The National Center for Victims of Crime is pleased to provide the slides used in our October 7, 2014 Webinar, “The Lost Victims: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth.”

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Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
A Trauma Informed Approach to Juvenile Justice
Welcome

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Terminal Performance Objective

The purpose of this presentation is to educate and raise awareness for juvenile justice professionals on the complex needs of youth who are at risk or exposed to commercial sexual exploitation; and integrating a trauma informed approach to supervision and care of exploited youth.
Enabling Objectives

Participants will:
✓ Gain an understanding of the definition and prevalence of commercial sexual exploitation
✓ Understand risk-factors, pathways to entry, and how commercial sexual exploitation impacts victims and communities
✓ Learn best practices for interviewing, identifying, and investigating victims of sexual exploitation; and
✓ Discuss trauma informed services and best practices
✓ Identify an effective and collaborative response to sex trafficking.
Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000)

- Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sexual act;

- The commercial sexual act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, in which the person performing such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services by means of force, fraud, or coercion.
Force, Fraud, Coercion

**MEANS**

- **FORCE**—causing serious harm or physical restraint
- **FRAUD**—false promises and deceitful behavior
- **COERCION**—threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against a person's will. Threats to harm a victim or the victim’s family. Psychological abuse and confiscating of identification documents
Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Commercial Sexual Acts include:

- Pimp controlled street prostitution
- Escort services
- Residential and underground brothels
- Cyber-pornography or internet based exploitation
- Private parties
- Familial Pimping
- Erotic/nude massages
- Stripping
- Gang based prostitution
Myths and Stereotypes

- Children and youth choose to enter the sex trade
- “bad kids”
- Children and youth like to have sex
- All CSEC youth are drug addicts
- It is a job
- CSEC youth have power and control
- It’s not a big problem in the U.S.
- All pimps are males
- Children and youth lure and prey on unsuspected men
- Youth makes lots of money
- Only girls are involved
- The life is exciting and glamorous
- Victimless crime

www.kristihouse.org
CSEC in the United States

- At least **100,000 to 300,000** youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S. (Estes and Wiener, 2001)

- The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12-14 years old**. (US Dept. of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 2011)

- An estimated **200,000** American children are at high risk for trafficking into the sex industry every year. (The Utopian, The University of Texas Austin School of Social Work, Spring 2010)
“It is not a choice, no one just wakes up and wants to do this. You can’t just walk away...”

--CSEC Survivor
Risk Factors and Victimology
Risk Factors

- Pre-teen and Adolescent females
- History of Abuse and Neglect
  - Children who have been sexually abused are 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution. (Smith et al., 2009)
  - Parental neglect
  - Parental drug abuse
  - Familial sexual abuse
- Socioeconomically marginalized youth
- History of running away
- Psychological or emotional problems
LGBTQ & Homelessness

- 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ
- 60% of homeless LGBTQ youth have been sexually assaulted
  - Compared to one-third of their heterosexual counterparts
- Homeless LGBTQ youth are 7.4 times more likely to become a victim of sexual violence than heterosexuals

*National Coalition for Homelessness*
Traffickers Prey on Children and Youth

- With low self-esteem
- With minimal social support
- Who experience homelessness or runaways
- Who are in foster care
Atlanta Sex Trafficking

*The Chilling Statistics*
Recruitment

- Recruitment occurs in public places
  - Bus/Truck stops
  - Fast Food Restaurants
  - Shopping Malls

As Well As

- Youth runaway and homeless shelters
- Internet
- Social Media
www.backpage.com
Developmental Stages

Enticement
  • Financial gain
  • Shedding of moral objections

Learning the Lifestyle: feeling powerful
  • Adapting to the environment and learning the rules
  • Focusing on the rewards and benefits of the lifestyle

Living the Lifestyle: trusting the game
  • Increase of time spent in prostitution
  • Distancing from conventional connections (church, school, etc.)

Caught up in the Lifestyle: accumulating burdens
  • Chronic depression, drug abuse, and learned helplessness
  • Physical and emotional health deteriorate

Leaving the Lifestyle: taking stock and getting out
  • Belief that there is “something better”

Reentry: loss of options
  • Following a stressful event without help and support
Awareness Video
Identifying a Victim
What are the signs?

- Chronic Runaway
- Truancy
- Makes reference to frequent travel to other cities
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Child in possession of hotel keys
- Cigarette burns
- Malnourished
- Signs of drug addition
- Fearful, anxious, withdrawn
- Parental Hx of prostitution arrests
- Living or hanging out in areas known for “prostitution”
- Unexplained and sudden changes in attire or material possessions
- Over sexualized
- Wearing sexually provocative clothes
- Calls boyfriend “daddy”
- References terminology associated with sexual exploitation
- Gang affiliation
- Fake identification
- Tattoo and branding
Branding
Case Example

“Bren”

- 14 years of age
- 10+ runaways in two years
- Gang involved
- Divorced Parents/Parental Conflict/Parental Neglect
- Cognitive delays
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders
- Poor school performance
- No identifiable friends
- Poor family boundaries
- Attention seeker
Juvenile Cases

Types of Juvenile Cases that may involve human trafficking...

