

# I AM: ENGAGING YOUTH AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN RESPONSE

Youth serving organizations inclusive of large child welfare and juvenile justice agencies throughout the United States have demonstrated a fierce commitment to addressing sexual exploitation and trafficking within our borders. This atrocious, multi-layered form of abuse is threatening the children that we as practitioners and first responders aim to protect, serve and heal every day. There are numerous agencies across the country who are providing critically needed awareness trainings to a wide variety of audiences, and are developing tools, policies, laws, legislation and protocols in the hopes of identifying youth who are at risk for exploitation or who are in dire need of rescue.

**These are all critical steps that must be taken if we are to eradicate the sexual exploitation and trafficking of our children. In order to ensure successful implementation of what we collectively aim to achieve we must ask:**

- » Do practitioners and first responders have the engagement skills needed to gather meaningful data when implementing assessment tools with youth and families who are potential victims of exploitation and trafficking?
- » Do practitioners and first responders have the ability to partner with youth and families in order to address sexual exploitation and trafficking?

Engaging and partnering with youth and families are the cornerstones of effective child welfare practice and uphold our overarching principles of Safety, Permanency and Well-Being. These guiding principles are the same for youth involved with the juvenile justice system as many youth and families impacted by exploitation are multi-system involved.



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At the core of this training model is the belief that our efforts and interventions are only as effective as the information we are able to gather; learning to implement a tool has to include an enhancement of staff skill and ability. There are multiple barriers to effectively partnering with youth and families ranging from staff bias against families, beliefs about exploitation and trafficking, lack of cultural competencies, burnout and larger scale systemic issues. Through skill building activities this training addresses what can often compromise the work we are doing, along with building staff efficacy in assessing and addressing the needs of sexually exploited youth moving them from rescue to restoration and ultimately recovery. This leading-edge practice model begins with the first point of contact with a youth and their family and takes agencies and their staff into long term permanency and well-being planning. In order to impact practice and enhance the ability to strengthen agency response to exploitation and trafficking the model includes:

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN AGENCY RESPONSE

- » Agency Needs Assessment
- » Strategic Planning for Vision
- » Personalized Curriculum Adaptation for Inclusion of Agency Policy, Procedures and Assessment Tools

## ENGAGING FAMILIES AND YOUTH IMPACTED BY SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING

- » Two Day Training
- » One Day Skills Building Practice Session
- » Agency Specific Practice Guide
- » Participant Manuals

## SUPPORT AND MODEL FIDELITY TECHNICAL

- » Support and Fidelity Workshop
- » Technical Assistance Consultation Visit
- » Field Coaching
- » Supervisory Workshops

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