

Safe Harbor: Minnesota's Response to the Sexual Exploitation of Youth

Caroline Palmer, JD

Safe Harbor Director

Violence Prevention Unit

Injury and Violence Prevention Section



SAFE HARBOR OVERVIEW

B A C K G R O U N D

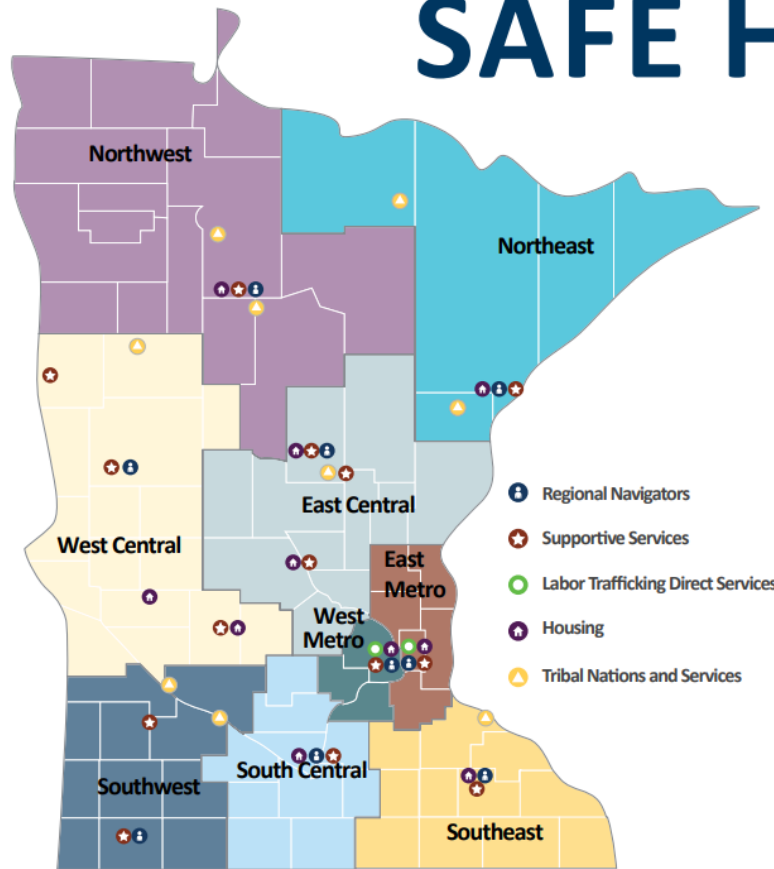
- Safe Harbor law passed 2011
 - Youth under age 18 no longer criminalized for prostitution; services and supports offered instead
- No Wrong Door planning 2011-2014
- Full implementation 2014
- Public health model working in collaboration with government and community partners with a focus on prevention
- Promote health equity, survivor voice, holistic network response
- Service eligibility through age 24

STATEWIDE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Minnesota Department of Health
 - Safe Harbor Director, Regional Navigator and supportive services grants, biennial evaluation, training and technical assistance; federal grant - Office for Victims of Crime
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
 - Office of Economic Opportunity manages shelter, housing, and outreach grants
 - Child welfare and vulnerable adult system responses
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety
 - Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force
 - Office of Justice Programs grants for law enforcement support, training, and technical assistance
- Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
 - Protocol development and multidisciplinary team technical assistance

SAFE HARBOR NETWORK

SAFE HARBOR



Safe Harbor, funded by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature, provides a statewide network of victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing. In addition, nine Regional Navigators serve as points of contact in their communities and provide connections to services for youth.

To find services statewide, call the Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 or text: 612-399-9995
Chat/Website: www.dayoneservices.org

- Regional Navigators
- Supportive Services
- Labor Trafficking Direct Services
- Housing
- Tribal Nations and Services



11 Regional Navigators (includes 2 Tribal Navigators)

28 Supportive Services grantees

17 Shelter/Housing/Outreach grantees

2 Labor Trafficking direct services grantees (federal grant)

9 Tribal Nations (state and federal funds)

1207 Unique Clients (4/1/19 – 6/30/21) in services

Note – some agencies have grants in more than one category



MINNESOTA STUDENT
SURVEY
AND
RESOURCES FOR
YOUTH AND ADULTS



OBTAINING THE MSS DATA

- A public health approach focuses on collecting and using best available data to understand the scope of any problem, and then build response and primary prevention efforts to address that problem
- MSS provides empirical data directly from students – real world experiences, not just exploitation but related issues like bullying/harassment, mental health

ANALYZING THE MSS DATA

- Partnering with the University of Minnesota School of Nursing
 - Analysis crucial to understanding data
 - MDH commitment to analysis and partnerships
 - Resources and expertise required internally and externally

U S I N G T H E M S S D A T A

- The more robust the data is from school districts the better the Safe Harbor Network can allocate resources statewide
- Not all youth respond but MSS supplements other data to put together a more accurate picture
- Evaluations and analysis as well as regular new data collection informs next steps, not just outcomes but continuous improvement
- **We are beginning to be able to count what we were not able to count before but what we knew was happening.**

REACHING YOUTH IN SCHOOLS AND IN COMMUNITIES

- Identifying and strengthening protective factors
 - Not a Number – Love 146 Child Trafficking and Exploitation Curriculum – MDH partnership
 - Ages 12-18, all genders, empowering youth through education
 - 200 facilitators trained since 2017
 - 1,600+ youth completed program
 - 170+ professionals certified by Minnesota trainers

MATERIALS DESIGNED BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH

- MDH Safe Harbor Youth Outreach Materials
- Office for Victims of Crime: Youth victims and witnesses support materials, including graphic novels (sample image below) to explain the criminal justice process.



HELPING ADULTS BE PREPARED TO HELP YOUTH

- Tools for adults
 - Minnesota Youth Trafficking and Exploitation Identification Guide (MYTEI)
 - Best practices for identifying and responding
 - Indicator list to help professionals recognize signs
 - Resources for further information, referrals, and guidance

HELPING ADULTS BE PREPARED TO HELP YOUTH

- Tools for adults
 - MDH online training on trafficking and exploitation for health care providers – coming soon!
 - Include school nurses, counselors, teen clinics
 - NetSmartz from National Center on Missing and Exploited Children
 - BCA partners on training to teach youth and parents/caregivers how to be safer online

COORDINATING TO PROVIDE HELP

- Youth Services Network (YSN)
- Day One Emergency Shelter & Crisis Hotline





Thank you!

Caroline Palmer, JD

Safe Harbor Director

Caroline.palmer@state.mn.us

651.201.5492

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/safeharbor>