

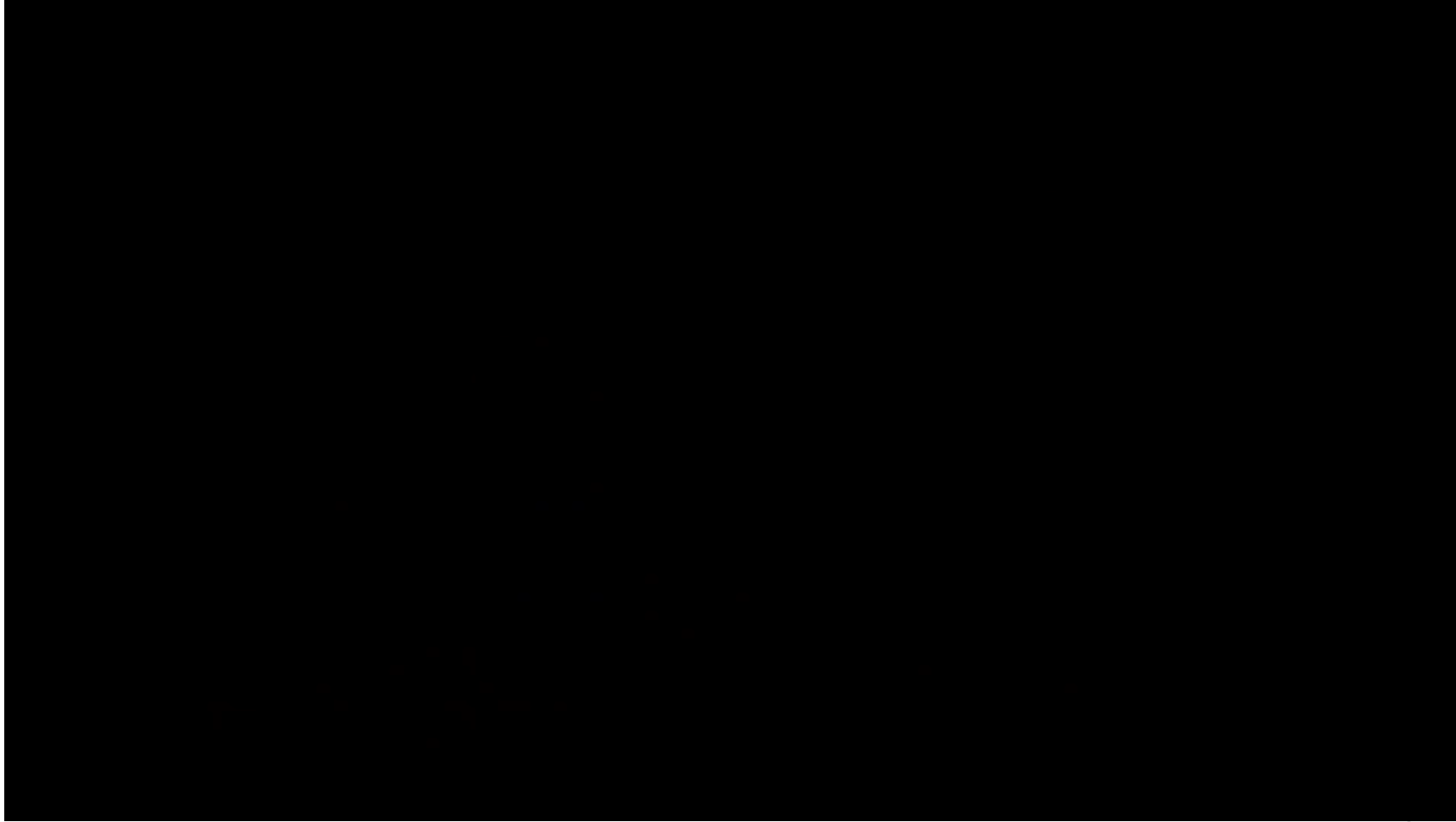


Human Trafficking: Identification & Response in Maine

Objectives

- ▶ Understand the definition of human trafficking
- ▶ Learn how to identify people that have experienced human trafficking
- ▶ Learn how to meet the needs of people that have been trafficked

Video: “Lured by a Job, Trapped in Forced Labour”



Video: Small Group Discussion

- ▶ Reactions?
- ▶ What have you heard about/what do you know about human trafficking?

