5TH ANNUAL TEXAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMIT
WELCOME

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN TEXAS

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CORRELATES OF FEMALE DELINQUENCY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Groups of Risk Factors for Delinquency

- Individual
  - Trauma, mental health, biology
- Family
  - Monitoring, abuse, instability
- School
  - Attachment, commitment, success
- Peer
  - Delinquent peers
- Neighborhood
  - Concentrated poverty, household structure, social cohesion/disorganization, social capital and efficacy, residential mobility
Types of Female Delinquency

- Minor offenses predominate female delinquency
  - Running away
  - Truancy
  - Drug Use
Delinquency and Human Trafficking Victimization Correlation

“...these girls may be fleeing from serious problems and victimization, some involving illegal behavior by adults, which in turn makes them vulnerable to subsequent victimization and engaging in other behaviors that violate the law such as prostitution, survival sex, and drug use” (Zatz et al., 2010).
Possible Models

- Risk
  - Delinquency
  - Trafficking

- Delinquency
- Trafficking
Legal incongruity in applying prostitution laws to minors
  - Consent

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000)
  - Minors (under 18) induced to perform commercial sex acts
Risk

Delinquency

Trafficking
Female Risk – Correlates for Delinquency and Trafficking Victimization
Risk Factors

- Individual
- Family
- School
- Peer
- Neighborhood
Individual

- Sexual abuse
- Mental health linked to victimization
  - Depression
  - Anxiety
  - PTSD
Cycle of Victimization

Victimization

Substance Abuse

Mental Health
Individual

- Biological – Early onset of puberty
  - Interaction with mental health
  - Physical maturity without mental maturity
  - Increased risk for delinquency
  - Exposure to intimate partner violence
  - Affiliate with anti-social older males
  - Increased conflict with parents
Family and School

- Family instability
  - Greater transitions = greater drug use
- School attachment
  - Bonding with teachers
Neighborhood

- Relocation from disadvantage neighborhoods increased:
  - Expectations for completing college
  - Increased participation in sports
  - Reduced school absences
  - Increased associations with pro-social peers
QUESTIONS?
SPECIAL APPROACHES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION

Lieutenant Alfred Diorio
High Risk Victims and Trafficking Unit
Dallas Police Department
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Operation Brick and Mortar
Internet Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking

Public Safety Committee
Purpose

• Explain how technology, Internet and cell phones, have changed the face and landscape of Sex Trafficking.
  – Moved from a localized street level or Sexually Oriented Business (SOB), to a virtual environment
  – Operate in the City of Dallas with intangible boundaries/locations
  – Traditional enforcement techniques less effective
Goals and Objectives

• Leverage technology to establish a clear presence on the Internet to:
  – Reduce offenses
  – Identify and locate child and adult victims of sex trafficking
  – Deter and disrupt criminal conduct
  – Remove perceived anonymity for those who:
    ✷ Post ads for prostitution
    ✷ Respond to ads for prostitution “Johns”
  – Sustainable
Technology Facilitated Trafficking

• Game Changer
  – Availability of technology
    • Crosses social and economic lines
  – New points of contact
    • Recruitment
      – Internet sites
      – Social networking sites
      – Chat lines
  • Advertisement
  • Delivery
Technology Facilitated Trafficking

• Game Changer
  – Perceived anonymity of users
    • Traffickers, Buyers, “Johns” and Posters
      – All done online, phone, only exposure is walking to hotel room
  – Provides platform to disguise as:
    • Legitimate
    • Enables the old to look younger, young look older
      – Hide child victims
        » Portray children as adults
Technology Facilitated Trafficking

• Investigative/Enforcement Challenges
  – Identifying/locating children
    • Who is in the picture
      – Is it a real person?
    • Prepaid phones, credit cards
  • Volume
    – Dates/meetings
    – Staffing / Safety
Technology Facilitated Trafficking Methods

- Internet Based Platforms/Delivery
  - Internet ads
    - Online escorts
      - Backpage, Eros, Ecci
    - Magazine ads
    - Social networking sites
  - More everyday
Technology Facilitated Trafficking Methods

