



Safe Harbor for All

Minnesota Department of Health
Caroline Palmer, Safe Harbor Director

Background

- 2017 Legislative Mandate
- Minnesota Department of Health, in consultation with Department of Public Safety and Department of Human Services, directed to adopt a strategic plan re: expansion of Safe Harbor to “adult victims of sex trafficking”
- Required input from survivors, victim services coalitions and providers, nonprofit organizations, task forces, prosecutors, public defenders, tribal governments, public safety and corrections professionals, human services professionals, and impacted community members.
- Report to the legislature by January 15, 2019

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Areas of Interest

- Prevention and intervention Services for adult survivors
- Intersections of sex trafficking and exploitation with forces of oppression
- Impact of criminal liability on individuals engaging in prostitution

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Community Needs Assessment

- Competitive Process
 - University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center
 - The Advocates for Human Rights
 - Rainbow Research



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Two Reports

- MDH Strategic Plan
 - In event legislature decides to proceed with implementing progressive prevention and intervention tactics as well as explore partial decriminalization policies, MDH provided steps to follow
 - Public health, public safety and human services strategies
- Research Partners Report for Planning Process
 - *Safe Harbor for All: Results from a Strategic Planning Process in Minnesota*

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Framework

- MDH focus on response to survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation and impact of harms on population, as required by legislature
- Research focused on broader continuum of experience to inform strategic plan by providing a comprehensive assessment of the current state response



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MDH Strategic Plan

In consultation with DHS and OJP
Submitted to legislature January 4, 2019

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Shared Goals with Planning Process

- Center victim/survivors and all persons with lived experience
- Prioritize prevention
- Develop robust public health, public safety and human services responses
- Expand supportive services
- Increase training and accountability
- Remove stigma
- Advance culturally responsive and equitable approaches
- Support ongoing evaluation

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MDH Strategic Plan

Integrates progressive prevention and intervention tactics

Framework for planning should MN move toward partial decriminalization

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MDH Strategic Plan

- Recommendations Related to Prevention and Intervention
 - Funding for a planning process for adults similar to No Wrong Door for youth
 - Change in terminology in statute ("prostitute" and "patron")
 - Added avenues of redress (affirmative defenses, expungement, vacatur, diversion)
 - Agency self-examination (auditing process with internal and external stakeholders)
 - Accountability measures (checks on criminal justice and child welfare system)
 - Fund training (multidisciplinary, trauma informed, survivor-centered, culturally inclusive, protocol development)

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MDH Strategic Plan

- Planning process to weigh partial decriminalization
 - Multi-year/multidisciplinary
 - Examine benefits and unintended consequences
 - Funding
 - Inclusive of victim/survivors and all persons with lived experience
- Keep purchase of sex illegal and focus on needs of victim/survivors and persons with lived experience
- Charge and prosecute crimes against victim/survivors and persons with lived experience

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Continued Work

- As a state agency MDH can advocate only for policies and funding requests brought forward by the governor
- MDH can provide resources and information to advocates



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THANK YOU!

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