The Frontline: Winning the Battle Against Child Sexual Exploitation

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Welcome and Introductions

Deidre Pujols
• Founder of Open Gate International and Strike Out Slavery

Dr. Sandra Morgan
• Director, Global Center for Women & Justice
• Vanguard University

Betsy DeGarmoe
• Manager, Foster Youth Service Coordinating Program
• Orange County Department of Education
Learning Objectives

1. Knowledge to recognize signs of youth at risk for Commercial Sexual Exploitation

2. Skill development to support prevention of youth at risk highlighting skills for youth in foster care and homeless situations

3. Tools to build a network of resources to support early intervention
National Human Trafficking Hotline

To request help or report suspected human trafficking:

Call: 1-888-373-7888

Text HELP to: BeFree (233733)
The Life Story

Introductory Video and School (4 minutes)
Statistics

Modern Slavery Research Project, Loyola University New Orleans, 2016

Of the 641 youth interviewed at Covenant House sites in ten cities:

• More than 14% (92) of the total population had been trafficked for sex, while 8% (52) had been trafficked for other forced labor.
• 3% (22) were trafficked for both sex and labor.
• 91% of the respondents reported being approached by someone who was offering an opportunity for income that was too good to be true. This included situations that turned into trafficking as well as other offers for commercial sexual exchanges, fraudulent commission-based sales, credit card scams, stolen phone sales, and check fraud.
Nearly 1 in 5 (19%) of interviewed youth were identified as victims of some form of human trafficking.
EMPOWER
Empower

What do you need for yourself and/or your school to feel confident to help a student at risk for or being sexually exploited?
Deidre Pujols: Connecting the Dots
Which indicators can place Children and Youth at Highest Risk?

- Low self-esteem
- Weak social support system
- Experiencing homelessness
- Unaccompanied youth
- Experiencing foster care
- Dating violence and rape
- LGBTQ can have increased susceptibility due to the feelings of rejection and alienation what is often experienced by LGBTQ youth
- Lack of education or any means to earn an income
- History of being system involved
Warning Signs

- Sporadic and unexplained school attendance; i.e. always late on Mondays
- Chronic running away
- Presence of an older boyfriend
- Signs of physical abuse; i.e. bruising, scars, burns,
- Signs of emotional abuse; i.e. withdrawn, submissive behaviors, depression
- Abrupt change in behavior, attire, and relationships
- Lacks personal identification documents
- References frequent travel to other cities often with an older male who is not a guardian
- Unusual attachment to cell phones
- Strange tattoos or other brandishing marks
- Poor health, as evidenced by sexually transmitted diseases, malnutrition and/or serious dental problems
- Substance abuse or addictions
Traffickers are master manipulators. They often use technology and locations where vulnerable youth congregate: schools, malls, parks, protective shelters, group homes.
EQUIP
Equip – What Can Schools Do?

1. Develop and implement a protocol
   a) Collaborative protocol between schools, colleges, law enforcement, mental health agencies, child welfare, probation, victim services, and other community based organizations

2. Train staff
   a) Prevention – imbed into existing frameworks such as socio-emotional learning, engagement, Multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), Trauma informed school practices
   b) Awareness - Signs and symptoms
   c) Response – action steps for a response protocol and community resources trained to assist
 Equip – What Can Schools Do? Continued

4. Foster a safe and supportive campus through student education and trauma informed support

5. School staff should never attempt to confront a suspected trafficker or rescue a suspected victim. Doing so could put the safety of the confronter/rescuer and victim at risk. Follow district/school policies.
First Things First

• Make sure you and the victim are safe
• Don’t attempt to investigate the situation – just let the student tell their story and remain calm
• Do not make promises about what will happen to them or the trafficker
• Report: Follow Mandated Reporting Laws – victim of human trafficking is a reportable under suspended child abuse and neglect
  • If immediate danger, call 911
  • Follow mandated reporting procedures
• Never confront the trafficker
Sample Protocols

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

US Department if Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools
  • https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/HumanTraffickinginAmericasSchools.pdf
STUDY THE ISSUES
BE A VOICE
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CERTIFICATE

• Four professional courses on human trafficking
• Open to all students at large
• All coursework accessible online
• Self-paced study, can be completed in one year
• Learn best practices for your specific field

vanguard.edu/gcwj/htcertificate
Engagement Strategies for Teachers

• 2 x 10
  Spend 2 minutes per day for 10 days in a row talking with the student about anything she or he wants to talk about

• Know the students on your campus – who is missing a staff connection?

