Look Beneath the Surface: Human Trafficking 101 for the child welfare system
Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation - CATE

🎯 Who we are:
  – Community Members, Social Service Providers, and Law Enforcement

🎯 Our Purpose:
  – **Educate** the larger community
  – **Increase** capacity within Social Service Agencies
  – **Strengthen** relationship between law enforcement and Service Providers
3 Elements Necessary to Meet Trafficking Definition

1. Process/Action
   - Recruiting
   - OR
   - harboring
   - OR
   - moving
   - OR
   - obtaining
   - a person

2. Particular Means
   - by
   - force
   - or
   - fraud
   - or
   - coercion

3. Particular End
   - for the purpose of
   - involuntary servitude
   - OR
   - debt bondage
   - OR
   - slavery
   - OR
   - sexual exploitation
Quick Tool: Minor Sex Trafficking

If at least one element occurs in 2 boxes, you have a potential case of sex trafficking.

- Recruiting
- Enticing
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining

BY ANY MEANS
Does not require force, fraud or coercion for persons under 18 years of age

- Commercial sex activity
- Sexually explicit performance
- Pornography

Checked at least one

adapted from Center for the Human Rights for Children, Loyola University Chicago & International Organization for Adolescents
Minor Sex Trafficking

- Under 18 years old / for any commercial sex act
- Can be trafficked by family members
- Include prostituted homeless youth
- Brothels, hotels, trailers on farms, truck stops, on the street and in individuals’ homes
- Do not need to be “locked up” by traffickers, sometimes attend school and participate in other normal activities
- Easier to control than adults, but does not require force, fraud, or coercion for commercial sex
- Will rarely identify themselves as a victim
- Are not required to cooperate with law enforcement to be eligible for services
Recruitment

- Traffickers can be any age, any gender, any race
- Hang out where young people are gathered: malls, schools, bus / train stations, group homes, juvenile courts or detention centers
- Use social media to lure youth
- Use peers or classmates who befriend the target
- Often create a seemingly loving and caring relationship: boyfriend, girlfriend, big brother, father/mother figure
- Traffickers use psychological manipulation, drugs, &/or violence
Factors in Youth Vulnerability

- Male/Female between 12 & 14
- LGBTQ identified
- History of sexual &/or physical abuse, neglect
  - Abuse to sex trafficking pipeline similar to the school to prison pipeline
- Involvement in child welfare agency, especially foster care placement
- Being a runaway or homeless youth
- Living in a vulnerable or impoverished community
- Disconnection from education system & off-track for achievement
- Substance dependency
Youth Trafficking Victims & Child Welfare / Juvenile Justice

• 2012, Connecticut - 88 child victims of sex trafficking. 86 were child welfare involved and most reported abuse while in foster care or residential placement.
• 2007, NY City - 2,250 child victims of trafficking. 75% experienced some contact with child welfare system, mostly in the context of abuse & neglect proceedings.
• Alameda County, CA – 55% of CSEC were from foster youth group homes & 82% had previously run away from homes multiple times.
• FL – 70% of CSEC were foster youth.

Source: Human Rights Project for Girls
Child Trafficking Indicators

- Unable to attend school on a regular basis &/or unexplained absences
- Frequently running away from home
- References made to frequent travel to other cities
- Bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear
- Lack of control over a personal schedule &/or identification or travel documents.
- Hunger, malnourishment, or inappropriate dress for weather or surroundings
- Signs of drug addiction
- Coached or rehearsed responses to questions
Child Trafficking Indicators

- A sudden change in attire, behavior, relationships, or material possessions
- Uncharacteristic promiscuity &/or references to sexual situations or terminology beyond age-specific norms
- A “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older &/or controlling
- An attempt to conceal scars, tattoos, or bruises
- Signs of drug addiction

- A sudden change in attention to personal hygiene
- Hyperarousal or symptoms of anger, panic phobia, irritability, hyperactivity, frequent crying, temper tantrums, regressive behavior, &/or clinging behavior
- Hypoarousal or symptoms of daydreaming, inability to bond with others, inattention, forgetfulness, &/or shyness
Child Labor Trafficking Indicators

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students
- Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours
- Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer &/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss
- Not being in control of his or her own money
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student’s caregiver
- A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so
Red Flag Statements
Language of Circumstances

- “Slave” or “slave-like”
- “Treated me as a slave”
- “I can’t talk long”
- “I am being forced”
- Being “sold”
- Threats of deportation
- Passport taken away
- Told to lie about age
- S/he is making me

