

Serving Youth Survivors of Trafficking

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Youth Services



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Survey

- Pre-Test:
 - Please take ASAP:
- Post-test survey link will be shared at the end of the training.



Notes before we start...



Terminology used during
this presentation



Note on self care



Questions



Handouts



OVC Improving Outcomes Grant

- ❑ In 2020, The Department of Public Safety was awarded a grant through the federal Office for Victims of Crime.
- ❑ Funds are being utilized for the following:
 - ❑ Employing a grant coordinator at the Office of Criminal Justice Services
 - ❑ Consultation and training with subject matter experts
 - ❑ Employing a Safe Harbor Coordinator at two juvenile courts
- ❑ 3-year grant program focusing on:
 - ❑ Building Ohio's capacity to implement Safe Harbor law and adopt Safe Harbor protocols
 - ❑ Technical assistance to better serve youth victims



Objectives

- **Review Human Trafficking**
 - Overview of human trafficking definitions and dynamics
- **Develop Plan for Services**
 - Review of AO's case plan model
- **Strategize to Build Rapport**
 - Confidentiality and transparency
 - Practical strategies for engagement
- **Plan for Harm Reduction**
 - Safer vs. Safest Behaviors
- **Identify Service Models**
 - Mentorship
 - Advocacy



Reviewing Human Trafficking



What is
human
trafficking?



Federal Legal Definition of Trafficking

As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, the legal definition of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is:

- a) **sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex 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;
-from 22 USC § 7102 (9)(A)

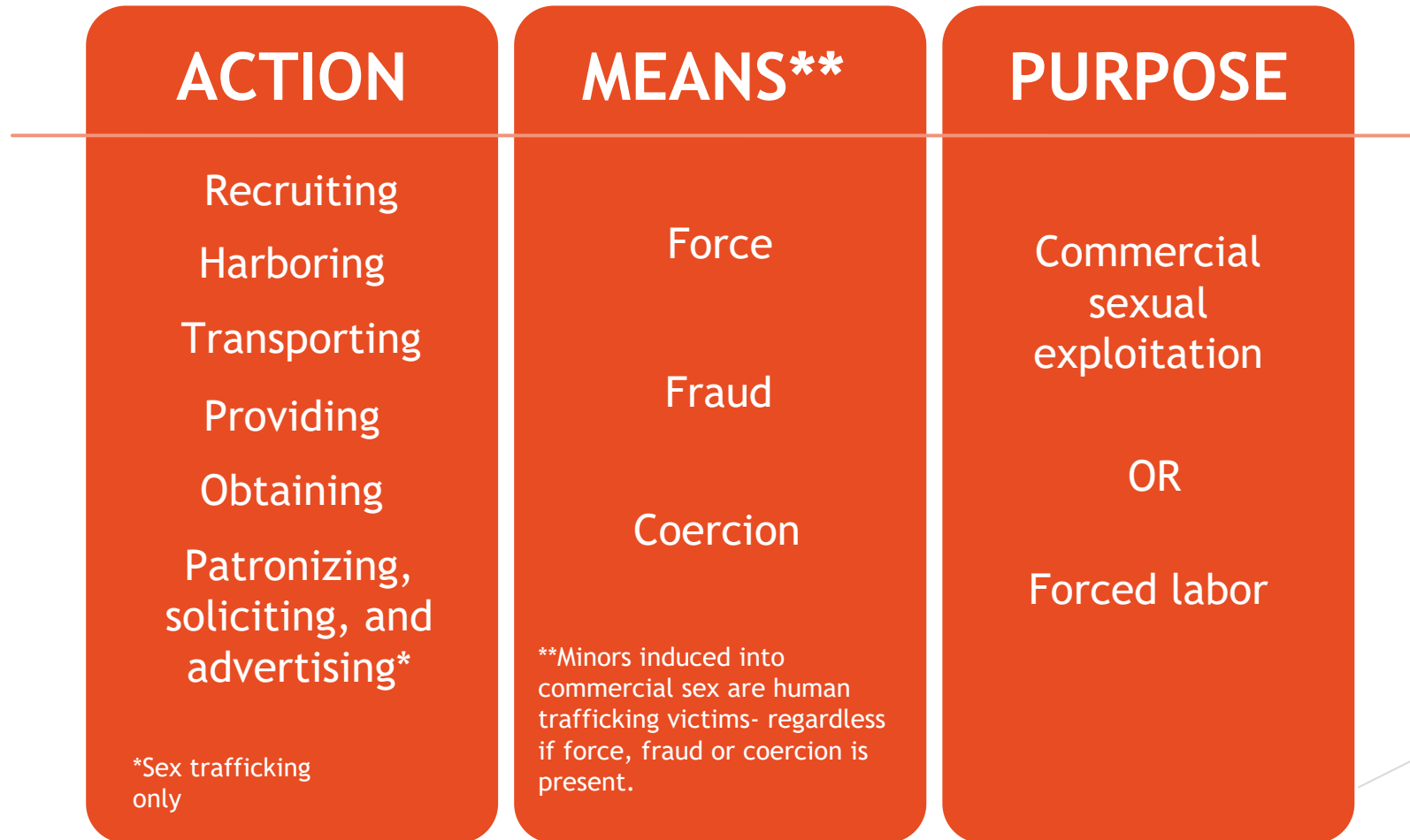
or

- b) 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.
-from 22 USC § 7102 (9)(B)

-The TVPA of 2000 was the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The TVPA was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013, and 2017.



