Dynamics of Human Trafficking

Thursday, January 31, 2019
10:45 a.m.–noon

Ms. Laramie Gorbett
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This training will discuss the dynamics of human trafficking. We will focus on vulnerabilities to trafficking and various forms of force, fraud and coercion used by traffickers. We will examine the impact of trauma on survivors and how to provide victim-centered services and referrals. This training is interactive and appropriate for all knowledge and experience levels.
Laramie Gorbett, (B.A. 2002, M.A. 2006), has always fostered a passion for advocacy, activism and creating systematic change in the anti-violence movement. She has over 15 years of experience working with survivors of complex trauma. She has facilitated hope and healing workshops for survivors of human trafficking, refugees, and other marginalized populations domestically and abroad including Uganda, Thailand, and Cambodia. Gorbett currently works as a human trafficking specialist with the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) and provides specialized training for law enforcement, victim services, and NGOs. She is a member of the Diversity Task Force, Immigrant Service Network of Austin (ISNA) and the Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. She has extensive knowledge of human trafficking, including sex, labor, international and domestic minor trafficking and has helped survivors through criminal justice proceedings and to apply for T-Visas. She developed curriculum specifically for survivors and works with advocates across the state.
Dynamics of Human Trafficking

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About TAASA

TAASA is a statewide advocacy organization that works to address and eliminate sexual violence through public policy, training, prevention work, and support to programs that serve survivors of sexual violence.

Training Team

TAASA is the unifying voice to eliminate sexual violence in Texas. As the statewide coalition of rape crisis centers, advocates, and survivors, we are committed to fostering a culture that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all Texans.
Objectives

- Explore the intersection domestic, sexual violence, and human trafficking.
- Examine vulnerabilities to violence, and power and control dynamics used by abusers and traffickers.
- Integrate knowledge of trauma into investigations and services.
22 U.S.C. 7102

1) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18,

2) 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 subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
Authority to Permit Continued Presence in the United States (section 107(C)(3)) if after assessment it is determined the person is a victim of severe form of trafficking and a potential witness.

... shall protect the safety of the trafficking victim, including... protection of their family members from intimidation, threats of reprisal and reprisal form the traffickers and their associates.
Two Broad Categories of Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking:
- Domestic Service
- Sweat Shops/Factories
- Begging
- Agricultural Work
- Mining
- Child Soldiers

Sexual Trafficking:
- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Lap Dancing
- Live-Sex Shows
- Mail-order Brides
- Child Brides
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)

• **Definition:**
  • Commercial sexual abuse and exploitation of minors through buying, trading or selling their sexual services

A commercial sex act refers to anything of value: money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, higher status in a gang, that is exchanged for sex.

• **Purposes** include:
  • Prostitution: street prostitution, escort services, internet-aided prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, peep shows
  • Pornography where minor is sold/rented/provided something of value to perform sex acts on camera.
What are the root causes of Trafficking?

• Poverty, war, natural disasters and a search for a better life.
• Devaluation of women and children
• Demand for cheap labor.
• High Profit Low Risk
Tactics of Trafficking

**Force**

- Beating
- Burning
- Branding or Tattooing
- Torture
- Drug Addiction
- Confinement
- “Seasoning”
- Sexual Assault

**Fraud**

Intentional misrepresentation of material existing fact made by one person to another with knowledge of its falsity and for the purpose of inducing the other person to act, and upon which the other person relies

- False promises, marriages, employment
- Deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior, “the boyfriend/girlfriend”
- Withholding wages
- Misrepresenting working conditions
- Misrepresenting the promise of a “better life”

**Coercion**

The intimidation of a victim to compel the individual to do some act against his or her will by the use of psychological pressure, physical force, or threats.

