Bridge Program
for Sexually Exploited Youth

Year One
Report to Seattle City Council
Melinda Giovengo, PhD
Our Mission

YouthCare builds confidence and self-sufficiency for homeless youth by providing a continuum of care that includes outreach, basic services, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education, and employment training.
What we provide

• **Engagement Services**
  Street Outreach, drop in, and case management

• **Housing Programs**
  Emergency, transitional, and community based housing

• **Educational Support**
  Seattle Public Schools Interagency Academy High, GED preparation, life skills, health education, and college preparation

• **Workforce Readiness**
  Job skills training, job placement, and paid internships
Who we serve

• Runaway, homeless, and disconnected youth in Seattle-King County, WA

• Served over 4,000 youth in fiscal year 2010
Bridge Continuum

Community Based Case Management
- Safety planning
- Assessment

Shelter
- Case planning
- Stabilization

Residential Recovery Program
- Paid Employment/service Learning
- Mental Health and substance abuse
- Trauma focused therapy
- Subculture deprogram
- Specialized School

Community Systems Training

Advisory and Regional Response Committees
Service Model

- Identification
- Case Management
- Emergency Shelter

Safety

Stability
- Residential Recovery Program
- Counseling
- Specialized Education
- Paid Service Learning

Reintegration
- Paid Internships and Employment Services
- Case Management
- Aftercare
- Access to YouthCare Continuum
Best Practices

• Evidenced Based Practice:
  – Program Model based on Stages of Change Theory
  – Program staff trained on and using Motivational Interviewing and incentive based programming
• Built relationship with key systems for referrals
• Addressing juvenile justice issues
• Training and public awareness

** There is currently no evidenced based model for intervention with sexually exploited youth. While the Bridge program aligns with best practices for trauma and substance abuse the goal is to design, implement and test our model for effectiveness in order to contribute to practice and literature.
Number of Youth Served in Bridge Continuum

Referrals: 185 (total all programs unduplicated)

*Enrolled:

119

Community Advocacy:

104

Emergency Shelter:

27

Residential Recovery Program:

18

* Unduplicated Count
Total Referrals
N=185

Referral Source

- Law Enforcement: 13
- Juvenile Court: 103
- Foster Care System: 15
- Service Provider: 24
- Family Member: 17
- Self Refer: 13
Referral Gender
N=185

Male, 5
Transgender, 0
Female, 180
Referral Age
N=185

Under 13 years old: 31%
14 years old: 8%
15 years old: 18%
16 years old: 30%
Community Case Management

Connecting with Community Based Case Management is the first step for youth trying to leave a life of abuse and exploitation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referred</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled</td>
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3 Case Managers provide mentorship, harm reduction counseling, basic needs, referrals and safety planning.
Emergency Shelter

- 2 Dedicated beds in an Adolescent Shelter accessible
- 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- 10 staff

Shelter serves as an emergency placement, assessment phase and therapeutic respite for clients in recovery program
Residential Recovery Program

- 6 bed confidential milieu in a caring, home environment with 12 staff
- Trauma focused therapy
- Substance abuse services
- Education
- Employment
- Legal support
- Positive Youth Development approach

Youth work together and with experienced staff to resolve issues of trauma and exposure to prostitution sub-culture.
Residential Recovery Program
N=18

Referral Source

- Law Enforcement: 2
- Juvenile Court: 6
- Foster Care System: 2
- Service Provider: 6
- Family Member: 2
Residential Recovery Program
N=18

<table>
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<tr>
<td>16 years old</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 years old</td>
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Race Ethnicity

- Caucasion/White: 56%
- African American/Black: 28%
- Mixed White/African American: 11%
- Mixed White/Latina: 5%
Residential Recovery Program
N=18

Geographic

- South King County: 50%
- North King County: 11%
- Outside King County: 5%
- Outside WA: 6%
- Seattle: 28%

Guardianship

- Foster Care: 39%
- Parents: 28%
- Non-Parent Caregiver: 33%
Impacts

Clients that participated in investigations of PIMP: 45%

Clients who maintain active contact with staff after exit: 84%

Placements

- Over 18 Transitional Housing: 25%
- Foster Care: 34%
- Family Caregivers: 33%
- Ran away but remained engaged with community casemangement: 8%

- YouthCare - Homeless youth Off the streets & Preparing for life
Training for Services Providers and Community Members

Since April, 2010 the Bridge Program has provided 165 hours of training and education to over 600 individuals across the State of Washington including:

- Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Community Based Youth Service Providers
- Juvenile Probation
- Public Defenders Association
- Law Enforcement
- Sexual Assault Providers
- Seattle Public School Personnel
- Public Health Providers
- Faith-based groups and concerned community members
- Students from schools of Law, Social Work and Public Administration
Program Successes

- Proven ability to identify, engage and serve sexually exploited youth
- Youth served are ethnically diverse
- The staff team is diverse
  - Survivors
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
- Have developed specific program components to address: education, trauma, mental health, chemical dependency, and prostitution sub culture
- Reputation of Bridge Program among community members, stakeholders and the justice system
Challenges

• Anticipated increased demand for services due to visibility and targeted outreach
• Services for young adults ages 18-24
• Serving youth with acute Mental Health needs
Emerging Best Practices

• Comprehensive service model
• Transforming “girl competition” to “girl support”
  – Creating daily and weekly opportunities for youth to work together as a community as a way to re-frame the sense of competition developed prostitution sub-culture
• The importance of “earning”
  – Paid employment and service learning opportunities allow youth to re-frame the concept of prostitution as an economic strategy
• Working across systems
  – Sexually exploited youth have connections to diverse systems many of whom lack awareness of their needs and sensitivity to their experiences
Goals for Year 2

• Increase identification and services for sexually exploited boys and transgendered youth

• Pilot and expand the specialized school program within Seattle Public Schools Interagency Academy

• Continue to refine and articulate the service model for purpose of replication

• Develop gender specific prevention programming for boys and girls in order to decrease the next generation of demand and supply