

2025 Roadmap Report

Community-Based Responses as the
Next Step in Anti-Trafficking Reforms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL EXTENDS APPRECIATION TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO gave their time and efforts to help accomplish this “2025 Roadmap Report.” Our hope is that the information compiled here elevates community-based responses as the next step in anti-trafficking reforms.

In particular, we are deeply grateful to the members of Shared Hope International’s Just Response Council for informing this report. The Just Response Council represents some of the most innovative and informed experts in the country. Their diverse areas of expertise, both lived and professional, help ensure that the policy and guidance developed by Shared Hope’s policy team are informed by diverse perspectives and experiences. Council members share the goals of preventing young people from experiencing trafficking victimization and ensuring that youth who have been trafficked have access to the tools and support necessary to heal from the trauma they have endured and the skills to create and sustain a life away from trafficking. Members include policy advocates, government officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, judges, academics, and service providers, many of whom are themselves survivors of juvenile sex trafficking, from diverse geographic areas.

We would also like to extend special appreciation and gratitude to My Life My Choice in Boston, MA, youthSpark in Atlanta, GA, and the amazing youth leaders in their programs who were instrumental in ensuring the voices of young people with lived experiences of trafficking and/or system-involvement were centered in the development of this report. We encourage anyone using this report to consider the insights of these young people and, whenever possible, seek out and incorporate the voices of young people in their own communities in building a community-based response to trafficking.

Additionally, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with a community-based pilot project in the development of this report and extend our sincere gratitude to the amazing project leaders who helped inform this report, especially Regina McDevitt at the Chattanooga Hamilton County Family Justice Center, Sarah McKinnis at Willowbend Farms, One Voice Collective, the Chattanooga Children’s Advocacy Center, the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition and Youth Action Board, and other individuals and organizations whose advice and consultation deepened our understanding of the community. We also want to acknowledge the catalyst of this project, the late Carol Berz. We are deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with her and extend our deepest sympathy to her family and the Chattanooga community for the sudden loss of her tireless and compassionate leadership. We also hope in some small way that this report will help carry on her important legacy.

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INTRODUCTION

COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSES AS THE NEXT STEP IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING REFORMS

TEN YEARS AGO, THE JUST RESPONSE COUNCIL WAS FORMED WITH THE GOAL OF gathering a diverse group of leaders, including those with lived experience, to address the greatest barriers in effectuating transformative anti-trafficking efforts and shine a light on best practices for connecting impacted children and youth with safe, accessible, and comprehensive services. The JuST Response Council has focused the last decade of work on identifying *promising* responses to child and youth survivors and shaping the development of needed policies and practices to support adoption and implementation. A vast majority of identified responses were born out of, and built within, the confines of systems, as that is historically where funding and children have been directed. More recently, however, the JuST Response Council has contemplated what is required to design and provide the *ideal* response, one that reduces the tremendous burden on systems, is premised in cost-effectiveness, and, most critically, supports survivors in achieving short and long-term safety, healing, and success. Leaning on lessons learned from intersecting spaces, field engagement, desk research, and the wisdom from those who know best—survivors—it is evident that responses rooted in, and provided within, communities will achieve the goal of developing and providing an ideal response to young people and their families.

The work of defining, building, and providing an ideal community-based response requires the collaborative and concerted efforts of all members—community organizations, leaders, policymakers, systems, funders—to reform *what is* into *what can be*. And what can be stands to benefit all.

HOW WE GOT HERE: A ROADMAP FOR FURTHER REFORMS

Since the passage of the earliest Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, United States federal, state, and local governments have rapidly developed policy to protect victims, criminalize offenders, and increase safeguards for vulnerable communities. In less than two decades, every state radically transformed their laws, regulations, and practices to prohibit and respond to the exploitation of individuals for sex or labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. The inherent structure of the U.S. government, coupled with the realities of necessarily hurried public policy development, have resulted in patchwork services responses, most of which have been born out of, and rooted in, government funded and directed systems, specifically child serving and justice systems. Due to increased structural capacity and funding available to support these governmental systems, the reshaping of system processes to respond to trafficking has resulted in an unquantifiable number of child survivors being identified and offered services that would typically be unavailable through status quo system responses. Importantly, broad policy changes enshrining these approaches in statutes and regulations have called child serving stakeholders to the table, recognizing that those tasked with supporting and interacting with young people and families play a critical role in interrupting and preventing child and youth sex trafficking.

Yet, the reliance on child serving and justice systems as the primary mechanism for responding to children and youth with lived experience or those at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation have come with significant costs to children, families, communities, and the systems themselves. The JuST Response Council has consistently recognized the harmful effect of utilizing punitive measures, particularly those within criminal and juvenile legal systems, to connect child survivors with safety and services; every publication has called for the development of Safe Harbor laws and practices, including the elimination of arrest, detention, and prosecution of survivors. Extensive research supports what survivors have long made clear: practices rooted in blame, shame, coercion, and punishment are not only unjust and unproductive, but also further cloak survivors in trauma and vulnerabilities that make attaining power, healing, and long-term wellbeing an uphill battle.

However, an emerging concern arising from the effort to address the harms of punitive responses is the need to uncover and address the equally consequential use of child welfare in providing safety and services to impacted children. Outside of the anti-trafficking field, an increasing body of literature and lived experience voices are illuminating the often-irreparable harm and long-lasting trauma caused to families as a result of child welfare investigations, service plans, and, for some, the permanent severance of the family unit. This is most true for Black and non-Black families of color, including Indigenous and Latino families. Coupling racist legacies that inhibit economic mobility and social equity with pervasive societal biases results in the families of color being overreported and disproportionately involved in a system that, by design, utilizes a microscope instead of a healing hand. This is particularly pertinent in light of the demonstrated racial disproportionality among child sex trafficking victims; when Black and non-Black children of color are at highest risk for trafficking victimization, we must construct and utilize responses that prevent racial harm and facilitate healing for the child and their family.

Safe Harbor responses that designate child welfare as the primary entity for identifying and serving child survivors also place the system in a particularly precarious position. Child welfare is increasingly tasked with responding to some of the most complex challenges within communities, often attempting to solve macro-level and public health issues with budgets and staffing shortages that make fulfilling statutory and regulatory mandates dangerous, demoralizing, and futile for stakeholders. Child sex trafficking cases are some of the most complicated, time intensive cases referred to child welfare, often demanding from the system what is it unable to provide.

Extensive research supports what survivors have long made clear: practices rooted in blame, shame, coercion, and punishment are not only unjust and unproductive, but also further cloak survivors in trauma and vulnerabilities that make attaining power, healing, and long-term wellbeing an uphill battle.

CONNECTING THE DOTS: HOW ROOTING ANTI-TRAFFICKING RESPONSES IN THE COMMUNITY RAISES ALL SHIPS

In addition to the financial, societal, and individual price tags attached, system-based responses to child sex trafficking victimization are failing to produce outcomes that justify the investments required. This is most notable in the increasing recognition within the anti-trafficking field that system-involvement itself creates a vulnerability factor to commercial sexual exploitation. Yet, the system that generates vulnerabilities to trafficking is the same system tasked with responding to the resulting harm of exploitation. And the cycle repeats itself.

To the contrary, developing and sustainably funding community-based responses reduces the crushing load on systems, increases the return on investment, and, most importantly, strengthens positive and enduring outcomes for impacted children, youth, and families. Communities have long demonstrated the inherent ability, when sufficiently resourced and supported, to care for those within that community that have experienced harm, including trafficking victimization. Through strategic investments, capacity building, and bolstering efforts, we can position and support community-based organizations and responses to effectively unburden systems, support families, and ensure young people are provided the safety, services, and supports needed to fly.

The Roadmap Report is rooted in the belief that all communities are positioned to care for their members, including child and youth trafficking victims. This Report aspires to equip community leaders, organizations, and system stakeholders with customizable tools and supporting materials for identifying existing resources, outstanding supports, and designs necessary to build and im-

plement a comprehensive, survivor-informed service response led by and, embedded within, the community. Leaning on the invaluable expertise and work of the JuST Response Council, lessons learned from providing years of technical assistance to states, and demonstrated outcomes from parallel and intersecting spaces, The Roadmap Report is a novel framework for supporting communities in ensuring the provision of Safe Harbor responses that are holistically safe, accessible, and inclusive for all impacted young people and their families.

The Roadmap Report is rooted in the belief that all communities are positioned to care for their members, including child and youth trafficking victims.

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

THE BROAD GOAL OF THE ROADMAP REPORT IS TO ASSIST STATES IN BUILDING TRAUMA-informed and youth-centered responses and protocols for implementing Safe Harbor policies by looking beyond existing responses to envision an ideal response, one that recognizes current challenges and looks for solutions by reframing the challenges, not simply as implementation challenges but as the impetus for broader system reforms. Recognizing that reform is a long-term process with real and immediate implications for those impacted, both by the status quo and the changes to that system, the report takes a dual approach: (1) identify the ideal—getting to a place where we can rely on community-based responses as the first and last response to trafficking and prevent the vulnerabilities that lead to trafficking and (2) identify where the field is now and the processes we can start to implement that will improve responses to trafficked youth in the immediate while supporting, rather than conflicting with, the broader reform of existing system responses.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

SYSTEMS: For purposes of this report, the term “systems” refers to child serving and justice systems for which research has demonstrated historically negative outcomes for those involved in the system, in particular where the outcomes become increasingly negative with deeper involvement in the system, i.e., foster care/child welfare, juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. This is not intended to discount the possibility that trafficked youth may have negative outcomes or experiences in other systems, such as healthcare, education and mental and behavioral health systems. However, as these systems have not been historically correlated with creating vulnerabilities that can lead to trafficking exploitation, this report focuses on reform efforts related to systems where research has demonstrated the most risk for children and families who interact with those systems.

COMMUNITY: In light of the subjective nature of how community may be defined by different individuals and how the definition can be shaped by lived experience, this report utilizes a flexible definition of community for purposes of shared identity with the connecting thread of shared geography. Thus, communities can exist within communities, with geography being a unifying factor between diverse groups.

COMMUNITY-BASED: For purposes of this report, the term “community-based” focuses on supports, services, resources, and responses—and the individuals involved in implementing and/or providing those supports, services, resources, and responses—made available and accessed outside formal systems (as defined above) and outside institutions that primarily derive their infrastructure and funding through system-based responses.

METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the dual goals of identifying an ideal and mapping a process for communities to work toward that goal, this report utilizes a series of decision trees, starting with the ideal: a primary prevention approach where investments in the community are sufficient to prevent the vulnerabilities that lead to trafficking. Then, recognizing that children and families may still experience crises and that system involvement is not only embedded in most current Safe Harbor responses but is also appropriate and necessary in certain circumstances, the remaining decision trees identify an ideal approach when these responses are triggered.

THESE RESPONSES ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- ▶ young people who are experiencing housing insecurity or a family crisis accessing supportive services through runaway and homeless youth programs
- ▶ trafficked youth identified by law enforcement in the course of their trafficking experience
- ▶ youth in the juvenile justice system who are identified as having experienced CSEC/Y or at risk of experiencing trafficking
- ▶ children and families referred to child welfare, either as a result of a mandatory report related to trafficking or when trafficking is identified after a child and family are already system-involved

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECISION TREES

The decision trees were developed with the input and expertise of Shared Hope's JuST Response Council and conversations with a wide range of stakeholders through years of technical assistance on Safe Harbor policies and implementation. This report also builds on the JuST Response Council's past field guidance, in particular, the Protective Response Model and Justice For Juveniles reports. Released in 2016, these important resources identified key principles and strategies for states to build and implement non-punitive, trauma-informed, and youth-centered responses to child sex trafficking victims. This report continues that work by incorporating both the progress that states have made in developing and implementing non-punitive responses to child sex trafficking victims in the intervening years and the persistent hurdles that states have encountered in advancing Safe Harbor policies and in implementing those policies once enacted.

In addition to evaluating the many doors through which a young person may enter and be identified as a trafficking survivor, the decision trees are also color-coded to reflect the different stages of the process at which a stakeholder may encounter a youth survivor, as well as the opportunities throughout the process to connect that young person with services and supports in their community and reduce or limit their interaction with a system response.

THE "STAGES OF THE PROCESS" ARE COLOR-CODED AS FOLLOWS:

ORANGE: IDENTIFICATION & SCREENING

RED: INITIAL/EMERGENCY RESPONSE

BLUE: MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM/COLLABORATIVE REFERRAL PROTOCOL

GREEN: SAFETY/HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

YELLOW: CONTINUUM OF CARE/PATH TO HEALING

The decision trees are also accompanied by a resource list that is divided into 5 sections, which align with to the color coded “stages” in the decision trees. Additionally, icons listed beside individual resources indicate whether those resources are specifically relevant to a particular decision tree.



PRIMARY PREVENTION APPROACH



HOUSING INSECURITY AND FAMILY CRISIS



IDENTIFIED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT



DIRECTED INTO JUVENILE JUSTICE



REFERRED TO CHILD WELFARE

YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS

Another critical voice informing the decision trees, and the overall structure and framing of the report, was the voice of young people with lived experiences of trafficking and/or system involvement. The guiding principles that inform the report were drawn directly from the voices of these young people who shared their time, expertise, and recommendations for change.

Shared Hope was honored to partner with My Life My Choice in Boston, MA and youthSpark in Atlanta, GA to host listening sessions with the youth leaders in their programs. The youth leaders not only shared their perspectives and recommendations, but also were involved from the beginning in planning and structuring the listening sessions that informed this report. For both listening sessions, youth leaders developed a hypothetical scenario that was informed by their lived experiences and then walked through various considerations and their recommendations

Shared Hope International’s JuST Response Council, initially convened in December 2014, is a group of over 30 experts from around the country who collaborate to improve responses to child and youth sex trafficking victims, drawing on the group’s combined research, knowledge, and experience in services, law, and policy, as well as lived expertise. The goal of the JuST Response Council is to improve rights protection and access to services for children and youth survivors of trafficking.

THE ABCS OF THE JUST RESPONSE COUNCIL

ADVOCATE for trafficking informed responses both within and outside existing systems.

Child sex trafficking affects existing youth serving systems, government agencies, public and private entities, and communities whether or not it is named or addressed. When it comes to youth serving entities, there is rarely a social justice issue that doesn’t connect with child sex trafficking. Despite the discrepancies in state and local resource landscapes, the respective roles of systems and communities in serving and/or responding to children and youth who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, trafficking needs to be a cornerstone component of the larger response to child and youth sex trafficking.

BUILD information sharing networks for promising practices. Programs and responses are often being created in silos because there often is not a mechanism to quickly or easily find what other states are doing or many avenues to promote successes. Resultantly, there is an assumption that states have to start from scratch. The reality is there are many states or programs that have seen promising results within program implementation and have learned from program failures and challenges.

CONNECT existing research findings to field implementation. There is often a disconnect between system building and practice and the most recent research and evidence in the field.

SHAPE legislation and policy that directly impacts the JuST Response Goal. Without clear policies in place, we cannot ensure that long-term, broad-based responses will not only be implemented, but also will continue to be evaluated and improved upon as we learn from implementation.

for ensuring that stakeholders are responding in a youth-centered way. As discussed in the following section, these listening sessions also gave rise to Guiding Principles that should be centered in any response that stakeholders develop, ideally with additional input from the youth in their communities.

