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### MISSION

The mission of the Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE) is to develop prevention and intervention strategies designed to address sex trafficking in greater Worcester. We identify and respond to victims, survivors, traffickers, buyers, and facilitators in order to improve the health and wellness of our community.

### TIMELINE

2013	<p><b>Worcester DPH Prostitution Taskforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requested by councilwoman Sarai Rivera &amp; City Council</li> <li>- Identify solutions to eliminate street-level prostitution</li> </ul> <p>Goals of Taskforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce demand</li> <li>• Expand social and treatment services</li> </ul>
2014	<p><b>Report to City Council and "Ray of Light" grant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taskforce subcommittees presented findings</li> <li>• Health Foundation of Central Mass. grant based on findings</li> <li>• Spectrum lead applicant / Ray of Light</li> <li>• Evidence-based training for front line staff to identify and respond to victims and survivors of sex trafficking</li> <li>• Commitment MOUs signed with 18 organizations</li> <li>• <b>Move focus from "prostitution" to "reducing demand"</b></li> <li>• <b>The strength of our work is in survivor leadership</b></li> </ul>
2014	<p><b>Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalized coalition governance structure</li> <li>• Clear mission, vision, and bylaws</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>1. Communications (website, media, event promotion)</p> <p>2. Community Awareness and Advocacy</p> <p>3. Supporting people with lived experiences</p> <p>4. Criminal Justice (police, probation, courts)</p> <p>5. Research, Data, and Evaluation</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation includes city leadership, criminal justice partners, community service and health care providers, survivors and allies</p> </div> </div>
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal system engaged</li> <li>• Police department engaged</li> <li>• Outreach team involvement</li> <li>• Clear resources and contacts defined</li> <li>• Web/ database maintenance in process</li> <li>• Up to date training in process</li> <li>• Temporary housing in process</li> <li>• Dedicated housing identified as longer term goal</li> <li>• Advocacy and awareness</li> <li>• Policy Discussions and Change in process</li> </ul>

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### Changing the conversation around sexual exploitation

"There used to be 20 to 30 girls out there. This neighborhood now is pretty good. It's really better than before. I can walk through the neighborhood easier." - Alberto Rivera, owner of The Main Superette.

Year	Female	Male
2013	176	179
2014	145	160
2015	23	49

### OUR PARTNERS

- AIDS Project Worcester
- City of Worcester, Office of Human Rights
- City of Worcester, Division of Public Health
- City of Worcester, Worcester Police Department
- Community Health Link
- The Woo Church
- YWCA of Central Massachusetts
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Community Legal Aid
- Jeremiah's Inn
- Worcester County Food Bank
- New England Dream Center
- Pathways for Change
- RIA House
- SMOC
- Southeast Asian Coalition
- Sylvia's House
- YWCA

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Community Awareness and Advocacy

- Volunteer opportunities for community members to help with outreach.
- Volunteers, survivors and the outreach worker are educating agencies, local businesses, universities, residents, etc.
- Ongoing – providing businesses with a WAASE decal as a safe space for people with lived experience.
- Outreach to local businesses → a big change in community responses on social media and in the comments sections.
- Worcester community has become more empathetic to the people with lived experience as they see the alliance's commitment to engaging them in services and treatment.

#### Supporting people with lived experiences

- Survivor-led support groups.
- Drop-in center.
- Street outreach
- Victim advocacy
- Community support, encouragement and the resources to achieve their goals.

#### Criminal Justice

- Police Chief Gary Gemme committed to reducing the demand side
- Allocated necessary resources for vice unit monthly sting operations
- 49/72 (68%) prostitution-related arrests were male – double rate of previous arrests of male vs. female
- Joined forces with other state and federal agencies to address human trafficking – sting operations, arrests, and intelligence gathering
- Work side by side with partners, inc. survivors
- Offer alternatives to women besides arrest

#### Research, Data, and Evaluation

- Monitor male vs. female arrests
- Monitor recidivism
- Analyze outreach logs and cross-reference with opioid overdoses
- Assess needs (detox, homelessness, DV) and appropriate solutions
- Redesign intake forms to maximize data gathering