• Internet Based Platforms/Delivery
  – How does it work?
  – What does it look like?
Backpage.Com

Example of “Brief” ad view
Backpage.Com

Example of “Full” ad view

~NO FAKE PHOTOS...Highly Reviewed! Petite Waist+Bubble Butt ~ ~ - 22

Posted: Saturday, June 23, 2012 5:39 PM

Reply: click here

I offer a fantastic unrushed, relaxing time in my own clean well kept townhome. Very open minded & willing to fulfill all of your fantasies! Comfortable in my skin. I love to give & receive affection 5'11" 115lbs Perky rips kissable lips Bedroom Blue Eyes *Unforgettable Phat Bottom
*I promise to leave you satisfied & coming back for more.
*Ask for LARA 9469*671*6859
*JN+247r+OUT+*
Hotels Friendly Depending upon location

Posts ago: 22

- Location: Dallas, TX Dallas/Galleria (In/Out Call Anytime)

- User first posted May 2008

- Post ID: 16055314 Dallas

- Other ads by this user:
  - ~Cute Face~PETITE Waist+BubBLE BuTT... Well REVIEWED ~ ~ - 22 (North Dallas/Galleria) In/Out adult entertainment escorts
  - ~looks GOOD Smells Intoxicating FEELS Out of this World ~ ~ - 22 (N. Dallas In Townhome/Out 247) adult entertainment escorts
  - A SPINNER & BubBLE PluLDe Bunny! SLINDER wiLk In ThE TrunK & ~ ~ - 19 (N. Dallas Tolway In Townhome/Out 247) adult entertainment escorts
  - * ~ Sexy Latina & EnJOY being PLAYEd with * ~ - 22 (N. Dallas In Townhome/Out 247) adult entertainment escorts
  - ~Sensual + Juicy Latina + Curves 2 D4 + FUN= MFT ~ ~ - 24 (North Dallas In Private In/Out) adult entertainment escorts

Flag this ad
Scope of the Problem (Dallas)

- January 2012 thru May 2012:
  - Identified (26) child victims of sex trafficking
    - 7 (27%) had Internet ads placed by traffickers
  - 80 child sex trafficking Cybertips from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
    - Cybertips are distributed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to local law enforcement and ICAC Units
Example of Cybertip
DPD ICAC/HRVT received 1279 CyberTips for follow up investigation during the year 2012
Operation Brick and Mortar

• Comprehensive technology based operation
  – Establishes DPD presence on the Internet
  – Allows for enforcement of virtual world as with a “brick and mortar building”
  – Makes illegal activity difficult
  – Rescues child victims
Phase One

• Proactive Target Hardening
  – Answer posted Internet ads, offer assistance, services, and resources to possible victims, especially children
Phase One Resource Example

* *You'rE **WaY **With* *MoN Ae ** ..CaLL** Me!! I Am reADy* **anD** **wattI Ng** **in/out - ... Page 1 of 1
dallas, tx free classifieds

backpage.com > dallas adult entertainment > dallas escorts > ad > Reply

Re: * *You'rE **WaY **With* *MoN Ae ** ..CaLL** Me!! I Am reADy* **anD** **wattI Ng** **in/out

Your email address: traffickinghelp@yahoo.com

Confirm your email address: traffickinghelp@yahoo.com

Your message:

*****THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT *****
HAS JUST REVIEWED THIS AD

This ad appears to be an ad for prostitution. Prostitution is illegal in the City of Dallas. If you, or someone you know is being forced or coerced by threat or fraud to engage in prostitution, or you are under 18, call any of the following for help:

If an emergency situation exists call Dallas Police (911) National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at 1-888-373-7888 to report or access help.
Dallas Police Department Vice Section 214 671 3230
Dallas Police Department Child Exploitation Unit 214 671 4211

For additional information or resources on Human Trafficking visit the follow sites:

File Attachment (optional)
File must be 1 megabyte or smaller. Please only upload images in gif and jpg format.
Phase Two

