

SHINING A LIGHT ON GIRLS: A CALL TO ACTION

Iowa Girls Justice Initiative

June 3rd, 2016

Polk County River Place

Des Moines, Iowa

Presented by:

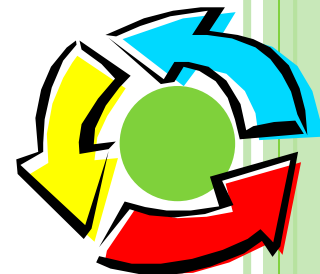
Paula Schaefer





“ ...Girls are at the intersection of numerous social systems such as public health, human services, criminal and juvenile justice, housing, education, employment and treatment services.

The degree to which girls’ gender and cultural needs are recognized, acknowledged and met in these systems can either interrupt or perpetuate the intergenerational cycle of crime, poverty, chemical dependency and abuse.”



Minnesota Parity Statute

MS 241.70, SUBD 1, STATES, IN PART,
“JUVENILE FEMALES CHARGED WITH AN OFFENSE THAT WOULD BE A CRIME IF COMMITTED BY AN ADULT OR ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT SHALL BE PROVIDED A RANGE AND QUALITY OF PROGRAMMING SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO PROGRAMMING OFFERED MALE PERSONS CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF CRIMES OR DELINQUENCIES. PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS SHALL BE BASED UPON THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF FEMALE OFFENDERS.”

Minnesota Continuum of Care Law

STATE OF MINNESOTA LAWS 1994, CHAPTER 636,
OMNIBUS CRIME BILL, ART 1. SEC. 5, SUBD 7:
“THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS SHALL
COLLABORATE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS OF HUMAN
SERVICES, HEALTH, ECONOMIC SECURITY, PLANNING
EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY AND WITH
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DEVELOP
A COMPREHENSIVE CONTINUUM OF CARE TO ADDRESS
THE GENDER SPECIFIC NEEDS OF JUVENILE FEMALE
OFFENDERS.”



Groundbreaking Critical New Report

**THE SEXUAL ABUSE TO PRISON PIPELINE:
THE GIRLS' STORY 2015**

HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT FOR GIRLS
CENTER ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, GEORGETOWN LAW
THE MS. FOUNDATION