Trafficking: Big Picture

- ▶ The consequence of other failed systems, including foster care, child protection, immigration, and labor standards.
- ▶ An old crime that is finally being addressed by social services, legal services, and law enforcement.
- ▶ A crime difficult to prosecute because victims don't always realize they've experienced a crime and may avoid police for fear of prosecution or deportation.

TVPA

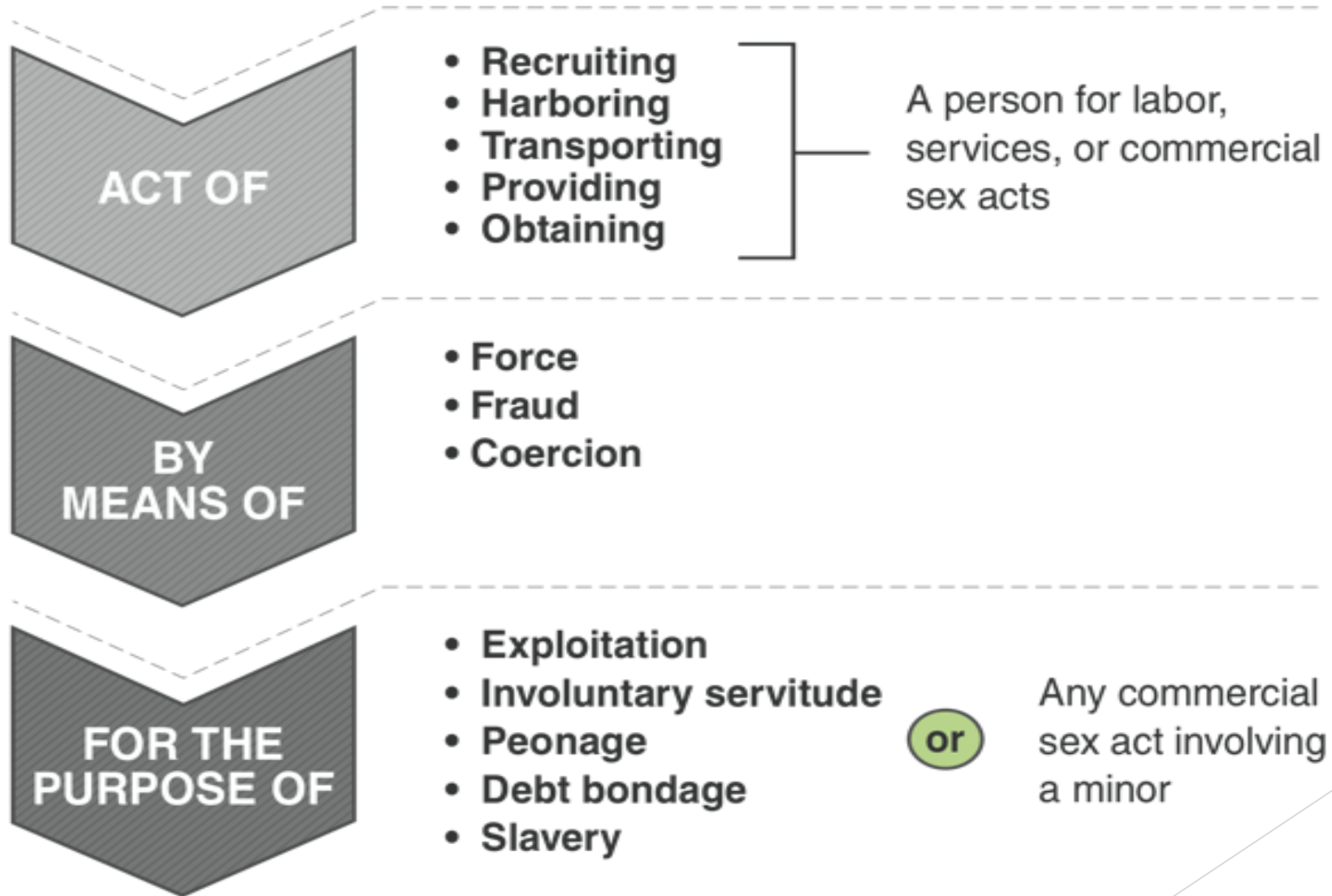
- ▶ The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000:
 - ▶ Establishes the crime of trafficking (prosecution),
 - ▶ Builds awareness and systems (prevention), and
 - ▶ Enhances services and collaboration (protection).¹