• Proactive Target Hardening
  – Posting deterrence undercover ads targeting the demand side “Johns” with a warning about being illegal activity and possibility of arrest
Phase Two - Undercover Ad Example

new PERFECT Brunette DOLL PETITE BODY? - 21 - 21
Posted: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:07 AM

Reply: click here

The D_all_a_s (Pol) ice in an effort to fight the (vict)imization and sexual exp) loitation of women and (child)ren through (prostitution/human (tra)cking has initiated several (under) cover operations on the Internet. Some ads will be a (warn)ing such as this one! Other ads will be real, in that the person you meet will be a real under_cover police officer! You are not anonymous and your location and (IP) address has just been lo(g)ed

Poster’s age: 21

• Location: Dallas

• Post ID: 17698879 dallas

Email this ad
Phase Three

• Enforcement
  – Coordinated effort “Leveraging Resources” between Child Exploitation/High Risk Victims and Trafficking Squad, Vice, and Patrol/Metro officers with directed enforcement on posted ads
    • Identify child and/or adult victims
    • Meet suspect or poster (Undercover or Knock and Talk)
    • Arrest of subjects who engage in prostitution via the posted ads focusing on:
      – Recovery of children
      – Demand ‘Johns”
      – Trafficker/preferential offender focus
Case Example

- 15 years of age victim of child sex trafficking
- Runaway from county North of Dallas
- Recovered during Brick and Mortar Operation
Example of ad. Note this ad is of a 15 years of age child who has been a runaway from another city for over a year. Child recovered 6/22/12 from this ad during Operation Brick and Mortar.

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**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND ;) Come and see Melissa*** - 19

Posted: Thursday, June 21, 2012 7:52 PM

Reply: [click here](#)

Blonde Snow Bunny here to Please!
From the time you lay eyes on me you will see
Breath-taking at 5'3 140lbs with Baby Blue Eyes
Curious body of a Goddess!Firm DD's with a Petite Waist
I take pride in Providing a Relaxed & Unrushed Environment
*Hush*Very Discreet
□(No explicit talk or text)!
Call the sexiest 2 girl show around
Incalls outcalls

Poster's age: 19

- Location: Dallas, 635 & Northwest Frwy
- Post ID: 17697479 dallas

[Email this ad](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ad Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu. Jun. 21</td>
<td><em><strong>BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND :) Come and see Melissa</strong></em> - 19 (635 &amp; Northwest Fwy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>****BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND :) Meet MELISSA, tonight *** - 19 (635 &amp; Northwest Hwy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Jun. 20</td>
<td>BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND :) Meet Melissa, tonight - 19 (635 &amp; Northwest Hwy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>------------------------------------- (635 &amp; northwes t hwy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. Jun. 19</td>
<td>BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND :) *** Come see MELISSA tonight *** - 18 (635 &amp; Northwest Fwy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stats First Operation

• Random Internet Ads contacted: 22
• Prostitution arrest initiated from ads: 23
  – Adult: 21
  – Juvenile: 2
    – One 16 years of age
    – One 17 years of age

Note:

100% of ads (22) where UC officer made contact with the poster resulted in an arrest for prostitution
Stats June 2012 – August 2013

• 5 separate operations:
  – Internet based ads contacted 129
  – Arrest, Criminal Solicitation of a Minor 2
  – Arrest Compelling Prostitution 6
  – Arrest of “Johns” Demand 42
  – Total enforcement – arrest/citations 118
  – Child victims identified/recovered 6
Summary Page

• Mobile technology is a “game changer” influencing how crimes are committed and investigated

• Law enforcement, Dallas Police Department, has established a clear and visible presence on the Internet as a deterrence to criminal activity

• Technology has to continuously be evaluated and leveraged
QUESTIONS?
SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

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Superintendent, Letot Center
Dallas County Juvenile Department
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Cathy Brock
Chair, Dallas Community High Risk Victims Task Force
Cathy54po@aol.com
QUESTIONS?
THE SAFE HOUSE MOVEMENT:
AN EXAMINATION OF
RESTORATIVE SHELTER CORE
COMPONENTS

