

Responding to High Risk and Trafficking Victims

Presented by

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Goals

- ◆ **Reduce or prevent repeat runaway incidents:**
 - » Identify any prior incidents of sexual abuse and exploitation
 - » Prevent any future sexual abuse or exploitation
 - » Redirect from any future delinquent conduct
- ◆ **Bring to an end or curb the victimization of children through prostitution and sexual exploitation**

What is a *High Risk Victim*

◆ High Risk Victims:

- Runaways

 - » Multiple (4 or more time in 12 month period)

- Sexually exploited

- Age (12 and under)

- Time missing (over 1 month)

- Repeat victims

- Victims of prostitution/trafficking

Understanding the Problem

- ◆ **System Response**

- *Who's job is it to deal with HRV?*

- ◆ **High Risk Victims**

- **A child's prior conduct should not determine level of service**

- ◆ **Runaway rules**

- **High Risk Victims are not typically going to self report**

- **Traditional investigative/interview models are not successful**

Runaways/Throwaways

1,682,900 per year

357,600 Reported

- ◆ **197,400 have committed crimes**
- ◆ **125,400 are with a violent person**
- ◆ **70,500 have attempted suicide**
- ◆ **70,500 have missed at least 5 days of school**
- ◆ **69,100 are physically assaulted**

Understanding the Problem

◆ Dallas Picture:

- Avg. 5,000 to 6,000 (*reported*) runaways a year
 - » Avg. 426 reported runaways a month (2006)
- 11/05 identified 64 HRV (4 or more times in 12 month period)
- Reduced to 34 by 1/06 two months
- Average 12 per month now

Profile of Adolescent Prostitutes

ABUSE:

Sexual Abuse = 93%

Physical Abuse = 96%

Abandonment = 87%

FAMILY RISK FACTORS:

Parent Phy. Abused = 82%

Parent Sex. Abused = 74%

Parents Divorced = 71%

Single Parent Home = 63%

DRUG ABUSE:

Youth Uses = 79%

Family Usage = 86%

MENTAL HEALTH:

Suicide Ideation = 89%

Lethal Suicidal Plan = 54%

PAULA

AGE	DATE	AGENCY	ALLEGATION	DISPOSITION
1	3/92	CPS	Physical Abuse	Family Preservation 3/92-10/92
2	1/93	CPS	Physical Abuse	
4	4/95	CPS	Physical Abuse	
9	10/2000	CPS	Neglect & Abuse	1 child removed, 6 months parenting classes
11	11/02	CPS	Sexual Abuse	Moms boyfriend, mom did not believe, no action taken, attempt suicide by Paula
11	7/03	Police	Runaway	Came home (1 day)
12	1/04	CPS	Physical Abuse	No action taken
12	1/25/04	Police	Sexual Abuse	No outcry
12	1/04	CPS	Neglect	No Action
12	3/04	Police	Runaway	Came home (1 day)
12	6/04	Police	Runaway	Came home (1 day)
12	8/04	Police	Runaway	Recovered (1 day) taken home, no interview
13	9/04	Police	Runaway	Came home (2 days)
13	9/22/04	Police	Runaway	Recovered (17 days) taken home, no interview
13	10/23/04	Police	Runaway	Recovered (12 days) taken to Letot
13	11/10/04	Police	Runaway	Recovered (1 day) taken home
13	11/13/04	Police	Runaway/Prostitution	Recovered (1 day) taken home, no interview
13	11/15/05	Police	Runaway/Prostitution	(Flagged by HRVT), located, interviewed, Sexual Abuse Outcry, two cases filed on new step father
13	1/24/05	Police/Juv Dept	Runaway/Contempt of Court	Recovered - Placement

Problems Identified

- ◆ **Unique victim issues**
 - *Victim/Offender* status
 - Perceptions/Stereotypical knowledge
- ◆ **Lack of specific investigative responsibility**
- ◆ **Traditional investigative models/techniques**
- ◆ **Lack of streamline method of identifying and reporting**
 - Victims of prostitution who are encountered
 - » Arrest, issued citation
 - “High Risk” runaways
- ◆ **Utilizing only a *Reactive* approach vs. *Proactive***

Solutions (*Ownership of the Problem*)

- ◆ **Formed *High Risk Victims and Trafficking Team (HRVT)***
 - **Assigned departmental personnel with specific investigative responsibility:**
 - » **1 CEU detective**
 - » **2 patrol officers**
 - » **Caseworker**

Solutions (*Ownership of the Problem*)