1. "Current Federal Laws." *Polaris: Combating Human Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery*. Web.

Definitions

- ▶ Human trafficking: compelling into labor/commercial sex work through force, fraud or coercion, for economic gain of a trafficker.
- ▶ Or any minor in commercial sex work is a victim/survivor of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Act / Means / Purpose



Who are the traffickers?

- ▶ Neighbors, friends, community leaders, peers
- ▶ Romantic partners
- ▶ Families
- ▶ Organized Crime
- ▶ Diplomats & Governments
- ▶ Gangs
- ▶ Employers / recruiters

Industries where trafficking occurs

- Childcare/Day Care
- Domestic Servitude
- Field Labor
- Manufacturing
- Restaurant/Food Svcs
- Cleaning Svcs
- Drug Trafficking/Dealing
- Health Care
- Panhandling
- Retail Sales
- Pornography
- Commercial Sex Work
- Construction/Landscaping
- Elder Care
- Herding/Livestock
- Servile Marriage
- Cosmetology/Beauty Svcs
- Escort Service
- Hotel/Hospitality Svcs
- Stripping/Exotic Dancing
- Transportation Svcs
- Fishing & Agriculture

How do traffickers recruit and control?

Trafficking recruitment may appear as:

- ▶ Bait and switch (ie, fraudulent relationships, the promise of a better job or opportunity)
- ▶ Force (kidnapping or assault)
- ▶ Manipulating a person's vulnerabilities (addiction, criminal record, poverty)

Conditioning into trafficking may include:

- ▶ Abuse including sexual and physical abuse, starvation, confinement
- ▶ Emotional manipulation including threatening friends or family, shaming victim about informing family of activities
- ▶ Other means of coercion including supplying or withholding basic needs or alcohol, prescription or illicit drugs

Tactics: Force, Fraud, Coercion

How do traffickers ensure someone continues to work for them after recruitment?

- ▶ **Force:** sexual assault, rape, physical abuse and violence, isolation, imprisonment, torture
- ▶ **Fraud:** deception, false promises, illegal contracts
- ▶ **Coercion:** holding documents, withholding pay, debt bondage, threats of violence against victims, threats to report immigration status to authorities, threatening family or friends in home country, emotional and psychological abuse

Tactics, continued



Laws: Maine

- ▶ “Aggravated Sex Trafficking” occurs if a person knowingly promotes prostitution:
 - ▶ By “compelling” a person to enter into, engage in, or remain in prostitution
 - ▶ This includes any individuals who are under 18 or who suffer from a ‘mental disability’.
- ▶ “Kidnapping and Criminal Restraint” occurs if a person knowingly:
 - ▶ Restrains a person, holds immigration documents, or makes an individual believe they will suffer harm if they do not perform labor.

Data: In Maine

- ▶ Limited Data
- ▶ More Efforts Needed:
 - ▶ Increased Partnership
 - ▶ Increased Identification
 - ▶ Expansion of labor exploitation laws

What have we seen in Maine?