Dawn Lew
Senior Staff Attorney
CHILDREN AT RISK
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2012 Safe House Survey

- C@R partnered with Shared Hope International to survey safe houses in the U.S.
- We sought to gather crucial information about how to successfully open and operate a safe house
Safe House Survey

Considerations:

- Location
- Programming and Services
- Staffing
- Licensing
- Target Population
Recurring Recommendations

- Need improved data collection on victims
- Enhanced identification efforts
- Training for CPS and medical professionals
- Enhanced communication between child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Alternatives to the juvenile justice system
- Enhanced minimum standards
Recommendations Addressed by 83rd Texas Legislature in 2013:

- Need improved data collection on victims
  SB 742, HB 2539, HB 2268, HB 1120
- Enhanced identification efforts
  HB 1206, SB 742
- Training for CPS and medical professionals
  HB 1272
- Enhanced communication between child welfare and juvenile justice systems
  SB 92
- Alternatives to the juvenile justice system
  SB 92
- Enhanced minimum standards
  HB 2725
SECTION 4. Section 42.042, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g-2) to read as follows:

(g-2) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt minimum standards that apply to general residential operations that provide comprehensive residential and nonresidential services to persons who are victims of trafficking under Section 20A.02, Penal Code. In adopting the minimum standards under this subsection, the executive commissioner shall consider:

(1) the special circumstances and needs of victims of trafficking of persons; and

(2) the role of the general residential operations in assisting and supporting victims of trafficking of persons.
QUESTIONS?
NETWORKING BREAK
ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION: AN UPDATE ON THE 83RD SESSION

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LUNCH
THE IMPORTANCE OF SURVIVOR-INFORMED CARE

Felicia Hyde
Trafficking Survivor
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QUESTIONS?
JUVENILE SPECIALTY COURTS

Judge Laura Parker
RESTORE Program
386th District Court of Bexar County
lparker@bexar.org
Mission Statement: Provide children who have a history of sexual exploitation or trafficking the opportunity to reclaim their lives through prevention, effective interventions and protection.

“Working together to create new beginnings and a happier life.”
Need for Specialized Services

2009-Present

297 Identified as possible DMST victims

- Sexual abuse/assault victims - 125
- Sexual exploitation victims - 77
- No DMST or sexual abuse/assault found or not interviewed – 95

2013 Alone

83 Identified as possible DMST victims

- Sexual abuse/assault victims - 39
- Sexual exploitation victims - 26
Partnerships

• Development of partnerships
  Judge, DA, Defense Attorneys, Probation, Law Enforcement, and local resources

• Focus Group
  Developed mission, vision and guidelines
Training

Provided training to staff and all partners:

• How to identify victims
• Characteristics of victims
• History of child abuse, runaway, homeless, internet solicitation
• Offense referrals: Assault Bodily Injury, CINS, Possession of Marijuana, Evading Arrest, etc.
Creating the Court

• Created internal system for processing the cases and referring to Restore Court
• Determined how expectations will be phased
• Created documentation required for Restore Court
  – Written Guidelines
  – Handbook for child
Court Process

- Placement and Community Supervision dockets
- **Staffing:**

  **RESTORE COURT TEAM MEMBERS**

  **Judge**
  *Laura Parker - leads court process*

  **Therapist**
  *individual, group & family therapy*

  **Defense Attorney**
  *Child’s legal representation*

  **Probation Officer/ Staff**
  *provides case management*

  **District Attorney**
  *State/ department representation*

  **Law Enforcement**
  *investigations & collateral info on adult cases*

  **Partnering Agencies**
  *Rape crisis Center, Parent Project, Etc.*
Court Process

• Regular staffing by team
• Court – informal setting
• Incentives
• Graduation from program
• Sealing of Records
Comparison of Restore Court Juveniles to 4,826 Juveniles Referred October 2012 – September 2013