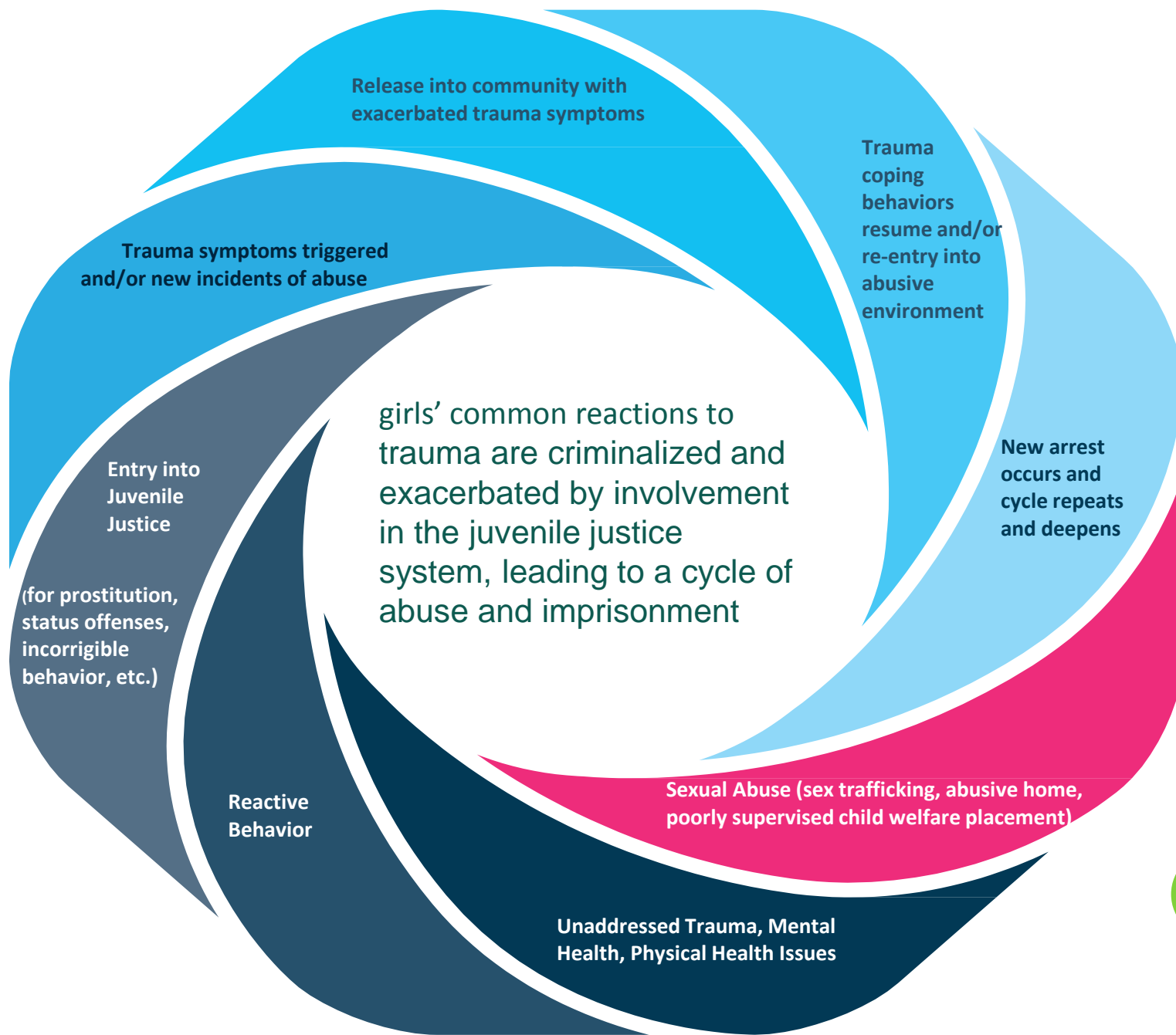
“Violence against girls is a painfully American tale. It is a crisis of national proportions that cuts across every divide of race, class and ethnicity.

And in a staggering twist of justice, many girls who experience sexual abuse are routed into the juvenile justice system *because of* their victimization. Indeed, sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls’ entry into the juvenile justice system.

Once inside, girls encounter a system that is often ill-equipped to identify and treat the violence and trauma that lie at the root of victimized girls’ arrests.

More harmful still is the significant risk that the punitive environment will re-trigger girls’ trauma and even subject them to new incidents of sexual victimization, which can exponentially compound the profound harms inflicted by the original abuse.”





DISMANTLING THE PIPELINE: SOME OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide Judges, PO's, SW's Law Enforcement with training on gender bias and gender stereotyping to decrease girls' contact with the Justice Systems
- Implement screenings upon entry into the child welfare system to identify history of trauma
- Develop cross-system collaboration between the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Add gender-responsive components to improve services and outcomes for girls
- Fully enforce - and strengthen the Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Provide female-specific physical and mental health care in justice settings
- Implement gender-specific health screening and assessment
- Include trauma-related health treatment in re-entry/aftercare plans