- Prostitution
- Gang Activity
- Drug Sales/Use
- Theft
- Disorderly Conduct
- Status Offenses
Have you seen these warning signs???

IF SO, WHAT DO YOU DO?
Intervention
Gender Responsive Approaches

- Trauma and life affect boys and girls differently
- Girls are the fastest growing population in the criminal justice system
- Boys are more likely to respond with anger and disassociation
- Girls are more likely to respond with depression and anxiety
- Equal treatment does not mean same treatment

(NCCD 2010)
What is a Trauma Informed Approach?

- Trauma-informed services are sensitive to the pervasiveness of trauma and its impact on survivors, including how trauma affects a survivor's ability to cope, to access services, and to feel safe both physically and emotionally.

- Encourages programs to improve the identification, screening, assessment, and referral to appropriate services.

- Integrating victim-centered policies and practices in juvenile systems that meet safety and security needs as well as reducing risk, traumatization, and recidivism.

(Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma, 2013)
Trauma-Informed Care

- Being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59%  
  *(Widom, 1995)*

- Arrest rates of trauma-exposed youth are up to 8 times higher than community samples of same-age peers  
  *(Saigh et al., 1999; Saltzman et al., 2001)*

- 70% - 92% of incarcerated girls reported sexual, physical, or severe emotional abuse in childhood  
  *(DOC, 1998; Chesney & Sheldon, 1997)*

- A 2003 OJJDP survey of youth in residential placement found that 70% had some type of past traumatic experience, with 30% having experienced frequent and/or injurious physical and/or sexual abuse.  
  *(Sedlak & McPherson, 2010)*
The Three E’s

- *Events* and Circumstances

- The individual’s *experience* of these events or circumstances helps to determine whether it is a traumatic event

- The long-lasting adverse *effects* on an individual are the result of the individual’s experience of the event or circumstance

Griffin, 2012
Trauma-Informed Care

Important Things to Remember

- Not what’s wrong with you but what happened to you
- Symptoms are adaptations
- Violence causes trauma and trauma causes violence
Interview vs. Interrogation

Common goal: learning the truth

Differences:
- Non-accusatory vs. accusatory
- Gather information vs. get a confession
- Structure
- Participation
- Personal space
- Time limit
Investigative Interview Goals

- Minimize trauma
- Maximize information
- Minimizing contaminating the child’s memory
- Maintain integrity over the interview process
Victim-Centered Interviews

To Gain Trust and Confidence:

- Be clear that you are not there to hurt them
- Make sure the child understands their legal rights
- Meet with them in a safe, non-threatening child-friendly environment
- Appear Neutral
- Affirmation
- Do not threaten the victim
- Refer case to local law enforcement special victims unit and child welfare
- Use CSEC language
Rapport Building

Sample Questions to ask...

- When was the first time you ran away?
- Where have you been staying?
- Who provides you with food and clothing?
- Do you have someone that you refer to as your boyfriend?
- Has your boyfriend been taking care of you?
- Has anyone forced you to do something?
- Were you threatened if you tried to leave?
- Do you owe someone money?
- Who and what are you afraid of?
Do’s and Don’ts

**DO**

- Meet the child where they are
- Be non-judgmental
- Keep the child talking
- Understanding the terminology and language to engage the youth
- Recognize signs of trauma

**DON’T**

- Expect the child to see themselves as a victim
- Force them to talk by threatening jail or expulsion
- Treat the child as an offender
- Dispute the child’s story
Talking the Talk

- Pimp
- Finesse Pimp
- Gorilla Pimp
- Cyber pimp
- Bottom B!#ch/Bottom Girl
- Choosey Suzy
- Snow/Swan
- Babysitter
- Gutter B!#ch
- Escort/provider
- Streetwalker

- Trick/John/monger/hobbyist/play
- Ellie/Uncle Leo/12
- Hoe vs. Slut
- Trap
- Stack
- Out of pocket
- Unknockable
- Slab
- Whip
- Gwap
- Break a B!#ch
- Turn out

- Street track/track
- Date house
- Foreign Languages
- Greek
- Bareback
- Bp
- Donation
- GFE
- Incall
- Outcall
- Knock a B!#ch
- Renegade
- Reckless eyeballing
Collaborative Approach
Services to CSEC Youth

