Child Sex Trafficking in the Health Care Setting: Recommendations for Practice

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"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

-Mother Teresa
Studies report that an estimated 28%-32% of survivors came in contact with a health care provider at least once during their captivity.

Health care providers may be the only professionals who come in contact with a victim while still under control of the trafficker.
Scope

- 600,000-2.6 million victims annually (likely to be gross understatements)
- $32 Billion per year industry
- Fastest source of income growth for organized crime
Challenges

- No best practices for health care providers.
- Precise rate of victimization
- Economic challenges
- Resource utilization
- Health outcomes of victims experiencing complex trauma secondary to trafficking
- Perceptions
- Time
It is commonly understood that the lack of empiric data is directly related to the lack of recognition and reporting of victims by front-line responders such as law enforcement and healthcare providers.
We must shift the clinical paradigm from treating a criminal, “frequent flyer”, drug seeker, and/or child prostitute to treating victims and survivors.
Sex Trafficking in the Health Care Setting

- Complex Trauma
- Multi-system Trauma
- Trauma Bonding
- Psychological Trauma
  - PTSD
  - Shock
  - Denial
  - Hopelessness
  - Resignation
  - Depression
  - Eating and sleeping disorders
  - Suicidal ideation
  - Disassocation
Increased scientifically based education for healthcare providers in recognition, intervention, and referral will:

1. Drive collection of data to support research.
2. Data from research will drive funding initiatives and development of best practices.
3. Increase available resources for survivors.
4. Increase resilience and re-integration.
5. Decrease utilization of limited resources and increase improved mental and physical health outcomes.
Fellowship with Shared Hope International to:

Conduct a Delphi study to drive the development of the first scientifically developed framework to guide the development of international education programs for healthcare providers on recognition, intervention, and referral for survivors of child sex trafficking.
This man wants to rent your daughter.

Questions??

National Human Trafficking Resource Center 24/7
Polarisproject.org
1-888-373-7888 text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).
References and further materials upon request Cathy_Miller@Baylor.Edu