The Identification and Support of Students Affected by Human Trafficking

JANUARY 30, 2020
WEBINAR LOGISTICS

Zoom Control Panel

Technical Issues
For assistance during the webinar, please contact the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments at ncssle@air.org or by calling 800-258-8413.
WEBINAR LOGISTICS

Chat

To make a comment or interact with other attendees during this webinar, please use the chat.

Note the “To:” area. If you send to only All Panelists, your message will not be viewed by everyone in attendance. You can change this to All Panelists and Attendees if you would like everyone to see your message.

Q&A Pane

If you have a question for the presenters, please type it in the Q&A, or e-mail ncssle@air.org during the webinar.
WEBINAR AGENDA

- Welcome and Logistics
  Shauna Knox, Ed.D., U.S. Department of Education

- Human Trafficking in the National Context
  Ambassador John Richmond, U.S. Department of State

- U.S. Department of Education Against Human Trafficking
  Deputy Assistant Secretary Ruth Ryder, U.S. Department of Education

- Arizona: Research and Resources for Schoolwide Prevention & Intervention
  Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D., Arizona State University

- Prince William County Schools Trafficking Program
  Mary Ellen Smith, MSW, Prince William County Schools (VA)

- Survivor-Informed Leadership to Combat Human Trafficking in Schools
  Harold D’Souza, United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking

- Question & Answer Session
  Tim Duffey, National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments & Presenters

- Closing Remarks: The U.S. Department of Education Against Human Trafficking in 2020
  Shauna Knox, Ed.D., U.S. Department of Education
PLEASE NOTE

The content of this presentation does not necessarily represent the policy or views of the U.S. Department of Education, nor do they imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT
MEET THE PRESENTER

Ambassador John Cotton Richmond
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC
Trafficcking in Persons Office
Ambassador John Richmond

@State_JTIP  /usdos.jtip
TIPOutreach@state.gov
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MEET THE PRESENTER

Deputy Assistant Secretary Ruth Ryder
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC
Polling Question #1

Which of the following best describes your role? (Choose all that apply.)
State education agency (SEA) staff
Local education agency (LEA) staff
Federal grant recipient (e.g., Project Prevent, School Transformation Grants, School Mental Health Demonstration Grants)
School administrator
Classroom teacher
Specialized instructional support personnel (e.g., school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist, social worker, substance-abuse prevention specialist)
Community stakeholder
Parent
Student
Other (Please share your role in the Chat Box.)
Polling Question #2

Which of the following best describes your primary reason for participating in this webinar?
I have leadership responsibility to address human trafficking within a State education agency (SEA).
I have leadership responsibility to address human trafficking within a local education agency (LEA).
I am part of a team addressing human trafficking within a State education agency (SEA).
I am part of a team addressing human trafficking within a local education agency (LEA).
I have a personal interest in addressing human trafficking
Other (Please share in the Chat Box.)
ARIZONA: RESEARCH AND RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLWIDE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION
MEET THE PRESENTER

Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Arizona State University
Director: Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research
Phoenix, Arizona
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY: SEX TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION RESEARCH (STIR)

- Research
- Practice
- Trainings
WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

- According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, sex trafficking is defined as a situation “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.”

- Always sex trafficking when under age 18 if there is an exchange.

- Males, females, and transgender persons can be victims of sex trafficking.
WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Force
- Kidnapping
- Physical violence
- Sexual assault
- Drugging

Fraud
- Tricking victim into believing the trafficker loves her/him
- Telling the victim she/he is going to be a model
- Offering to provide basic needs without explaining true intention

Coercion
- Blackmailing
- Debt bondage
- Threats against victim or victim’s family
SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEX TRAFFICKING

**Domestic Violence & Sex Trafficking**
- Secrecy
- Violence
- Dominance & Power
- Rules
- Involvement of children as a tool
- Relationship-based
- Grooming
- Trauma bond
- 5 types of abuse

**Sex Trafficking Only**
- Stigma
- Participation in unique subculture
- Victimization by people outside the primary relationship that do not help
- Sexual activity outside the primary relationship
Push Factors

- family instability
- poverty
- gang-involvement
- history of abuse
- substance use
- trauma
- child welfare involvement
- history of running away
- sexual orientation

Source: NASW West Virginia Chapter
WHERE ARE VICTIMS RECRUITED (DOMESTIC)?