Given the robust information and wide ranging recommendations covered in these listening sessions, and the potential application of this information beyond the four corners of this report, presentations prepared by the youth leaders who led the listening sessions are included in the appendixes to this report.

CHATTANOOGA PILOT PROJECT

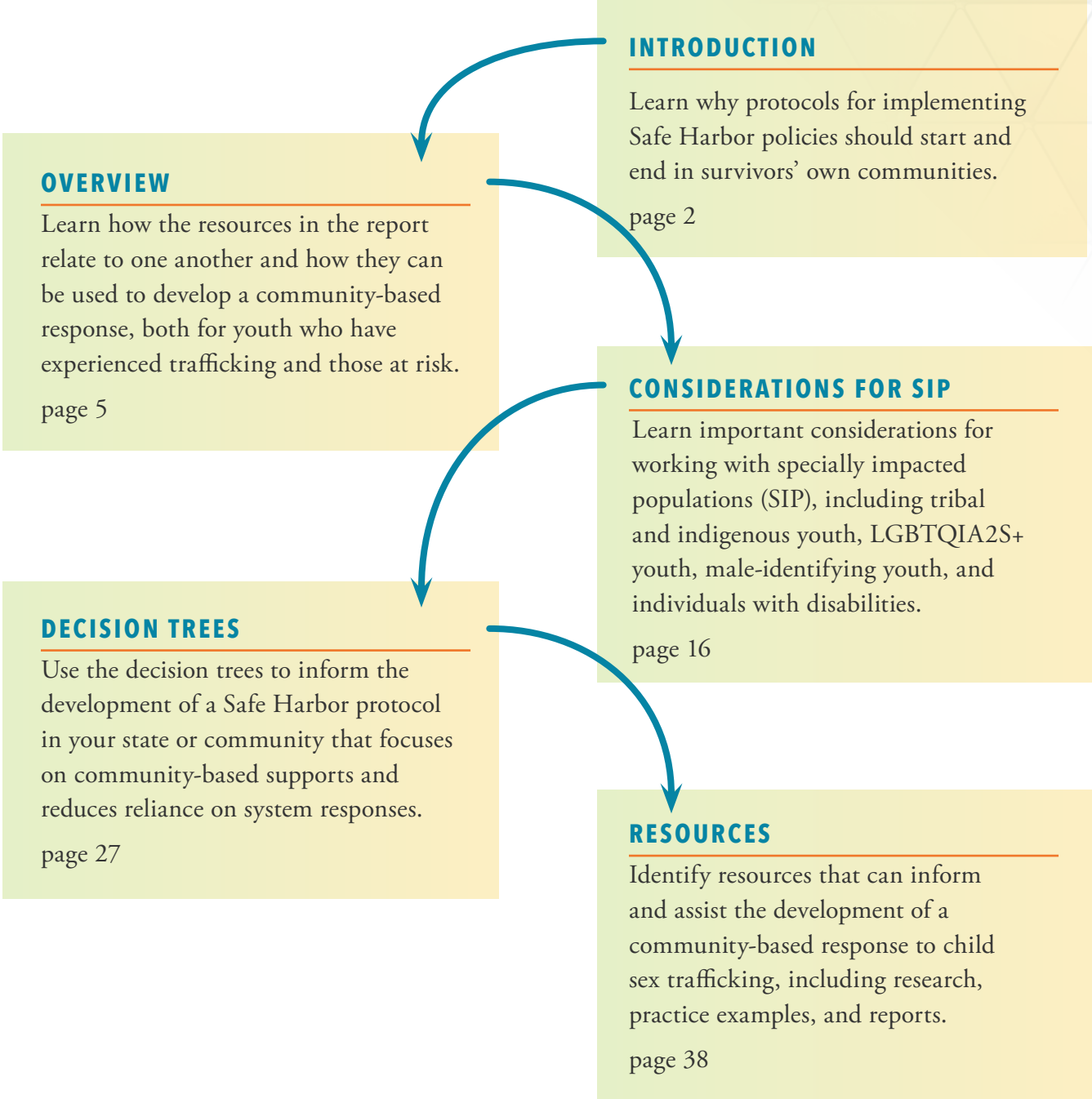
The report has also been informed by collaboration with a community-based pilot project currently underway in Chattanooga, TN, focused on building a community-based response to survivors of child trafficking that reduces reliance on system responses by building out supports within the community. An additional goal of this pilot project is to track data related to the comparative outcomes and financial impacts of responding through the community rather than relying extensively on systems, both juvenile justice and child welfare, to provide needed supports and services to trafficked youth and their families. This project began with a landscape assessment that identified a substantial gap in community-based supports for responding to youth survivors of trafficking (despite an extensive network of resources and responses in place for adult survivors). Additionally, the project is assessing the impact of relying on systems for connecting youth to services and the related costs of this approach. Simultaneously, the project is developing a plan for building out a more robust community-based response that can address the gaps and harms resulting from over-reliance on systems and monitoring the cost savings associated with that response.

INITIAL STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT PROJECT AND BUILDING A COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSE HAVE INCLUDED:

- ▶ bringing together a wide range of stakeholders in the Chattanooga community and surrounding areas to discuss and evaluate challenges with the current response through systems
- ▶ identify existing resources in the community and how to connect those resources through a coordinated response protocol for both trafficked and at-risk youth in the region
- ▶ widen the pool of stakeholders beyond trafficking-specific responders, building on the work of an existing collaborative of anti-trafficking organizations called the One Voice Collective, and centering development of the response through the family justice center, which serves as a multidisciplinary hub for community partnerships
- ▶ partnering with the homeless coalition and a local HUD-funded Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, including collaborating with their Youth Action Board to host a community event where youth with lived experience will develop an awareness and action plan for preventing the vulnerabilities that can lead to trafficking and system involvement

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDES A VISUAL OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT AND explains how each of the components can be used to assist states and communities in developing community-based responses to prevent, and respond to, trafficking through youth-centered approaches.



YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS

SHARED HOPE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO INFORMED THIS REPORT, for their time, their wisdom, and their authenticity. In addition to bringing a critically important perspective to how the systems and responses they experienced could be improved, the insightful feedback we received from youth elevated four key principles that should guide and remain at the core of any protocol or procedure developed using the resources in this report.

THESE YOUTH-INFORMED GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE:

1) YOUTH NEED TO BE HEARD.

Being youth-informed means actively and meaningfully listening to youth regardless of their current or past circumstances. Therefore, it is critically important that young people's perspectives be centered in developing and implementing a Safe Harbor response. This often involves intentionally slowing down and pausing to check in, asking for feedback, and creating space for young people to share their perspectives. Listening to young people does not have to be (and sometimes should not be) accomplished through a formal process; instead, it is important to continually look for opportunities to seek input, accepting that it may not always be forthcoming while also being prepared to really listen when a young person is prepared to engage.

As we learned from the listening sessions, young people place great value on being heard, and an important part of being heard goes beyond adults listening to what young people are saying to actually implementing their feedback and responding to their concerns. Even when implementing or addressing feedback is not immediately possible, it is important to have the conversation and share reasons that certain changes may not be possible and/or acknowledge the barriers that may exist in addressing the problems raised. As adults and professionals, it can be quite difficult to remember exactly what it felt like to be a young person. However, we can always remind ourselves that young people are experts on their own experiences and that they are often an overlooked resource in overcoming the challenges that we encounter in our efforts to assist them.

QUOTES FROM THE LISTENING SESSIONS THAT CAPTURE THIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

"...act quickly on what [she] has to say and what her needs are—actions speak louder than words."

"Give survivor time and space to process before sharing their story."

"Talk to her, believe her, ask her what she needs."

“Ask ‘What do you need from me?’”

“Ask ‘Are you feeling safe?’”

“Whoever Jordan was talking to when she said if they send her home she would just run away again I feel like they should have looked more into that. Like why are you going to run away again if we keep sending you back, what’s going on?”

“...once that 7pm marker comes and I got to go back to my reality, playing basketball has only helped me for like an hour. What happens when I go back home and I have no other alternatives, because when you get to those community places, there’s nobody there to actually talk to you. There is nobody ... to ask you how you are feeling or what’s going on at home.”

“So if I did something last night because I gotta survive, but I can’t tell you about it, but it is messing with me mentally, but if you ask me about it, I feel like just because you have a legal obligation not to tell nobody my business I am not going to tell you what I did last night because that is my freedom that I am risking.”

“A year, 365 days it took me to talk.”

“I feel like some of the parents deserve understanding too. Even the ones that are being uncooperative. They still deserve to be heard and stuff like that instead of what their child is doing, they shouldn’t be defined by that. I feel like there should be some type of understanding on both sides. If she is in a toxic household, it shouldn’t be like choosing a side, I feel like both of them deserve to be heard.”

2) YOUTH NEED TO BE GIVEN CHOICES.

Working with youth, whether it involves providing direct services and supports or designing the systems and protocols that shape how we respond to young people, can often present a conundrum as to what we expect youth to be able to handle as emerging adults and as to when to step in and protect them from the consequences of their own or even others’ choices. This is not just a challenge for professionals working with young people, but also for parents and even their communities, which engage in policymaking that impacts youth. However, as adults and professionals trying to help young people, there is often a tendency to lean into a protective role that can undermine young

people's autonomy and deprive them of choice in decisions about their own lives. Providing young people with the opportunity to make choices is not just important in big decisions, but also in any context where having a choice could help them feel more engaged and comfortable. This is especially important when they are pulled into a process that they do not have a choice about engaging in, such as involvement in the child welfare system or participation in the criminal justice process as a victim-witness. It is critically important that, as professionals, we do not assume that young people are not able, or not interested in, making choices in challenging circumstances like these. Similarly critical is believing young people when they share their experiences and perspectives and trusting them to make choices, especially when the decisions being made directly impact their lives.

QUOTES FROM THE LISTENING SESSION THAT CAPTURE THIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

“Work to keep families together but ask and consider where the child feels safest.”

“Remember to ask [her] if she wants to tell her mom. Give [her] the option and allow her to tell her own story if she wishes to.”

“Allow her to share her story however she feels most comfortable (written, spoken) with whoever she feels most comfortable – her CHOICE”

“Don't bring her back to the group home – she left for a reason”

“Ask her how [you] can best support her”

“Instead of asking where do you want to go, ask them where they feel safe at. Or where they feel like they won't do that again.”

“Ask her where do you feel safe in the community. Is there somebody you feel safe with.”

3) YOUTH NEED MORE THAN A RESPONSE. THEY NEED A PATH FORWARD.

Many youth shared concerns about the inadequacy of programs in meeting their needs and the difficulty they faced in changing their circumstances when they need support. Making services available only after they had experienced harm, or were funneled into a punitive system that required them to engage in services, left them feeling disillusioned about trusting people who are supposed to be helping them and feeling like they had to fend for themselves. These themes likely reflect the challenges that systems and service providers face in responding to young people when the point of intervention is only after youth are already in crisis and/or have been given too many reasons to distrust the programs and resources that may be available to them. As this key principle so effectively highlights, when youth receive a response that is not holistically addressing their needs, they are likely to keep funneling back into systems that are equipped to respond to immediate or narrowly defined needs but not necessarily to equip young people for moving beyond that system and forward with their lives.

QUOTES FROM THE LISTENING SESSION THAT CAPTURE THIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

“You get to come to this 1 day out of the week, you’ve still got six days where you have to deal with stuff.”

“I think the problem is she’s not given the option until she’s in trouble, like before she got caught sex trafficking or whatever the case may be, nobody said, well here’s other alternatives or here’s other programs so I would also encourage you to write that too. Try to come up with resolutions before the problem happens. Have the resolution before it gets to the point that stings get involved or she gotta go to jail.”

“A lot of these programs are not easily accessible unless you’ve done something to where you have no other choice but to come here.”

“A distraction sometimes isn’t a solution. Definitely not a permanent one. Just cause you are distracting me from my reality doesn’t mean I don’t ever have to face my reality again. You just temporarily took me away.”

“Your life may be put in the hands of someone who had an agitated morning.”

“I feel like once they feel like they helped, they just take their hand off her and are like, ‘okay I did my part.’”

4) YOUTH NEED PROVIDERS TO COMBAT BIASES AND STIGMAS.

One of the biggest barriers to holistic responses, and one of the most persistent drivers of misidentification of trafficking victimization, is the role of stigma and biases held by those on the front lines of interacting with, and making decisions about, young people. The listening sessions highlighted a wide range of biases and stigmas that both influence providers’ responses as well as the degree to which the young people felt safe in sharing their experiences, including disclosing their experiences of trafficking victimization. For any providers, systems, or decision makers involved in developing and implementing responses to young people who have experienced, or are at-risk of experiencing, trafficking, active and meaningful efforts must be taken to recognize and reject biases and stigmas regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, housing status, and other harmful beliefs about a youth’s identity or circumstances that can impede the provision of holistic, youth-centered and trauma-responsive services.

QUOTES FROM THE LISTENING SESSION THAT CAPTURE THIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

“When you look at this male stigma where you have to be this, you can’t show any emotion, that all this stuff, it plays a huge role. Even from the beginning when they’re like oh you’re having altercations and things, some dudes would be like why are you as a dude having an altercation with your mom. Come on, you have to do better. Now taking away from him and treating him like he’s the problem. If you were looking at him getting un-enrolled in school it would be like ‘you were doing so good for yourself. Why did you just let it go’ Like come on, it takes away from that. Being trafficked, it’s the sad truth it’s like oh why are you doing that gay stuff, you’re weird. Like no one will truly see that guy as the victim. They will always be the problem.”

“Where it is coming from and the folks that do it, it can be anybody. It can be anybody, it can be females, even little girls can get trafficked by women and boys can be trafficked by dudes.”

“Another thing I want to add too is personal bias when it comes to us. If you look at what make up a lot of our government it is Caucasian males. When someone goes against their views and their beliefs and something like that, whether it be they’re black, they’re gay, they’re Asian, whatever, you see it’s no longer about I want to help this person. It’s about I want to get this person out of my face. Like whatever happens, happens. Oh well.”

“When you look at a runaway, someone being told get out of my house is not a runaway. They are not a runaway. When it comes down to police actually questioning you once you’re found I feel the parent has already said- my child ran away, this that, I didn’t kick them out, they’re very disrespectful, a problem, trouble, you know. Once that police already has that thought in their head, they’re no longer perceiving with ‘this child is a victim.’ This child is a trouble. This child is a problem.”

I feel like the police shouldn't do anything because she isn't committing any crime they should be trying to find other ways to help her instead of trying to throw her in jail.

She's probably doing whatever she have to do to survive.

no because most female and boys go through the same feeling

What's actually going on & they should look deeper into it. I think she's feeling angry and careless because she's over everything.

Is she is very overwhelmed right now. Inward upset and going through a lot of things. Misunderstood.

Every day let her know you're there for her. Show moral support.

Doesn't feel safe at home. I think Jordan feels like she is trapped. Not just physically but also mentally because she is going through so many things and emotions at once. She is overwhelmed.

No because boy or girl you still could feel the same way and keep everything in which will drain you physically or emotionally.

her mother and follow-up on the change to see if it is effective.

communication, like state what's going on and issues. I'm not sure some parents like turn situations on you. like your wrong. Ask questions (each other) might not know what each other.