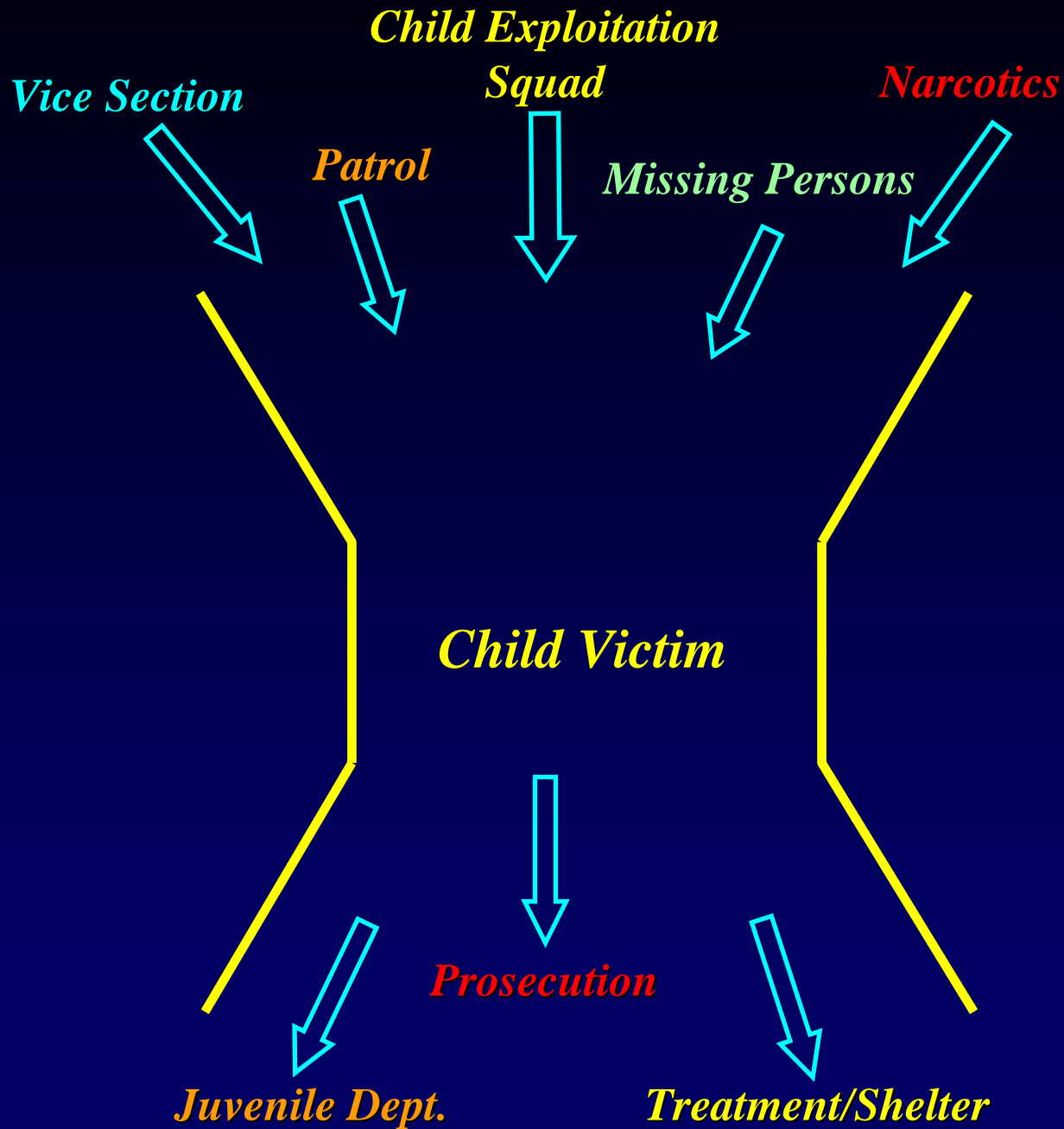
- ◆ **Implemented Departmental Investigative and Intervention Protocol**
 - Streamlined method of identifying, locating and reporting
- ◆ **Established Departmental/Juvenile Justice System Investigative and Intervention Team**
- ◆ **Establishing long term placement for VCP**
- ◆ **Training on Dynamics (Continuing)**
- ◆ **Human Trafficking Grant**

HRVT Investigative Protocol/Team

- ◆ **11/04 thru 11/05**
 - **Identified/Located 136 HRV**
 - » **Avg. 5.5 runaway incidents per child**
 - ◆ **29% (39) recidivism**
 - ◆ **71% (97) did not run again**
 - » **61% involved in prostitution**

HRVT Investigative Protocol/Team

- ◆ **11/04 thru 11/05**
 - Identified/Located *136* HRV
 - Opened *83* investigation
 - Filed *63* Felony cases on *40* suspects:
 - » Compelling Prostitution
 - » Trafficking in Persons
 - » Sexual Assault
 - » Engaging in Organized Crime



Questions?