October 8, 2013
Gender

**Restore Court**
- Female: 80%
- Male: 20%

**General Population**
- Male: 66%
- Female: 34%
Ethnicity

**Restore Court**
- LATIN: 80%
- WHITE: 20%

**General Population**
- LATIN: 70%
- WHITE: 14%
- BLACK: 14%
- ASIAN: 0.4%
- INDIAN: 0.1%
- OTHER: 2%
Key Indicators

Restore Court & General Population

- % w/ Program Services: 80% (Restore Court), 51% (General Population)
- % w/ Residential Placements: 80% (Restore Court), 5% (General Population)
- % w/ Detentions: 100% (Restore Court), 36% (General Population)

Legend:
- Blue: Restore Court
- Red: General Population
Mental Health Indicators Proportions
Restore Court & General Population

- Mental Health Needs: 100% (Restore Court), 31% (General Population)
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 100% (Restore Court), 29% (General Population)
- Alcohol & Drugs Alert*: 100% (Restore Court), 10% (General Population)
- Depr. & Anx. Alert*: 80% (Restore Court), 12% (General Population)
- Suicide Alert*: 100% (Restore Court), 13% (General Population)

*Alert is a warning on the indicated subscale on the MAYSI 2.0
Questions & Comments

Thank you
OUTREACH TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Genevieve Ford
Human Trafficking Outreach Specialist
ACH Child & Family Services
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Tasha McGhie
Human Trafficking Outreach Coordinator
Mosaic Family Services
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Understanding Victims

- Gaining victim’s trust
  - Unconditional acceptance
  - Meet immediate needs
  - Realistic goals
  - Take time to know them
  - Use victim’s terminology
Identifying victims through ACH’s assessment

Name
DOB
Contact info
Youth Strength
School and social activities
Past Experiences
Triggers
Areas of interest (not help)

1. School & Pro social Environment
   • Goals and steps

2. Risky Behaviors:
   • Goals and steps

3. Brief description of living situation:
   (Who? Where? For how long?)
   • Goals and steps
QUESTIONS?
NONPROFIT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION

Deena Graves
Executive Director, Traffick911
deena@traffick911.com

Shawn McGraw
Supervisory Special Agent
ICE Homeland Security Investigations
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Alex Lewis
Deputy Criminal Chief, Violent Crime Section
Northern District of Texas
Alex.Lewis@usdoj.gov
Denton County judge sentences man to 20 years for selling an Allen teen for sex in six states

- 19-year old woman, Williams, connected with a 14-year-old girl on a social networking site
- The girl had posted a message about getting into a fight with her mother and that she was tired of living at home
- Williams sent the girl a private message, then she and co-defendant, Jacobs, went to pick the teenager up from her home in Allen and took her to an extended-stay hotel
Denton County judge sentences man to 20 years for selling an Allen teen for sex in six states

- The pair took photos of the girl and posted them to websites advertising sex

- They traveled to Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kentucky and Florida where the teenager had sex with approximately 30 men

- They charged $100 for 30 minutes and $150 for an hour with the girl

- All the money went to Jacobs, and Williams helped arrange the meetings
NETWORKING BREAK
THE TEXAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATABASE

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Staff Attorney  
CHILDREN AT RISK  
sananthaswamy@childrenatrisk.org
Human Trafficking Database

- Goals:
  - Enhance communication among key stakeholders
  - Foster collaboration
  - Pool resources to create a coordinated effort
  - Spread innovation and best practices
  - Better meet the needs of victims and combat human trafficking
Human Trafficking Database

- Conducted a statewide survey of key anti-trafficking stakeholders, including:
  - Law enforcement agencies
  - Service providers
  - Academic researchers
  - Others actively involved in combating human trafficking in Texas
HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATABASE
Human Trafficking Database

- Service provider findings:
  - Domestic sex trafficking is most prevalent focus area
  - Women and children are the most prevalent populations served
Human Trafficking Database

- Law enforcement findings:
  - Law enforcement focus areas:
    - Labor Trafficking 72.7%
    - Sex Trafficking 63.6%
    - Domestic Trafficking 63.6%
    - International Trafficking 54.5%
    - Minors 72.7%
    - Adults 63.6%
Human Trafficking Database

