Human Trafficking
A Hidden Crime We Can Combat

STOP! Stop Trafficking of Persons

you may be her only voice...
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

Human trafficking threatens families, women, children
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