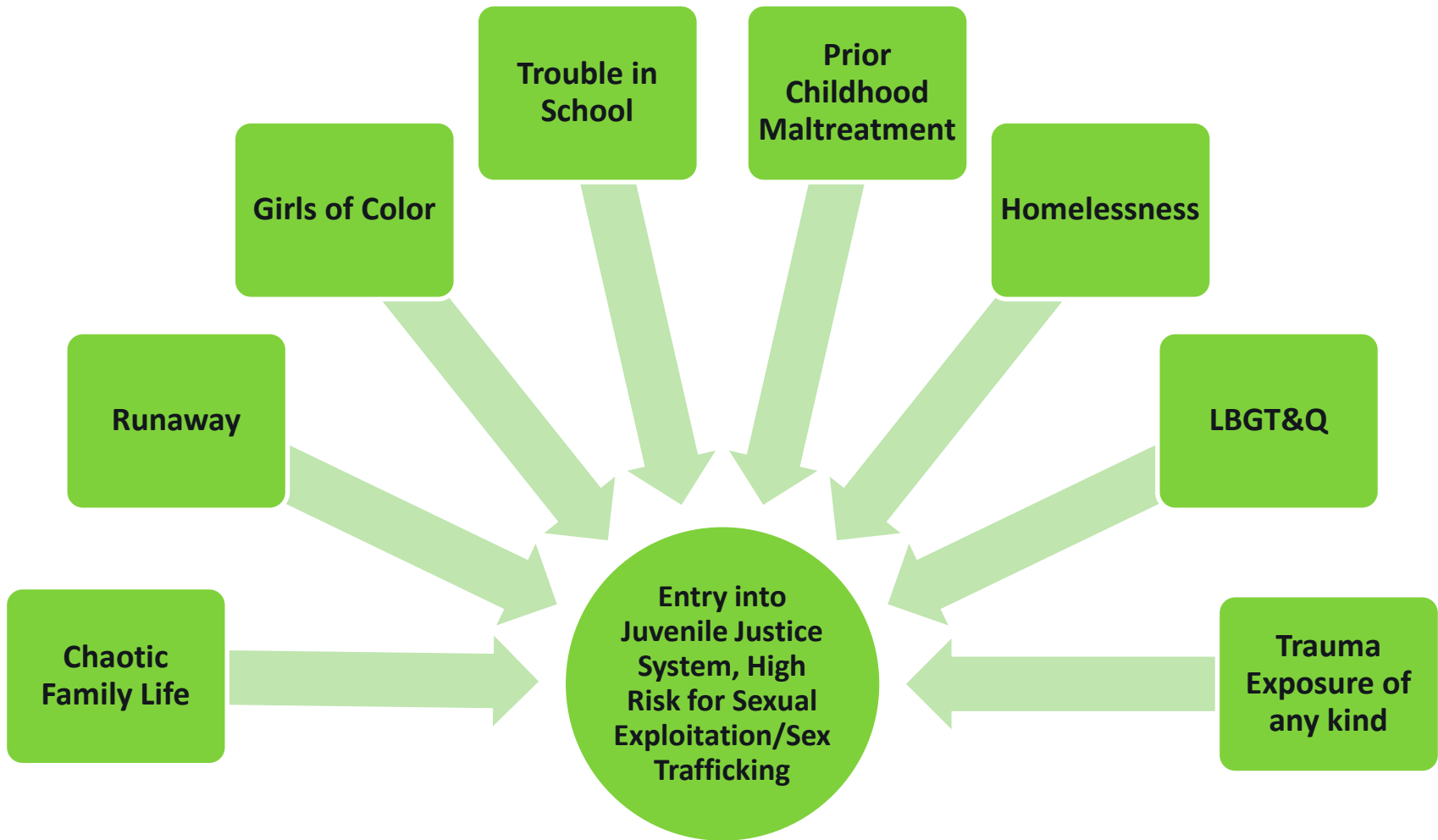


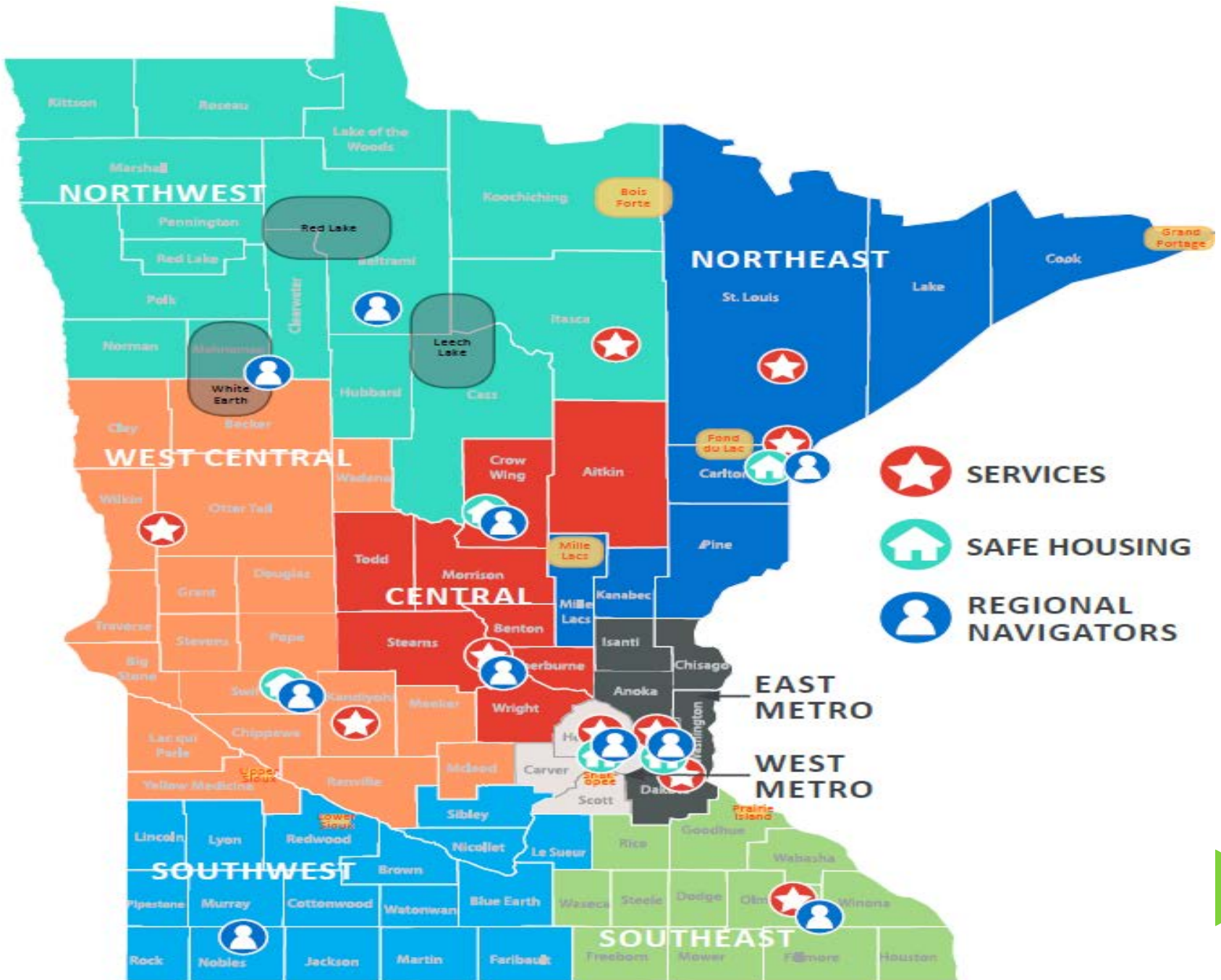
SAFE HARBOR

The state of Minnesota's response to prevent child/youth sexual exploitation/trafficking; provide victim centered services; and hold perpetrators accountable

- Recognizes that sexual exploitation is a public health and public safety issue
- Success lies within a statewide multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional, and community approach

