Enhancing Empowerment for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Bhumika Patel, PCSAO
## Training Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understand</th>
<th>Understand the unique needs of juvenile survivors of human trafficking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate</td>
<td>Demonstrate trauma-informed, gender-responsive, and culturally appropriate techniques for engaging with survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use</td>
<td>Use a strengths-based approach to address survivor needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presentation Roadmap

What is human trafficking?

Needs of Juvenile Survivors

Service Considerations

all you need is love

Practice!
Notes before we start

Pronouns
Terminology
Self-care
What is human trafficking?
• **Sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion,

  or

• in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age
Federal Definition of Labor Trafficking

- recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for **labor or services**, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000
22 USC § 7102 (9)(B)
How Trafficking Occurs

**Action**
- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining
  * Patronizing, soliciting, advertising (Sex trafficking)

**Means**
- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

**Purpose**
- Commercial Sex Act
- Labor or Services

* Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—regardless if force, fraud or coercion is present.

Source: Polaris
Means: Examples & Definitions

**Force:** Physical assault, sexual assault, confinement

**Fraud:** An act of deception with criminal intent

**Coercion:** Threats of serious harm against any person; the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process

*Source: Salvation Army of Central Ohio*
Case Study #1

- Ashley is 15 years old. She lives with her 84-year-old grandmother, who also takes care of her four younger siblings. The week before her first day of school, Ashley realizes they don’t have enough money to buy her school uniform and supplies. One of her friends suggests she go down to the local gas station and “stand on the corner” to make money. Within 15 minutes of standing on the corner, a man offers her $50 for an oral sex act. Ashley agrees because $50 will pay for her school uniform.

Case Study #2

• John is 15 years old and lives with his mother, Mary, and two younger siblings. John helps his mother take care of his siblings and has few friends. Mary has always struggled to maintain employment and has recently turned to selling prescription drugs to pay their bills. Mary has started using the drugs she was selling and is now forcing John to help him sell drugs. Mary will not let John attend school and says John must help more to pay the rent. Mary is becoming more dependent on the drugs and is sometimes physically violent when John disagrees with her.
Needs of Juvenile Survivors

all you need is love
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

- Physiological Needs
- Safety and Security
- Love and Belonging
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Actualization

Source: Shared Hope
https://sharedhope.org/2013/04/why-her-what-you-need-to-know-about-how-pimps-choose/
Needs of Survivors

Consider how to address each survivor’s unique needs:

• Safety
• Basic needs
• Housing/placement
• Legal representation (criminal, juvenile)
• Children services advocacy (case planning, permanency planning)
• Ongoing support and skill development (independent living skills)
Service Considerations
Survivor Centered

A survivor centered approach prioritizes the survivor’s:

- “nothing about me without me”
- Survivors should be the ultimate decision-makers
- Forward looking stance versus focus on past challenges

Source: Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk, developed by Family & Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center, available at rhyttac.net
Trauma-Informed Care

- Trafficking & exploitation are traumatic
- Trauma can cause youth to present with problematic behaviors
- TIC focuses not on what is wrong with a youth, but on what happened to a youth

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services & National Center for Biotechnology Information
Trauma-Informed Care

• How do we incorporate trauma-informed principles in all aspects of daily practice?
  • Safety
  • Trustworthiness
  • Choice
  • Collaboration
  • Empowerment

• Consider verbal & non-verbal communication
• Consider strategies to foster positive relational experiences
Strengths-Based Approach

• Shift away from looking at deficits
• Focus on individual’s and family’s capacities, competencies, connections, values, hopes, etc.
• Does not mean ignoring challenges
• Engage youth as equal partners in service planning
• “Everyone is a teacher and a learner.”
• Encourage experiences where youth can be successful

Source: Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk, developed by Family & Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center, available at rhyttac.net
Creating a Safe Environment

- Space should be friendly, comfortable, and confidential
- Meet the youth where they are at
- Be mindful of how the youth may perceive your role
- Express nonjudgmental and interest in hearing whatever the youth may want to share
- Mirror language; validate feelings
- Only ask questions that you need answered
Culturally Sensitive Services

- Demonstrate respect of cultural beliefs and practices
- Provide space where the youth can feel comfortable talking about their values, beliefs, traditions, etc.
- Be conscious of dynamics when cultures intersect
- Use treatment approaches and modalities that can be adapted
- Partner with culturally specific organizations
- Display and disseminate materials and information that reflect cultural diversity of youth accessing services

Source: Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk, developed by Family & Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center, available at rhyttac.net
Gender-Responsive Services

• Individuals who are trafficked can be any gender
  • Female, male, transgender, gender non-conforming, nonbinary
  • Spectrum of gender identities and expressions
  • Men, boys, LGBTQ+ individuals are under-identified and underserved

• Consider how individuals navigate services differently based on gender identify and expression

• Services should be sensitive to gender identity and expression
Practice!
Small Group Discussions

- Review case studies in groups of 3-4
- Discuss:
  - What needs or challenges does this person and/or their family have?
  - What kinds of services should they be connected to?
  - What strengths does this person and/or their family have?
  - What partners do you need to help this person and/or their family?
- Report Back!
Case Study #1

• Ashley is 15 years old. She lives with her 84-year-old grandmother, who also takes care of her four younger siblings. The week before her first day of school, Ashley realizes they don’t have enough money to buy her school uniform and supplies. One of her friends suggests she go down to the local gas station and “stand on the corner” to make money. Within 15 minutes of standing on the corner, a man offers her $50 for an oral sex act. Ashley agrees because $50 will pay for her school uniform.
Case Study #2

• John is 15 years old and lives with his mother, Mary, and two younger siblings. John helps his mother take care of his siblings and has few friends. Mary has always struggled to maintain employment and has recently turned to selling prescription drugs to pay their bills. Mary has started using the drugs she was selling and is now forcing John to help him sell drugs. Mary will not let John attend school and says John must help more to pay the rent. Mary is becoming more dependent on the drugs and is sometimes physically violent when John disagrees with her.
Questions?

Bhumika Patel
Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator, PCSAO

Bhumika@pcsao.org
Presentation Roadmap

What is human trafficking?

Needs of Juvenile Survivors

all you need is love

Service Considerations

Practice!