No they should punish the men that were trading by program for this little girls body trusts.

Excerpts of youth participant notes from youthSpark Youth Listening Session. See page 61.

SPECIALLY IMPACTED POPULATIONS

YOUTH WHO EXPERIENCE TRAFFICKING HAVE A WIDE DIVERSITY OF LIVED EXPERIENCES, and being responsive to their intersectional identities is critical to responding fully and effectively to the needs of youth survivors. With this in mind, the following fact sheets were developed by field experts to highlight unique considerations for responding to certain populations of trafficked youth who are more likely to experience trafficking and/or more likely to experience harm through status quo responses to trafficking. Shared Hope was honored to partner with field experts to develop fact sheets on the following Considerations for Specially Impacted Populations:

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR WORKING WITH LGBTQ2IA+ YOUTH SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

Author: Mercy Gray, Founder & Chief Matriarch, Transpalace

Ms. Mercy Gray is a queer transgender indigenous woman from the Kapampangan peoples of the Philippine Islands. She has dedicated her life to public service and advocacy: from shelters and tribal nations to her current role as a Senior Gender Based Violence Specialist in Oakland United School District. Her commitment to public service only surpassed by the arches in her smile, she currently serves as a Commissioner on the Status of Women for the City of Berkeley and is pursuing her Juris Doctor to become an Attorney for survivors of Human Trafficking.

Contributing Authors: Caia Lavigne and Jake Woodward

CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESPONDING TO TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS YOUTH

Author: Anne LaFrenier-Ritchie, Safe Harbor Regional Navigator, Someplace Safe, Fergus Falls, MN

Anne LaFrenier-Ritchie, Anishinaabe, works as a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator for Someplace Safe in West Central Minnesota. Anne has been working in the anti-trafficking field in direct services and training and technical assistance since 2016. She is a 2020 graduate of NHTTAC's Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Class 5, which developed recommendations on how culture can be used as a protective factor against human trafficking among Indigenous youth. Anne consults federally on several projects and has created an Indigenous trafficking curriculum. Anne serves on the boards for the Indigenous Association of Fargo-Moorhead, YWCA Cass Clay, and Mending the Sacred Hoop, and is a member of Minnesota's MMIR Office Advisory Committee. Anne also provides training and technical assistance on the state and federal levels on providing culturally responsive services to Indigenous youth and families.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESPONDING TO BOYS AND MALES

Author: Cristian Eduardo, Survivor Leader & Consultant

Cristian Eduardo is a powerful advocate for human rights and social justice and a dedicated champion of anti-trafficking initiatives, particularly the Equality Model. He focuses his work on centering the voices of survivors, reflected in his positions as Survivor Leader and Steering Committee Member at New Yorkers for the Equality Model. His lived experiences as a survivor of international and domestic human trafficking, an individual living with HIV, and someone who has faced the challenges of trauma provide invaluable insights into the mental health struggles faced by many survivors.

Cristian Eduardo has effectuated far-reaching policy and practice change, particularly through his work with Survivors' Advisory Boards, Councils, and Coalitions, including Alliance to End Human Trafficking, Sanctuary for Families, the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition (co-chair), and New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Board member).

Cristian Eduardo is a community builder and a vocal advocate for the rights of immigrants and LGBTQ+ individuals, drawing on his own experiences as a queer Mexican immigrant. He co-founded United Immigrants of New York and Mujeres en Resistencia, two coalitions that raise awareness about gender-based violence, including femicide, and provide vital resources to Spanish-speaking and Latino-immigrant communities.

WE RECOMMEND REVIEWING THESE CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE, OR IN CONJUNCTION with, the decision trees so the larger response to trafficked youth can remain flexible enough to respond to the diverse needs and identities of all youth survivors of trafficking.

LGBTQ2IA+ YOUTH SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

BY Mercy Gray, Chief Matriarch, Transpalace

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS Caia Lavigne and Jake Woodward

UNDERSTANDING WHY NON-BINARY AND ALL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, Queer, 2-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual, and Allies (LGBTQ2IA+) people are in “the life” is very important. Self-image and self-actualization are a basic need for all people and a uniquely characterized basic need of the LGBTQ2IA+ community. When young LGBTQ2IA+ people do not find outlets for self-expression and self-discovery in their homes, schools, and community, they often seek and find it in the sex trade industry. In these circumstances, “the life” quickly becomes one of the few areas of dependable gender and sexual orientation affirmation.

MISINFORMATION LEADS TO MISIDENTIFICATION, LACK OF SERVICES

A primary reason this population is so often misidentified and under-served compared with other populations of trafficking victims is the persistent knowledge gap among first responders and other stakeholders about the needs and experiences of LGBTQ2IA+ children experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. Even among those on the front lines of responding to trafficking, stereotypes and misinformation persist. Ideas like, “it’s normal for young boys to date and have sex with older gay men, it’s part of the culture of being gay,” undermine accurate assessment of when exploitation is occurring. Sadly, this perception of, and misunderstanding of, LGBTQ2IA+ youth and culture can lead to the denial of public services and presents a major barrier to identifying and responding to cases of commercial sexual exploitation in LGBTQ2IA+ children.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCES OF BOYS AND MEN

Sexuality is questioned at a young age, with some teenagers and pre-teens feeling that their sexual identity is their most important identity. While the following narrative exists in all genders, it’s important to explicitly state that boys and men are commercially sexually exploited. Young men and boys of all expressions are often exploited for their curiosity and interests and, consequently, their curiosity is weaponized against them. This can result in men who aren’t gay questioning their sexuality and having to come to a reckoning of sex beyond abuse. When survivors have abuse narratives that are part of their exploration narratives, this can create fuel for transphobia and homophobia if the time when survivors are exploring their identity—whether identifying as heterosexual, homosexual, queer, or otherwise—is embodied as unsafe, bad, and exploitative. Misunderstandings about and prejudices towards people of varying genders or their expressions have driven sexual

and gender-based violence. This is true for all genders. It is especially critical when working with LGBTQ2IA+ youth that providers and stakeholders respect a youth's chosen identity, including as it evolves and changes.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCES OF TRANSGENDER YOUTH

Unique to the transgender experience is the belief and practice that being in the sex trade is considered a right of passage. This norm is formed by other transgender people and elders in the community, stemming from their own survival in a world that rampantly discriminates and commits violence against transgender people. Finding community becomes an essential need for survival. From men who desire and seek out Transgender people, attracted by the prospect of something discretely obtainable and entirely consumable, to families who abandon Trans youth with nowhere to go and no way to survive at a young age, the combination of driving and pulling forces leave very few, if any, meaningful options for survival.

What a street economy provides is access to life saving hormones which are criminalized in several states, access to community of other transgender people, and buyers who affirm youth's gender; such affirmations and community fill a void that leave youth vulnerable to predatory men. In almost every way, there is an expectation and pressure to participate in the sex trade.

While this is where meaningful community exists, and where transgender people across America access life-saving mutual aid, harm reduction, respect, and simply survive, the sex trade is a dual edged sword. Transgender survivors need meaningful options outside of the sex trade and need protection from the commercial sexual exploitation of children. However, scarce options exist and this is further exacerbated by the criminalization of transgender medical care and access to public spaces.

No known current systemic response adequately identifies and responds to transgender non-binary children and provides a replicable means to be free from sexual exploitation. When you don't have access to exploring your sexuality in day-to-day life you enter into online and in-person ecosystems where opportunities for exploitation are abundant and normalized. Underground economies are oftentimes adjacent to narcotic economies, and some people become involved in both. Simultaneously, displaced accountability for causing a dependence on street economies conflates community care with the source of exploitation. With familial neglect and

40-50% of the homeless and runaway youth living on the street are LGBTQ2IA+.

abuse most often a part of a transgender/non-binary youth's narrative, they may need to look for support systems outside their family. Indeed, 40-50% of the homeless and runaway youth living on the street are LGBTQ2IA+. Transgender, non-binary kids are hugely more likely to be on the street, often for the reasons of freedom of self-expression, where expressing and embodying one's transness/gender is more important than being compliant with a parent or guardian's political or religious beliefs around gender and sexuality.

IMPORTANCE OF HONORING SELF-IDENTIFICATION

While many trafficking survivors do not align with and/or strongly reject the terminology of "sex work," it is critically important to keep in mind that LGBTQ2IA+ youth will by and large identify with the term sex work far more than human trafficking, sex trafficking, or sexual exploitation. Imposing restrictions on LGBTQIA+ youth's use of the term "sex work" to identify themselves and their experience can simultaneously create barriers to identification of their victimization and inhibits a response based on trauma-informed care and promising practices.

AWARENESS OF BIAS AND DISCRIMINATION IS CRITICAL TO IMPROVING RESPONSES:

Discrimination by service providers is rampant when working with transgender non-binary survivors. Working with transgender non-binary people and trying to get them into shelter or programs is uniquely difficult. Consider: How do you exit the life when the traditional exit path through social services organizations is not accessible? Even when services are available, there are oftentimes arbitrary esthetic requirements for trans people accessing shelter to be femme enough, an arbitrary standard that shifts day to day based on the particular staff members' relative judgement and understanding of gender. Non-binary survivors may be forced to express and identify as femme to receive services. This may create states of gender dysphoria, which can lead to undesirable behaviors, program violations of codes of conduct and program exit/bars. These are issues easily avoided by gender inclusion policies and the elimination of esthetic requirements that are not required for other populations or demographics.

A SURVIVORS' PERSPECTIVE:

During my own experience selling sex as an underage minor, a law enforcement officer pulled a 62+ year old buyer over, with me sitting in the front seat at the age of 14. It was the middle of the night on a country road and the police officer told me to feel lucky he "had better things to do anyways" and that he "knew what I was doing." Then he left me in this man's car to continue to sell him sex in the middle of the night on a school night. Without law enforcement's buy-in on addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of LGBTQ2IA+ youth, we will remain unable to systemically identify and respond to trafficking of all children.

CONCLUSION:

LGBTQ2IA+ youth's increased risk of homelessness, likelihood of lacking support from family or community if they come out in a religious space, and likelihood to experience sexual abuse as a child, demands that adults provide radically unquestionable inclusion of LGBTQ2IA+ youth in our communities.

Regardless of stakeholders' political ideologies or religious beliefs, children of any demographic do not belong in the sex industry, period, whether the child is transgender, queer, gay or otherwise not heterosexual or the gender assigned at birth. Our nation's children are first and foremost children.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROACHES:

1. Training for law enforcement specifically on the trafficking of LGBTQ2IA+ youth.
2. Policies mandating response to all children being sexually exploited with clear consequences for biased service provision.
3. Funding and access for LGBTQ2IA+ specific advocacy groups to provide care to CSE youth.
4. Remember these children are, as a matter of fact, simply children at the end of the day.

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING:

1. Understanding that traffickers depend on the general public's bias against LGBTQ2IA+ youth in order to continue exploiting them.
2. Less likely to be assessed by child welfare as a victim/survivor of trafficking.
3. As one juvenile justice judge stated, boys and LGBTQ2IA+ youth are more likely to come into the system on other criminal charges and not be seen as victims of sexual exploitation.

TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS YOUTH

BY Anne LaFrenier-Ritchie, Safe Harbor Regional Navigator, Someplace Safe, Fergus Falls, MN

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN NORTH AMERICA HAVE HAD COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCES THAT increase their vulnerability towards sex trafficking. Federal policies in the United States and Canada forced Indigenous people to leave their homelands and move to reservation communities, which criminalized access to traditional foodways and livelihoods as well as ancestral sites that were spiritually and culturally significant. Federal policies further stripped Indigenous people of their language, cultural healing practices, and community connections through forced attendance at boarding schools. Indigenous children as young as three years old were physically removed from their homes and transported to schools across the country, where they were physically, sexually, and emotionally abused due to their Indigeneity. Traditional methods of healing and community connectedness were made illegal, and these shared traumas have been passed down from generation to generation through the act of DNA methylation, epigenetic changes to our DNA's molecular structure.¹ In fact, it was illegal for Indigenous people in the United States to access cultural sites and engage in cultural healing practices until 1978. In addition to shared collective trauma, Indigenous people today experience elevated risks for all types of harm, including sexual assault, physical violence, stalking, and homicide. Indigenous people also experience significantly higher rates of police brutality, including death by law enforcement.² Lack of appropriate response from designated institutions such as law enforcement, medical, child welfare, and judicial systems have resulted in the community-based Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives movement across the United States and Canada. These collective experiences of systems harm have greatly impacted how Indigenous people choose to engage or disengage with these institutions.

Certain interpersonal and community conditions put individuals at higher risk for being sex trafficked. Indigenous peoples' experiences of violence, coupled with inequitable access to basic needs and fair treatment from systems of support put them at higher risk for sex trafficking. This fact sheet serves as a starting point on better understanding special considerations for working with Indigenous communities and Indigenous victim/survivors of sex trafficking. This document is not one-size-fits all and points may not be reflective of all victim/survivor experiences. Remember to allow individual victim/survivors to identify their own histories, experiences, and needs.

- ▶ Due to well-documented bias and racist practices against Indigenous people and child welfare, health care, judicial/criminal legal systems, schools, and other systems, many victim/survivors, their families, and their communities are reticent to engage with systems. This may be due to di-

1 Peng, H., Zhu, Y., Strachan, E., Fowler, E., Bacus, T., Roy-Byrne, P., Goldberg, J., Vaccarino, V., & Zhao, J. (2018). Childhood Trauma, DNA Methylation of Stress-Related Genes, and Depression: Findings From Two Monozygotic Twin Studies. *Psychosomatic medicine*, 80(7), 599–608. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PSY.0000000000000604>

2 House, The White (2021-11-15). "Executive Order on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People". *The White House*. Retrieved 2023-12-17.

rect harm experienced by the victim/survivor or their family or community. Consider centering community-based, holistic public health approaches to responding to sex trafficking when serving this population.

- ▶ Indigenous methods for healing and wellbeing are beneficial, effective and available in many communities. They may be a preferred method of healing for Indigenous victim/survivors. Consider integrating these practices or programs in larger sex trafficking response. Reach out to knowledge keepers on appropriate ways to involve victim/survivors in culturally specific healing modalities.
- ▶ Indigenous people who are members of Federally Recognized Tribes have special rights and protections due to tribal sovereignty, which has been granted to Tribes by the federal government. Some of these protections include guidelines, including the Indian Child Welfare Act, but implementation has not always been consistent or beneficial for Indigenous people. Some Indigenous people in the United States may not be members of federally recognized tribes and may be further marginalized due to their status.
- ▶ Historical trauma, intergenerational and current traumas all impact Indigenous people in the United States. These traumas may appear in a variety of ways with Indigenous victim/survivors and may result in elevated rates of prosecution and incarceration for this population.

These collective experiences of systems harm have greatly impacted how Indigenous people choose to engage or disengage with these institutions.

BOYS AND MALES

BY Cristian Eduardo, Survivor Leader & Consultant

There is often a presumption that victims are female. There is a false perception that male victims are only trafficked for labor or that their involvement in commercial sex is always voluntary.

—Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Assistance Center

A GROWING AND DIVERSE RESEARCH BODY HAS DEMONSTRATED THE PREVALENCE of trafficking in boys and men. The John Jay College and the Center for Court Innovation study The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City in 2008 estimated that as high as 50% of the commercially sexually exploited children in the U.S. are boys. Globally, UNODC’s 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, released in January 2023 notes that males (including boys and men) account for 40 percent of all identified victims of human trafficking.

