



# Human Trafficking Training to Detect Warning Signs

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# Human Trafficking A Hidden Crime We Can Combat



# Background on Trafficking

- Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal industry after drug trafficking – U.S. Department of Justice.
- \$32 billion industry
- \$28 billion generated from commercial sexual exploitation
- 1 million children enter sex trade every year
- Wichita is major trafficking center because of location at crossroads of America

# Background on Trafficking (cont.)

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery
- Victims of trafficking exploited for commercial sex or labor purposes
  - ◆ *Victims found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, escort services*
  - ◆ *Victims found in domestic situations as nannies or maids, sweatshop factories, janitorial jobs, construction sites, farm work, restaurants*
- Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to achieve exploitation

# Wichita's Problem

- Wichita has had more than 50 human trafficking cases over the past two years
- One case involved a 58-year-old man who sold a 13-year-old girl to a 55-year-old man
- Another involved a mother selling her two daughters, aged 12 and 13, to a man
- A 15-year-old girl from Wichita was taken to Dallas and another 15-year-old to Chicago
- Source: DA Marc Bennett and Lt. Jeff Weible, Wichita police

# How Healthcare Can Help

- Bennett says the only way to battle human trafficking is through citizens noticing the warning signs and reporting them
- Health care providers, particularly in the ED, could play a key role in helping to detect signs of human trafficking
- The DA says health care providers can help detect victims of human trafficking. “These girls don’t have family doctors. They are coming to the ER for treatment.”

# The Cry for Help



# Develop Pilot Program

- No health care system in Kansas has trained its providers to detect human trafficking
- Via Christi could become a pilot program for the state if it provides such training
- Bennett and Weible will help design training
- They recommend one-hour program:
  - ◆ 15 minutes on the problem with anecdotes
  - ◆ 15 minutes on what police do to battle problem
  - ◆ 15 minutes on how to detect warning signs
  - ◆ 15 minutes of Q&A



# Detecting Human Trafficking

- Frontline health providers play important role identifying and helping trafficking victims
- While trafficking is largely hidden social problem, many victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for
- Very few places where someone from outside has opportunity to interact with victim
- They often show up in the ER when they need treatment for injuries from physical or sexual abuse, or other health problems

# Detecting Human Trafficking



# Via Christi Should Act

- Helping to battle human trafficking goes to the heart of our Mission to serve as a healing presence especially to the vulnerable
- We recommend that Via Christi develop a training program for all Emergency Department health care providers; we also could invite GraceMed providers to participate
- Goal is to equip our staff to help identify the warning signs of human trafficking and report cases to Wichita police