- Threats Of Serious Harm Or Restraint
- Intimidation/Humiliation
- Emotional Abuse
- Control Of Daily Lives & Brainwashing
- Threats To Family Members
- Deportation Threats
- Confiscation Of Documents
Factors shaping Vernulnerability to Human Trafficking

Poverty
Economic deprivation, the need to survive, and lack of other options may trap people in exploitative situations

Disability & illnese
Vulnerabilities caused by physical or mental disability or illness can make people easier to coerce or control

Lack of legal status
Threats of reporting to the police or immigration are routinely used by traffickers to hold individuals in situations of exploitation

Language barriers
Migrant workers who do not speak English can be isolated and may become dependent upon an exploiter if they are unable to communicate

Inequality & discrimination
Lack of opportunity and access to formal labour markets makes some groups more vulnerable to deception and abuse

Homelessness
Those who are homeless may find offers of work and accommodation hard to refuse

Religious & cultural beliefs
Abuse of religious beliefs or customs can be used to coerce people into accepting exploitation

Relationships
Feelings of love, duty and ownership in family or romantic relationships are powerful tools for manipulation and control
# Statistics of Domestic Trafficking

## National

- 1 in 3 runaway children are lured into "prostitution" within 48 hours.
- The average age of entry into "prostitution" is 12-14.
- In America, victims of pimp-controlled sex trafficking are commonly forced to meet quotas of $500 to $1,000 a night. 70% of victims have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their homes.
- Over 1.68 million American children run away each year.

## Texas

- National human trafficking hotlines receive more calls from Texas than any other state in the US other than California.
- 15% of those calls are from the Dallas- Fort Worth area.
- 20% of all human trafficking in the US comes through Texas at some point.

*Polaris Project*
Trafficking in Texas

- Approximately 79,000 minors and youth are victims of sex trafficking in Texas.
- Approximately 234,000 workers are victims of labor trafficking.
- There are currently an estimated 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas.
- Traffickers exploit approximately $600 million from victims of labor trafficking in Texas.
- Minor and youth sex trafficking costs the state of Texas approximately $6.6 billion.
Survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence usually do not self-identify as victims and are frequently unaware of their legal protections.

Categorizing individuals as either being a survivor of human trafficking or a survivor of domestic violence may limit a survivor’s options for social services and legal remedies.

Immigrant survivors face additional barriers to leaving:
- fear of law enforcement
- lack of awareness of rights and laws
- lack of awareness of available services
- fear of deportation, & specific cultural considerations
Dynamics of Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

Is victim identification difficult?

Are there social and cultural stigmas attached to trafficking and sexual assault?

Are sexual assault victims held to different standards than perpetrators?

What does a victim-centered approach look like?
Dynamics of Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

• Traffickers use sexual violence as a tool.

• Traffickers and perpetrators of sexual assault frequently prey upon marginalized populations; including:
  • Immigrants,
  • Ethnic & Racial Minorities,
  • Economically disadvantaged persons/homeless
  • LGBTQ+ individuals,
  • Persons with disabilities.
“Making of a Girl” Rachel Loyd GEMS
Barriers to Reporting

- Retaliation
  - Suspect not charged/bonds out
  - Boss/Co-worker
  - Children removed/taken
- Financial Issues
  - Victim not allowed to work
  - Isolated from family/support
- Privacy
  - Small town/community
  - Campus/place of employment
- Immigration Issues
  - Arrested/ deportation

Dana Nelson (TLSC)
Vulnerable Populations

- Runaways
- Drug/Alcohol Addiction
- LGBTQ+
- Persons with Disabilities
- Homeless
- Mental or Physical Disability
- Sex workers
- Elderly
- Immigrant; documented/undocumented (non-English speaking)
Impacts of Sexual Assault & Other Trauma

- Loss of security/trust in others
- Loss of self-esteem
- Guilt/shame/embarrassment
- Impaired memory
- Loss of appetite
- Suicide
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Depression
- Job/Financial
- Relationships

Four Years later...

