



# THE HARBOR

A SAFE PLACE FOR GUIDANCE



## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

### WHO IS THE HARBOR?

### HOW ASSESSMENT CENTERS WORK

### THE BENEFIT OF USING ASSESSMENT CENTERS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

### HOW YOU CAN CONTACT THE HARBOR ASSESSMENT CENTER

## The Harbor

### *Juvenile Assessment Center*

The Harbor, an Assessment Center with locations throughout Clark County, Nevada including Las Vegas, diverts at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system by providing early intervention and an avenue to address concerning behavior. Assessment Centers across the nation aim to identify strengths and underlying needs of youth and families and partner with them to facilitate access to individualized services and resources in their communities.

The Harbor Juvenile Assessment Center works and serves under the Department of Juvenile Justice Services within Clark County, Nevada. The Harbor's Executive Steering Committee is comprised of experts in the juvenile justice field and senior stakeholders who focus on the mission of the Harbor. The Harbor's main site is staffed and operated by local, state, and non-profit agencies who continue to bring expertise and knowledge of their agencies and help to support youth/families. Collaboration between The Harbor's other four locations, that are staffed and operated by a local non-profit, ensures fidelity and quality of service.



# Working alongside the Community

*a new approach to Juvenile Justice*

The Harbor works side by side with law enforcement, the school district, court, youth and their family members and community. They divert and prevent young people from justice system involvement through the following intervention points:



- **Pre-arrest diversion:** Law enforcement divert youth who commit low-level, misdemeanor offenses directly to The Harbor. In 2023, the top five offenses diverted included possession of marijuana, battery, affray/ fighting, battery DV, and petit larceny. Law enforcement can also refer youth without a formal citation when they have identified a youth in need.
- **Pre-charge diversion:** When the District Attorney's Office believes that a diversion program is more appropriate to address the allegations than formal court processing, a referral to The Harbor is made.
- **Community Referrals:** The Harbor accepts walk-ins/self-referrals from families in the community. Other agencies may also refer a youth and family to The Harbor if there is a need identified.
- **School Referrals:** The Harbor partners with the Clark County School District, private and charter schools to identify youth that are experiencing behavioral issues, truancy, or other concerns that place them at-risk. Schools can make direct referrals to The Harbor.

Once referred, The Harbor engages youth and families in evidence-based screening, assessment, and case management. They use respectful and unbiased approaches to ensure families feel comfortable at all stages of the process. During the first contact, youth and families are engaged in a structured interview which incorporates the use of two validated screening tools to help identify needs. The Harbor team uses empathy, open-ended questions, and helps to reframe negative situations to create a more uplifting outlook. If an immediate need is found during the screening process such as food insecurity, clothing or bus passes, The Harbor staff works to eliminate that stressor.

The Harbor staff also connects youth and families to other types of appropriate services to address needs. Those services include but are not limited to:

- **Family Counseling**
- **Mental Health Counseling**
- **Anger Management**
- **Youth Mentorship**
- **Substance Abuse Counseling**

After the initial assessment, a 60-day plan of action is developed alongside the youth and family. The Harbor follows an individualized, prescriptive schedule to ensure that the family feels seen, taken care of and aims for success.



**"The mission of The Harbor is to be responsive to the well-being of youth, families and victims, by providing meaningful services to improve connectedness to the community through academic achievement, reducing truancy and providing a safe place for guidance."**

Navigating systems of care can be confusing and difficult for families to understand, especially in times of crisis. The Harbor relieves that discomfort by making the referrals to community providers accessible for families and by advocating passionately on behalf of the youth and family.

If you or your family need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact The Harbor Juvenile Assessment Center

## **Community Engagement**

Staying active and engaging in the community, The Harbor attends multiple outreach events throughout the year to provide information to the public. Families can sign up if interested in services and receive a call for an assessment appointment. The Harbor completes outreach with community stakeholders (ex. schools, law enforcement, non-profits, government agencies, etc.) by attending partner meetings and educating on Harbor services.

**Open 7 Days A Week**

**8 a.m – 10 p.m**

**mail@theharborlv.com**

**📞 702.455.6912**



*Hearing from our Youth & Parents*

## THE HARBOR'S IMPACT

Since the Harbor opened in 2016, over **30,000 youth and families** have been served through the various intervention points. Of those served **86% did not "escalate"** into the juvenile justice system.

**96%**

of youth indicated their thoughts and feelings were taken seriously

**95%**

of caregivers felt the initial visit had a positive impact on they child and family

**84%**

of youth said they were satisfied with the programs and services The Harbor staff connected them to

**93%**

of caregivers indicated their child did not have interactions with police since their visit

**81%**

of caregivers indicated they have seen a positive difference in their child's behavior as a result of the connections and supports providing by The Harbor 12 months after their initial visit

“The people there were nice and I can't trust anybody with the stuff I'm going through but you made me feel comfortable enough to tell you" - Youth

“(Staff member) made me feel very safe with my feelings." -Youth

"New to Nevada needing help with daughter, this program helped me get in touch with after school programs and therapy. I don't know how I would have found the resources without the help of The Harbor. Truly is a blessing" -Parent

## Recent Awards & Recognitions:

- **2019** – Recipient of the Cashman Good Government Award
- **2019** – National Association of Counties Achievement Award
- Nationally recognized as a model assessment center site
- Largest government collaboration in the state
- Over **30,000** youth and families served since opening our first location in October 2016. The Harbor currently operates five sites, offers mobile and rural services as well as an in-home program tailored to assist with family violence

■ Improvement Seen In:

