

## ***Description of Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel***

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The mission of the Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel (MSERRP) is to review and recommend sexuality education and HIV prevention curricula and resources for use in schools and communities. The panel consists of 40 members with expertise in sexuality education and HIV prevention, who represent community-based and statewide organizations, including teachers, public health professionals, health educators, youth workers, and religious leaders.

Panel members adhere to the mission of the panel and support the following definition of comprehensive sexuality education:

*Effective **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)** begins with parents or other primary caregivers as the primary sexuality educators of their children. CSE is the provision of accurate, factual and developmentally appropriate information and training on human sexuality topics. CSE understands sexuality as a positive, healthy part of life and teaches behavior that is respectful, responsible, non-exploitative and non-violent. CSE recognizes and respects individuality and a wide range of community norms, cultures, cultural beliefs, and language regarding healthy sexuality. CSE is designed to encourage and support youth in developing their identities. CSE recognizes the importance of communities, institutions and individuals working in partnership with families to raise sexually healthy children.*

## ***About the Panel***

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MSERRP provides a much needed resource to the greater community, as well as a positive professional development opportunity to those who participate in the review process. Panelists participate in lively discussions, challenging and supporting each other's viewpoints. Both the size and the organizational representation of the panel attest to the importance of assessing sexuality education and HIV prevention materials that are currently in use, or may be in use in the future, throughout the state. MSERRP is recognized as a national model in terms of its consistent focus and methodology for reviewing materials.

## ***The Review Process***

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Panel members convene on a quarterly basis. Panelists receive materials to review in advance of each meeting. Meetings include small and large group discussions that allow panel members to share their specific comments and gain a broad overview of the resources under review. Following the discussions, each panelist completes a written assessment of the resource using a 7-9 point criteria scale. The coordinating agency, Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPPP) compiles these assessments into summary reviews. Resource summaries are made available to professionals throughout the state through a variety of sources, e.g. the MOAPPP web site; the MN School Health web site; the MOAPPP quarterly newsletter; written materials at conferences, meetings and health fairs; and the MOAPPP InfoExchange.

## ***Description of the Coordinating Agency***

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MSERRP is coordinated by MOAPPP (Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting). MOAPPP's mission is *to strengthen policies and programming for adolescent pregnancy prevention, adolescent pregnancy care and adolescent parenting in Minnesota*. MOAPPP's programs and services center around the organization's primary function as an information clearinghouse and facilitator of professional networking groups. MOAPPP disseminates programming information, educational resources, statistics, and research findings through the InfoExchange clearinghouse, the *MOAPPP Monitor* newsletter, and the MOAPPP web site. Through these outlets, MOAPPP disseminates the MSERRP reviews to health, social service, and education professionals, youth and families, public policy makers, and community members in Minnesota and nationally.

MOAPPP's role includes: identifying and recruiting panel members; providing orientation training sessions; planning agendas for meetings; selecting materials for review; organizing mailings and site arrangements; staffing the meetings; compiling the completed assessment forms; writing review summaries; and disseminating the completed summaries.

### ***Contact Information:***

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