

Sex Trafficking and Child Welfare

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL LAW AND
COLLABORATION WITH NGO'S



Overview of session

- What is The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, or P.L. 113-183, and what does it mean for child welfare systems?
- How to implement elements of this law inexpensively, efficiently, and effectively by collaborating with law enforcement, NGO's, Universities, and other community partners
- What did we do to make it work?
- What can you do to make it work?
- Lessons learned along the way

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

- Enacted September 29th, 2014
- Addresses trafficking, permanency plans, normalcy, reasonable and prudent parenting standard
- Sets forth requirements for training, screening, and collecting data



Why the focus on child welfare?

Runaway and homeless youth

Trafficking Resource Center estimated in 2015 that 60% of 10-17 year olds who have been trafficked were runaway or homeless youth¹

History of abuse and neglect

Vulnerable children. ACF estimates that more than 90% of minor victims of sex trafficking have been involved with child welfare services, most often due to histories of abuse and neglect²

One study found that victims of child abuse, particularly sex abuse, were 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution than their peers. (Mathur, 2014).

Substitute care

Children are targeted because of inconsistencies in the family system. NCMEC: 60% of runaways who are victims of sex trafficking have been in the custody of social services or foster care in some point in their lives

1. TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER, 2015. ADMINISTRATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

P.L. 113-183 Requires Development of Policies and Procedures

- Develop and require training for staff at various levels
- Screen and identify sex trafficking victims
- Report identified victims within 24 hours to law enforcement by 9/29/16
- Report annually to HHS the total number of children and youth who are sex trafficking victims by 9/29/17
- Report missing children within 24 hours to LEA for entry into National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- Locate children missing from care
- Screen the child and determine experiences while missing from care
- Determine risk factors for the child missing from care and address them in subsequent placements
- HHS to report to Congress by 9/29/18

Oregon Implementation Step 1: Rules, Tools and Planning

- Change state laws to align with federal laws as a result of this act
- Ensure our procedure is up to date and reflects requirements of P.L. 113-183
- Roll out a plan to implement requirements of the law, including training, tracking, and screening, with the help and support of partners
- Design a screening tool to be used to determine if a child, youth, or young adult is at risk or confirmed as a victim of sex trafficking
- Map out stakeholders in Oregon, who are they, where do they work? What do they do? Invite them to be active participants in the process

Screening Tool

- Puts the burden of formal identification on the tool, not on the child, not on the worker
- Aligns definition of "confirmed" with federal and state definitions of trafficking victim status
- Three "levels": (1) confirmed victim status (2) risk factors to track (3) factors which contribute to running away/being missing
- Used when a child returns from being missing, runaway, or someone notices indicators of trafficking
- Is actually a page in our child welfare data system

Screening Tool

Agencies and Individuals involved in the creation of the screening tool:

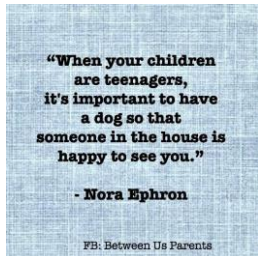
- FBI
- DOJ
- Sexual Assault Resource Center
- Foster youth
- County level individuals
- Runaway and homeless youth program staff
- Local law enforcement
- Case workers/Supervisors from DHS both rural and urban areas
- Local researcher with Portland State University
- Oregon Foster Parent Association
- Mental health professional
- District Attorney
- Residential CSEC program manager
- Assistant US Attorney
- Jail Sgt.
- Addictions and mental health services
- Juvenile Justice PO
- Oregon State Police

Survivor of trafficking? Invited but did not attend

Tracking data

Tracking	Tracking confirmed victims statewide by using the tool • age, gender, county
Compiling	Compiling factors contributing to run/missing status





Normalcy

Foster parents trained initially at the rollout of the new legislation

Ongoing normalcy training embedded in foster parent CSEC training created by community partners

Access to age appropriate and developmentally appropriate activities for the child

Using careful, reasonable parenting: i.e. sleepovers, sports, activities

Takes trauma and nature of exploitation into account when considering appropriateness

Step 2: Training for Staff



- Required for all child welfare supervisors, caseworkers, and visitation staff (2,000+ staff)
- 3.5 hours long
- Modified from the Federal curriculum through Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative, CapLEARN system : titled *Child Welfare Response to Child and Youth Sex Trafficking* Parts 1, 2, and 3. learnchildwelfare.gov/home
- Includes background, how to identify, how to respond, and specific state procedure
- Train the trainer model
- Partnered with Portland State University Training Center to make modifications to include:
 - Local information and statistics, local videos, interactive activities, specific information to Oregon's procedure for CSE affected children, teens, and young adults.



Elements of training

Our procedure

How to identify trafficking, what to look for

Questions to ask

Contacts and reporting

Dynamics of trafficking and relationships

Impact of trauma and interaction with victims of trauma

Types of trafficking (familial, gang, "boyfriend")

Step 3: Training for Foster Parents

- Not required by P.L. 113-183, but often requested!
- Partnered with a local faith based NGO
- Adapted the federal curriculum, session 3 for:
 - Online asynchronous learning option for foster parents
 - In person training option for foster parents
- Created a resource list hosted on the NGO website for foster families: Ted Talks, statewide resources for basic needs, therapists, services, Podcasts, books, etc. all to help FP's effectively work with victims of CSEC and trauma
- Mutually beneficial to both agencies
 - Interns and dual experiences
 - Numbers
 - Cost effective



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's)

- MOU's became our BFF for successful collaboration
- MOU's to share case information with other agencies, MDT's
- MOU's to implement training with NGO's
- MOU's took the place of contracts when no money was exchanged between agencies, but still created a guideline of expectations – excellent tool for partnering with faith-based NGO's for clear outcomes and the agreement between parties



Challenges & Benefits in working with NGO's

CHALLENGES

- Making sure faith-based principles are not forced on participants
- Working closely within the MOU guidelines; clear expectations
- Helping NGO's understand nuances and timelines when working with a governmental agency (DHS)
- Services being dropped or changed

BENEFITS

- Cost effective
- Community support and collaboration
- Ability to extend beyond what we can do as DHS, enhancing child safety
- Positive interactions with the system lead to more foster parents, more involvement from the community specific to CSEC

Why can't we all just get along?

- Understanding each agency's roles, expectations, and limitations
- Increasing lines of communication
- Strengthening protocols
- Going back to the good old MOU's
- Feedback & revision of protocols – until we get it right!
- ~~Get mad~~, get even, offer to train!



Step 4: When it all works together

"A's" case

training → screening → successful positive identification → x report to LEA → access of services
 → workers understanding dynamics of trafficking → everyone working together to get child placed in a safe, secure facility.

"M's case

Training → suspicion of exploitation → screening tool → collaboration with LE and DA's office in multiple counties → likely child will get services rather than sentences

LGBTQ+, safe spaces

Mental Health and Co-occurring disorders

Secondary Trauma

DHS and Law Enforcement Case Studies

Training specific to tribes

Step 5: Training Offered with Partners

Key Takeaways

- Think in systems. Get everyone, and every system that is applicable to the table to build the response
- Use MOU's for clear roles, expectations, and outcomes
- Train, train, train some more!
- Prepare a presentation about your organization. Who are you? What do you do? Share your role and limitations. This applies to both NGO's and GO's
- Build trust and rapport by following through
- Remember your "why"
