



Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



Human Trafficking Webinar Series - Reducing Student Vulnerability in the Face of Community Risk Factors

Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:15 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Ruth Ryder

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy and Programs, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Ruth Ryder is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Programs – Formula Grants in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, Ms. Ryder oversees a broad range of management, policy, and program functions related to formula and discretionary grant programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). Ms. Ryder was previously the deputy director of the Office of Special Education Programs in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which she joined in 1988. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Ryder was a program administrator in a Washington state school district. There she had responsibility for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title 1 and Title II programs, state-remediation, gifted education, outcome-based education, and state- and district-wide testing programs. Ms. Ryder has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Special Education.

Brittany Derrow

Survivor Expert, Youthworks (ND)

Ms. Brittany Derrow has a formal education in criminal justice specializing in corrections and case management. Her work experience includes corrections, child welfare, community-based court diversion programs for youth, and victim services. Currently she serves as a Survivor Expert for Youthworks. In her role she uses her lived experience to mentor youth, as well as develop and advise policy and best practices in the anti-trafficking movement.

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz

Associate Professor, Director, Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (AZ)



Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D., is a social scientist focused on developing innovative research and methods to research emerging social issues, especially those affecting girls and women. Her scholarship is grounded in theories and methods exploring relationship dynamics, the impact of traumatic experiences, and intervention development. She is a nationally recognized expert on human trafficking. In 2018, Dr. Roe-Sepowitz presented a TedX entitled Hidden in Plain Sight: Sex Trafficking Next Door. She is an Associate Professor at the Arizona State University School of Social Work and the founder and director of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. She leads numerous initiatives working with community partners including law enforcement, social service providers, and survivor support organizations. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz is also the Clinical Director of Phoenix Starfish Place, a HUD funded supportive permanent housing program for sex trafficking women and their children. She is the Principal Investigator on a numerous state and federal grants and is a Co-Principal Investigator on a five-year National Science Foundation Grant exploring illicit networks that facilitate human trafficking. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz is on the editorial board of the Journal of Human Trafficking and has more than 40 peer review publications. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz was interviewed in the 2019 PBS Frontline documentary Sex Trafficking in America. She has written and lectured extensively on issues related to human trafficking. Dominique has been twice invited to the White House (under the Obama administration) to participate in national gatherings of policy-makers/advocacy groups/researchers on combatting human trafficking.

Officer Mike Bolme

City of Bismarck Police (ND)



Sergeant Mike Bolme is an investigator with the Bismarck Police Department. After serving in the US Army, Sgt. Bolme graduated from Minot State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He joined the Bismarck Police Department in 2003 and has worked multiple assignments including patrol, traffic, and narcotics. He was an eight-year member of the West Dakota SWAT Team and now serves on the local Human Trafficking Multi-Jurisdictional Team as well as the Bismarck/Mandan Drug Court Board. He also presents regularly to students at University of Mary, families and clients at the Heartview Foundation, and many other civic organizations. He has been the lead case agent in over 750 cases and currently supervises ten detectives in the investigations Section.

Keri Cerio

Director of Capacity Building, Every Student, Every Day, Office of Community Schools (NY)



Ms. Keri Cerio is the Director of Capacity Building for Every Student, Every Day in the Office of Community Schools at the New York City Department of Education. At the New York City Department of Education, Ms. Cerio coaches school leaders and partners citywide to implement the Every Student, Every Day strategy, an attendance improvement strategy that any school can use to remove barriers to attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism to help students attend, feel connected to, and succeed in school.

Ms. Cerio began her career in youth development as a teacher in Brooklyn, NY in 2012. In 2015, Ms. Cerio transitioned to the Office of Community Schools, where she began working in education policy and supporting Community Schools in Queens, NY while earning her Master's in Public Administration at Baruch College. Ms. Cerio's graduate thesis outlined how Community School strategies can be implemented in schools to prevent, identify students at risk of, and intervene in human trafficking by bridging the gap between public agencies and service providers and implementing a tiered intervention strategy for students.

Ms. Cerio believes that Community School and attendance improvement strategies can support schools to implement human trafficking prevention services. Using a data informed approach, schools can leverage attendance data to identify students who may be at risk of being trafficked or students who are being exploited. Through collaborations with community-based organizations, neighborhood partners, and even elected officials, Community Schools are equipped to identify the appropriate resources or interventions to support students who are at risk of or experiencing trafficking. Ms. Cerio is an advocate for children across NYC and is honored to sit on this panel of experts.

Nathan Earl

Human Trafficking Public Health Consultant, Principal, Giant Slayer Consulting (FL)



Nathan Earl is an anti-trafficking pioneer, fierce advocate and visionary leader with a passion for building resilient communities immune to exploitation. Through his work as a Public Health Consultant at Giant Slayer Consulting, Nathan leverages more than 20 years of lived and professional experience to help organizations and communities prevent violence against boys and male-identifying individuals. In 2014, Mr. Earl operationalized and led one of the first direct service programs for male survivors of human trafficking in the country. Based in South Florida, the program provided outreach, care coordination, case management, and housing coordination for young adult male survivors challenged with substance dependency. Nathan currently assists Federal, State and NGO partners increase their capacity to prevent human trafficking in the areas of research, collective impact, primary prevention and crisis intervention.

Mr. Earl is a member of multiple research teams studying the scope and prevalence of male sex trafficking, acute gaps in mental health care experienced by survivors of human trafficking, and the exploitation of LGBTQIA youth experiencing homelessness. Mr. Earl is a 2019 Fellow of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Human Trafficking Leadership Academy. Nathan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the University of South Florida and is currently pursuing his Master's in Public Health degree at Yale University. Mr. Earl possesses a Certificate in Leadership from Coro Southern California, and a Certificate in Human Subjects Research from CITI.