- ▶ We know each county in Maine has reported sex trafficking
- ▶ Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Collaborative, since spring 2014, has served:
 - ▶ **155 people that have survived trafficking as of 2/1/18**
 - 80% trafficked for commercial sex**
 - 10% trafficked for another form of labor**
 - 10% both sex and labor**
 - ▶ 60% over the age of 25
 - ▶ Over 88.7% percent did not have stable housing at intake

PSATC Approach

- ▶ Client-centered
- ▶ Empowerment philosophy increases access to:
 - ▶ Services
 - ▶ Support
 - ▶ Information
- ▶ Supports survivor's right to make choices
- ▶ Facilitate growth and healing

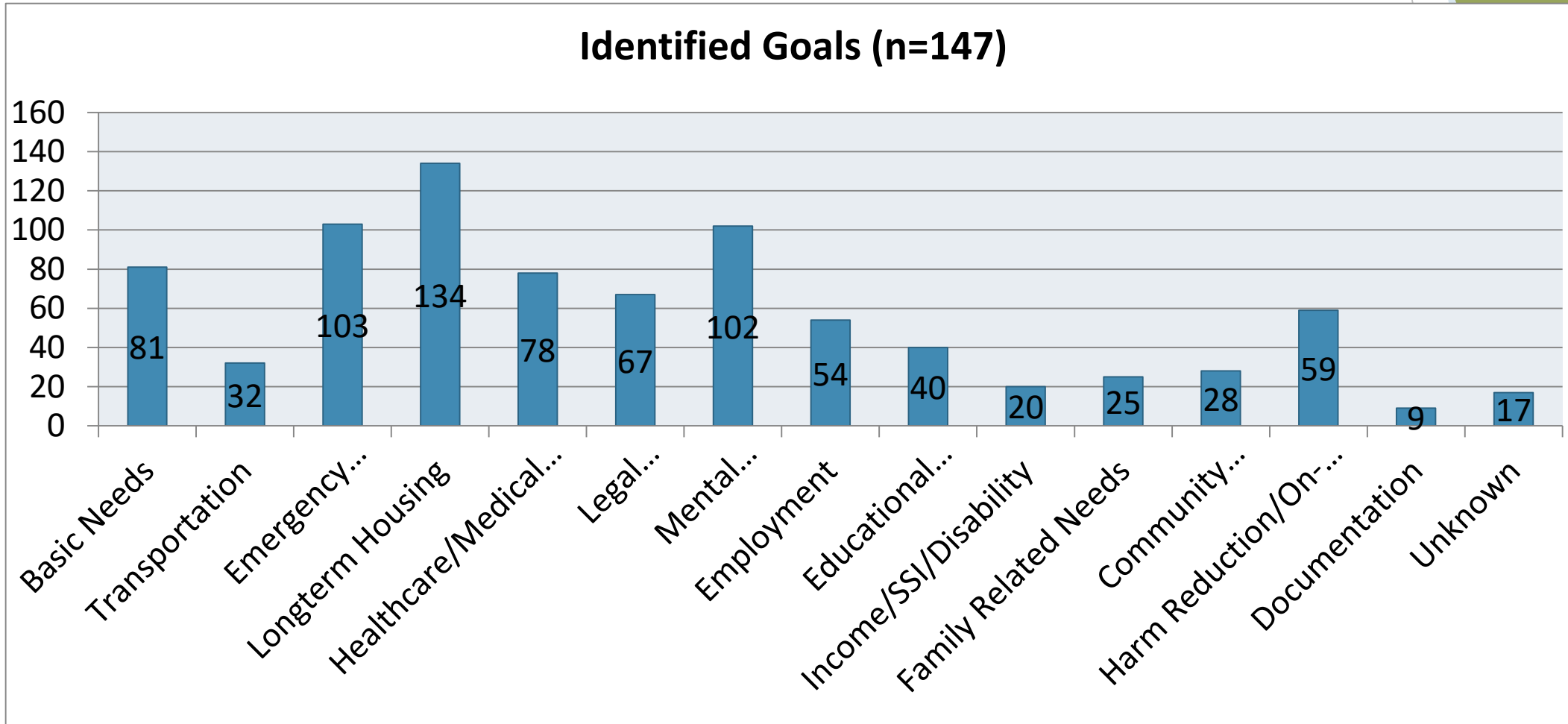
PSATC Services

- ▶ Intensive Case Management
- ▶ Assistance with basic needs, including medical and substance use treatment
- ▶ Mental health and substance use counseling
- ▶ Shelter and housing referrals
- ▶ Linkages to other services
- ▶ Help with access to public benefits
- ▶ Civil, criminal, and immigration referrals
- ▶ Culturally sensitive services
- ▶ Advocacy through the criminal justice system