I wake up soaked in my own sweat and pee and vomit... it was so real, his taste in my sleep.
Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

LGBTQIA

- 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQIA
- 46% ran away because of family rejection
- 7.4 x more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers
- 3-7x more likely to engage in survival sex to meet basic needs, including:
  - shelter, food, drugs, & toiletries.
Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

- Unstable home life
- Previous sexual abuse
- Desperately seeking love or acceptance
- Overly shares personal information on social media
- Glamorizes stars who glorify “the life”
Red Flags

- Demonstrates mental health concerns like PTSD, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, or depression
- Suffers from untreated medical concerns, especially sexual or reproductive health
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, malnourishment, or poor hygiene
- Has a debt they cannot pay off
- Earnings are confiscated or held by others
- Frequently moves or travels to new cities with new acquaintances
Victim Indicators

- Gifts, especially cell phones
- Sudden changes in sexuality, dress/attitude toward sex outside of normal development
- Demeanor and secrecy when a certain person calls
- Heavily influenced by new friend/girl/boyfriend
- Doesn’t want anyone to meet her/his girl/boyfriend
- Missing work / truancy from school
Sex Trafficking

Coercion and Threats
- Threatens to do physical harm
- Threatens to harm family
- Threatens to shame victim to community
- Threatens to report to police/immigration

Economic Abuse
- Creates debt bondage that can never be repaid
- Takes some or all money earned
- Forbids victim to have access to their finances or bank account
- Forbids victim to go to school

Intimidation
- Harms or kills others to show force
- Displays or uses weapons
- Destroys property
- Harms children
- Lies about police involvement in the trafficking situation

Emotional Abuse
- Humiliates in front of others
- Calls names
- Plays mind games
- Makes victim feel guilt, blame for the situation
- Creates dependence by convincing victim they’re the only one that cares about them

Using Privilege
- Treats victim like a servant
- Defines gender roles to make subservient
- Uses nationality to suggest superiority
- Uses certain victims to control other victims
- Hides or destroys important papers

Sexual Abuse
- Forcibly victims to have sex with multiple people in a day
- Uses rape as a weapon and means of control
- Treats victim as an object used for monetary gain
- Normalizes sexual violence and selling sex

Isolation
- Keeps confined
- Accompanies to public places
- Creates distrust of police/others
- Moves victims to multiple locations
- Rotates victims
- Doesn’t allow victim to learn English
- Denies access to children, family and friends

Minimizing, Denying & Blaming
- Makes light of abuse or situation
- Denies that anything illegal is occurring
- Places blame on victim for the trafficking situation

Power & Control

Labor Trafficking
Traffickers

Traffickers are masters of the art of seduction; they are able to identify the vulnerabilities of a specific victim and exploit them.

Once seduced, traffickers use torture tactics to control their victims. Such tactics consistently lead to complete obedience and a breakdown of personal agency and autonomy.

Traffickers use the increased anti-immigrant sentiment to help maintain control of their victims.
What kinds of traffickers are there?

• CEO Pimp - $Money
• Romeo Pimp - Love
• Guerilla Pimp - Violence
• Familial Trafficker - Parents/grandparents/ extended family
Familial Trafficking

- Culture of violence, hopelessness, and chronic trauma
- The familial trafficker will be well-known in the community and obsessed with power
- Familial trafficker will lead a double life and have connections to criminal networks
- All forms of violence are used to control trafficking victim
- Sexual and physical abuse start at birth
- Rape is normalized
- Family will attempt to look normal from the outside
- Family members will ALWAYS accompany child to all medical/social service visits
Adverse experiences in childhood (trauma) affect the health and behavior of adults through two primary mechanisms.

1. Increased conventional risk factors such as smoking, excessive drinking, overeating, self-injury, and engaging in risky sex—behaviors that often are used to cope with the pain of the trauma.
2. Biomedical research shows that childhood trauma affects the developing brain and body, causing deregulation of the stress response.

Research Suggests

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Trauma from “The System”

Re-traumatization refers to the psychological and physiological experience of being “triggered,” perhaps by a smell, a sound, or a sensation, that recreates or recalls the original abuse.

Triggers for re-traumatization may include: strip searches, room searches that involve inspecting personal items, cuffs or restraints, isolation, sudden room changes, yelling, and insults.

