Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings

September, 2014

Overview: A Presentation for First Responders

The Learner will be able to Define Human Trafficking

The Learner will Review Neurobiological Impact of Sexual Violence and Abuse.

The Learner will be able to List Laws, Local and National Resources Available for Those Being Trafficked.

• http://youtu.be/ZvnRYte3PAk
Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.

Not a new problem – 13th Amendment “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude…shall exist in the United States”

Slavery - people held or compelled into service against their will.

Victims of trafficking are exploited for commercial sex or labor purposes.
After drug dealing, human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world…and it is the fastest growing.

The ILO estimates that forced labor generates $150 billion/year around the world!

Ohio Headlines

Akron man charged with selling Fairlawn girl for sex in Columbus
Cleveland.com, September 15, 2014

Attorney General DeWine Announces Arrest of Human Trafficking Suspect, Rescue of Victims
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine - News Release, August 8, 2014

Salons train to spot human trafficking
WKYC Channel 3, August 7, 2014

Human trafficking bust in Independence—new state law in effect
19 Action News, July 30, 2014
Ashland Woman Sentenced To 32 Years In Prison For Labor Trafficking And Relate Crimes Involving Disabled Woman
U.S. Attorney’s Office – Northern District of Ohio, July 24, 2014

Operation Cross Country: 16 children rescued from sex trafficking
Fox 8 News, June 23, 2014

Elyria pimp gets life in prison
Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 12, 2014

Human trafficking “hiding in plain sight” in northern Ohio. U.S. Attorney says

Man Tries Selling Teen for Sex at Starbucks
March 15, 2012, Fox 8 News

Human Trafficking is…
Recruitment
Harboring
Transportation
Provision or
Obtaining of a person…
for a Commercial Sex Act or
Labor or Services…
through Force, Fraud or Coercion.

Sex Trafficking:
Commercial sex act
induced by force,
fraud or coercion,
or
in which person
performing the act
is under age 18.
(Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000)
Labor Trafficking:
Using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Victims can be found in domestic situations as nannies, hotel maids, sweatshop factories, janitorial jobs, construction sites, farm work, and restaurants.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking
  - international focus with three pronged approach
  - prevention through public awareness programs overseas and a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program
  - Protection T-Visa and services for foreign/national victims
  - Prosecution - new law
- Polaris Project, www.polarisproject.org

State Law of OHIO: Highlights

Penalties for Traffickers

Trafficking in persons – Felony 1
(Ohio Revised Code 2905.32)
Note: No need to prove minors under 16 years old were "compelled" to engage in sex for hire

Note: No need to prove minors 16-17 years old were "compelled" to engage in sex for hire IF trafficker is in a "position of authority" over the victim

Unlawful conduct with respect to documents – Felony 3
(Ohio Revised Code 2905.33)
State Law of OHIO: Highlights

Penalties for Purchasers or “Johns”

Purchasing sex from a minor under 16 years old – Felony 3  
Purchasing sex from a minor 16-17 years old – Felony 3  
(Ohio Revised Code 2907.24)

Protections for Victims

Juvenile court can hold a delinquent child complaint in abeyance (Ohio Revised Code 2152.021)

Victims of trafficking in persons can have records expunged  
(Ohio Revised Code 2953.38)

Ohio Trafficking in Persons Commission (July 2009)

• Research and analysis
• Legal and Legislative
• Victim Services and Safe Locations
• Training and Law enforcement
• Prevention, Outreach and Education
• Demand Reduction (2010)

Research and Analysis Subcommittee
Ohio Trafficking in Persons Study  
February 2010

• Foreign Born Persons in Ohio  
  – At risk for labor and or sex trafficking  3,437  
  – Labor Trafficking  783
• Youth (12-17)  
  – At risk sex trafficking  2,879  
  – Trafficked into sex trade  1,078

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0000000000&list=PL0000000000000000
Crime of trafficking occurs with the exploitation of the victim. The physical movement of the victim is not a requisite.

How Are Victims Trafficked?

**Force:** Rape, beatings, constraint, confinement, addiction to drugs

**Fraud:** Includes false and deceptive offers of employment or a better life
How Are Victims Trafficked?

**Coercion:**
- Threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person;
- any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or
- the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Victims can be trafficked **into the U.S.** from anywhere. Victims have come from, among other places, Africa, Asia, India, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Russia and Canada.