It is clear that boys and males are trafficked too.

BARRIERS TO IDENTIFICATION & SUPPORT

- ▶ Female-centric Services, Awareness Campaigns, and Outreach Materials
- ▶ Gender-Specific Anti-Trafficking programs
- ▶ Increased Criminalization of Male Victims
- ▶ Lack of training on Male Victimization
- ▶ Cultural & Gender Norms

FEMALE-CENTRIC SERVICES, AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, AND OUTREACH MATERIAL

“Social and health services, as well as legal and advocacy frameworks, still predominantly focus on female victims of sexual exploitation,” according to the UNODC report.

Literature, service description and outreach material portray only female victims, creating a barrier for male survivors to reach out and seek support. Service providers oftentimes are reluctant to provide services to males due to the idea that they have never worked with male victims/survivors.

What can we do better? Programing and literature must include an inclusive/gender neutral approach, not only in writing, but when interacting with victims and survivors. Males and boys deserved to feel seen and be safe.

It is clear that boys and males are trafficked too.

GENDER-SPECIFIC ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS

The majority of services across the country are tailored only to females, this includes, but is not limited to, housing, health, legal and employment services. Due to this lack of services, male & boys are often referred to non-specific victim services where they can experience re-traumatization and oversight of their exploitation.

What can we do better? The creation of male specific services, including emergency and long-term safe housing, is critical to ensuring appropriate services in response to trafficking and as a protective factor against future exploitation. Instilling trustworthiness and transparency into any program is a key element; importantly, when providing services do not dismiss males and boys from their experiences, and always highlight potential barriers when navigating services as males. And survivor inclusion and compensation are vital components when creating trafficking-specific services.

INCREASED CRIMINALIZATION OF MALE VICTIMS

“However, few cases of trafficking of men go to the courts and very few cases could be found in which men were awarded compensation. . . . Rather than receiving justice, many male victims of trafficking are charged with crimes committed while trafficked, especially for illegal border crossing or illegal stay in the destination country.”¹

It is often assumed that males are immune to sexual violence and that males can endure violence and abuse without any significant impact. The normalization of these ideas leads to the dismissal that trafficking victims are forced to commit crimes as part of their trafficking experience. As such, male survivors are often misidentified as criminal offenders and funneled to and through the criminal legal system.

What can we do better? Training on Victims Offender Intersectionality and language inclusive for policies and legislations.

LACK OF TRAINING ON MALE VICTIMIZATION

Males and boys are associated with perpetrating aggression. The lack of training on trauma responses and the association of males and boys always as perpetrators reduces the likelihood to access services.

Training must aim to provide an extensive and comprehensive understanding about trauma responses, and that its manifestations stemmed from individuals attempting to protect themselves.

¹ Tien, Michael T., “Human Trafficking: The Missing Male Victim”

Some trauma responses that can be perceived as aggression are yelling, cursing, social withdrawal or avoiding social interactions, overly defensive behavior, impulsive reactions and physical hostility. What can we do better? Anyone interacting with victims and survivors must be trained on Trauma-Informed Care, Male Victimization, Trauma Responses and accept the fact that males and boys are being trafficked and that the trauma impact is real.

CULTURAL & GENDER NORMS

Being a survivor or victim is matched with being weak and defenseless, antagonizing the expectations surrounding masculinity: “Boys don’t cry,” “men must be strong,” “men and boys are not being trafficked.”

It is important to understand that there are cultural and gender norms embedded into service provision, law enforcement approaches, and victim identification often accompanied by shame and stigma towards male victims and survivors. Homophobia and hate have not only an impact on males and boys belonging to the LGBTQ+ community, but also impacting cis gender and heterosexual individuals.

What can we do better? Training on gender, sexuality and identity even when not providing services specifically for the LGBTQ+ community. Prevent assumptions of a person’s sexuality based on their exploitation, example: youth individuals being referred to LGBTQ center because during their exploitation they engaged in same sex sexual intercourse. Empowerment, Voice and Choice; always collaborate with those receiving services when doing referrals and addressing their needs. Care must be always a collaborative approach.

TO LEARN MORE:

- ▶ [Human Trafficking: The Missing Male Victim, Michael T. Tien](#)
- ▶ [How to Improve Services for Males Experiencing Trafficking, National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center](#)
- ▶ [Assisting Male Survivors of Human Trafficking, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person](#)
- ▶ [The Legal Rights and Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States, OVC Fact Sheet](#)
- ▶ [Responding to Sex Trafficking Victim-Offender Intersectionality, Shared Hope International](#)

DECISION TREES

THE FOLLOWING DECISION TREES WERE DEVELOPED AS A TOOL TO ACCOMPLISH THE dual goals of identifying an ideal and mapping a process for communities to work toward that goal by starting with the ideal: a primary prevention approach where investments in the community are sufficient to prevent the vulnerabilities that lead to trafficking. Then, recognizing that children and families may still experience crises and that system involvement is not only embedded in most current Safe Harbor responses but also is appropriate and necessary in certain circumstances, the remaining decision trees identify an ideal approach when these responses are triggered.

As described below, the decision trees are also color-coded to reflect the different stages of the process at which a stakeholder may be encountering a youth survivor, as well as the opportunities throughout the process to connect that young person with services and supports in their community and reduce, or limit their interaction with a system response. By evaluating the many doors that a young person may enter and be identified as a trafficking victim, these decision trees seek to provide a framework for assessing existing responses, identifying potential gaps, and building the infrastructure and coordination necessary for community-led and child and family-centered responses to trafficked children and youth.

THE “STAGES OF THE PROCESS” ARE COLOR-CODED AS FOLLOWS:

- ORANGE: IDENTIFICATION & SCREENING
- RED: INITIAL/EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- BLUE: MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM/COLLABORATIVE REFERRAL PROTOCOL
- GREEN: SAFETY/HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES
- YELLOW: CONTINUUM OF CARE/PATH TO HEALING

RESPONSE TYPES

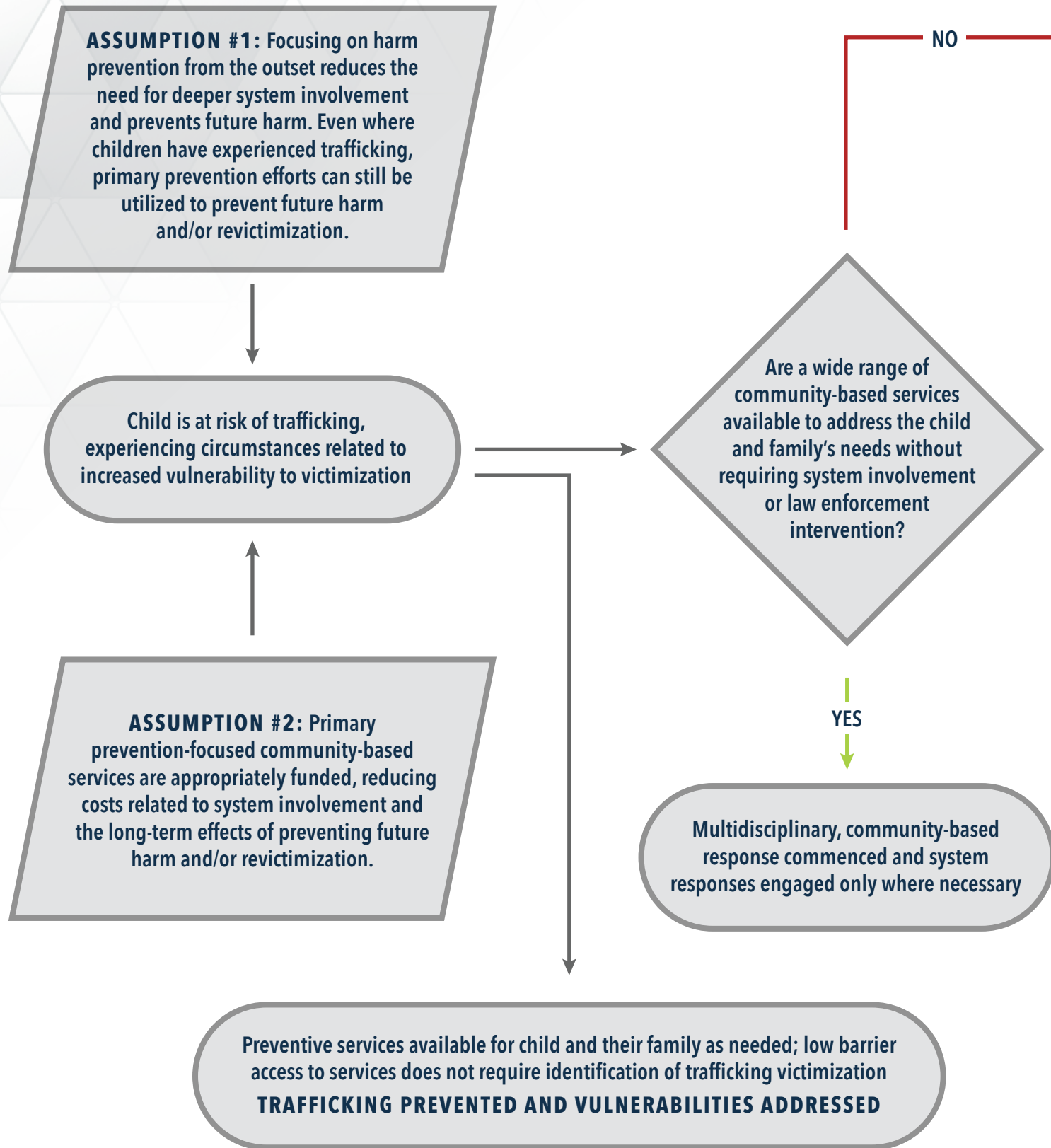
-  PRIMARY PREVENTION APPROACH
-  HOUSING INSECURITY AND FAMILY CRISIS
-  IDENTIFIED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT
-  DIRECTED INTO JUVENILE JUSTICE
-  REFERRED TO CHILD WELFARE

ACRONYM KEY

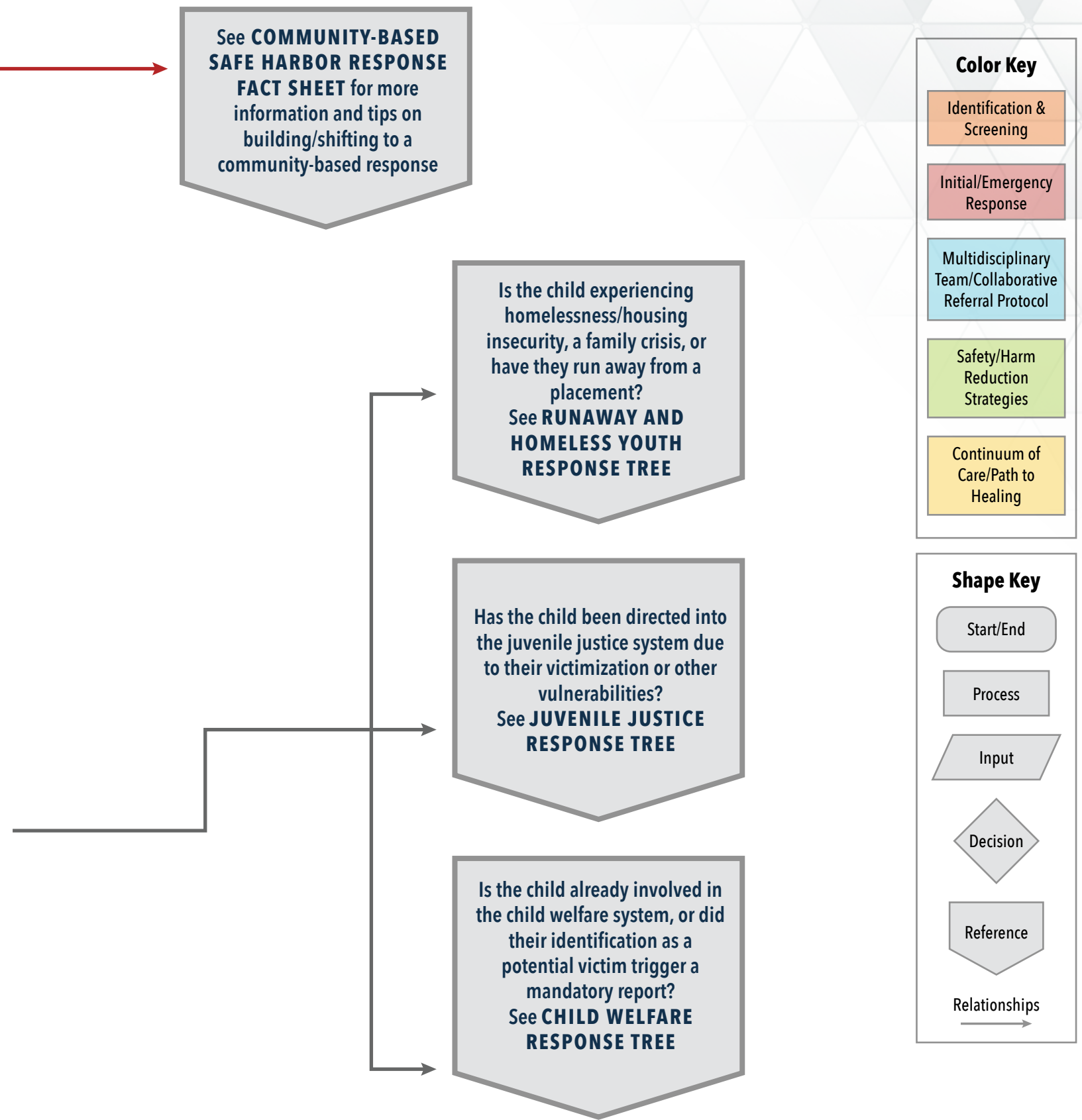
- CB:** Community-based
- CBO:** Community-based organization
- CSE:** Commercial sexual exploitation
- CSEC/Y:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children/youth
- CST:** Child sex trafficking
- CW:** Child welfare
- JJ:** Juvenile justice
- LE:** Law enforcement
- MDT:** Multi-disciplinary team
- NGO:** Non-governmental organization
- RHY:** Runaway and homeless youth
- TPC:** Temporary protective custody



PRIMARY PREVENTION APPROACH



DECISION TREE





HOUSING INSECURITY AND FAMILY CRISIS



Child is connected to RHY provider through self-referral, street outreach, other NGO referral, LE referral, or McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison.

Initial screening for services eligibility: low barrier, if child is in need of support for wide range of reasons, no need to identify victimization

If child is not system-involved, RHY provider may provide services, including specialized CSEC services if initially identified as such.

If child is system-involved, RHY provider may assist if the child is considered not housed.