• Connection Circles - Restorative Practices

• 40 Developmental Assets

• Strengthen socio-emotional learning in the classroom
Vanguard University’s Anti-Trafficking Mobilization Team

Live2free
HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN TO KIDS IN AMERICA?

- Run-aways
- “Lover Boy”
- Family Needs
- Gangs and HT
- Internet Predators
- Traveling Sales Crews
Runaways and Missing Children
1 in 5 of the 11,800 runaways reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® in 2015 were likely sex trafficking victims.

That is up from 1 in 6 in 2014.
“Lover Boy” Pimp
Anna’s Story

“I love you and I know you love me, so I need you to work this weekend.”
Gangs & Violence
Traveling Sales Crews
Real Life Situations:

Best Friend Scenario
What can you do?

You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know.
- William Wilberforce

Start a Live2free club

Watch Documentaries

Don’t support the porn industry

Write a research paper on Human trafficking

Tell Everyone what you have learned

Call the Hotline number if you see something suspicious

End child trafficking today, call the hotline: 888-373-7888

or text INFO or HELP to “BeFree” (233733)

*Call to report a potential case, get information, or request training. It’s 100% confidential, and interpreters are available.

http://fairtradeusa.org/what-is-fair-trade
The Power of One

Deidre Pujols

Major League Baseball – Strike Out Slavery

Open Gate International
Things to Consider

• Does your district provide training on human trafficking and/or CSEC to your school staff?
• Does your district provide training to students on human trafficking?
• Are there things your school can do to improve fostering a safe and supporting campus?
• Is your campus implementing trauma informed practices?
• What agencies and community-based organizations provide mental health and other supports to human trafficking survivors?
• Would a collaborative protocol benefit your community?
Action Steps

1. What is one thing you can do next week to strengthen the frontline at your school?

2. What is one thing you can do next month?

3. What is one thing you can do next semester?

4. What would you like to see implemented for the start of school next year?
Federal Resources

• 2000: TVPA: Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act
  • Defined Sex Trafficking, Commercial Sex Act, and Severe Forms of Trafficking

• Office for Victims of Crime Human Trafficking

• Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States

• United States Department of Health & Human Services, Office on Trafficking in Persons

• United States Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students resources
  • “Human Trafficking of Children in the Unites States: A Fact Sheet for Schools”
  • “Human Trafficking in America’s Schools”
#EndTrafficking

CAN YOU RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

People who have experienced trafficking often seek medical care and services. Know the signs and find help.

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
Text 233733 (BEFREE)
Free | 24/7 | Confidential
Statewide – California Laws

• 2014 (Senate Bill 855)
  • Updated the Welfare & Institution Code to include a child who is sexually trafficked WIC 300 (b) (2)
  • Established a state-funded county program to serve the complex needs of CSEC population.

• 2017 (Assembly Bill 1227)
  • Authorizes a school district to provide abuse, including sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention education (once in junior high and once in high school)
  • Requires the availability and periodic conducting of continuation training of school district personnel relating to abuse, including sexual abuse, and human trafficking
County Highlights - Orange

- Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force
- Grace (Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation) Court in Juvenile Court
  - Multi-disciplinary collaborative court
- Development and implementation of the Orange County CSEC Plan
  - Awareness Campaign “Be the One” launched May 2017
    - Be the One to Help Out: Sex Trafficking. It’s Not What You Think. Children are Victims, Too.”
- Intentional trainings for schools, law enforcement, and others
- Human Trafficking Summits with Vanguard University
Website Examples

• National Human Trafficking Hotline:  
  https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states

• California:  https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/what-is

• Missouri/Illinois:  http://www.stoptraffickingmo-il.org/training.html

• Nevada:  http://ag.nv.gov/Human_Trafficking/HT_Home/

• Texas:  https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking
  •  https://txssc.txstate.edu/topics/school-violence/articles/recognizing-human-trafficking
Additional Resources

• Blue Campaign: Human Trafficking 101 for School Administrators and Staff:  

• National Center for Homeless Education:  

• Tips and Resources for Orange County School Administrators - handout
January

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
National Human Trafficking Hotline

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Thank you for joining us in this battle as we work to strengthen the frontline to help our schools and staff become better equipped to win the battle against our kids being trafficked under our watch.