

Human Trafficking Information for Medical Professionals

DSHS Grand Rounds Presentation

April 19, 2017

Role of the Medical Profession

- ▶ Studies indicate that between 28-50% of human trafficking victims encounter medical professionals during the time they are trafficked.
- ▶ Most of those individuals are not identified as victims, let alone offered potential rescue or services.
- ▶ Be aware that the problem exists, be looking for it, and add it to the list of things for which you already screen.
- ▶ Have a plan for what you will do if you find it.
- ▶ Report: Human Trafficking of children under the age of 18 is considered a severe form of child abuse and medical professionals are mandatory reporters.

Victim Issues

- ▶ Typically do not self-identify as victims
- ▶ Abused previously and nothing done to help them
- ▶ At odds with law enforcement because they are a runaway or because of criminal conduct
- ▶ Shame/worthlessness/rejected by “decent” people
- ▶ Fearful of consequences to themselves or family from trafficker
- ▶ Fearful of consequences from culture or family
- ▶ Cognitive Distortion: believe this is “life choice” or they deserve it, or have no power to change it
- ▶ Believe that this is the fastest and easiest way to earn money
- ▶ Habituated to sexualization of self
- ▶ Maladaptive coping mechanisms: addiction, lies, adrenaline, street life

- ▶ See their trafficker elevated while victims diminished

Red Flags in Medical Setting

- ▶ Child/adult presents inappropriately dressed for age, weather
- ▶ Child or adult with child lies about the child's age
- ▶ Child presents with an adult who does all the talking
- ▶ Child appears submissive, passive, little eye contact
- ▶ Adult does not want the child to be left alone with health care professionals
- ▶ Child is depressed, frightened, anxious
- ▶ History does not make sense or correlate with injuries
- ▶ While able to answer initial questions, child or adult is not able to answer follow-ups or adequately able to describe where they live, go to school, work, etc.
- ▶ General signs of abuse/neglect present
- ▶ Child or adult with them presents a questionable identity claiming to be the new wife, a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, visiting cousin, a family friend, visiting student, or uncle
- ▶ Lack of knowledge about alleged "family" relationship
- ▶ Child has a knowledge of sexual terminology or a number of sexual partners that is not age appropriate
- ▶ Payment in cash rather than insurance
- ▶ Minimizing health concerns or other risk factors
- ▶ Inability to speak English
- ▶ History of hospital hopping
- ▶ Vague medical history
- ▶ Failure to make previous follow-up appointments

- ▶ Distrust of law enforcement or anything that appears related to “the system”
- ▶ Child may be openly hostile, refuse to answer questions, give attitude

Medical Specific Red Flags

- ▶ Bald patches where hair pulled out
- ▶ Lacerations or bruises
- ▶ Scars
- ▶ Ligature marks
- ▶ Burns (cigarette or otherwise)
- ▶ Bite marks
- ▶ Partial dentures where teeth were forcibly knocked out or in
- ▶ Stab marks
- ▶ Malnutrition, dehydration, exhaustion, stunted growth
- ▶ Dizziness, headaches, memory loss from traumatic brain injury
- ▶ Untreated disease
- ▶ Dental/visual problems
- ▶ Chronic back pain, muscle strains, cardiovascular and respiratory issues related to exposure to chemicals, serious industrial injury
- ▶ Persistent or untreated STIs or UTIs
- ▶ Vaginal or rectal trauma
- ▶ Multiple pregnancies/repeated abortions or miscarriages
- ▶ Infertility
- ▶ Abnormal discharge or odors
- ▶ Pelvic Inflammatory Disorder
- ▶ Cotton fibers or sponge pieces in the vaginal vault
- ▶ Previous SANE exams

- ▶ Multiple sexual partners
- ▶ Jaw and neck problems from repeatedly giving oral sex
- ▶ Back problems or red marks/blisters on feet from high heels

Medical Mental Health Red Flags

- ▶ Trauma bonding
- ▶ Depression, hopelessness
- ▶ Anxiety, panic attacks
- ▶ Suicidal ideation
- ▶ Addiction/forced or used as maladaptive coping mechanism
- ▶ PTSD
- ▶ Affective, behavioral and cognitive problems
 - ▶ Many teen victims diagnosed as bipolar, oppositional defiance disorder, personality disorder not otherwise specified
- ▶ Low self-esteem
- ▶ Dissociation

Role of the Medical Professional

- ▶ Trust your gut. If something doesn't feel right then find a way to obtain more information.
- ▶ Develop rapport and trust. Health care professionals have a unique opportunity because of their role in the system.
- ▶ Question potential victim away from their trafficker/minder—"Hospital policy requires me to talk to each person individually."
- ▶ Obtain translators unrelated to the people the victim came with.
- ▶ Do not promise more than you can provide.
- ▶ Have patient talk to the national hot line at 1-888-373-7888

Potential Interview Questions for Child Victims

- ▶ Use indirect questions that spark conversation. Victims often don't self-identify, nor do they recognize themselves as "trafficked people."
- ▶ What grade are you in, where do you go to school, favorite subject, etc.
- ▶ Relationship to the person that brought them—ask some questions that require more knowledge than just a title: boyfriend, uncle, aunt, brother, friend
- ▶ Have you been physically hurt by someone else?
- ▶ Have you ever been pressured to do something that you don't want to do?
- ▶ Can you come and go as you please?
- ▶ Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- ▶ Have you ever run away from home?
- ▶ How often do you see or talk to your family and friends?
- ▶ Have you ever had to trade sex for money, food, a place to stay?
- ▶ Have you had more than 5 sexual partners?
- ▶ Do you have enough to eat and drink?
- ▶ Where do you sleep? On a bed, a cot, the floor?
- ▶ Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?
- ▶ Did someone tell you what to say today?