- Schools
- Bus stops
- Mall/social hangouts
- Group homes
- Social media
INTERVENTION: WHO BEST TO OBSERVE RED FLAGS?

- Teachers
- Special Education Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Social Workers/Counselors
- Bus Drivers
- School Nurses
- Peers!
ROLE OF SCHOOLS IN PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

- Schools provide the ideal venue of influential personnel.
- Educators can recognize warning signs.
- Address the topic of teen sex trafficking.
- Strengthen school-based programs on
  - Healthy relationships
  - Bullying
  - Interpersonal violence prevention
- Share with students why it's important to turn off location services.
- Explain why they should never share their personal information.
INTERVENTION: WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO IN THE CLASSROOM

- Establish classroom culture of trust, understanding, and safety.
- Teach social skills and social media safety.
- Provide lessons and support self-esteem.
- Promote “If you HEAR something or SEE something, SAY something.”
- Lesson plans
  - [http://projectstarfish.education/lesson-plans/](http://projectstarfish.education/lesson-plans/)
- Review Case Studies
  - [http://projectstarfish.education/case-studies/](http://projectstarfish.education/case-studies/)
Interested in teaching about sex trafficking prevention in your classroom or school? We've created specific lesson plans for several areas of study, as well as ideas for class and school-wide awareness activities. Here's how to get started.
EDUCATOR RESOURCES

Project STARFISH – School Prevention Project

http://projectstarfish.education/

- Case studies
- Specific lesson plans for several areas of study
- Ideas for class and school-wide awareness activities

Arizona State University School of Social Work
Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research (STIR)

https://socialwork.asu.edu/stir/training
MEET THE PRESENTER

Mary Ellen Smith
Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist
Prince William County Schools
Manassas, Virginia
Prince William County Public Schools is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest school division in Virginia, the 35\textsuperscript{th} largest in the country.

There are 91,524 students in Prince William County

- 35.4\% Hispanic/Latino
- 20.07\% Black/African American
- 29.17\% White
- 9.15\% Asian
- 5.74\% two or more races
- 0.41\% other
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

UNIQUE FACTORS THAT PUT OUR STUDENTS AT RISK FOR TRAFFICKING

- Prince William County has two major interstates (I-95 and I-66) which allows for easy transport between states.

- Large number of students coming from other countries who are reunifying with family members or coming as unaccompanied minors; approximately 700 students enrolled in PWC schools last year who immigrated from another country.

- Presence of gangs-historically we have seen gang members recruiting young students for the purpose of trafficking and transporting to Maryland and other states.

- Many families struggling with homelessness.

- Large transient and military/government population.

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PROJECT HISTORY

- 2012: Non-Funded mandate from the State of VA requiring School Boards to be educated on human trafficking (HB 1188 & SB 259).
- 2013-14: Lesson presented in six high schools and one middle school for first time.
- 2016-17: Grant funded by DCJS & OJJDP
- Lesson expanded to all 12 high schools and one additional middle school.
- 2016-17: VDOE adds human trafficking to the Family Life Education SOL’s (FLE SOL 9.7).
- 2017-18: State approves bill mandating the training of all school counselors, nurses, and other relevant school staff (HB 2282).
- 2018: PWC School Board approves funding for a full-time Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist.
PWCS TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

Awareness
- Collaborating with other agencies to identify the problem and resources to help address the problem
- Providing community presentations

Prevention
- Lesson provided to all 9th grade students in the Health/P.E. classes
- Pilot lesson provided to two middle schools

Restoration
- Victim services for students who have been identified

Public Relations
- PSA in the movie theaters, billboard on both sides of the county
- Participating on the PWC Human Trafficking Task Force
TRAFFICKING TRIANGLE OF STUDENTS

**High Needs Youth**
- Established in trafficking
- Health screening (offered)
- Branding

**High Risk Population**
- Boyfriend involved in gang
- Thinking about becoming involved
- Out over night
- Offer health screening
- Runaway, sporadic absenteeism

**Vulnerable Population**
- Increase in absenteeism
- Increase in mental health indicators
- Increase in Sped/ED
- Increase in social isolation
- Decrease in grades
- Withdrawal from family
- Change in friends

**Universal Prevention**
- Support staff training
- Teacher presentation
- Parent presentation
- 9th grade presentation
- Billboard
- PSA
- Cable Channel 3
- Brochures
- Posters

© 2013 Prince William County Public Schools Office of Student Services
Approximately 6,350 students completed the pretests and/or posttests.