Preble Street Approach

- ▶ Low Barrier access to our services
 - ▶ Case Management - Judgment free
 - ▶ Advocacy through CJS
 - ▶ Meet clients where they are at - LITERALLY!
- ▶ Housing First
 - ▶ Housing is at the center of each service plan
 - ▶ Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment do not determine “Housing Readiness”
- ▶ Harm Reduction
 - ▶ Service plans that emphasize the **goals and expectations of the client**
 - ▶ Client goals may minimize harm rather than eliminate it
 - ▶ Needle exchange, sheltering options appropriate to current use

PSATC Clients Needs/Goals



Vulnerabilities:

Who is vulnerable to trafficking?

- ▶ Youth, especially runaway and homeless youth
- ▶ Foreign nationals; displaced individuals
- ▶ Mental health concerns/cognitive disabilities
- ▶ Those living in poverty, oppressed, marginalized

Indicators and Red Flags:

- ▶ Referral from law enforcement or community partner with suspicion of trafficking.
- ▶ No access to **personal identification**, especially passports for foreign nationals.
- ▶ Mentions of **quota or debt** in reference to employer/family member/partner.
- ▶ **Travel across state lines** (without known resources to do so).
- ▶ **Frequenting hotels** or areas known for criminal activities.
- ▶ **Unexplained physical injuries** or signs of untreated illness or disease.
- ▶ **Disconnected** or cut off from any family or support system.
- ▶ Works **excessively long hours** or unusual hours and is unpaid, paid very little or paid only through tips.
- ▶ **Cannot identify address or residence.**
- ▶ **Not allowed to speak for themselves**—a 3rd party speaks or translates for them.
- ▶ **Untreated mental health and medical needs** (including STIs and a history of pregnancies).
- ▶ Evidence of a **controlling, abusive or dominating** employer, partner or older adult.

Scenarios: Identifying a Potential Victim

Rosie presents at an appointment with a primary care provider complaining of chronic pain and an untreated skin condition. Rosie says she works as a nanny, and is accompanied to the appointment by her employer, who is from the same home country as Rosie. Rosie's employer says that she will act as interpreter during the appointment.

Scenarios: Working With Someone With a History of Trafficking

David is brought to the ER following an opiate overdose. He has no insurance, but says he wants treatment. He also discloses a history of commercial sex trafficking. When he gets frustrated about the lack of options, he says he doesn't want to "do what she has to do" to stop feeling sick.

Discussion:

Why might a victim/survivor not report their experience?
How might they *not* respond to law enforcement or providers?

Captivity/confinement
Hopelessness
Isolation
Fear
No personal ID/ documents
Guards/ frequent accompaniment
Language and social barriers

Self-blame
Use and threat of violence
Learned "loyalty"
Debt bondage - sense of obligation
Misinformation and false promises
Threats/reprisals against loved ones

Distrust of law enforcement
Shame

Possible Assessment Questions

- ▶ Have you ever traded or been asked to trade sex/sexual acts for food, shelter or other basic needs?
- ▶ Does someone control, supervise or monitor what you do?
- ▶ How did you meet this person/how did you find out about this job?
- ▶ Is your communication (calls, emails, conversations) ever restricted or monitored?
- ▶ Do you have access to all your identification/personal documents?
- ▶ Do you have access to any money or the money that you earn? Does anyone take all or some of your money?
- ▶ What did you expect of this situation/relationship? Has it been as promised?
- ▶ What would happen if you didn't do what this person asked of you?
- ▶ What would happen if you left this person/situation?