Your Response

- ▶ Receive the information without judgment or negative reaction regardless of the language with which it is delivered.
- ▶ Focus on the victim's safety. "Our first priority is your safety." "We are here to help you."

- ▶ We want to make sure that what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else.
- ▶ We can help get you to a safe place.
- ▶ We can help meet your needs for food, shelter and medical care.

General Red Flags for Sex Trafficking

- ▶ Visible injuries: bruising, swelling, redness
- ▶ Inconsistent stories
- ▶ Descriptions of multiple sexual partners in SANE exams on “normal sex cases”/ sexually transmitted disease
- ▶ Failure to make eye contact
- ▶ Overtly sexual online profile/Sexually provocative pictures on the phone or online accounts
- ▶ Teased by other students for being sexually active or a prostitute
- ▶ Backpage ads are linked to a person or business name or phone number on Google
- ▶ Gang signs/affiliation
- ▶ Branding/Tattoos
 - Back of neck
 - Underarm
 - Ankle
 - Above the breasts
 - Above the vaginal line
- ▶ Matching Tattoos/Look at your suspect
- ▶ “Daddy”/ “Break Yourself”
- ▶ “Pimpin”/ “OG”
 - ▶ “Mrs or Ms”
- ▶ Business Cards lacking address: tire shop, shoes, repairs, fresh flowers

- ▶ Third party control of identity documents
- ▶ Contents of the vehicle/location
 - ▶ Hotel receipts
 - ▶ Drug-store receipts
 - ▶ Lingerie
 - ▶ Condoms
 - ▶ Female personal hygiene items in a place of business
- ▶ New high-end clothing recently purchased
- ▶ Hotel keys
- ▶ Rolls of money
- ▶ Prepaid credit cards
- ▶ Child has multiple runaways within a short period of time
- ▶ Child or teenager with older person who is not related to them
- ▶ Child appears much older than stated age in appearance
- ▶ Child has story that is pat but not logically coherent throughout
- ▶ Child has in-depth knowledge of life on the streets
- ▶ Child thinks that “adult life” and “independence” greatest value
- ▶ Evidence of controlling relationship
 - schedule/activities dictated by someone else
 - isolation from friends and family
 - unable to make simple decisions without boyfriend
- ▶ Claim of boyfriend or girlfriend relationship with older individual
- ▶ Fake or no identification
- ▶ Multiple phone or social media accounts
- ▶ Language: Backpage, Eccie.net, stable, family, Daddy, incalls, outcalls

- ▶ Changes in the child's appearance, friend groups, socio-economic status, level of sexualization, activities, relationship to authority.

General Red Flags for Massage Parlors/Spas

- ▶ Permit or license for something other than actual business
- ▶ Identify clientele: Is it only men that receive services at the "spa"?
- ▶ Location may have a guarded entrance
- ▶ Cameras both inside and outside
- ▶ Location storefront may be curtained off/blocked, etc.
- ▶ Location may be locked and opened only when someone at the door with a phone
- ▶ "Employees" may be ferried to and from work by the "spa" or may live at the location
- ▶ Men walking through the parking lot talking on their cell phones
- ▶ Condoms in the parking lot

General Red Flags for Labor Trafficking

- ▶ Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- ▶ Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- ▶ Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- ▶ Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- ▶ Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off

- ▶ High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- ▶ Malnutrition, dehydration, exhaustion, stunted growth
- ▶ Dizziness, headaches, memory loss from traumatic brain injury
- ▶ Untreated chronic infections
- ▶ Dental/visual problems
- ▶ Chronic back pain, muscle strains, cardiovascular and respiratory issues related to exposure to chemicals, serious industrial injury
- ▶ Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- ▶ Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- ▶ Avoids eye contact
- ▶ Lacks health care
- ▶ Appears malnourished
- ▶ Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- ▶ Exhaustion
- ▶ Living where they work and in space not zoned for living space
- ▶ Living in squalid conditions, too many people to the space, insufficient beds and sanitation
- ▶ Transported to and from work by the employer
- ▶ Food, hygiene, living conditions provided by the employer
- ▶ Do not have the proper licensing whether for driving, soliciting, running the equipment, providing the services or even to have a business within city limits
- ▶ Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- ▶ Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in

- ▶ Loss of sense of time
- ▶ Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- ▶ Answers appear scripted or rehearsed
- ▶ Withdrawal from the community
- ▶ Has few or no personal possessions
- ▶ Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- ▶ Non-English speakers
- ▶ Recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- ▶ Multiple middle men in the recruitment scheme
- ▶ Recruitment fees-may be in one or multiple payments
- ▶ Promises of green cards and permanent residency or citizenship
- ▶ High fees for substandard living arrangements
- ▶ Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- ▶ Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)