- Continuum of prevention, victim identification and intervention services
- Residential Treatment and Transitional Services
  - Short Term Safe Houses
  - Long Term Residential Programs
  - Outpatient prevention, at-risk, and supportive services
- Psychosocial interventions that incorporate a trauma focused approach
- Coordinated Survivor-Centered Care
  - Multidisciplinary organizations working together to address the medical, legal, and mental health needs of survivors
  - The survivor is the cent of all decisions concerning recovery and system involvement.
Collaborative Approach

- Child Advocacy and Sexual Assault Centers
  - Forensic Interviews
  - Advocacy and therapeutic counseling services
- Children’s Hospital (medical exams)
- Direct Care Providers
  - Capable of addressing complex trauma, trauma bonds, and poly-victimization
- Law Enforcement
- School System
- FBI MATCH Taskforce
- Child Welfare
- State and Federal Agencies
Direct Care Provider:  

Georgia Cares

Georgia Cares was created as an initiative of the Governor’s Office for Children and Families in 2009.

Georgia Cares is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working to serve child sex trafficking victims in the state of Georgia. Georgia Cares is the single, statewide coordinating agency to connect services and treatment care for victims.

The Georgia Cares staff follow a victim throughout their process of treatment and recovery to lead healthy, successful lives as productive members of society.
What Does Georgia Cares Do?

- Functions as single point of entry to refer children identified as being commercially sexually exploited.
- Employs licensed social workers who conduct assessments to determine if a child is exploited or at-risk.
- Collaborates with Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and the child’s family, to determine the best placement for a child: community or residential.
- Provides continual care coordination, follow-up, and evaluation to ensure each child and their family recovers and thrives.
- Trains communities and professionals on warning signs and resources.
- Maintains a 24-hour hotline for victim service and response.
Georgia Cares’ Process

- Referral (48 Hours) → Screening (48 Hours) → Crisis Management (24 Hours)

- Intake (48 Hours) → Assessment (7 days) → Service Planning (5 Days)

- Care Planning (7 Days) → Case Monitoring (Ongoing) → Case Closure & Follow Up
Law Enforcement

MATCH Taskforce

- Increase opportunities for joint investigation
- Federal and local agents assist with recovering CSEC victims
- Assist with training local law enforcement
- Increased access to resources and Intel
- Minimize multiple law enforcement victim centered interviews
Outreach

- Websites
- Posters
- Brochures
- Pocket Cards
- PSAs
- Training

"The Life" isn't really living

Exploitation is NOT glamorous

Department of Juvenile Justice Office of Victim Services:
1-800-922-6360
Georgia Cares:
404-602-0068
National Runaway Hotline:
1-800-RUNAWAY
STOP SEXUAL EXPLOITATION NOW
Impact
Children who have been recovered from sexual exploitation may have a difficult time integrating into a “normal” childhood.
Impact on Victims

- Complex symptoms and history of trauma
- Medical
  - STDs/HIV
  - Drug Addiction
  - Physical Abuse
- Heightened risk of unwanted pregnancies
- Psychological and emotional well-being
  - Depression, anxiety, self-harm behaviors, PTSD, hostile and aggressive behaviors, emotional withdrawal
Impact on the JJS

- Decriminalization of prostitution
  - Safe Harbor Acts—recognize CSEC as a child welfare issue, not a juvenile justice issue
  - School-to-prison pipeline

“If there is nowhere to hold them, and nowhere safe for them to go, law enforcement has no alternative. If they aren’t placed in a juvenile detention facility, the child could run back to the prostitution scenario”

Staca Shehan, Director of Case Analysis Division, NCMEC

- Law enforcement noted:
  - Shortage of resources
  - Programs find dealing with victims to be too dangerous
  - Challenges to identifying victims (hidden nature of the crime, international victims, isolation, etc.)

Impact on Communities

- Criminalizing non-violent youth (victims), negatively impact the child’s ability to become productive citizens.

- Incarcerating non-violent youth offenders is costly to the juvenile justice system.

- Incarcerating low risk youth increases recidivism rates.

- Increased chance to associate with violent offenders.
Challenges

- Limited treatment services available
- Limited data on domestic (commercial) cases
- Limited resources for school administrators to implement in schools
- Improving social and legal options for victims
- Improving state laws to stop the demand
- Community acceptance of the problem
End It
Shine A Light on Slavery
It takes a unified response for a complex issue.
Resources

Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Office
www.justice.gov. (1-888-428-7581)

EndITMovement.com

Georgia Cares. www.gacares.org

Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. www.djj.state.ga.us. (404-508-6500)

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)
http://www.gems-girls.org/; (212-926-8089)

National Human Trafficking Resource Center
(1-888-373-7888)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com; (1-800-THE-LOST)
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