- Service providers and law enforcement findings:
  - Greatest barriers to anti-trafficking efforts are:
    - Lack of adequate funding
    - Lack of knowledge about human trafficking among community members
    - Coordinating with state and local agencies
Human Trafficking Database

- Next phase
  - Expand the number and type of profiles
  - Connect organizations ready for collaboration
  - Vetting criteria
Human Trafficking Database

- 16 groups in the room currently on the database:
  - ACH Child and Family Services
  - Dallas Police Department
  - Mosaic Family Services
  - Traffick911
  - New Friends New Life
  - Prayer For Freedom
  - Refuge City
  - Refuge of Light
  - Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department
  - World Vision
  - ALERT Ministries
  - Catholic Charities
  - New Life Refuge Ministries
  - Refugee Services of Texas
  - Salvation Army
  - Human Rights Initiative
BREAK OUT SESSION
QUESTIONS?
LESSONS FROM THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Texas State Representative
Cindy Burkett
District 113
cindy.burkett@house.state.tx.us
QUESTIONS?
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Technology

Keith Thode
COO and CTO
The Aidmatrix Foundation
keith_thode@aidmatrix.org
• Offices in USA, India & Germany.
• International partnerships

• Leveraging industry’s innovations to increase humanitarian relief.
  – impacting **65M people**
  – mobilizing **$1.5 billion in aid**
  – through solutions used by **50,000+ partners**
What will SafeNight Achieve?

• A Mobile/Web Bed-finding and Funding Service for Domestic Violence Agencies
  – One in every four
  – 1.3 million women assaulted by an intimate partner
  – Research Human Trafficking Stats
  – 300 people a day turned away in California

• Goals of SafeNight:
  – Reducing Incidents of Domestic Violence by allowing more victims to remove themselves from the threat
  – Capturing Data to Better Serve Women and Children in Need
Aidmatrix Empowers Shelters

What is SafeNight? Process Flow

Shelter Notified of a Need for Placement

If shelters are full, partners can search for hotel availability

The app will send requests to targeted donors to sponsor the hotel stay
SafeNight Ecosystem

**Name:** Travel Portal  
**Type:** Website  
**Users:** Shelters staff  
**Purpose:** Book & pay for discounted hotel rooms

**Name:** Virtual Aid Drive™  
**Type:** Website  
**Users:** Shelters staff  
**Purpose:** Send alerts, view reporting

**Name:** SafeNight  
**Type:** Mobile app  
**Users:** Donors  
**Purpose:** Receive alerts, make donation
SafeNight App: Feel & Function

Sign Up/Login

SafeNight
THANK YOU

Your donation provided a Safe Night for someone tonight. Thank you. You will receive an email detailing your donation for your records.

ABOUT SAFEHIGHT

Offer/Donate

SafeNight
YOU CAN HELP

Please confirm your donation of $XXXX to Shelter Name. To support a hotel in need. Once your payment is submitted, you will be notified of details.

SafeNight
DONATE

Please enter your credit card information:

- Credit card number
- Expiration date
- CVV Code

Please be sure your profile information below matches the information linked to this credit card.

- Jennifer
- Luckie

Next
SafeNight: Future Extensions

• New Locations
  – City by City
  – Leverage Implementation Partners
  – Pre-Packaged Programs

• National Partnerships
  – Women-driven businesses & associations

• Extensions
  – Human Trafficking
  – Disaster Relief/Emergency Sheltering
  – Other Services
The SafeNight Team

www.aidmatrix.org/safenight
SafeNight … at full potential
Thank you!

Keith Thode, COO/CTO
keith_thode@aidmatrix.org

www.aidmatrix.org/safenight
QUESTIONS?
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Medical Community

Dr. Sophia Grant
Cook Children’s CARE Team
Sophia.Grant@cookchildrens.org
Importance of Frontline Responder

- We see these victims in our interactions but never know what they endure
- You may be the only opportunity to speak with an outsider
- If you don’t ask, you will never know
The Medical Response

- Sadly, not much has been done because we have not been trained to recognize the signs.
- 28% of trafficking survivors stated they had come into contact with the healthcare system while captive (Turning Pain into Power: Trafficking Survivors’ Perspectives on early Intervention Strategies. Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2005)
Why is this a healthcare issue?