Periodic and ongoing assessment for CSEC, referral to specialized services as needed

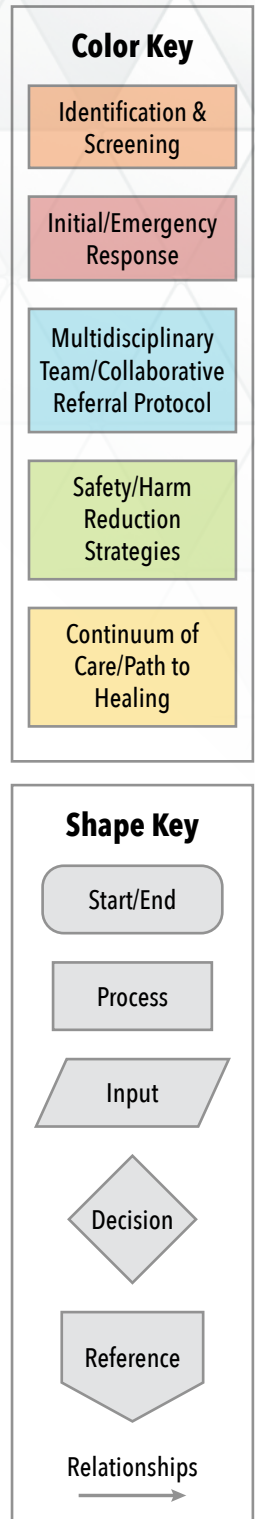
Youth and their families have access to wide range of supportive services, depending on needs (e.g., shelter services, transitional housing, educational support, family reunification, and aftercare services).

Coordinate access to continuum of care through community-based services

Child is in foster care and considered housed.

RHY provider connects with CW to provide voluntary services to child.

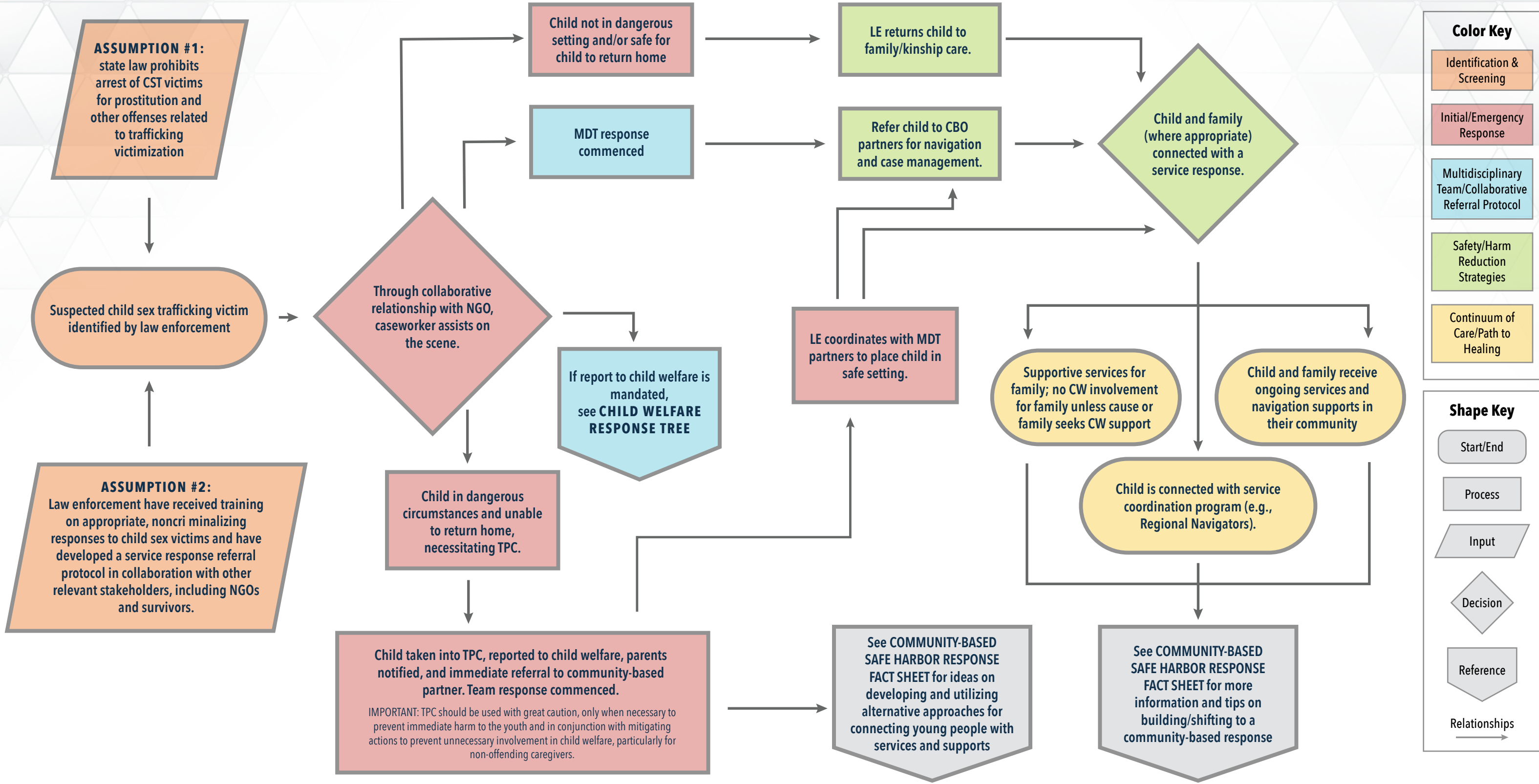
DECISION TREE





IDENTIFIED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

DECISION TREE



Color Key

- Identification & Screening
- Initial/Emergency Response
- Multidisciplinary Team/Collaborative Referral Protocol
- Safety/Harm Reduction Strategies
- Continuum of Care/Path to Healing

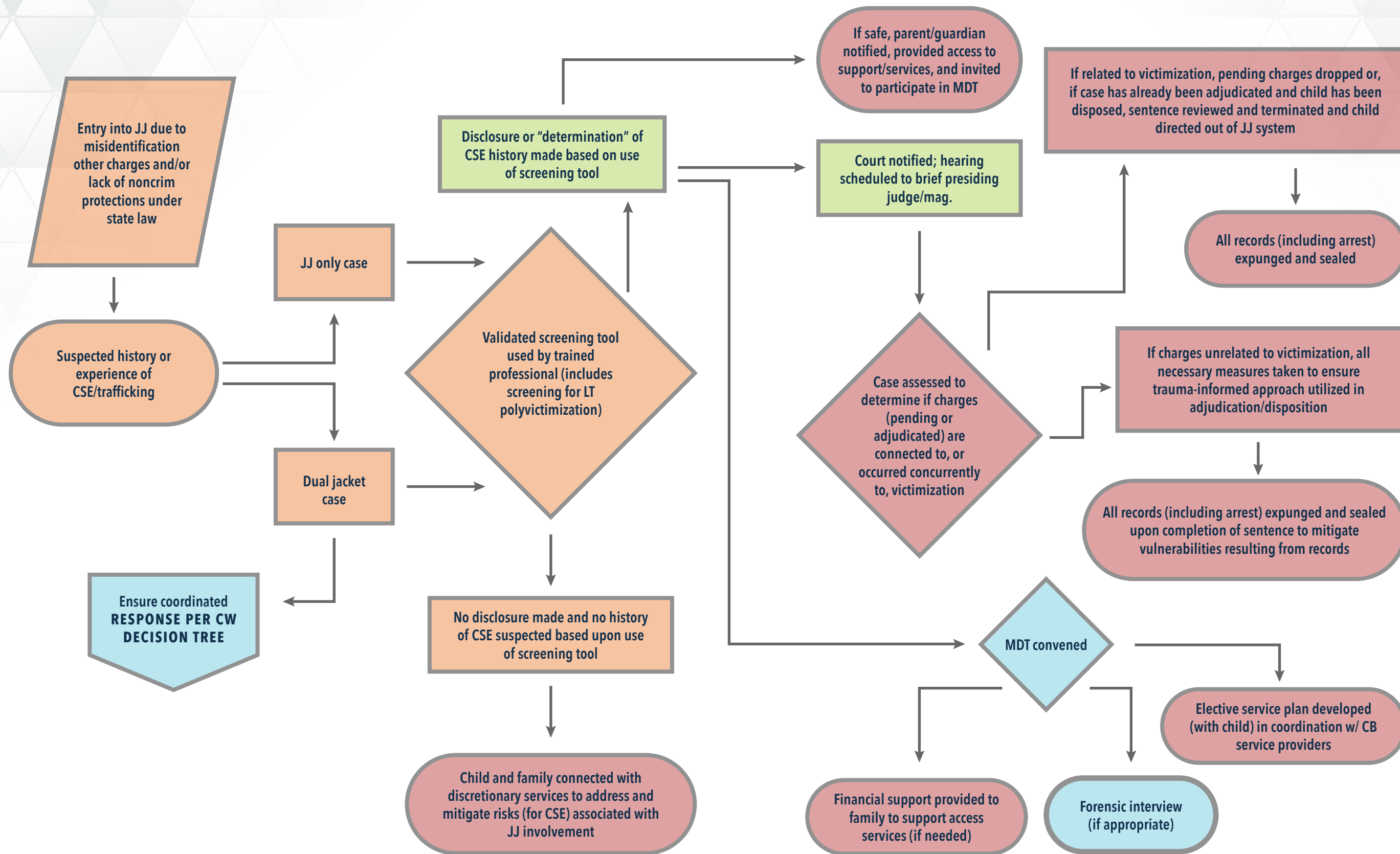
Shape Key

- Start/End
- Process
- Input
- Decision
- Reference
- Relationships



DIRECTED INTO JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

DECISION TREE



Color Key

- Identification & Screening
- Initial/Emergency Response
- Multidisciplinary Team/Collaborative Referral Protocol
- Safety/Harm Reduction Strategies
- Continuum of Care/Path to Healing

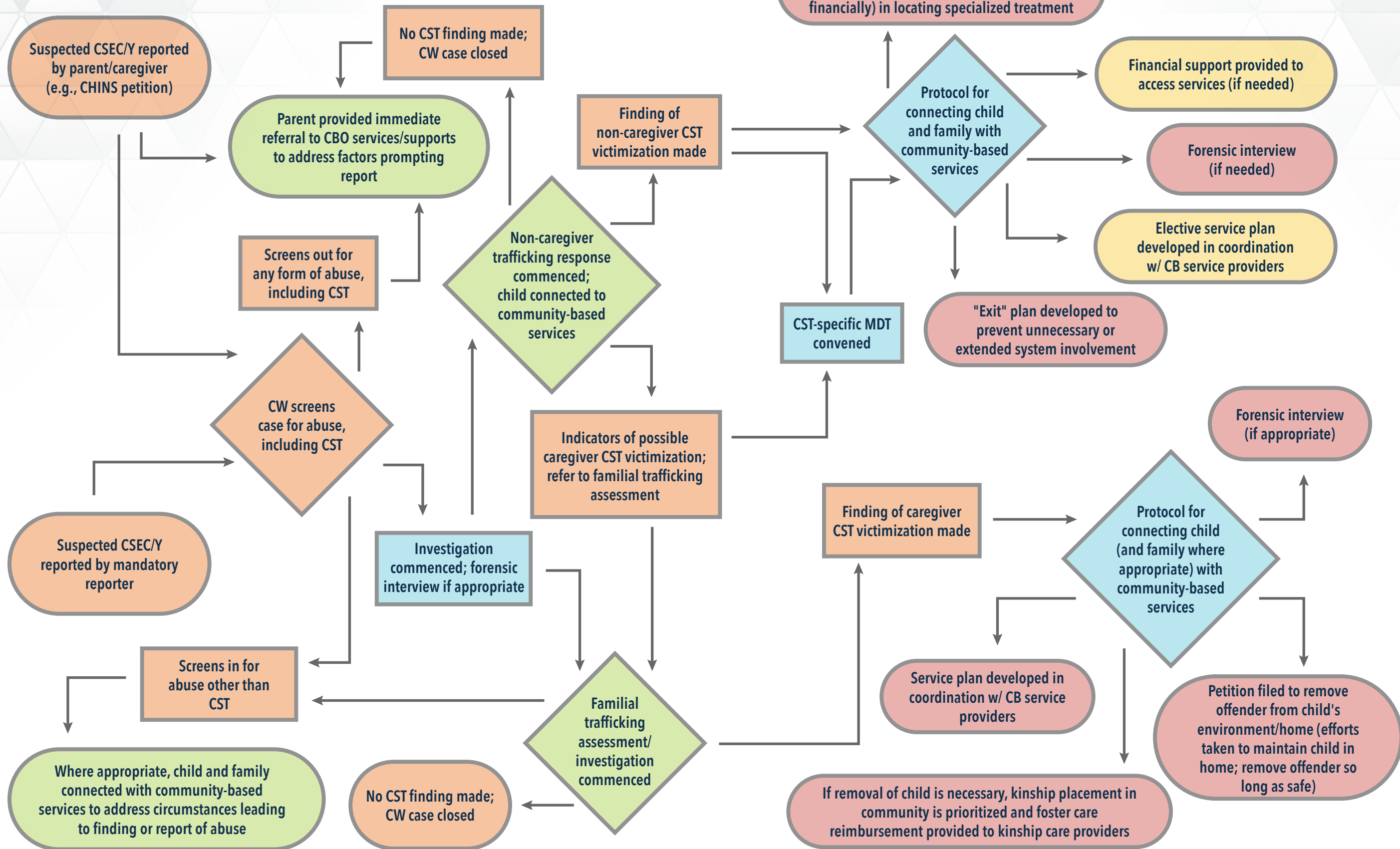
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- Process
- Input
- Decision
- Reference
- Relationships



REFERRED TO CHILD WELFARE

DECISION TREE



Color Key

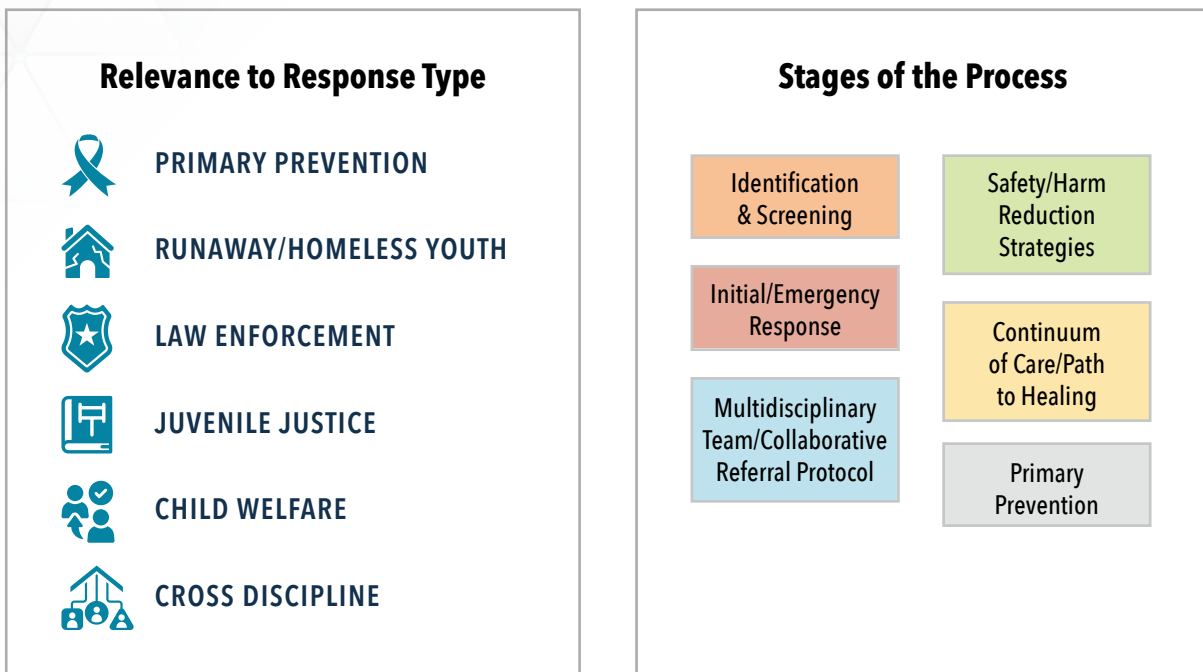
- Identification & Screening
- Initial/Emergency Response
- Multidisciplinary Team/Collaborative Referral Protocol
- Safety/Harm Reduction Strategies
- Continuum of Care/Path to Healing



Shape Key



- Start/End
- Process
- Input
- Decision
- Reference
- Relationships







RESOURCES

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE ORGANIZED ALPHABETICALLY BY AUTHOR AND INCLUDE indicators for resource type, relevant stakeholder group, and applicable stage of the process. Importantly, this report reflects an emerging shift in the field away from systems-based responses. Although these resources are meant to uplift certain processes highlighted within this report, some may include additional discussion of contradictory practices.




