Tips for Connecting with Survivors

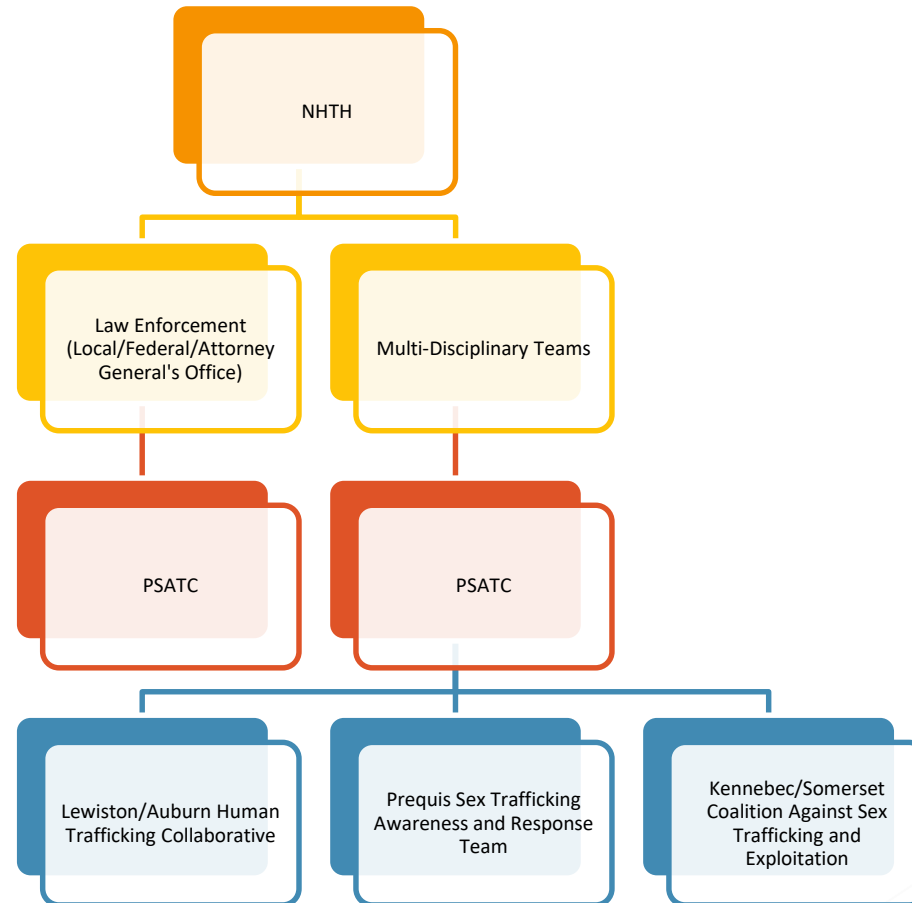
- ▶ **What works with supporting victims/survivors?**
 - ▶ Interview individual alone
 - ▶ Involve a trained interpreter if language barrier exists
 - ▶ Ensure interview is conducted in confidential and trusted environment
 - ▶ Work on establishing trust
 - ▶ Allow survivors to describe what happened to others before focusing on the survivor's own experiences
 - ▶ Acknowledging their efforts to talk about a difficult subject; offer short breaks
 - ▶ Be aware that some survivors may have engaged in “illegal” activities as part of their HT situation

