

AUSTIN **ANNUAL**
2018 **CONFERENCE**
& SHOWPLACE

HFAs AT THE
CENTER

Housing for Victims of Human Trafficking

Maine's collaborative response

The Challenge

Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

- "Living assistance is a particularly critical issue in Maine, as it is such an essential service and is, currently, so lacking within the state.
- There is very little we can offer women who are trying to escape . . . except maybe a hotel room for a few nights,"
- "[There] are virtually no programs long-term for people . . . [there] is not an appropriate residential program to deal with . . . [sex trafficking] in the state of Maine"



The Need:

Summary of Human Trafficking Estimates

Estimation Model	Number reported	Applied Proportion	Estimated Total
Polaris	11	14%	79
MECASA	48	14%	343
ME Law Enforcement Survey	69-125	14%	493-893
ME Crime Victimization Survey	9,993-26,648	2.81%	280-729
			200-300 cases annually

The Safe House

- Stable, short term and safe housing;
- Easy access to the courts;
- Advocacy services to support victims in understanding the choices and options available to them and to navigate systems in order to secure their rights and safety;
- Crisis intervention, case management services; and
- Access to treatment, social supports and community services

Our Partnership

- MaineHousing
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- Maine's Attorney General
- Safe Voices, Sexual Assault Prevention And Response Services and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- Donation of REO
- Residential and treatment services funding
- Housing repair funds
- Develop a Safe House Program; provide staffing

The Process

- Identifying the right house
 - Location
 - Size
 - Condition
 - Security
- Repairing the property
- Securing local acceptance
- Contracting with a community service provider

Service Component

- Building security and accessibility
- Staffing
 - 24 hours/day; 7 days/week
- Staff training
 - Victim centered
 - Trauma informed
 - Issues unique to sex trafficking
 - Cultural and language barriers
- Development of a residential treatment program

Learnings

- An opportunity, not a program
- Be patient
- Availability of qualified service providers
- Law enforcement a strong proponent
- The community matters