Human Trafficking: Who Are Victims?

Approximately 800,000 to 900,000 victims annually trafficked across international borders.
More than half of victims trafficked into United States are thought to be Children. Victims are probably about equally women and men.

Responses of Victims

- In the U.S., both citizens and non-citizens are victims
- Victims comply and don’t seek help because of FEAR
- Many victims do not speak English
- Victims often kept isolated; activities restricted; guarded; coached to provide certain answers
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- Do not consider themselves victims – often blame self

Who is at-risk to be trafficked?

- Children
- Vulnerable women
- Homeless, runaways
- Immigrants
- The disabled
- Gay/lesbian/bisexual
How do so many American children become victims?

- American children are easy targets for sex traffickers.
- The vulnerability is the child’s age.
- Traffickers target locations that commonly attract youth like schools, malls, parks, even shelters and group homes, AND the Internet!

Often victims are working right in our midst. We may have walked past them or encountered them in ordinary situations.

In Plain Sight…

“Juvenile Delinquent” or “Victim?”

Due to misidentification, ignorance, or efforts to keep victims safe from traffickers … children are often labeled as delinquents and placed in detention facilities.
Traffickers

Who are the pimps... the traffickers? What do they look like?

Psychological Health Issues: What to Look For

- Psychological Trauma
- A host of psychological problems:
  - Depression
  - Stress-related disorders, PTSD
  - Phobias
  - Panic attacks
  - Cutting
  - Attempted suicide
  - Others
Trauma: Effects on Human Functioning

• “Bodily or mental injury usually caused by an external agent” (Webster)
• Experience of or witnessing a threat to life or serious injury results in specific automatic brain changes—
  – Fight
  – Flight
  – Freeze
• The event does not make it traumatic—the meaning the person ascribes to it does!
• Goal-Survival!

Shari Uncapher, LISW - Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH

The ACE Study

○ 17,000 patients participated in this study
○ Study of the origins of common chronic health problems
○ Dr. Felitti, Kaiser Permanente, San Diego and Dr. Anda, CDC created survey for their clients
Correlation

- Trauma effects the entire organisms movement in the world
- Body in constant survival mode
  - fear and turmoil just beneath the surface

Neurobiology of Sexual Assault

- Well known that trauma has devastating effect of victims’ psychological & physical health
- Rebecca Campbell’s research provides insight
  - Victim’s behavior during and after the assault
  - Victim’s ability to remember & recall information accurately

Neurobiology of Sexual Assault

- Hormonal Response
  - Hypothalamus ➔ Pituitary (Master Communicator) ➔ Adrenals
- HPA Axis
  - Catecholamines
  - Cortisol
  - Opioids
  - Oxytocin
Neurobiology of Sexual Assault

• Encoding or Memory Consolidation
  – Hippocampus- Organize sensory information into memory
  – Amygdala- Receives fearful information and processes emotional memories

• HPA Impair Memory Consolidation
  • (nij.gov/multimedia/presenter/presenter-campbell/pages/welcome.aspx)

• Fight or Flight
  o Cortex-integrative
  o Amygdala-fear center

Neurobiology of Sexual Assault

• Sexual Assault
  • Amygdala Detects Threat
  • HPA Axis Kicks In Hormonal Flood
  • Can Trigger “Shut Down” in the body
  • Catecholamine’s
    – Impairs rational thought
  • Opioids
    – Causes Flat Affect
  • Corticosteroids
    – Decrease
    – Reduces Energy

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Neurobiology of Sexual Assault

Memories
Fragmented
Memory recall
Can be Slow & Difficult
Alcohol during the assault may interfere with memory

Memories CAN be recalled accurately...

Trauma: Effects on Human Functioning

- "Triggers"—sights, sounds, smells associated with past trauma—cause in-the-moment responses.
  - Emotional hyper-arousal
  - Dissociation or numbing
- Inability to think clearly or respond effectively to stressful situations
- Overwhelming emotions or lack of awareness of emotions lead to problematic behaviors.

Grace
Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

- Frontline health providers play important role identifying and helping trafficking victims.
- Many victims are hidden in plain sight.
- Health care centers are one of the few places where someone from the outside has opportunity to interact with victim.