RESOURCE	TYPE
 Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, <i>Connections Between Trafficking and Homeless Youth</i> (2016), https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/blog/2016/05/trafficking-and-homeless-youth#:~:text=By%20Katherine%20Chon,%20Director,%20Office%20on%20Trafficking%20in%20Persons%20(OTIP).	Research Reports
 Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, <i>Toolkit for Responding to Human Trafficking Through the Child Welfare System</i> (2024), https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/system/files/2024-11/Toolkit%20for%20Responding%20to%20Human%20Trafficking%20Through%20the%20Child%20Welfare%20System.pdf .	Tools, Guides, & Practice Examples

	Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons & National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center, <i>Youth Trafficking: Systems of Care</i> (2018), https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/LiteratureReview_SystemsofCare.pdf .	Research Reports
	Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking [ATEST], <i>Recommendations for Federal Law Enforcement Agency Victim Services Protocol and Policy Development</i> , https://endslaveryandtrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Victim-Services-Protocol-Brief.pdf .	NGO & Coalition Reports
	Anderson, V. et al., <i>Juvenile Court Practitioners' Construction of and Response to Sex Trafficking of Justice System Involved Girls</i> , 12 VICTIMS & OFFENDERS 663 (2016), https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15564886.2016.1185753#abstract .	Scholarly Articles
	Aspen Institute, <i>The 2Gen Approach</i> , https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-approach .	Research Reports
	Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition & Human Trafficking Prevention Project, <i>Principles of Harm Reduction and its Application to Anti-Trafficking Work</i> (2020), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KceoPDDWdrg .	Trainings & Presentations
	Bardine, D., <i>The Intersection of Child Sex Trafficking and Youth Homelessness</i> , <i>Missing Kids Blog</i> (2022), https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2022/the-intersection-of-child-sex-trafficking-and-youth-homelessness .	Blogs and Fact Sheets
	Barnard, A., 'The Second Chance They Deserve': <i>Vacating Convictions of Sex Trafficking Victims</i> , COLO. L. REV. (2014), https://columbialawreview.org/content/the-second-chance-they-deserve-vacating-convictions-of-sex-trafficking-victims/ .	Scholarly Articles
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	Westcoast Children's Clinic, <i>Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT)</i> , https://www.westcoastcc.org/cse-it .	Tools, Guides, & Practice Examples
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MY LIFE MY CHOICE YOUTH LISTENING SESSION

THE FOLLOWING SLIDES WERE DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED BY MY LIFE MY CHOICE'S Youth Leadership Corps. The Youth Leadership Corps presented these slides to Shared Hope International in a listening session on August 15, 2024 to inform the development of the Roadmap Report.



My Life My Choice, based in Massachusetts, provides survivor-led solutions aimed at ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Throughout Greater Boston, My Life My Choice provides survivor mentoring, intensive case management, mental health services, and group work to young people of all genders who have experienced exploitation. In addition, My Life My Choice provides prevention education, professional training, consultation, and advocacy nation-

wide. Since 2002, My Life My Choice has mentored over 1,000 youth, trained over 21,900 providers across the country, and provided prevention education groups to 3,800 girls. My Life My Choice is a model for communities across the country set on changing not only lives, but the structural inequities that give rise to trafficking and sexual exploitation.



IMPROVING RESPONSES FOR YOUTH WHO'VE EXPERIENCED EXPLOITATION

MY LIFE MY CHOICE
ENDING EXPLOITATION


My Life My Choice Leadership Corps Summer 2024

- A, 20
- A, 17
- C, 21
- G, 15
- G, 19
- J, 17
- J, 15
- L, 16
- N, 15
- S, 18

WHAT IS THE MY LIFE MY CHOICE LEADERSHIP CORPS?

My Life My Choice is a program that helps youth who've been through a lot. We are given a Survivor Mentor who can guide us and be that person in our lives who believes us and believes in us. We can also get other services like case management, therapy, job training and groups.

Leadership Corps is our opportunity to have our voices heard.



MY LIFE MY CHOICE

THE MLMC LEADERSHIP CORPS FIELD GUIDANCE PROJECT FOR SHARED HOPE

—
Summer 2024

MY LIFE MY CHOICE

These are the steps we took:

- 1) Learn about the goals of the Shared Hope project
- 2) Create a case scenario to help us talk about what youth need
- 3) Discuss our input on what police and child welfare workers should do when responding to a youth who has experienced exploitation
- 4) Summarize our thoughts into this presentation
- 6) Present to Christine Raino of Shared Hope on August 15, 2024



MARA

Mara is a 15-year-old cisgender Latina female who identifies as bisexual. She grew up mostly with her mother and three younger siblings. She speaks Spanish and English, but her mom is only fluent in Spanish.

DCF has been involved in Mara's life off and on. Her Dad died of an overdose when she was 8. Her Mom turned to drugs to cope and suffered from depression. Mara used to be great in school. She is smart but not applying herself and hanging with the wrong crowd.

After Mara's Dad died, Mara's Mom started seeing lots of men, who came in and out of the house. In her home, Mara experienced sexual, mental, physical, and emotional abuse. Most recently, she has been living in a group home. She likes going to school to get away and smokes weed to escape.

MY LIFE
BY CHOICE

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

Mara met a man, Junior, on social media, who she thought was 19 years old (he was 32). Mara and Junior started talking every day. He would send her really sweet texts about how much he wanted to get to know her. Mara wanted to be with him all the time, and Junior encouraged her to skip school so they could spend time together. Junior started saying that he was falling in love with her.

Within a month, things started to change. Before she really knew what was happening, Junior had taken pictures of Mara, posted them up, and she was having to exchange sex to make him money. He said that it was for rent and asked her to "do it for us." Mara was used to being abused so it felt somewhat normal for her to be abused by him. She thought, "I can change him." Junior knows her background and vulnerabilities and provides a sense of stability that she's been yearning for. He looks good in outsiders' eyes – he has a job, looks put together, and buys her stuff.

Mara goes missing from the group home and stays with Junior in his apartment. She starts using other drugs. She is very isolated.

MY LIFE
BY CHOICE

**JUNIOR GETS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES
WHILE MARA IS WITH HIM.
A POLICE OFFICER SITS DOWN TO TALK
TO MARA.**

**MARA STARTS TO CRY AND TELLS HIM
EVERYTHING. WHAT DOES SHE NEED HIM TO DO?**

1. Call DCF and take her to the hospital
2. Don't bring her back to the group home – she left for a reason
3. Evaluate her and put her in a treatment program if needed
4. Be authentic, humane, act like a parental figure
5. Ask her how he can best support her
6. Meet her immediate needs
7. Reassure her that she's not in trouble

MYLIFE
MY CHOICE

MARA TELLS HIM TO F#*K OFF. HOW SHOULD HE RESPOND?

1. Determine if she's been abused, provide appropriate supports
2. Bring someone in who is not police and is trained in CSEC interventions
3. Don't talk down to her, no judging
4. Start with yes or no questions
5. Don't make assumptions about the situation
6. Ask "What do you need from me?"
7. Give her time, food, water
8. Build trust, reassurance
9. Ask "Are you feeling safe?"
10. Tell her her rights – whether or not she has to talk to the police and implicate Junior

MYLIFE
MY CHOICE

MARA SAYS THAT JUNIOR IS HER COUSIN, AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DRUGS. SHE DOESN'T SAY THAT SHE IS BEING EXPLOITED. WHAT DOES SHE NEED THE POLICE OFFICER TO DO?

1. Build trust and comfort
2. Bring in someone she feels safe with, someone with lived experience
3. Police should expect survivors not to open up about exploitation right away, maybe lie, try to protect the exploiter, and should look for that
4. Could have specific officer for CSE, DV convos
5. Think about the WAY you say things
6. Have person come in for conversation not wearing a uniform

**MY LIFE
MY CHOICE**

OTHER THOUGHTS

1. Therapy to the max
2. Ask her what gender she feels most comfortable with and then bring them in, dressed normally
3. Prosecute the exploiter for exploitation, not just drug charges
4. Help her get a restraining order and court advocates, make sure she knows her rights and potential courses for action
5. Have someone on-call (therapist/survivor mentor)
6. Give her time – don't pressure her to talk right away
7. Bring in an expert on substance use disorders (like a person in recovery)
8. Bring in a survivor to share their story to help Mara feel safer sharing hers
9. Allow her to share her story however she feels most comfortable (written, spoken) with whoever she feels most comfortable – her CHOICE

WHAT IF MARA WAS A CISGENDER MALE?

1. May be harder for a male to open up about exploitation
2. Give extra support about opening up
3. Ask them who they would feel most comfortable speaking to (for example, a male survivor/advocate might be necessary)
4. Don't make assumptions about the situation based on gender roles – make sure to look out for exploitation no matter the gender
5. Ask their pronouns

**MY LIFE
MY CHOICE**

WHAT IF MARA WAS TRANS OR NONBINARY? WOULD HE/SHE/THEY NEED SOMETHING DIFFERENT?



1. Offer an LGBTQ+ advocate/ mentor
2. Again, assess whoever the survivor feels most comfortable working with
3. Offer to bring them to a medical professional if that is a safe space for them and a place where they can receive gender-affirming care
4. Ask what the preferred name is (don't just read off the ID)

WHAT TRAINING DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT NEED TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND BETTER IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS?

1. Training to decrease bias, increase empathy
2. Mindfulness training
3. Trainings on systemic racism
4. Trainings on commercial sexual exploitation and domestic violence



IN MASSACHUSETTS, IT IS THE LAW THAT IF A MANDATED REPORTER KNOWS OR SUSPECTS THAT A YOUTH IS BEING EXPLOITED, THEY HAVE TO FILE A 51(A) REPORT WITH CHILD WELFARE. IT IS DCF'S JOB TO THEN INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE REPORT IS CREDIBLE AND HOW THAT YOUNG PERSON MIGHT NEED TO BE SERVED.



**WHEN THE DCF
SOCIAL WORKER
SHOWS UP TO
MEET WITH MARA,
WHAT SHOULD
THEY DO? SAY?
HOW SHOULD THEY
ACT?**



1. Ask pronouns and preferred name– be sensitive around dead names
2. Give survivor time and space to process before sharing their story
3. Ask her if she's safe, if she feels comfortable
4. Bring in a social worker/survivor who is a person of color if preferred
5. Provide culturally relevant services
6. Have DCF workers with different specializations (i.e. ages, topics)
7. Bring her food that she likes
8. Ask if her basic needs are met

9. Ask her what she needs to feel comfortable
10. Provide fresh clothes and undergarments
11. DCF workers can talk to the hospital staff about being sensitive, appropriate, and respectful to the survivor
12. Make sure the young person is HEARD
13. Offer them something to do if there for a while (i.e fidget toys, drawing, etc.)
14. Try to avoid group home since she just went missing from care from one (there must have been a reason) -- try to place her in a foster home instead
15. Ask the survivor what placement type they would prefer
16. Educate foster homes, DCF workers, and group homes on commercial sexual exploitation



**WHAT SHOULD THE SOCIAL
WORKER NOT DO?**

- Walk up on her
- Judge her
- Belittle her
- Jump in right away



IN THE PROCESS OF ALL OF THIS, MARA'S MOTHER FINDS OUT FROM THE POLICE WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WITH MARA.



WHAT DO YOU THINK MARA'S MOTHER NEEDS?

1. Family and individual therapy
2. Supervised visits with Mara
3. Parenting classes/support groups to learn gentle parenting and patience
4. Parent mentor/sponsor
5. Addiction is a disease – offer parents treatment
6. Offer sympathy and understanding, no judgment
7. Drug testing can lead to more accountability
8. Provide job training, teaching healthy habits, life skills, housing
9. Build trust, and safety
10. Remember to ask Mara if she wants to tell her mom. Give Mara the option and allow her to tell her own story if she wishes to.



AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT & EDUCATION FOR CHILD WELFARE

1. Work to keep families together but ask and consider where the child feels safest
2. Go in with an open mind and no preconceived notions (ie based on the initial report)
3. Understand that different families do things differently and practice cultural humility
4. Believe the children
5. Take emotional and mental abuse seriously
6. Be patient – the child may have been taught not to talk to DCF and may not trust DCF for good reason

MY LIFE
MY CHOICE

7. Offer services just for the child and just for the parent
8. Be clear about boundaries, mandated reporting, and confidentiality
9. Child's safety and well-being is the priority – make this clear and be the foundation of the work
10. Don't twist someone's words
11. No notes, typing, or notepad if they're not comfortable with it
12. Therapists should have their own therapist

MY LIFE
MY CHOICE

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU
WERE MARA'S DCF WORKER?**

G: family therapy, rehab for Mara, therapy for mother, put Mara back in the program for a few months, offer supervised visits with mother

J: DCF worker should feel and have emotions, throw away the notepad, act quickly on what Mara has to say and what her needs are – actions speak louder than words

N: Be there because you want to be there, be there for Mara, know Mom did some bad stuff but try to help revive she and Mara's relationship



S: Talk to her, believe her, ask her what she needs

C: create a realistic and obtainable care plan for mother, be supportive if Mom wants to get custody back, make hours realistic for Mom based on her work schedule, meet with youth outside of work and school hours!

A: get to know Mara, learn what kind of help would help her best

L: provide tools for recovery/sobriety, share your own story with her, bring her favorite food, make her feel comfortable, advocate for her, build safety



YOUTHSPARK YOUTH LISTENING SESSION

THE FOLLOWING SLIDES WERE DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED BY YOUTHSPARK WITH the input of youth leaders, following a series of listening sessions held on October 15, 2024. Youth leaders led three listening sessions with youth participating in youthSpark programs and were joined by a member of Shared Hope International’s team. The slides were developed as a resource to inform the Roadmap Report and its use for developing community-based responses to trafficked and at-risk youth.



The slide features the youthSpark logo in the top left corner. The title "youthSpark PROGRAM OVERVIEW" is positioned in the top right. The content is organized into three numbered sections: 01 Mission, 02 Goals, and 03 Group Programs. Each section includes a blue icon, a title, and a description or list of items. The slide is decorated with yellow starburst graphics and a blue diagonal line in the bottom left corner.