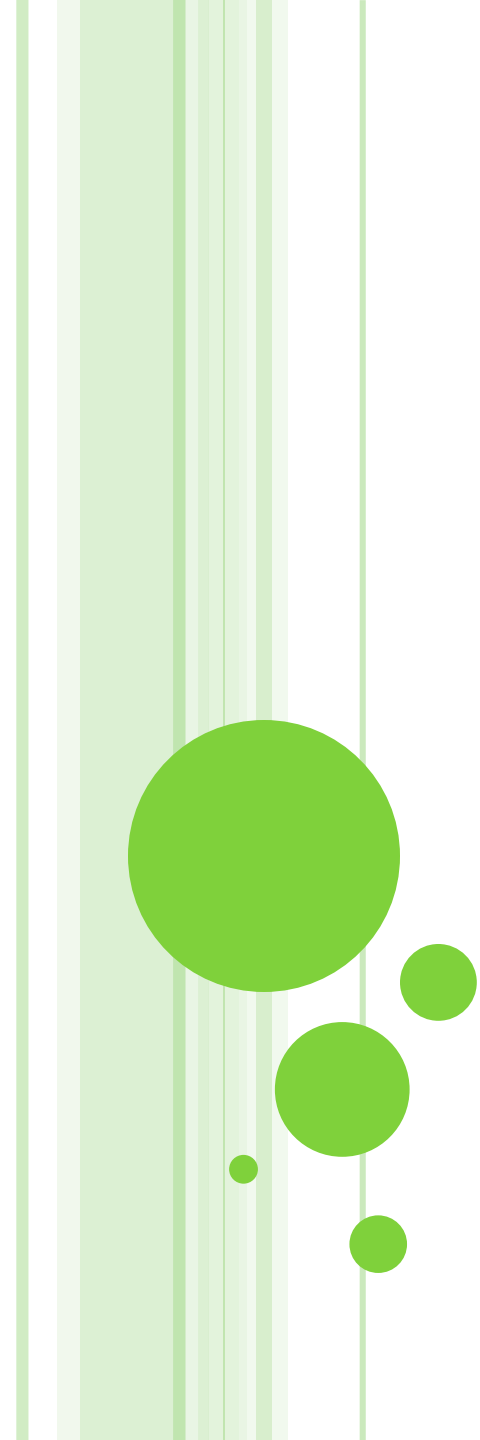






-  SERVICES
-  SAFE HOUSING
-  REGIONAL NAVIGATORS





**VOICES OF SAFE HARBOR: SURVIVOR & YOUTH
INPUT FOR MINNESOTA'S MODEL PROTOCOL ON
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF
YOUTH**

Available at: mncasa.org

Return On Investment (ROI) for Interventions for Girls

Early intervention to avoid sex trading and trafficking
of Minnesota's girls

Return On Investment

\$34 in benefit for each \$1 in cost

“It is in the best interest of Minnesota taxpayers to invest in prevention and early intervention services for runaway and/or homeless adolescent girls who are at highest risk for sex trading and trafficking.”



MAKING DETENTION REFORM WORK FOR GIRLS:

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION 2013.

[HTTP://WWW.AECF.ORG/RESOURCES/MAKING-DETENTION-REFORM-WORK-FOR-GIRLS/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/making-detention-reform-work-for-girls/)

- Understanding the Challenge: Why Focus on Girls in Detention?
- Using Data to Reduce Inappropriate Detention of Girls
- Developing a Girls Detention Reform Work Plan
- Girls Detention Facility Self-Assessment
- Making Detention Reform Work for Girls - Research Question Worksheet



JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Occurring across the Country as a result of a growing understanding of:

- Developmental and neurological differences between youth and adults.
- The impact of trauma and the need for trauma-informed care.
- The high costs of incarceration.
- Consistent failure of a punitive juvenile justice model.

Few juvenile reforms are tailored to girls' needs and pathways into the system - meaning girls and young women are unlikely to fully benefit from system reforms.



SYSTEM REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GIRLS

- Engage girls' families throughout the Juvenile Justice process.
- Don't securely detain girls for offenses and technical violations that pose NO public safety threat.
- Adopt a strengths-based objective approach to girls Probation Services.
- Address health needs of girls related to their trauma.
- Support emerging adulthood for young women with Justice System histories.
- Support young mothers with justice system histories recognizing that motherhood has the potential to be a positive and transformative experience.



WHAT WORKS FOR GIRLS

- All Girl Probation Units
- Girls Only Programming
- Girls Court
 - Hawaii
 - Iowa
 - New Mexico
 - Florida
- Emotional Regulation & Self-Care Skills/Mindfulness
- Strength-Based & Positive Youth Development
- SKILLS FOR LIFE Education and Practice
- Restorative Justice Practices
- *Harm Reduction Models*
- **Keeping girls in the community**





HENNEPIN COUNTY ...

GIRLS DAY ACADEMY

- Comprehensive
- One Stop Shop
- Girl, Family, & Community Driven ~ the vehicle:
Community Circles of Support
- Road Map for each Girl is her “Life Plan” (rather
then a case plan or treatment plan)



Restorative Justice

Promoting healing, redemption & hope. Assist girls to become accountable for the harm they've caused & assist girls with the the harm done to them.

Health & Wellness

Physical, emotional, cultural, sexual, spiritual, chemical, mental & relational health & wellness. Address abuse & other trauma. Address historical trauma.