Maine Service Structure



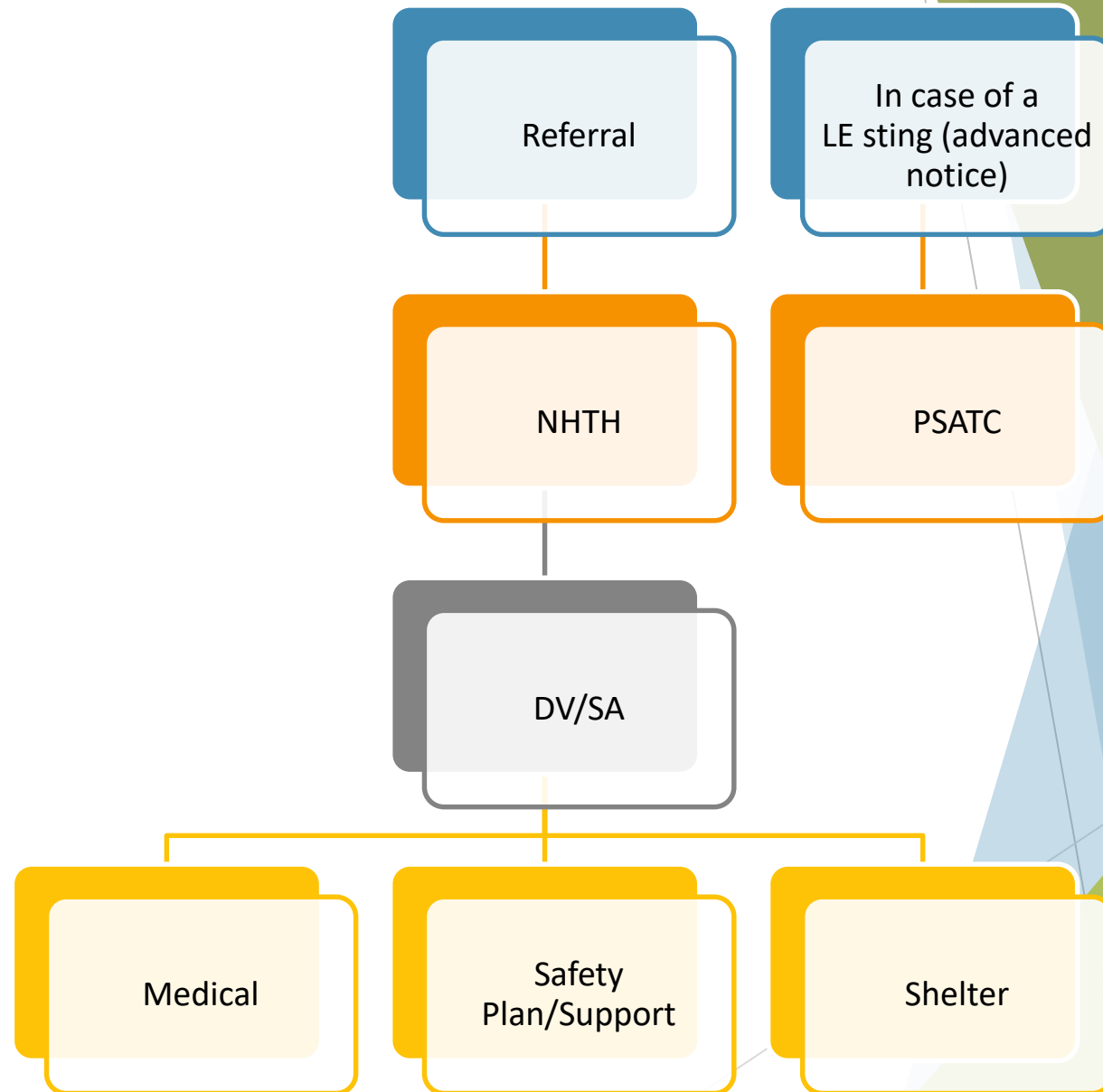
Statewide Infrastructure:

- ▶ The referral protocol is supported by a statewide infrastructure addressing policy and systems.



After-Hours:

- ▶ The National Human Trafficking Hotline(NHTH): **Maine's Single Point of Contact for Trafficking.**
 - ▶ The toll-free hotline is available for urgent and non-urgent calls, 24/7.
 - ▶ 200 languages are available.
 - ▶ A call to the NHTH can connect you with local Maine resources.
 - ▶ **1-888-373-7888**



“

I am doing exceptionally well for the first time in 17 years. This program is a really good fit for me and things are hard but all in all good. I am in counseling and therapy. I have seen a psychiatrist and have gotten back on my meds..... I am safe and I am not being hurt or forced to do anything that I do not want to do...

”

-- Former PSATC Client; Maine
Trafficking Survivor

Thanks to:



OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

mecasa
MAINE COALITION AGAINST
SEXUAL ASSAULT



maine sex trafficking
& exploitation network
mainesten.org



Preble
Street