01 Mission
We envision a world where no child is bought, sold, or abused. We provide cutting edge services, education, and advocacy to combat youth trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.

02 Goals

- **Stabilize and improve** clients’ mental, emotional, and social well-being.
- **Address** underlying issues that lead to court problems, running away, and skipping school.
- **Teach** healthy communication, stress, and anger management skills to reduce their involvement with the justice system and achieve their long-term goals.

03 Group Programs

- **Voices** - provides youth vulnerable to exploitation empowering strategies to cope with trauma and enhance healthy relationships.
- **Connections** - equips youth experiencing in-home or community violence with strategies to ease, express, and resolve conflict and anger.
- **Expressions** - gives LGBTQ+ youth strategies to challenge internalized negative messages, handle stress, and build community.

YOUTH LED POLICY LISTENING SESSIONS

Presented by Shared Hope International and youthSpark

Listening Sessions

On October 15, 2024 participants of youthSpark programs met to make recommendations to leaders and elected officials by informing Shared Hope International's Roadmap Report.



To do this, 3 youthSpark Alumni Leaders, aged 16, 17 and 18, facilitated 3 two-hour discussions and asked questions to 11 current youthSpark participants, aged 13-17, in each of youthSpark's Group Programs

Voices

- Provides girls vulnerable to exploitation empowering strategies to cope with trauma and enhance healthy relationships

Connections

- Equips boys experiencing in-home or community violence with strategies to ease, express and resolve conflict and anger

Expressions

- Gives LGBTQ+ youth strategies to challenge internalized negative messages, handle stress, and build community

An Alumni Leader from each of the three youthSpark Programs participated.

The Scenario



Scenario Part 1

Jordan lives with her mom and four siblings. Mom is not abusive or neglectful, but both she and Jordan have experienced a lot of trauma, especially because of mom's former husband and father to two of her 4 siblings. This has led to a lot of conflict between Jordan and mom, including Jordan running away, and at times, mom even telling the court that she wants Jordan to go into state custody because she is causing too much trouble in the home.

Jordan is exceptionally good at math and has been selected to be part of a STEM program at her school which could mean free college tuition. Jordan dreams of being a doctor one day.

How do you think Jordan feels?

- Overwhelmed
- Stressed
- Irritated
- Exhausted
- I wouldn't want to go to school
- Very mentally draining

Scenario Part 2

Jordan's mom has filed several CHINS Runaway Petitions and there has also been CHINS involvement related to an unruly complaint by mom. As her running away becomes more frequent and for longer there have also been truancy concerns. Jordan's grades have dropped significantly because of missing so much school, and she is pulled from the STEM program.

Why do you think Jordan is running away?

"She probably feels like there is no safe place at home. Because I've been in situations like that, and I can partly understand her story. So, I feel like her safe place is supposed to be home, but she can't stay there. And she is supposed to be doing good in school, but school isn't always a safe place. Like she might be able to go to a counselor, but that doesn't feel like family. I feel like a safe place is supposed to be home."

What do you think about her being pulled from the STEM Program?

"When you look at everything that is going on with her, you can assume when it comes to them just pulling her, they didn't ask "what's going on," "why do you keep missing school," "Is there anything we can help you with?" They see less of a victim and more of just oh, she is just skipping school, she just doing this. So rather than seeing it as she has a problem and we need to get her help, it seems like she is getting punished. When in reality, like I said, she needs help."

"I don't think they place just anybody in the STEM program so just to remove her from that and she got all of that going on at home. She just probably just feels like what am I trying for. If this is going on at home and this is my only motivation and they just slap kick me out, I feel like that's enough for someone to break or just give up."

Scenario Part 3

CHINS has connected Jordan to multiple services and tried to implement family counseling support, but mom did not have time to participate in counseling and Jordan was inconsistent in services because of the running away.

Jordan was unenrolled from her school because she missed too many days. Because of these concerns the CHINS case was assigned to a judge and Jordan was put on probation and a probation officer was assigned. The probation officer cares a lot about Jordan and is working hard to see if there is a way they can support them and keep them safe.

How do you think Jordan feels?

"I feel like as Jordan I would feel like my back is up against the wall, like everybody is against me, like they think I am a juvenile and I keep running away, but why am I running away."

Has anyone helped Jordan so far?

"I feel like the counselor, administrator, ain't nobody see that this girl's grades are dropping, and that didn't take nobody to see that something is going on with her or at least try to. People don't care. I feel like at school you should have a mentor or friend or somebody that you could feel comfortable going to and she didn't feel comfortable going to nobody."

Scenario Part 4

The next few times Jordan runs away she is recovered in sting operations related to suspected sex trafficking, and it is believed that she is being exploited. The last time Jordan was recovered she told police that if they took her home, she would just run away again which is what happens. The judge is considering changing the pick-up order to a pickup and detain order, which would mean placing Jordan in metro for her own safety. Jordan's probation officer supports this idea and recommends that she receives residential services in a locked-down facility.

What do you think about her situation?

"She needs to talk to someone who is isn't like this is mandated, but someone who will actually hear her."

"Her wanting to go back, I think they need to talk to her. Like have a conversation with her about why she feels that is okay. Because I feel like everybody knows that she really knows that that is not okay. but she is doing it for a reason. Like what is her reason why she is doing it."

Alumni leaders asked all groups the following six questions after they reviewed and discussed Jordan's narrative:

Six Questions

1. What should police and the court do the next time the Jordan is recovered?
2. Are there other options to keep Jordan safe?
3. What are some things that could have helped Jordan and her mom during or before this narrative?
4. What do you think is going on with Jordan through this process? How do you think she is feeling?
5. Would your answers look different if Jordan were a boy? If so, why? What if they were gender nonconforming?
6. What if Jordan traded sex for money to stay in the STEM Program and the school or court found out? Should they do anything to punish her or give her any services?

Question 1

What should the police and the judge do the next time Jordan is recovered?

Discussion

- "I think they should put her somewhere different. Personally, I feel like they need to try to understand her, because they can't help her without understanding her- they aren't going to know what to do. If they don't understand her first, she isn't going to do anything. I think they need to try to understand her first and then try to find somewhere to put her in"
- "Y'all just shouldn't place her in facility and just lock her down. I feel like y'all should place her in a predicament where she can make the money she is trying to make instead instead of just like, out there."
- "The probation officer, the judge, the police, they need to figure out what's going on that she is running away. I don't think that they explored all the options"
- "Instead of asking where do you want to go, ask them where they feel safe at. Or where they feel like they won't do that again."

Question 1

What should the police and the judge do the next time Jordan is recovered?

Written Responses

- I think the police & court should ask the child questions and look at both sides. A child could over exaggerate what's actually going on & they should look deeper into the household.
- I think the police and the court should see if her dad or other family could get custody of her because she doesn't feel safe at home.
- The police and the judge should not put her on probation but should give her sum services. And trauma therapy.
- I think they should isolate her for 72 hours and figure out a plan that works out for her as well as her mother and follow up on the change to see if it is effective.
- I feel like the police shouldn't do anything because she isn't committing any crime. They should be trying to find other ways to help her instead of trying to throw her in jail.
- The police and court should let Jordan's mother do a Zoom meeting, so she and her mother participate in family counseling together.
- The next time Jordan is recovered they should try to find her a women's program or a placement for Jordan.
- I feel like they should let her and her mom have a sit down to get to know how each other feels.
- They should communicate better and put her in a group like youthSpark to get down to the bottom of the real trouble in her home. They should have her in a place that will make her better not tear her down mentally.

Question 2

Are there other options to keep Jordan safe?

Discussion

- Youth experts talked about how the response should be different to based on her age even if she is under 18, like if she is 13 vs 17.
- "I kind of have a different outlook on it due to the simple fact that I know a lot of them are saying there should be other alternatives, but maybe isolation is one of the better option for her because sometimes we do need isolation. Sometimes we do need to get away from what the problem is. Like if we are being moved out of the household, like this is not always the answer or the resolution, but sometimes when we keep going back to the same place and we often revert back to doing what it is we were doing"
- "Ask her where do you feel safe in the community. Is there somebody you feel safe with?"

Question 2

Are there other options to keep Jordan safe?

Written Responses

- Yes. They could help her get a job.
- Yes. I believe there were other alternatives. For example, the CHINS should've made the counseling mandatory because it could have possibly prevented Jordan from self-exploitation.
- Yes. There are other ways such as programs, mentors, rehab. It's many other ways instead of jail, cause that's not going to help. She's going to be surrounded by people that's doing the same thing she's doing.
- Let her live with a family member.
- I think the other option to keep Jordan safe is to see what she thinks best work for her. That could work.
- An option I think that would've kept Jordan safe was an after-school program so she could have a break from everything that goes on in her home or hold her in a system.
- Place her in a lockdown for 72 hours get down to the bottom of everything. place her in a rehab shelter check in every day let her know your there for her show moral support.

Question 3

What are some things that could have helped Jordan and her mom during or before this narrative?

Discussion

- Some youth experts felt that there should be consequences for not participating in services provided. One person even suggested that parents should pay restitution if they do not participate in therapy.
- "The fact that her counselor didn't do anything with her missing school. Her teachers were like that's fine. Like no one said anything like that's fine. Especially because she was great at math, a great student, that's not something you turn a blind eye to. If my star student goes from all As, great at math, perfect attendance to barely coming, Fs in everything, not even speaking, I'm thinking there's a problem. If I am not saying there is a problem, then I lack the proper training."
- "Communication, because like her mama could be lashing out at her not knowing why she running away. She could be lashing out her mama and they don't know what's going on with each other."

Question 3

What are some things that could have helped Jordan and her mom during or before this narrative?

Written Responses

- Communication, like state what's going on and issues. Im not sure, some parents like turn certain situations on you. Like you're wrong. Ask questions. They (each other) might not know wesseh wid each other.
- Jordan and her mom could've had family therapy with each other.
- Mandatory family counseling sessions and DCFS could have got involved and allowed her to go be with family until the drama died down between her and her mother.
- Things that could help are taking her, probably taking her out the home and finding another household for her like her dad or other family members.
- Some things that could have helped Jordan and her mom during this is goin on trips and vacation.
- I feel like communication and both to understand each other.
- What could've helped her and her mother, it could have been a family therapist or counseling for both of them or a 1-on-1 talk with each other.
- The court could have made the mother and daughter attend therapy, group and made them communicate more/better.

Question 4

What do you think is going on with Jordan through this process? How do you think she is feeling?

Discussion

- "If you are in that situation, especially with your mama, even if you got other family, that is like your first family, that is your mama. It's gonna feel like you in a place where you just feel abandoned, like you've got nobody to go to, especially if she runs away and stuff like that. I feel like she is overwhelmed- she don't really know what to do."
- "Used and abused"
- "Scared. She doesn't know how long she away, keep doing this. Things like that."
- "Overwhelmed with everything that is going on."
- "She probably feels confused about a lot of things"
- "Me personally, I feel like Jordan probably feels hopeless because she is running away, she got kicked out of the STEM program that she was a part of"
- "I feel like she probably feels lost, maybe even tried at times because when you look at what happened to her throughout her experience: she got dropped from this program, like I said earlier, without getting any form of conversation, she is being trafficked and put in toxic situation all throughout the story whether it's at home, or when she is leaving and then, to add on she is actually leaving. Like, the fact that she's leaving and taking such drastic measures to escape her life, that is how I think she is feeling, she is feeling very lost with everything."

Question 4

What do you think is going on with Jordan through this process? How do you think she is feeling?

Written Responses

- I think Jordan feels like she is trapped. Not just physically but also mentally trapped because she is going through so many things and emotions at once she feels overwhelmed.
- I think she's feeling angry and careless because she's over everything.
- I believe Jordan feels hopeless and has given up because she was kicked out of her STEM program and placed on probation.
- I think Jordan is feeling like she don't need nobody or she need somebody to talk to.
- She's feeling sad because nobody knows what's going on with her.
- Jordan feels like she doesn't have anyone to open up to so it might be overwhelming for her.
- She is very overwhelmed right now. Unheard, upset, and going through a lot. Unappreciated. Misunderstood.

Question 5

Would your answers look different if Jordan were a boy? If so, why? What if they were gender nonconforming?

Discussion

- "If a straight boy said he was being trafficked in Atlanta the police office would probably laugh." -KP
- Specific to if it makes a difference who works with a young person if they are gender non-conforming "Some people don't grow up with things like that, so they don't know how to deal with certain situations"
- "[If he were a boy] They probably would have locked him up already."
- "If it was a boy who came in there and said he had to do something for some money, had to have sex for \$25 dollars, I ain't gonna say they wouldn't take him seriously, they wouldnt act the same if it was a girl. They'll still do their job, but they wouldn't move as quick as they should"
- "When you look at this male stigma where you have to be this, you can't show any emotion, that all this stuff, it plays a huge role. Even from the beginning when they're like oh you're having altercations and things, some dudes would be like who are you, as a dude, having an altercation with your mom. Come on, you have to do better. Now taking away from him and treating him like he's the problem. If you were looking at him getting un-enrolled in school, it would be like "you were doing so good for yourself. Why did you just let it go?" Like come on, it takes away from that. Being trafficked, it's the sad truth, it's like oh why are you doing that gay stuff, you're weird. Like no one will truly see that guy as the victim. They will always be the problem."

*Also see Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation Theme

Question 5

Would your answers look different if Jordan were a boy? If so, why? What if they were gender nonconforming?

Written Responses

- No, my answer would be the same because no matter the gender, what she is going through can make anyone feel this way.
- No, it wouldn't.
- It shouldn't make no difference cause of the gender.
- No, everyone should be treated fairly no matter gender or ethnicity.
- No, because most females and boys go through the same feeling.
- No, because boy or girl you still could feel the same way and keep everything in which will drain you physically or emotionally.

*Also see Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation Theme

Question 6

What if Jordan traded sex for money to stay in the STEM Program and the school or court found out? Should they do anything to punish her or give her any services?

Discussion

- "She should be provided an alternative to get money if that is the barrier to her being in the STEM program"
- "They shouldn't punish her; they should hold her to keep her safe and then figure out why she was doing it. Find out what is the reason."

Question 6

What if Jordan traded sex for money to stay in the STEM Program and the school or court found out? Should they do anything to punish her or give her any services?

Written Responses

- If Jordan had done that, I feel like she shouldn't be punished at all. For one because she's a minor and because she should be understood rather than punished for something she may not fully even be able to process or understand why what she is doing is wrong.
- The reason I think she shouldn't get punished because she's probably doing whatever she have to do to survive.
- She should be punished but not a punishment that looks like a punishment like for example mandatory after-school programs, therapy, etc. The person in charge of the STEM program should be punished legally.
- No, they shouldn't punish her they should let her go through services to earn money.
- They should give her another chance to try again, but also provide her with a job or a therapist.
- No, they should punish the other person or therapy.
- No, they should punish the men that were trading the program for his little girl's body. That's wrong for them to even accept; they should have reported the little girl for trying to sell her body.

