

STRATEGIES FOR GALS WORKING WITH TRAFFICKED YOUTH

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INTRODUCTIONS & ROADMAP

- Intros:
 - Ali Bettenberg, GAL & Moderator
 - Sarah Yarbrough, GAL
 - Darcia DeSalvo, LPC
 - Investigator Dan Steele
- Roadmap
 - Brief History of Colorado's Anti-H.T. Legislation
 - The core values for working in Human Trafficking cases: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution & Partnerships
 - Application for GAL's in practice
 - Questions

COLORADO'S LEGISLATIVE TRAIL

- 2006: Colorado passes H.T. statutes as C.R.S. § 18-3-501, 18-3-502: Human Trafficking of an Adult, of a Child and Involuntary Servitude
- 2012: Human trafficking added to VRA
- 2014: HB 14-1273 aligns CO Human Trafficking law with federal law; creates Colorado Human Trafficking Council. Creates § 18-3-503 Human trafficking for involuntary servitude (F3), a minor (F2); § 18-3-504 Human trafficking for sexual servitude (F3), a minor (F2).
- 2014 : Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PSSFA)

COLORADO'S LEGISLATIVE TRAIL

► 2015:

- SB 15-030, C.R.S. §18-7-201.3, Affirm, def. & Expungement
- HB 15-1019, HTC recs on Immunity
- HB 15-1078, C.R.S. § 19-1-115.3 (Missing children: immediately NLT 24hr to: DHS/LE/NCMEC/CBI, FBI) effective 1/1/16

- 2016: HB 16-1224, C.R.S. §19-1-103, Add HT/CSE to D&N definitions, §19-3-308, Add third party to investigation/basis for D&N.



Prevention includes a trauma-informed legislative effort, early identification and an elegant response that is immediate, well coordinated and complete.



Protection must understand trafficked children are victims, not criminals, must endeavor to honor family connections and preservation, safety.



Prosecution is a necessary value to fully address human trafficking. Traffickers and Purchasers shall be held fully accountable.



Partnerships acknowledge that human trafficking is a shared responsibility of the community and the professionals involved.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING CORE VALUES: PREVENTION, PROTECTION, PROSECUTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Homeless, runaway, throwaway and foster children are the most vulnerable population of youth for sex trafficking (ECPAT USA, 2013)

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- 1) Initial ID with **mandated screening tool** by: Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, GAL's, DHS Employees, Juvenile Probation/Diversion, JAC Intake and potentially include schools, medical staff, etc.
- 2) **Mandatory reporting** from DHS to Law Enforcement runaway youth in DHS custody
- 3) DHS also to report youth that they have reasonable cause to believe are being trafficked to Law Enforcement
- 4) **Needs Assessment** conducted with DHS and other involved professionals,

- ❑ Human Trafficking defined in Colorado Statute as Child Abuse and Neglect
- ❑ Mandatory Reporting laws assure consistent response by Child Protection Services
- ❑ Screening Tool developed and implemented across the system
- ❑ Thorough assessment to determine risk levels, imminent safety issues
- ❑ Forensic Interviewing that honors all those who need information
- ❑ Holistic and ongoing assessment

18th Judicial District High Risk Victim Identification Tool

Youth Name: _____	Youth ID#: _____
State: _____	
Consent: _____	
Indicators: (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Three + runs in 12 months	
<input type="checkbox"/> First run at the age of 14 or younger	
<input type="checkbox"/> Credible report of commercial sexual exploitation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charges for prostitution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Involvement in either or known area of prostitution with an adult other than a fourth partner	
Enhancers: (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug and/or substance use	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trauma/PTSD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Possession of expensive items (cell phone, jewelry)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Being late to/missing school often	
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subpoena of Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse or Neglect	
Additional Red Flags: (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Involvement with multiple runaways	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexually explicit online profile	
<input type="checkbox"/> High on control of multiple sexual partners	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple sexual partners	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willing to make any contact/adult and to speak	
<input type="checkbox"/> Will participate, observe	
<input type="checkbox"/> In controlling relationship with adult partner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot identify, address or resist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family dysfunction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-racial/multi-racial marks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear, anxiety, depression, paranoia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple runaways	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexually explicit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Running/leaving/abuse	
<input type="checkbox"/> Involvement	



- ▶ Homeless, chronic runaway and history abuse
- ▶ Unusual tattoos or branding marks
- ▶ Presence of significantly older boyfriend
- ▶ Involvement in Juvenile Justice system through truancy, curfew violations or other status offenses
- ▶ Use of street lingo with references to "the game" or "the life"
- ▶ Substance Use

WARNING SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

▶ Multi-Disciplinary Teams to review and screen potential High Risk Victims

- ▶ 18th Judicial High Risk Victim (HRV) review Board:
 - ▶ Law Enforcement (Local/FBI – Innocence Lost Task Force)
 - ▶ District Attorney
 - ▶ Senate Bill 94 Leadership (Pre-trial release program)
 - ▶ County Department of Human Services (multi-county)
 - ▶ Juvenile Assessment Center Executive Director
 - ▶ Guardian ad litem's office (Specialized in Human Trafficking)
 - ▶ Probation Department

IDENTIFYING AND SERVICING HIGH RISK VICTIMS

▶ Purpose:

- ▶ Determine if the youth is High Risk
 - ▶ The Pros/cons of casting the net widely
- ▶ Complete law enforcement/forensic interview that may lead to criminal prosecution, if appropriate
- ▶ Determine services and support that can be provided to the youth for prevention of them becoming a high risk victim or therapeutic interventions if they are determined to be high risk
- ▶ Each Board Member approaches the Board's Purposes from their perspective
 - ▶ Ex – Law Enforcement and DA's primary purpose is interviewing and prosecution vs. DHS and GAL is to get the child services and ensure safety

IDENTIFYING AND SERVICING VICTIMS

- ▶ How many people have been in contact with or receive/provide information from the local HRV boards?
- ▶ Have GAL's been asked to complete the HRV tools or received the completed tools?
- ▶ All HRV boards should be gathering GAL information for purposes of identification.

GAL INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL HRV BOARDS

- ▶ Each Discipline must be able to build rapport with a victim and between their respective roles:

- ▶ GAL
- ▶ Therapist
- ▶ Law Enforcement

RAPPORT BUILDING



- ▣ Trauma Based intervention must drive response and treatment
- ▣ Trust between a victim and the treatment provider is essential
- ▣ Everyone is an "expert" and treatment providers continually pop up and then are gone
- ▣ Governor's Council is working on Standards and Certification Process
- ▣ Impacts of an Underdeveloped treatment delivery system
 - Proper Coordination and Effective Clinical Intervention
 - Poorly developed treatment planning and coordination affects all three core values


TREATMENT



CHALLENGES FOR PROFESSIONALS

- ❑ MINDSET OF A VICTIM
 - ❑ Victims often do not see themselves as victims
 - ❑ Victims may feel shame, self-blame
 - ❑ Victims may be coached to lie to mental health professionals
 - ❑ Victims are often fearful
 - ❑ Victims have formed a trauma bond with their exploiter and have deep loyalties
 - ❑ Victims often fear for their own safety and safety of loved ones due to threats of violence
 - ❑ Drugs often play a role in sex trafficking situations

PLACEMENT AND SERVICES AND THE IMPACT ON PROTECTION AND PROSECUTION

- ❑ The ongoing issue of victims on the run 
- ❑ Reintroduction of victims into the Community and Support Development
- ❑ Security for Caregivers and Living Environments
- ❑ "Healthy Tension" between those who treat and reintegrate victims and those who prosecute the trafficker
- ❑ Altering the family dynamics when they contribute to risk

TRAUMA-INFORMED PROSECUTION

Trauma informed legislature and Judiciary ensures a response to Human trafficking at every level acknowledges and protects our victims while in pursuit of perpetrators

- ▶ Trauma-informed legislation affirms the children as victims, not criminals
- ▶ Law enforcement acknowledges their reliance on community, DHS and Professionals & employs a trauma informed response
 - ▶ Development of partnerships enables GAL's to help youth with the law enforcement process
- ▶ Trauma informed Court practices balance rights of defendants and victims
 - ▶ GAL's role in the criminal court and the D&N court related to victims

- ▶ what has been the experience GAL's in audience have had with attending interviews?
- ▶ What are the barriers to participation?

- ▶ Preparation of Youth
 - ▶ GAL rapport building
 - ▶ Therapeutic support
 - ▶ After the interview
- ▶ Law enforcement collaboration
- ▶ Interview locations

INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR TRAFFICKING CASES

- ▶ Law Enforcement & Prosecution Perspective
- ▶ What is experience of GAL's in being a part of the prosecution of a trafficker

- ▶ Process for youth & GAL's
 - ▶ At Filing of Charges
 - ▶ Bond Hearings
 - ▶ Trial & Testimony
 - ▶ Post-trial
- ▶ Tips for GAL's around prosecution process

PROSECUTION



- ▶ Honoring roles and responsibilities removes potential conflict
- ▶ A reactive and poorly integrated system tends to drive the wrong forms of response and can cause harm

WHY PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

► Inherent conflicts

- The Good
 - Conflicts can enhance strengths
 - Conflicts can identify shortcomings & expand perspectives
- The Bad
 - FBI v. PD v. GAL v. Youth
- The Ugly
 - Conflicts without collaboration can be obstructive

INHERENT CONFLICTS W/IN PARTNERSHIPS

- JAC utilizing HR Tool to identify victim
 - "Uncle", Cell Phone, an Informed Court

- Failed intervention at a local hospital
 - Good intentions, Bad Results

- Recovering a youth from the run
 - Good and Bad....

VICTIM STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED



- Upper level training on working with trafficking victims is imperative
- Learning from survivors guides practice
- Understanding the law enforcement response
- Involvement with local human trafficking task forces & MDT's
- OCR's litigation support list

TRAINING, SUPPORT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

RESOURCES

Colorado Human Trafficking Council: www.Colorado.gov/publicsafety (search under boards/commissions)

Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (meets quarterly):
www.Colorado.gov/publicsafety

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-573-7888

Innocence Lost Task Force through FBI: www.fbi.gov

Shared Hope International: www.sharedhope.org (Excellent Trainings which have an extensive survivor population)

THE GRID – Human Trafficking Fact Sheet: www.coloradogrid.org



QUESTIONS?

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