• Exposure to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and personal loss such as the death of a family member also may trigger re-traumatization.

• Illicit Self Protection: including violent outbursts and withdrawal from treatment.

SAMHSA’s National Center on Trauma-Informed Care and SAMHSA’s National GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice: Essential Components of Trauma Informed Judicial Practice. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013.
Trauma Bonds

• **Definition**: Dysfunctional attachments that occur in the presence of danger, shame or exploitation.

• **Clinical Patterns**: Abusive/conflictual ties like abuse cycles such as those found in domestic violence; misplaced loyalty as in cults, incest, or hostage situations; depression; rage or debilitation resentment; co-dependency.

SAMHSA’s National Center on Trauma-Informed Care and SAMHSA’s National GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice: Essential Components of TraumaInformed Judicial Practice. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013.
What Coping Looks Like

- Many survivors have engaged in behavior that others might consider self-destructive, such as IV drug use, other substance abuse, survival sex, and self-injury.

- Being trauma informed is to understand these behaviors not as character flaws or symptoms of mental illness, but as strategies or behavioral adaptations developed to cope with the physical and emotional impact of past trauma.
Trauma can shatter an individual's sense of safety and trust.
  • Knowing you’re safe vs. feeling you’re safe
  • Attachment affects
    • Don’t know how to trust which impacts future relationships

This may lead to general fearfulness and isolation that makes connecting to family, friends, and treatment professionals difficult.

Many people who have experienced trauma feel a sense of powerlessness or helplessness over their own lives, which may make it difficult to engage in treatment programs and in judicial proceedings.
  • May appear as:
    • aggression, creating conflict – Fight
    • checking out, not following through – Flight
    • withdrawal – Freeze
  • “Always On” State

Examples from your work...
According to SAMHSA’s concept of a trauma-informed approach, “A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

- **Realizes** the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;

- **Recognizes** the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;

- **Responds** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices;

- Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.”
Resiliency & Protective Factors

• **Resilience**: Capacity for successful adaptation despite challenging or threatening circumstances

• **Protective factors**: Promote resilience in those at risk. Response of caregivers and other caring adults

✓ Secure attachment can be most important source of resilience & ability to manage stress.

✓ Social support, social fabric, community, spirituality

✓ Individual factors such as capacities and talents, ability to positively engage others

✓ Access to social and economic resources
Are you coming together as an organization to fight trafficking?

- Are You survivor Centered?
- What are you SOP's in regards to reporting child abuse?
- Do you have set rescue and response protocols?
- Who do you go to when you don't know what to do next?
- Where do you get support?
To Combat Human Trafficking

**Socio-economic**
- Education and Prevention
- Work and Opportunities
- Raised Awareness
- NGOs

**Legal**
- Law Enforcement
- More Convictions and Penalties
- Protection and assistance for the victims

**Attack Networks**
- Operations against criminal groups
- Media campaign to report on countercrime operations
- Deter the criminals
Scenario 1

Jennifer is 12 years old and comes to the clinic for chronic UTI. You find out that Jennifer, her mother and 2 younger sisters recently moved in with a neighbor after being evicted. Jennifer’s mother insists on answering all of the questions and doesn’t like talking about the man that they live with. How do you find out more about this situation?
Local Resources

- Allies Against Slavery
- Austin Police Department (Organized Crime Division)
- American Gateways
- RAICES
- SAFE
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
- Refugee Services of Texas
- Traffic 911
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center 888.373.7888.
Hotlines

**Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force:**
1-888-428-7581
This telephone line is operated by the United States Department of Justice. Operators have access to interpreters and can talk with callers in their own language. The service is offered on weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM EST. After these hours, information is available on tape in English, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

**United States Department of Health and Human Services—Rescue and Restore Campaign Information and Referral Hotline:**
1-888-373-7888
Connects victims of trafficking to non-government organizations (NGOs) who can help victims in their local area.
Thank you!

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