Trafficking Indicators

- Is the client accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Does the person accompanying client insist on giving information to health providers?
- Is the client’s ID held by the one accompanying him/her?
- Can you see or detect any physical abuse?
Trafficking Indicators

• Does the client have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?

• Does the client seem especially submissive or fearful?

Jill

As a 14 year old runaway, Jill was forced into the sex trade.

This is her story

Health Care Conditions to Consider

- Inhumane living conditions
- Poor sanitation
- Inadequate nutrition
- Poor personal and dental hygiene
- Brutal physical and emotional abuse
- Dangerous workplace conditions
- General lack of quality medical care
- Addictions to prescription drugs, street drugs or both

- Tuberculosis
- Malnutrition, Dental Problems
- Addictions
- Trauma-physical-scarring, healed burns and emotional
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Muscular Skeletal
- Botched Abortion, STI's
Physical Health Issues:
What to Look For

- Evidence of physical abuse
  - Bruising, branding, scars
- Malnourishment
  - Child victims often suffer from delayed growth
- Poor dental hygiene

Substandard “Healthcare”

Health care is frequently administered initially by an unqualified “doctor” hired by the trafficker.

There is little regard for the well-being of “patients” and even less regard for disease, infection or contamination control.

Barriers to Engagement

- Inherent distrust of others
  - Years of being lied to by family, friends, abusers
- May appear to be distant and unapproachable
  - Mind is clouded by stress and trauma
- Acting aggressive
  - Hardened by street life, constantly in survival mode
- Silence
  - No one listens to their stories and they feel as if they don’t have a voice, silenced by shame
General Intervention Goals

• Establish **TRUST**—**most important AND most difficult!**

• **Focus on the Person**: Use methods to help patient calm down, to learn which situations may be perceived as threats.

• **Focus on the Situation**: Use techniques to gain understanding of what kinds of events or encounters precipitate a traumatic response.

From Paths to Resilience, Jose Hidalgo, MD

Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking

• **Before** questioning potential trafficking victim:
  – **Isolate** individual from person accompanying her/him without raising suspicions
    • Individual accompanying patient may be trafficker posing as spouse, other family member or employer
  – **Enlist certified translator/interpreter** who also understands victim’s cultural needs
    • *If patient is a child, important to enlist help of a specialist skilled in interviewing child trafficking or abuse victims*

Victims of Trafficking and Their Needs

There are four general areas of victim needs:

• **Immediate assistance**
  – Housing, food, medical care (physical and mental), medications, safety and security, language interpretation and legal services

• **Mental health assistance**
  – Counseling

• **Income assistance**
  – Cash, living assistance

• **Legal status**
  – T visa, immigration, certification, expungement
Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking: Messages

Sample messages to convey:
– We are here to help you.
– Our first priority is your safety.
– We will give you the medical care that you need.
– We want to make sure what happened to you doesn’t happen to anyone else.
– You are entitled to assistance. We can help you get assistance.
– You are a very courageous survivor!

Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking: Questions

• Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
• When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
• Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
• Has anyone threatened your family?

Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking: Questions

What are your working or living conditions like?
• Where do you sleep and eat?
• Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
• Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?
What Can YOU Do?

• Without violating HIPAA laws, **report** possible cases to local law enforcement and/or FBI and track outcomes.
• **Educate** other colleagues about the issue.
• **Create and strengthen alliances** with local law enforcement, FBI, legal aid, mental health providers, social service providers, others who need to be involved.

What Can YOU Do?

• **Identify other groups and businesses** that need information on human trafficking, such as:
  - Hotels
  - Restaurants
  - Migrant workers
  - Others
• **Make arrangements** for such groups to receive needed information.

Getting Victims of Human Trafficking the Help They Need

1.888.3737.888
or text: BeFree (233733)

This hotline will help you:
• Determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking
• Identify local community resources to help victims
• Coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they begin process of restoring their lives

Local FBI Office
Painesville 440-354-9927
Cleveland (216) 522-1400

Call local police if victim is at risk of imminent harm
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
The Collaborative is working with area social service agencies to develop a safety net of services for trafficked persons.

24-hour hotline for sex trafficking victims:

855-431-STAR (7827)
- Advocacy
- Case Management
- Therapy
- Professional Training

Visit www.collaborativeinitiative.org to sign up for our e-newsletter and “Like” us on Facebook!

Thank You

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References

- Polaris project. (2014) www.polarisproject.org