In the 2018-19 school year pretest/posttest data showed that students’ perceptions of knowledge about human trafficking increased substantially, with gains from pretest to posttest ranging from 57% to 72%.

In the 2018-19 school year, twelve high schools participated in the Human Trafficking Prevention, Identification, and Referral program.

The changes in perceived knowledge are similar to the changes in perceived knowledge in 2017-18.
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<td>Students coming forward after the lesson.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of students coming forward who were sexually assaulted, groomed, or</td>
<td>41% (41)</td>
<td>37% (29)</td>
<td>43% (53)</td>
<td>37% (78)</td>
<td>14% (22)</td>
<td>13% (15)</td>
<td>30% (238)</td>
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<td>victims of trafficking.</td>
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COMMON TRENDS IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
(VULNERABLE POPULATION TO HIGH NEEDS YOUTH)

- Gang Involvement
- Younger students
- Running away from home, poor school attendance
- Reunification with family
- Substance use
- Previous trauma history (particularly sexual abuse)
- Images on social media-highly sexualized image or conversations, showing large amounts of money
- Initial contact has been made through social media
- A request has been made to send photos
CASE STUDY 1-SEX TRAFFICKING
HOW WE WORK WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Red Flags:
- Running away
- Skipping school
- Extreme anger
- Drug use
- Social media profiles are highly sexualized
- Student is branded
- Possible gang involvement

Collaboration:
- Trafficking team was requested to attend school-based meeting with Attendance Officer, SRO, School Counselor, & School Social Worker.
- Through this collaboration, it is discovered that the student is being trafficked in another nearby state by gang members.
- Trafficking team coordinates with Homeland Security, local law enforcement, and other agencies to assist in the investigation. Student recovered and begins treatment services funded by our grant.
- We will continue to monitor her through graduation.
CASE STUDY 2-LABOR TRAFFICKING

HOW WE WORK WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Brought over from a different country by a family that adopted them. Dropped off with a different family when they arrived in the U.S.

Red Flags:

- Approached a teacher and stated that they were expected to do all of the cooking, cleaning, and other chores.
- They were not allowed to leave, were not provided with basic necessities.
- They were not paid.
- Second family assists student in obtaining a job, but earnings were taken by family after each shift.

Collaboration:

- The trafficking team was contacted and collaborated with the School Social Worker, School Counselor, Classroom Teacher, School Administrator.
- The trafficking team worked with Homeland Security and they began investigating.
- Through coordinated efforts this student found safe housing and is currently enrolled in college. The traffickers are facing federal charges.
PWC SCHOOLS FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Prince William County Schools has recognized the growing mental health needs of students and is working to address these growing needs. This has been addressed by:

- Hiring 12 new social workers last school year to ensure that there is a full-time social worker in each high school and reducing the student/social worker ratio.
- Hiring 46 new school counselors to reduce the student/counselor ratio.
- Fully funding the position of the Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist.
- Hiring a mental health consultant to work closely with school staff in addressing students’ mental health needs.
SURVIVOR-INFORMED LEADERSHIP TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SCHOOLS
MEET THE PRESENTER

Harold D’Souza
Survivor-Advocate
United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking
Polling Question #3

Prior to today's webinar, have you ever suspected a student to be a victim of trafficking in your school environment?

- Yes
- No
Polling Question #4

Prior to today's webinar, have you ever identified a student to be a victim of trafficking in your school environment?

- Yes
- No
Polling Question #5

Now that you've heard the content of this webinar do additional students come to mind, that may not have earlier, who may have been subjected to trafficking?

- Yes
- No
Questions?
RECOMMENDED PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS:
SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Available for download at:
UPCOMING SUPPORT FROM US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Three additional webinars related to human trafficking throughout 2020. Target months and topics being prepared are as follows:
  - **March**: Universal Prevention
  - **June**: Intervention, Recovery, and Reintegration
  - **September**: Vulnerable Populations

- Revised and updated resource document addressing the role of educators in supporting students impacted by human trafficking.