- Making money for boyfriend
- Not allowed to go shopping
- Must stay in room when visitors in house
- Sleeps in basement or garage
- Escorted or supervised when out
- Not allowed/cannot have friends
- Not allowed to leave house
- Eats meals separately from family
COMPLEX TRAUMA

• Traumatic stressors are:
  • INTERPERSONAL (e.g. abuse from caregivers)
  • REPETITIVE, PROLONGED, or CUMMULATIVE
  • Compounded by SECONDARY TRAUMA

Source: Courtois (2004), “Understanding Complex Trauma, Complex Reactions, and Treatment Approaches”; “Complex trauma, complex reactions: Assessment and treatment.”
Trauma Bond

Care and Love are provided by perpetrator

Violence and fear are inflicted by the perpetrator

A relationship is based on the victim being dependent on the perpetrator
Cycle of Abuse

Honeymoon Period
Apologies, Promises, Blaming, Gifts

Explosion
Attacks and Threats, Physical, emotional, sexual

Tension Builds
Criticism, Yelling, Swearing, Cartoon, Anger
COMPLEX TRAUMA: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Trauma can affect neurophysiological development (impact on learning, identity development, self-worth etc.)
- Due to insecure attachments that can be developed, potential connection with complex-PTSD and borderline personality traits
  - Such traits are not “character defects” but are in part a result from the individual’s experiences

Source: Courtois (2004), “Understanding Complex Trauma, Complex Reactions, and Treatment Approaches”; “Complex trauma, complex reactions: Assessment and treatment.”
COMPLEX TRAUMA REACTIONS

Alterations in:

(1) Regulation of affective impulses
(2) Attention & consciousness
(3) Self-perception
(4) Perception of the perpetrator
(5) Relationships to others
(6) Somatization and/or other medical problems
(7) Systems of meaning

Source: Courtois (2004), “Understanding Complex Trauma, Complex Reactions, and Treatment Approaches”; “Complex trauma, complex reactions: Assessment and treatment.”
Mental Health and Children

• Common diagnoses seen in child victims
  - Substance related disorders
  - Dissociative disorders
  - Impulse control issues
  - Conduct disorders
  - ADHD
  - OCD
  - PTSD

Foreign National Minors

• Always use a 3rd party interpreter
• Call 911 for immediate, emergency help
• Call the International Institute for coordination of services:
  – Caitlyn Drozda 314-773-9090 x
  – Lara Fallon 314-773-9090 x160
• TVPRA requires local officials to notify HHS within 24 hours of discovering a foreign child who may have been trafficked.
  – 202-205-4582 or childtrafficking@acf.hhs.gov
For More Information:
Amanda Colegrove
Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation Organizer
Crime Victim Advocacy Center
amanda@supportvictims.org
Office: 314-289-5656
Facebook: Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation - CATE
Twitter: @emocatetestl

National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1-888-3737-888
YWCA Women’s Resource Center

✧ Services offered to trafficking victims / survivors:
  ✧ Case management, emergency crisis intervention, criminal justice advocacy, therapy and counseling for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence or abuse at no cost to clients
  ✧ Partner with local law enforcement to provide on-site crisis intervention
  ✧ Provide services to ages 14 and older, all genders
  ✧ Vocational training through the Women’s Economic Stability Program (WESP)
  ✧ Transitional Housing Program for single women 18 years or older
  ✧ Healthy sexuality education for people with disabilities through the Sexual Health and Disability Education program (SHADE)

✧ Professional Training for Law Enforcement, Medical Professionals and Social Service Professionals regarding issues related to domestic sex trafficking

✧ Contact information:
  ✧ Cindy Malott, cmalott@ywcastlouis.org, Crisis Intervention Supervisor
  ✧ Lori Schlatter, lschlatter@ywcastlouis.org, SART Program Specialist
  ✧ (314) 726-6665 ext. 15
YOUTH IN NEED

Believing in the power of potential...™

• Offers a continuum of services from birth to age 21, including:
  – Head Start and Early Head Start
  – Teen Parent Program
  – Foster Care
  – School and Community-Based Counseling
  – Services for Runaway and/or Homeless Youth
    • Street Outreach, Safe Place, Emergency Shelter and Transitional Living Programs

• Services are inclusive and supportive of ALL youth identities and are delivered using a strengths-based and client-centered approach.

• **Contact us:** Headquarters (636)946-5600 24 hour hotline (636)946-3771  
  Barissa Hoover (314)604-9020
  www.youthinneed.org