Catholic Health Care: We Can Stop Human Trafficking—A Protocol for Action

June 9, 2015
Catholic Health Assembly

Peg Tichacek

Agenda and Opening Prayer

2

Welcome and Agenda

1. Opening Prayer

2. Via Christi Journey

3. Human Trafficking Assessment

4. Tool Kit for going forward
5. Q & A

3

Mission and Values

Opening Prayer

Lord, St. Josephine Bakhita, was sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from her physical enslavement, she found true redemption in her encounter with you.

Assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; so that they may be released from their chains of captivity.

Those whom man enslaves, dear God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to St. Bakhita as an example of hope and faith.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.

Amen.

5

Via Christi

Nicole Ensminger

Via Christi Journey

6

Via Christi

Definitions

Sex Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, in which a commercial act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion,** or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

Labor Trafficking

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 subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

7

U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act
To be convicted of human trafficking

Action	Means	Purpose
Recruiting Harboring Transporting Obtaining Exploiting	Force Fraud Coercion	Sexual Exploitation OR Labor Exploitation

8

One Exception
Minor < 18 in commercial sex

Action	Means	Purpose
Recruiting Harboring Transporting Obtaining Exploiting	~~Force~~ ~~Fraud~~ ~~Coercion~~	Sexual Exploitation OR Labor Exploitation

9

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

10

Via Christi

Who can be Trafficked?

- Runaway & homeless youth at highest risk
- Any person, any age, any race, any gender can be trafficked

11

Via Christi

Who can be Trafficked?

- Nationally 450,000 children run away from home each year
- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward sexual exploitation within 48 hours of leaving home
- 12 is the average age of entry into pornography and sexual exploitation in the U.S.

12

Via Christi

How Healthcare Can Help

- One way to battle human trafficking is through noticing red flags/indicators
- 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

13

Domestic Sex Trafficking and Healthcare

- 87.8% of victims interviewed reported contact with healthcare system

Lederer, L. and Wetzel, C.A. "The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities". (2014) *The Annals of Health Law* 23:1. 61-91.

14

ED Personnel
Knowledge of Trafficking

- Assessed knowledge among ER personnel in four large emergency rooms in the Northeast
  - 2% had formal training on trafficking
  - Defining Trafficking In Persons (TIP)
    - 80% were hesitant to define TIP
- 5% were confident in ability to identify a victim
- 7% were confident in ability to treat a victim

Chisholm-Straker, M., Richardson, LD., and Cossio, T. "Combating Slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine." (2012) *J Healthcare for Poor and Underserved* 23:980-987.

15

ED Personnel
Knowledge of Trafficking

- Results after taking 20 minute training program:
  - 90% were confident in ability to define TIP
  - 54% were confident in ability to identify a victim of trafficking
  - 57% were confident in ability to treat a victim of trafficking
  - 93% said session was useful

Chisholm-Straker, M., Richardson, LD., and Cossio, T. "Combating Slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine." (2012) *J Healthcare for Poor and Underserved* 23:980-987.

16

Example of a HC Team Response

- Via Christi Health
  - Task Force
  - Training and Education
  - Action Plan: Assessment Tool/Protocol

17

Via Christi Training

- HT Education Sessions
- Simulations
- Online Modules
- Educational Materials
- Education on How to Utilize Protocol

18

Tina Peck

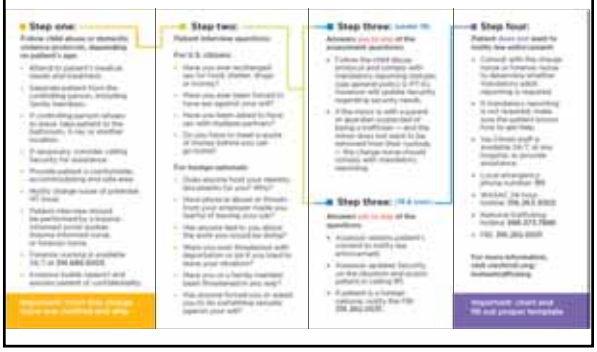
Assessment Tool

19

Via Christi

HT Assessment

HT Assessment



Control Indicators

- Accompanied by a controlling person
- Controlling person does not allow patient to answer
- Person interrupts or corrects the patient
- Patient is not in control of their ID or passport
- Patient exhibits fear, nervousness, and/or avoids eye contact
- Patient frequently receives text or calls
- Patient exhibits hyper-vigilance, or subordinate demeanor