- STDs
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis C
- Broken bones
- Dental problems
- HIV
- Host of gynecological problems
- PID
- Drug addiction
- PTSD
- Unwanted pregnancies
Jill’s Story*

- Runaway teen at age 14, escaping sexual and physical abuse
- Homeless until approached in a suburban mall by a man named Bruce
- Promised to help and provide work

*Name changed and story use with permission of Dr. Jeffrey Barrows
Jill’s Story

- Taken to his “office”, which was a cellar in his home
  - Hung by her wrists with leather straps
  - Stripped, beaten and tortured until she agreed to work as a prostitute
  - Torture included being hung by her neck which resulted in permanent scar and damage to her vocal cords affecting her speech
Jill’s Story

- Once she agreed to be prostituted Bruce brought paying clients to his home to have sex with Jill

- Some clients would “pay extra” to do unusual things to Jill
Jill’s Story

- During the next three years, she suffered horrible torture and repeated rape by Bruce’s clients
- Jill eventually became pregnant
  - Bruce attempted to perform an abortion
  - Being unsuccessful, Jill began to hemorrhage
Jill’s Story

- Bruce took her to an ER

- In order to protect himself and preserve his control over Jill, Bruce needed to come up with a good cover story…
Jill’s Story

- Bruce explained he was Jill’s older brother

- Both their parents had been killed in an automobile accident two years prior
Jill’s Story

- As a result of the accident and devastating loss of their parents, Jill suffered from schizophrenia.
- Bruce was the only relative she had and he often had to “tie her down” so she wouldn’t run away.
- Because of her schizophrenia, Jill often hallucinated about very strange things…like being held captive.
Jill’s Story

- Story accepted without hesitation
- Bruce does all the talking
- This should always be a huge red flag when interacting with patients
Jill’s Story

- Clinical situation
- If Bruce is caring for her fulltime, how did Jill get pregnant?
- The pieces do not fit!
This was missed in the ER and on the floor...why?
- Lack of concern?
- Lack of training?
- Too busy?
- Too complicated?
What a proper investigation would look like:

- Direct questioning of Jill alone
- Psych consult to confirm the diagnosis of schizophrenia
- Social services consult to confirm parents’ death
Jill’s Story

- Jill was in the hospital for 3 days
  - Taken to the OR for uterine curettage
  - Received several units of blood
  - Antibiotics for prevention of infection
Jill’s Story

- While in the hospital
- NO ONE ASKED
- Discharged home from the hospital, back into captivity
This story illustrates the importance of training healthcare professionals and first responders to recognize potential victims of human trafficking.
Common Characteristics of DMST Victims

- Barcode or ownership tattoos
- Chronic school absences
- Fearful, eye contact avoidance
- Older controlling boyfriend or woman
- Motel room keys
- Burns, bruises, scars and other signs of abuse
- Uses words common to prostitution
Common Characteristics of DMST Victims

- False IDs, lying about age
- Frequent ER visits for STIs
- Cell phones not paid for by parents
- Reluctant to explain injuries
- Drug use
- Travel to various cities
- High number of sex partners for age
- Previous pregnancies/abortions
Typical Tattoos
Medical Signs

- STIs
- Chronic Pelvic Pain
- Sexual Mutilation
- Bruises
- Scars
- Vaginal bleeding
- Torn colon
- Infectious diseases
- Addiction/withdrawal
The First Step: Separation

- Separate the patient from the person who brought her
- Assure her of her safety
- Speak in a secure area
- Establish rapport in nonjudgmental manner
  - “I am a safe person.”
  - “You are not in trouble.”
  - “I want to help you.”
The Second Step: Questions

- Do you feel safe at home?
- Who is that person who brought you?
- Do you have a job?
- Where do you stay when you run away?
- I like your tattoo, where did you get it?
- Do you have a nickname?
- Have you ever been asked to have sex for money?
GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

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QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!

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