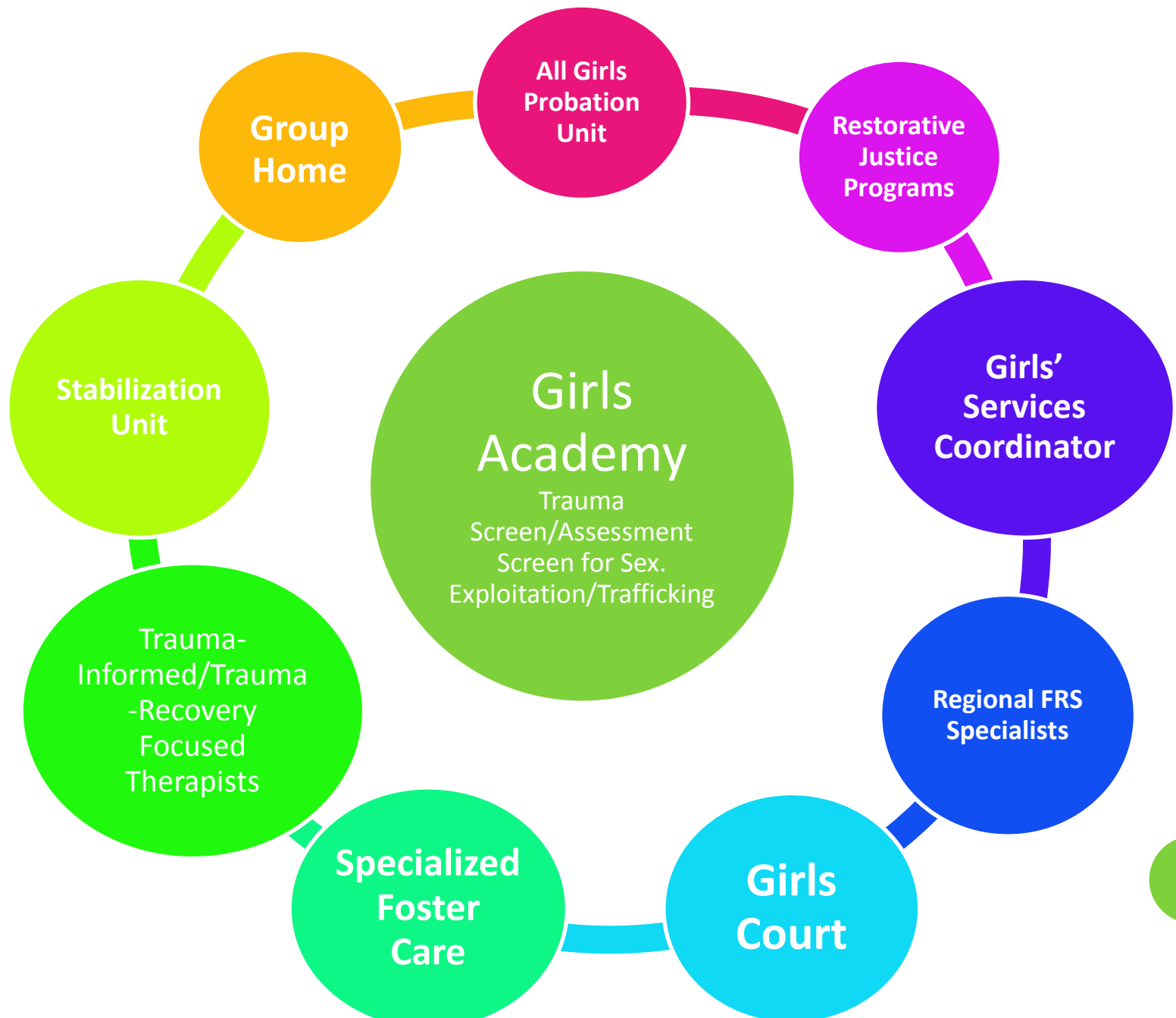
Family & Community Connections

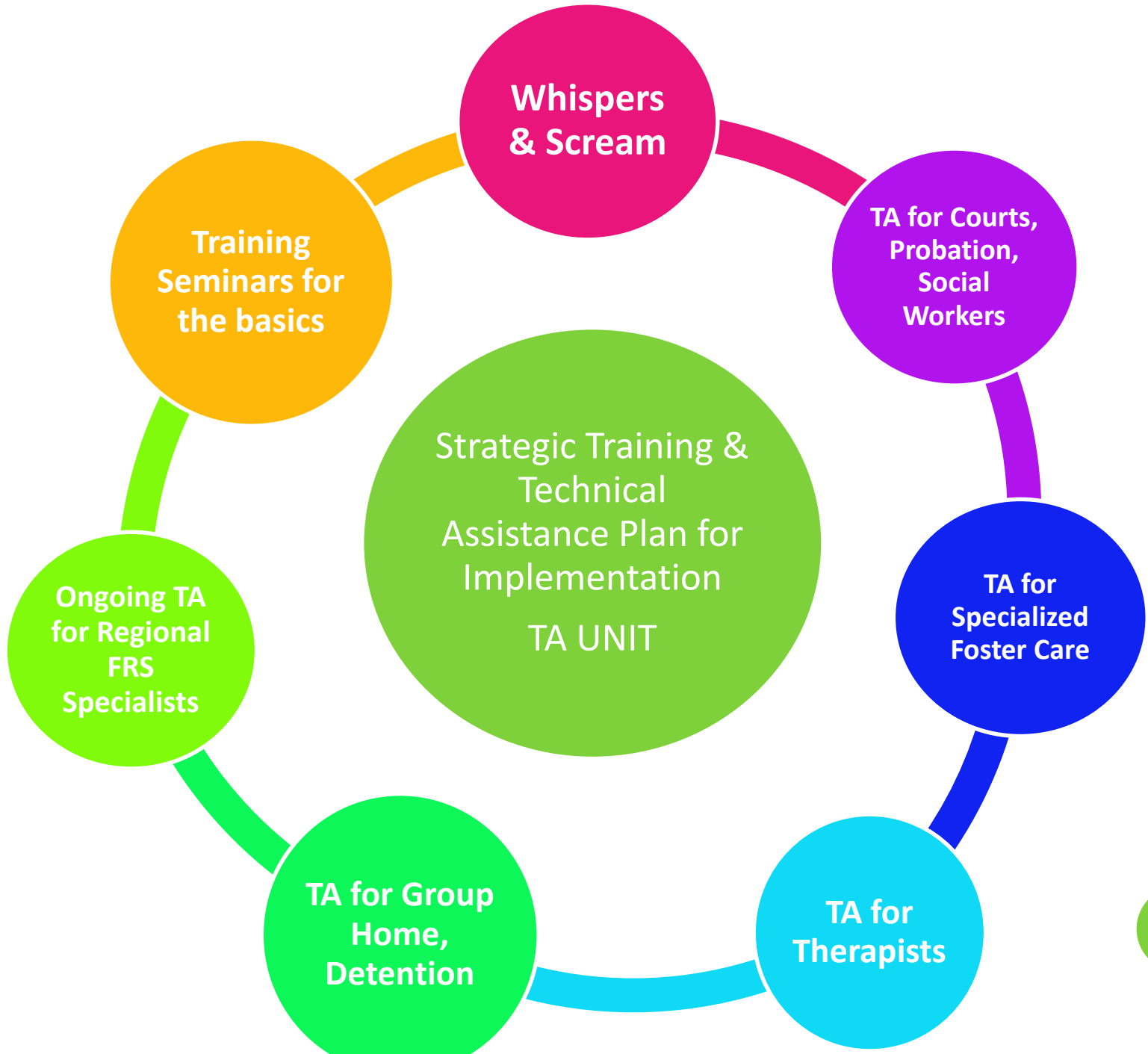
Healthy, supportive & safe relationships with family, children, & community. Family resource center. Assist with immigration & acculturation issues.

Education & Economic Self-Sufficiency

Assist girls to obtain education/training that will allow them to secure & sustain legal employment that pays livable wages.









THANK YOU!

Paula Schaefer

**Safe Harbor Training Coordinator
Injury and Violence Prevention Unit
Minnesota Department of Health
Email: Paula.Schaefer@state.mn.us**