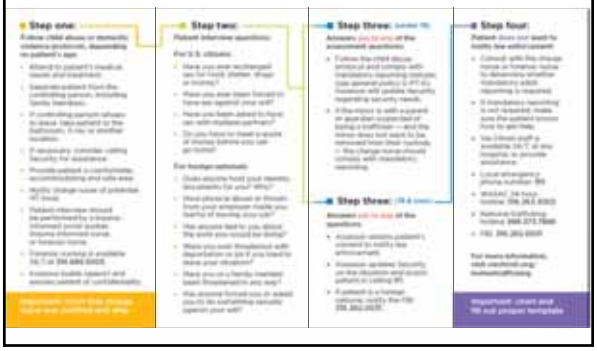
Red Flags

- Inconsistent or scripted history
- Discrepancy between the history and clinical presentation
- Unable to give address
- Late presentation
- Doesn't know current city
- Minor trading sex for something of value
- Unusually high number of sexual partners
- Carrying large amount of cash
- Appearance younger than stated age

Physical Indicators

- Signs of physical trauma
- Branding tattoos
- Unusual infections
- Multiple STI's
- Several somatic symptoms arising from stress
- Malnutrition, dehydration
- Multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Unusual occupational injuries

HT Assessment



Via Christi's Protocol

- Step One: Follow child abuse or domestic abuse protocol, depending on victim's age
  - Respond to patient's medical needs
  - Separate patient from controlling person
  - Call security if necessary
  - Provide a safe/comfortable area
  - Notify charge nurse
  - Document that charge nurse was notified
  - Build rapport
  - Document in health record

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Two:
  - Interview questions
    - U.S. Citizens
    - Foreign Nationals

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Two: Interview questions for U.S. citizens
  - Have you ever exchanged sex for food, shelter, drugs, or money?
  - Have you ever been forced to have sex against your will?
  - Have you been asked to have sex with multiple partners?
  - Do you have to meet a quota of money before you can go home?

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Two: Interview questions for foreign nationals
  - Does anyone hold your identity documents for you?
  - Have physical abuse or threats from your employer made you fearful of leaving?
  - Has anyone lied to you about the work you would be doing?
  - Were you ever threatened with deportation or jail if you tried to leave your situation?
  - Have you or a family member been threatened in any way?
  - Has anyone forced you or asked you to do something sexually against your will?

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Three: (under 18)
  - Follow the child abuse reporting protocol:
    - Assessor will follow mandatory reporting statutes (General Policy G-PT-11) and call 911
  - If the minor is with a parent or guardian suspected of being a trafficker—and the child does not want to be removed from their custody—the charge nurse should comply with mandatory reporting
  - Document in health record

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Three: (18 and older)
  - Assessor obtains patient's consent to notify law enforcement
  - Assessor updates Security on the situation and assists patient in calling 911
  - If patient is a foreign national, notify the FBI
  - Document in health record

Via Christi's Protocol

- Step Four: Patient is 18 or older and does not want to notify law enforcement
  - Consult with the charge nurse or forensic nurse to determine whether mandatory adult reporting is required
  - If mandatory reporting is not required make sure patient knows how to get help
  - Document in health record

Peg Tichacek

Tool Kit Going Forward

33

Ready or not

Five Readiness Factors

1. Leadership
2. Collaboration with law enforcement
3. Policy in place and assessment tool
4. Education, communication, mission integration plan
5. Collaboration strategy with community stakeholders

Leadership

- Executive Leadership
- Core Team
  - Administration
  - Clinical Nursing
  - Mission/Community Benefit
  - Communications

Leadership

- Task Force
  - Administration
  - Advocacy
  - Social Work
  - Education
  - Mission
  - Philanthropy
  - Communication
  - Legal
  - Nursing (ED, Trauma)
  - Forensic Nursing
  - SANE-SART Team
  - Medical Directors
  - Faith Based Organizations
  - Security
  - Community Volunteers

Collaboration with Law Enforcement

Barry Grissom
U.S. Attorney for Kansas

Marc Bennett
Sedgwick County District Attorney

Policy

- Existing Policies
  - Domestic Violence
  - Sexual Assault
  - Human Trafficking
  - Child Abuse
  - Senior Abuse
  - Substance Abuse
  - Forensic Nursing

Policy and Assessment Tool in place

- Establish human trafficking policy and key collaborative relationships
- Establish Assessment Tool and strategy for use

Education

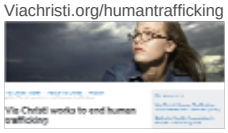
- Establish Education for key audiences related to HT awareness

Collaboration Strategy with Community Stakeholders

- Engage in Community Collaboration
  - Health providers
  - Social Services
  - Residential Housing
  - Mentoring
  - Faith based responders

Be informed—Resources

Viachristi.org/humantrafficking



chausa.org/human-trafficking

Polarisproject.org

- National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1(888)373-7888
- Sharedhope.org
- Combatinghumantrafficking.org
- Salvationarmy.org
- Ecpatusa.org

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Questions

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44