Human Trafficking and the Healthcare Sector

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No conflicts to disclose
Agenda

❖ Overview of Human Trafficking
❖ Implementation of a Human Trafficking Response Plan
❖ Red Flags and Indicators
❖ How you can help
Human trafficking is in your community.
Definitions

Sex Trafficking

Labor Trafficking
U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act

To be convicted of human trafficking

**Action**
- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Exploiting
- Patronizing
- Soliciting

**Means**
- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

**Purpose**
- Sexual Exploitation
- Labor Exploitation

OR
One Exception
Minor < 18 in commercial sex

**Action**
- Recruiting
- Harbor
- Transporting
- Exploiting
- Patronizing
- Soliciting

**Means**
- Force
- Coercion
- Fraud

**Purpose**
- Sexual Exploitation
- Labor Exploitation
- OR
Who can be trafficked?

Runaway youth & homeless population are very high at risk.

ANY person, ANY age, ANY race, ANY gender can be trafficked!
WHO?

Who can be trafficked?

- Nationally 450,000 children run away from home each year

- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward sexual exploitation within 48 hours of leaving home

- Of minors - 12 is the average age of entry into pornography and sexual exploitation in the U.S.
Who are the traffickers?

“Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House” New York
### Trafficking Venues (Polaris Project)

#### Sexual Exploitation
- Massage Parlors
- Residential Brothels
- Escort Services
- Online Exploitation
- Hotels & Motels
- Street Exploitation
- Truck Stops

#### Domestic Servitude
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing
- Construction
- Sales Crews
- Factories
- Service Industry (hotels & restaurants)
- Small Businesses

#### Other
- Hostess Clubs/Cantina Bars
- Exotic Dancing/Stripping
- Pornography
Domestic Sex Trafficking and Healthcare

87.8% interviewed reported contact with a healthcare system.
ED Personnel Knowledge of Trafficking

Assessed knowledge among ER personnel in four large emergency rooms in the Northeast:

- 2% had formal training on trafficking
- 5% were confident in ability to identify a victim
- 7% were confident in ability to treat a victim
Physical Indicators

- Signs of physical trauma
- Branding tattoos
- Unusual infections
- Multiple STI’s
- Malnutrition, dehydration
- Multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Unusual occupational injuries
**RED FLAGS**

**Know the Red Flags**

- Inconsistent or scripted history
- Discrepancy between history and clinical presentation
- Unable to give address
- Late presentation
- Doesn’t know current city
- Minor trading sex for something of value
- Unusually high number of sexual partners
- Appearance younger than stated
Control Indicators

• Accompanied by a controlling person

• Controlling person does not allow person to answer

• Controlling person interrupts or corrects person

• Not in control of their ID or passport

• Exhibits fear, nervousness, and/or avoids eye contact
METHODS

Methods of conditioning and control

• Starvation
• Confinement
• Beatings
• Torture
• Rape/gang-rape
• Threats of violence to family members
• Forced drug usage
• Fear of law enforcement
Obstacles to Overcome

- Attitude
- Use and threat of violence
- Misinformation/false promises
- Dependency on the abuser
- Distrust
- Lack of Knowledge
- Misidentification
Example Screening Questions...

- Have you ever exchanged sex for food, shelter, drugs, or money?
- Have you ever been forced to have sex against your will?
- Have you been asked to have sex with multiple partners?
- Do you have to meet a quota of money before you can go home?
What You Can Do

Educate yourself and others

Volunteer/mentor

Encourage education and a response plan to be implemented where you serve
Example of HT Program

Ascension Via Christi’s Efforts

Horizon Health
• Task Force
• Action Plan: Assessment Tool/Protocol
• Collaboration
• Training and Education
• Leadership-Acension Ministries
• HT Prevention Efforts

Human Trafficking Assessment Tool
AVCH TEAM

Ascension Via Christi HT Task Force

- Forensic Nursing
- Senior Leadership
- Clinical Care Specialty/Emergency
- Physician
- Behavioral Health
- Case Management
- Education
- Communications
- Legal Department
Example Response: ASCENSION VIA CHRISTI
WICHITA

Ascension Via Christi Wichita Human Trafficking Response

If you see any Red Flags, call 316-689-5252.

The Human Trafficking Response Team will be notified and a team member will meet with the patient.

The Wichita response team is a collaboration of Forensic Nursing, Behavioral Health, and the Foundation.
COLLABORATIONS

Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas

Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother

ICTSOS

End Human Trafficking

The Homestead

Children Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County
TRAINING

Ascension Via Christi HT Education

- HT Education Sessions
- Simulations
- Online Modules
- Educational Materials
- Education on How to Utilize Protocol
- Prevention-RESPECT Program
NUMBERS TO KNOW

National Trafficking Hotline

National Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

Cyber Tip Line 1-800-843-5678

Questions?

Thank you for your time.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


