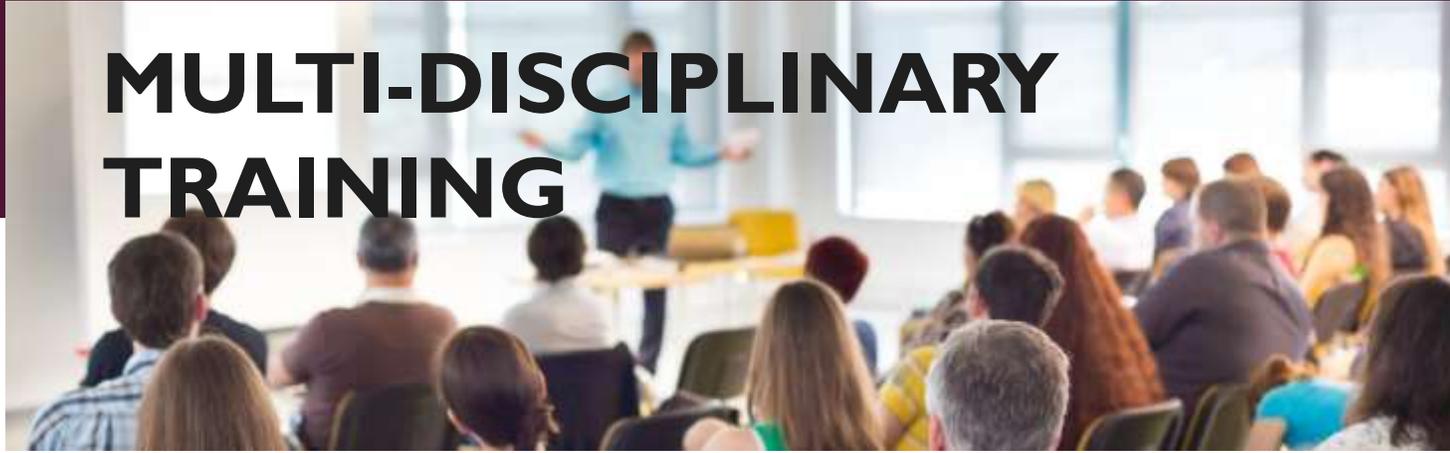


Training

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING



MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING



- ❖ Safe Harbor Regional Conferences:
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Region-specific
 - Increase understanding of dynamics and community buy-in
 - First step to developing individual community response

- ❖ Training by the Navigators

- ❖ Training/Technical Assistance from MDH



**Protocol
Development and
Implementation**



SAFE HARBOR PROTOCOL GUIDELINES: *WHAT ARE THEY?*

- Foundational Knowledge
 - Key Terms
 - Summary of Relevant Laws and Statutes
 - Best Practices for Working with Sexually Exploited Youth
- Discipline-Specific
 - Best Practices
 - Intersections with Other Disciplines
 - Decision Points/Anticipated Challenges
- Working with Tribal Nations
- Next Steps: Practical Tools for the Protocol Development Process
- Survivor Expertise

Next Phase: Protocol Implementation

**Minnesota
Statewide
Safe Harbor
Protocol
Implementation
Project**



**Targeted
Intensive TA &
Support to
Teams in Each
NWD Region**

**Statewide
Resources**



LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS



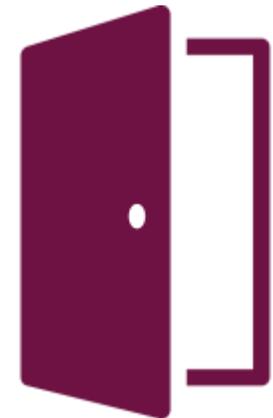
EVALUATING NO WRONG DOOR

Accountability:

MDH Commissioner must report to the legislators September 1, 2015 (and every two years thereafter) on the progress of No Wrong Door Implementation.

Successes:

- Training of LE professionals on trafficking
- Development and timeline of NWD model (staged)
- Availability of funding and resources
- Multidisciplinary approach, protocols
- Identification of youth
- Regionalized approach



EVALUATING NO WRONG DOOR

Challenges:

- Debate over locked placements for youth
- Child Protection/welfare
 - County based
- Roles → Navigators
 - Finding the best agencies
 - Conflicting approaches between professionals
- Outreach/messaging to youth
- Tribal considerations
- Data sharing and collection
- Collaboration between state agencies
- Communication
- Resources for training

I MAY BE MINNESOTAN BUT.....



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