Protections for Child Victims of HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Child Trafficking in Florida

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Objectives

- Understand the basic elements of human trafficking
- Identify trafficked children and human trafficking situations
- Identify the role that you play in trafficking cases
- Understand and be able to access relief, benefits and resources for trafficked children
Operating Procedure

• Describes DCF Family Safety response to child trafficking;

• Outlines responsibilities of:
  • Florida Abuse Hotline
  • Child Protective Investigators
  • Community Based Care Lead Agencies;

• Details service options for trafficked children;

• Gives Definitions
Human Trafficking Defined:

(A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
Human Trafficking Defined: (cont)

(B) the 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.

(Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 §103)
What is Human Trafficking?

1. PROCESS
   Recruiting OR Harboring OR Moving OR Obtaining a person,

2. MEANS
   by Force OR Fraud OR Coercion

3. END
   For the purposes of Involuntary Servitude OR Debt Bondage OR Slavery OR Sex Trade

*Freedom Network Training Institute*
Scenario*

A woman came to see Maria’s mother in her Mexican village to offer Maria a job as a cook in America. She promised that Maria would make $200 per month and could go to school. The woman brought Maria into the U.S. by car and took her to a bar in Florida. Maria was told she would be working in the bar and had to pay off a $7,500 debt to the owners by working as a prostitute. When Maria refused to do the work and asked to go back home, the owners beat her and threatened to harm her mother if she did not do the work.

* Adapted from Freedom Network Training Institute

• Process
  ▪ Recruited her from village
  ▪ Brought her to U.S.
  ▪ Kept her in a bar

• Means
  ▪ Was promised $200/month
  ▪ Made her work in a bar
  ▪ Owners beat her
  ▪ Owed a debt
  ▪ Threaten to harm mother

• End
  ▪ Prostitution
  ▪ Debt bondage
Scope of the Problem

• Prime Destination States: Florida, Texas, New York, and California

• In the U.S.: 14,500-17,500 annually, 80% women and children

• Globally: accounts range from 600,000 to 4 million people trafficked worldwide each year

• 27 million people in slavery around the world
In what sectors and industries does trafficking occur?

- Agriculture and Landscaping
- Hotels and Restaurants
- Sex Industry: Prostitution (Brothels and “Delivery Services”), Strip Clubs, Massage Parlors, Pornography
- Nursing Homes
- Domestic Service: Housekeeping Care (Private Homes)
- Factories and Sweatshops
- Others
Who Are the Victims?

- ANYONE
  - Trafficking victims may be undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, or even U.S. citizens.
  - Includes men, women, children and families.
  - What all victims have in common is some kind of vulnerability that can be exploited and manipulated by the trafficker.
Who Are the Traffickers?

- “Mom and Pop” organizations
- Caretakers and/or people posing as caretakers
- Labor subcontractors
- Organized crime
- Pimps
- Diplomats
Who Are the Traffickers?

• Members of the victim’s own ethnic or national community

• In the U.S. with legal status and maintain close contact with their home country

• Fluent in English as well as a native language

• Non-immigrants and U.S.-based businesses

• Have significant social or political status in their home countries
Possible Indicators

The child:

- Shows evidence of physical, mental, or sexual abuse
- Cannot or will not speak on own behalf and/or is non-English speaking
- Is not allowed to speak to you alone
- Is being controlled
- Works unusually long hours and is unpaid or paid very little
- Does not have access to identity and/or travel documents
- Will not cooperate, e.g., gives you wrong information about identity and living situation
- Lives at his/her workplace or with employer and/or lives with many people in a small area
- Is not in school or has significant gaps in schooling
- Has a heightened sense of fear and distrust of authority
- Has engaged in prostitution or commercial sex acts

Foreign Policy Association
Questions to Consider

- Living Environment
- Work
- School
- State of Mind
How Do Traffickers Control Their Victims?

- Psychological abuses
- Beatings, burnings, sexual abuse, and starvation
- Isolation
- Threats of deportation
- Threats against the victim’s family members
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Withholding of documents
- Debt
- Other examples?
CPI Responsibility

If identified by Hotline or suspected:

- Contact law enforcement
- Coordinate with law enforcement
- Add “Human Trafficking” maltreatment if discovered during investigation
- Hold multidisciplinary staffing
CBC Responsibility

If human trafficking is suspected:

• Contact law enforcement
• Call in a report to the Hotline
• Retain primary case management
• Hold multidisciplinary staffing (CBC is lead)
Key Responders

- Florida Abuse Hotline Staff
- Child Protective Investigators
- Community Based Care Providers/Child Welfare Service Workers
- Family Safety
- Refugee Services and Providers
- Guardians ad Litem
- Children’s Legal Services Attorneys
- Child Welfare Service Workers
- Child Protection Teams
- Mental Health Professionals
- Law Enforcement
- Schools
- Faith Community
- Health care
- Others?
Interview Considerations

- Language barriers
- State of mind of the child victim
- Cultural and religious differences
- Building trust
- Immigration status
- Ensure confidentiality
Confidentiality and Safety

- Cases are very complex
- Find safe environment for interviews
- Limit the number of people involved in interviewing the victim
- Always use a reliable interpreter
- Understanding confidentiality in trafficking cases is key
What could you do if you suspect or discover trafficking?

• Call 911 if there is immediate danger
• Add “Human Trafficking” maltreatment
• If trafficking is suspected, contact law enforcement
• If additional information is required, contact DCF, Refugee Services, Tallahassee: 850-488-3791 or Miami: 305-377-7917
Victims of Human Trafficking Are Entitled To:

- Safety
- Privacy
- Information
- Legal representation
- Immigration Relief
- Be heard in court
- Restitution
- Education

- Civil compensation for damages
- Medical assistance
- Social assistance
- Seek residency
- Return home
- Be informed about process
- Family Reunification
Assessing Immediate Needs

- Housing
- Food, clothing and personal necessities
- Medical care
- Mental health care
- Life skills
- Legal representation
Programs and Services for Trafficked Children

- Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program
- Licensed Out of Home Care:
  - Foster Care
  - Group Homes
- Immigration relief, such as a T-visa
- Obtaining services and benefits – “Eligibility”
- Repatriation

*ATTENTION* Trafficking cases are complicated. Contact an attorney with experience in this area of the law.
Florida Resources

• Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services, Tallahassee: 850-488-3791 or Miami: 305-377-7917
  – Regina Bernadin, Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator: 305-376-1948
• Local law enforcement
• Local federal authorities
  – Northern District – 850-942-8439
  – Middle District – 239-461-2225
  – Southern District – 305-961-9001
• Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) Lucha Project, 305-573-1106
• FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR), 850-644-4550
Website Resources

- US Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division
  www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html
- US Health and Human Services
  www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)
  www.lirs.org
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
  www.usccb.org
- Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services
  www.dcf.state.fl.us/refugee/index.shtml
- Florida’s Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare
  centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/kb/humantraf/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Questions?
Thank you!