Themes



Along with answering the questions related specifically to the narrative, the following themes emerged during the Listening Sessions:

Themes

1. Addressing Environment and Family as Part of the Solution
2. Prevention
3. Professionals Making Assumptions
4. Lack of Trust of Professionals
5. Not having resources
6. Processes not being explained or understood
7. Importance of Listening/Patience/Trust
8. Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation
9. Not All Help Is Good/Importance of Evaluation

Theme 1

Addressing Environment and Family as Part of the Solution

Quotes

- "You get to come to this 1 day out of the week, you've still got 6 days where you have to deal with stuff"
- "The mom needs to know what the problem is and what you are talking to the therapist about or it is never going to be different"
- One youth expert shared that they they went to family therapy like 3 times and then their mom stopped coming because she didn't have time and she also had to take him to two other court mandated programs.
- Some shared that sometimes it is hard because the parent feels judged. "They don't want to come because you tell the therapist what the problems are and now she feel like you are being told you are a bad parent ."
- "I feel like parents should be involved no matter what, cause if she's not trying to participate why would Jordan participate."
- "At first you going into it like I am going to to do this and I am going to be consistent, and then your mother completely is like, 'no, I am not doing this.' It is like to me that would feel like to me a slap in the face."
- "It depends on the situation"

Theme 2

Prevention

Quotes

- "I think the problem is she's not given the option until she's in trouble, like before she got caught sex trafficking or whatever the case may be, nobody said, well here's other alternatives or here's other programs so I would also encourage you to write that too. Try to come up with resolutions before the problem happens. Have the resolution before it gets to the point that stings get involved or she gotta go to jail. Like I didn't hear of youthSpark until before I had a run in. Before something bad happened to me, I didn't know nothing about youthSpark"
- "A lot of these programs are not easily accessible unless you've done something to where you have no other choice but to come here. Only programs is stuff like the YMCA or stuff like that, but once you go to the YMCA you've got a choice of paint, play basketball, or anything like that but once I play basketball the YMCA is open from 7am to 7pm, once that 7pm marker comes and I got to go back to my reality, playing basketball has only helped me for like an hour. What happens when I go back home and I have no other alternatives, because when you get to those community places, there's nobody there to actually talk to you. There is nobody at the rec center or the YMCA to ask you how you are feeling or what's going on at home."

Theme 2

Prevention

Quotes

- "A distraction sometimes isn't a solution. Definitely not a permanent one. Just cause you are distracting me from my reality doesn't mean I don't ever have to face my reality again. You just temporarily took me away"
- "Whoever Jordan was talking to when she said if they send her home she would just run away again, I feel like they should have looked more into that. Like why are you going to run away again if we keep sending you back, what's going on?"
- "The fact that her counselor didn't do anything with her missing school. Her teachers were like that's fine. Like no one said anything like that's fine. Especially because she was great at math, a great student, that's not something you turn a blind eye to. If my star student goes from all As, great at math, perfect attendance to barely coming, Fs in everything, not even speaking, I'm thinking there's a problem. If I am not saying there is a problem, then I lack the proper training."

Theme 3

Professionals Making Assumptions

Quotes

- "The judges, based on our charges, I feel like they don't get to know us as a kid, as a person really. I feel like they should change that. They should at least try to get to know us, talk to us, get to know where our head is at or something."

When the point was made that youth do get to talk to judges during hearings the youth leaders talked about how judges/professionals hear from adults first or read about them on paper before getting to know them:

- "I don't know if this is possible, but I think we should get to have a conversation before with the judge at least just so she can see where our head is at before we go into the court."
- The youth experts really liked the idea of providing a bio to the judge before any hearing or decisions: "This paper is telling you what your charges is but this paper is also telling you what type of person you are. Like I was sex trafficked when I was 15 years old, but the charge right here says that I was locked up for sex trafficking."

Theme 3

Professionals
Making
Assumptions

Quotes

- "Me personally I feel like parents go to CHINS to save their own A-S-S, because at the end of the day if she keep running away, she [mom] is liable for that, so you have to do something. She did that to cover herself. So the court look is looking at it like she is a runaway"
- "I feel like some of the parents deserve understanding too. Even the ones that are being uncooperative. They still deserve to be heard and stuff like that instead of what their child is doing, they shouldn't be defined by that. I feel like there should be some type of understanding on both sides. If she is in a toxic household, it shouldn't be like choosing a side. I feel like both of them deserve to be heard"
- "Sometimes it don't be about skin color. Sometimes it be because what they assuming. Like they might assume that she is doing stuff to get in trouble, like she just gonna do what she want to do."

Theme 3

Professionals
Making
Assumptions

Quotes

- "A lot of judges, they see a lot of juvenile delinquents. I feel like they should look more into it. Like why are they delinquent, what's going on?"
- "Your life may be put in the hands of someone who had an agitated morning."
- "When you look at a runaway, someone being told get out of my house is not a runaway. They are not a runaway. When it comes down to police actually questioning you once you're found, I feel the parent has already said- my child ran away, this that, I didn't kick them out, they're very disrespectful, a problem, trouble, you know. Once that police already has that thought in their head, they're no longer perceiving with this child is a victim. This child is a trouble. This child is a problem."
- "When it comes to the court, same thing. Because when you go through CHINS and you go through the court, most of the time it's the parent advocating"

Theme 4

Lack of Trust of
Professionals

Quotes

- "I don't think they are really there to support us. They are just there to do their jobs... they just put you anywhere so they can get their job done"
- "That is what I mean that manipulation comes in different shapes and forms. When y'all be like I am all for the kids and then you go to court and the judge be like oh you going on probation or you are going to metro for a year, that's a form of manipulation. Because when they're outside the court they are like I am all for the kids- let's come up with these programs to put the kids in, but then right when you say something, they put you in jail for 2 years."
- "I am not saying I was worse off... but they lie. They lied to me"
- One youth expert shared that he has been in therapy for 8 or 9 years and he hasn't shared anything. That they don't talk to him like a regular person and that means he doesn't want to share his business.
- "They should limit the number of cases that a judge sees as well. I feel like that's a big problem as well, because if I've had 30 cases today of the same thing, you're not going to tell me that the judge's emotional stand point doesn't have anything to do with the sentencing that I've had."

Theme 4

Lack of Trust of Professionals

Quotes

Youth experts also shared that they felt that sharing with therapists and providers could get them in trouble:

- "I don't like the questions they ask. What I'm doing out here, stuff like that."
- "They try to make you play games, try to play your mind. They asked weird specific questions like what time did things happen like specific times- 9, 9:15 10:15 and I am like how am I supposed to remember that? Why do you need to know that?"
- "I came to you to talk to you about one thing and you're asking me about another thing that don't got nothing to do with you"
- "If you start telling the truth, they are just going to keep you longer [or over medicate you]"
- "I mean I be telling the truth, but I don't want to be incriminating myself"
- "So if I did something last night because I gotta survive, but I can't tell you about it, but it is messing with me mentally, but if you ask me about it, I feel like just because you have a legal obligation not to tell nobody my business I am not going to tell you what I did last night because that is my freedom that I am risking"

Theme 5

Not having resources

Quotes

- "Every job is not easily accessible. When you don't have nobody who is willing to take you to get an ID. When you don't have nobody that is willing to tell you you need an ID... it don't always have to be a real bad reason that you can't get a job, it could be as simple as you not having an ID because you didn't know you needed an ID."
- "I didn't do the stuff that I did for me, I did it for my son."
- "No matter if you are doing this to yourself or not, you need help"
- "Y'all just shouldn't place her in facility and just lock her down. I feel like y'all should place her in a predicament where she can make the money she is trying to make instead of just like out there."

Theme 6

Processes not being explained or understood

Quotes

Youth experts talked about how they didn't share in court because they don't understand the process and worry that they are going to get in trouble:

- "When dealing with juvenile cases I definitely think that there should be a different process. Like the wording should be different. Everything should be totally different when you dealing with kids, because you gotta think- we're children."
- "No one takes the time to explain the process- why this is recommended, what the steps are, what confidentiality is"

Theme 7

Importance of
Listening/Patience/
Trust

Quotes

- "A year, 365 days it took me to talk"
- "For me it was all of Expressions. It was not only the fact that I could come in and share it was also the fact that everyone was genuinely concerned and interested in what I had to say."
- As it relates to the question of when do the adults step in and when do the kids make the decision: "Because some people don't feel safe anywhere, like Jordan in this scenario. That is when it is time to say okay, now we are going to go through the actual process."

Discussion about how it helped to know that the professionals you are working with had been through similar experiences.

- "If they can't relate to you, it is like they are just doing their job."
- "The way he talked, he didn't make me feel less than...I feel like I am talking to someone who understands me, and I want to talk to someone who understands me and is open to hearing what I've got to say."

Theme 8

Race, Gender and
Sexual Orientation

Quotes

Youth leader's perspective really varied as it related to whether services should be different or tailored based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity or lived experiences.

- "I feel like if she was a white little girl and she was running away, I feel like they would try to figure out what was going on before they placed her in metro. I feel like they would have figured it out urgently."

There were also different opinions as to whether race, gender identity or sexual orientation was important to the provider, but there was a general consensus that the most important thing was that the person treated them with respect and made them feel valued.

- "Race don't mean anything, ethnicity don't mean anything, how a person look don't mean anything. It's really just about that person and how they come off to you and how they communicate with you as well. Because you can make someone feel vulnerable enough to talk to you from the jump without making them feel like you've got to tell me this because it's my job"

Special Thanks to
JM
SH &
MF

I feel like the police shouldn't do anything because she isn't committing any crime they should be trying to find other ways to help her instead of trying to throw her in jail.

She's probably doing whatever she has to do to survive.

no because most female and boys go through the same feeling

What's actually going on & they should look deeper into I think she's feeling angry and careless because she's over everything.

She is very overwhelmed right now. I think Jordan feels like she is trapped. Not just physically but also mentally because she is going through so many things and emotions at once she is overwhelmed.

Doesn't feel safe at home

No because boy or girl you still could feel the same way and keep yourself in which will drain you physically or emotionally.

her mother and follow-up on the change to see if it's effective.

communications, like state courts going on and cases. I'm not sure some parents like dum situations on you. like your wrong. Ask questions (each other) might not know wessen and each other.

No they should punish the men that were trading by program for his little girls body fluids

COMMUNITY-BASED SAFE HARBOR RESPONSES FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN ACCESSING SUPPORT & SERVICES

Safe Harbor responses for commercially sexually exploited minors have historically originated from and been provided through child serving systems, resulting in an increased overburdening of systems, ineffective budget expenditures, and, most importantly, less-than-promising outcomes for impacted young people. Alternatively, utilizing voluntarily-provided, community-based services to meet the needs of child and youth survivors leads to better outcomes for the young person, cost-savings for systems and communities, and a mitigation of further harm, including re-victimization.

MYTH VERSUS FACT

MYTH 1

“Systems (e.g., juvenile justice and child welfare) are the only entities positioned to ensure safety & provide services to CSEC survivors.”

FACT 1

In reality, a systems-based approach adopts a narrow view of “safety” for purposes of mitigating or removing a child/youth from harm. Systems often utilize traumatizing mechanisms (e.g., arrest, detention, removals) to “ensure” a child’s safety which neither guarantees their physical safety nor contemplates their emotional or psychological safety. Such approaches commonly band-aid the risk and compromise permanent safety for the young person. Additionally, the delivery of services within systems relies on a carrot-and-stick approach, which is commonly incompatible with a CSEC survivor’s trauma and resulting trauma behaviors.

Alternatively, developing and utilizing survivor-centered and developmentally-appropriate tools to connect kids/youth with services decreases harm and increases long-term wellbeing.



SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

Trauma, Coercion, and the Tools of Trafficking Exploitation: Examining the Consequences for Children and Youth in the Justice System

<https://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/trauma-coercion-and-the-tools-of-trafficking-exploitation-examining-the-consequences-for-children-an.pdf>

MYTH 2

“Community-based organizations are unable to meet the complex needs of CSEC survivors.”

FACT 2

Community-based organizations are in the best position to, alongside funders, design and provide services that are accessible, culturally-relevant, and without concern for unnecessary system involvement, dependency, and deepening entanglement. Community service providers are the providers that systems use and rely on (via contracts) to meet the needs of children/youth, families, and communities. Conversely, system-driven service responses commonly generate unnecessary expenses and involvement when operating as “middlemen” and directing youth to community service providers using court mandates or the threat of legal consequences for noncompliance.



SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

Community-Based Services White Paper

<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Framework-Changes-White-Paper.pdf>



Community-Based Services Issue Brief

<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Issue-Briefs-3.1.pdf>

MYTH 3

“CSEC survivors won’t leave traffickers or participate in services unless they are forced to.”

FACT 3

Jurisdictions that prioritize agency and empower child/youth to seek holistic—emotional, economic, spiritual, physical, and psychological—safety witness more long-lasting and positive outcomes compared to jurisdictions that require children/youth to participate in programs and services. A critical aspect of healing and recovery for survivors is regaining autonomy, control, and self-trust, which can only be developed when children/youth are provided the opportunity to exercise agency and decision-making power over their desired services and goals and the appropriate pathways to accessing and achieving both. In fact, responses that require participation, instead of supporting children/youth in choosing services, have significantly lower “success” rates, often leading to deepening system involvement and collateral legal consequences.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS:**

Protective Response Model

https://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/JRC_ResponseModel_Spreads_web.pdf

MYTH 4

“Utilizing status quo system responses may be harmful, but alternative approaches (e.g., Safe Harbor dockets) ensure delivery of trauma-informed and survivor-centered care.”

FACT 4

Unfortunately, many alternative system or legal approaches, including those identifying as “safe harbor,” result in similar, unfruitful outcomes as traditional responses (e.g., delinquency, dependency). The realities of trafficking victimization, its preceding and resulting trauma, and the complex needs of impacted children/youth are incompatible with the design and purpose of legal systems. Ultimately, systems operate on timelines that are incongruent with non-linear trauma healing and adolescent development, both of which dramatically impact a child/youth survivor’s ability to “comply” or “succeed” in programs. Trauma-informed and survivor-centered care operates on the young persons’ timeline, refraining from punishment for a lack of compliance, engagement, or “success.” As such, services that are provided without contingency are best positioned to support a young person in achieving life-long success and wellbeing.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS:**

Trauma, Coercion, and the Tools of Trafficking Exploitation: Examining the Consequences for Children and Youth in the Justice System

<https://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/trauma-coercion-and-the-tools-of-trafficking-exploitation-examining-the-consequences-for-children-an.pdf>

Community-Based Services Issue Brief

<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Issue-Briefs-3.1.pdf>

**MYTH 5**

“The provision of community-based services is only viable in urban communities rich in funding and a plethora of available service providers and options.”

FACT 5

While urban communities are, by and large, better resourced both in terms of funding and breadth of services, rural and/or under-resourced communities are still positioned to collaboratively meet the needs of child/youth survivors. Intentional capacity building or, at a minimum, combining organizations’ individual capacity, allows existing service providers to meet the comprehensive needs of impacted youth, often in the most culturally-relevant and targeted way. Importantly, mobilizing existing resources in rural and/or under-resourced communities also decreases the risk of a child/youth being removed from the community for the purpose of receiving services in or out-of-state. When mobilizing existing providers and resources, it is advisable to think of the impacted young person as the whole child or youth, not only a child/youth with needs stemming from trafficking victimization. The very stakeholders that are tasked with caring for the community’s children are likely able to support the child/youth survivor, including professionals in the following spaces: public education (e.g., guidance counselor, McKinney-Vento liaison), community healthcare, public health, faith communities, mental and behavioral health, and private practitioners.