How Trafficking Occurs



Source: Polaris



Ohio's Definition of Trafficking

As defined by the Ohio Revised Code Section 2905.32 (Trafficking in Persons), Ohio's legal definition of human trafficking is:

“(A) No person shall knowingly recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain...another person knowing that the person will be *subjected to involuntary servitude or be compelled* to engage in sexual activity...”

“...For a prosecution under division (A)(1) of this section, the element "compelled" does not require that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically exerted. The element "compelled" has been established if the state proves that the victim's will was overcome by **force, fear, duress, or intimidation, or fraud**, by furnishing or offering a controlled substance to the victim, or by manipulating the victim's controlled substance addiction.”



Ohio's Definition of Trafficking

- In January 2021, Governor DeWine signed HB 431 into law, which eliminated a previously tiered definition of sex trafficking, increasing protections for minors
- Under this new law:
 - Minors (anyone under 18) and persons with developmental disabilities induced to engage in sexual activity for hire by one person with another person is considered sex trafficking, **regardless of evidence of compulsion**
 - Other additional provisions related to protecting survivors



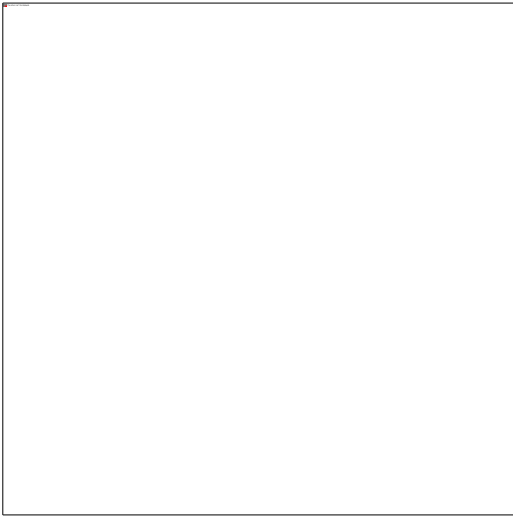
Ohio's Safe Harbor Law

- Safe Harbor Law was enacted in 2012 as a means for courts to intervene in lieu of conviction or adjudication
- Per Safe Harbor statute, if there is reason to believe a youth is a victim of trafficking, and their presenting charge is related to their victimization, the charge can be held in abeyance, and they can be connected to supportive services
- If the youth completes programming satisfactorily, the charge is dismissed and expunged from the youth's record



Developing Plan for Services





What is your current response to trafficked youth?

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Response Building

- A comprehensive approach to serving survivors plans for short-term and long-term goals:
 - Immediate Safety
 - Emergency, Short-Term, and Long-Term Placement
 - Physical and Psychological Health
 - Legal issues
 - Educational Goals
 - Life Skills
 - Job Skills
 - Mentorship



Case Plan Model: Advocating Opportunity's Building Organic Roots

- Four primary objectives
 - 1. Decrease isolation and reduce service gaps through development of community connections
 - 2. Increase client resilience and success through development of broader support systems and fostering diverse interests
 - 3. Increase client independence and self-sufficiency
 - 4. Increase service utilization and more accurate identification of potential clients through two-way referral systems



Building Organic Roots: 10 Steps



Strategize to Build Rapport



Confidentiality and Transparency

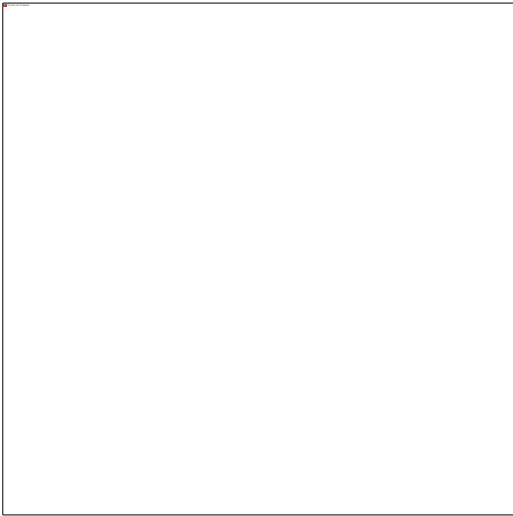
Confidentiality refers to the youth's right to privacy

- Consider confidentiality among family members
- Following ethical guidelines regarding client privilege in your discipline

Transparency acknowledges there are limits to the child's privacy

- How do you explain mandatory reporting?
- How can you remain transparent when having to share/report information the youth would prefer you not share/report?





What Does Authenticity Mean to You?

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Authenticity

How do your closest friends and family show their authenticity?

Why is authenticity important?



Survivor-Centered

A survivor-centered approach prioritizes the survivor's:



Consider:

- “nothing about me without me”
- Survivors should be the ultimate decision-makers
- Forward looking stance versus focus on past challenges

Source: *Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk*, developed by Family & Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center, available at rhyttac.net



Mandated Reporting

- Human trafficking and exploitation is a form of child maltreatment
- If you suspect trafficking or exploitation, you should follow state and agency guidelines for mandated reporting
- What are your mandated reporting requirements?
 - Report to law enforcement and/or child welfare
 - Calling the national human trafficking hotline does NOT fulfill your requirement as a mandated reporter
- How do you report in a trauma-informed, survivor-centered manner?



Youth-Focused Services

- Working with youth can be complex, as they are often involved in multiple systems
 - Family
 - Court
 - Child welfare
 - Schools
- It is critical that the youth has someone on their service team who represents and advocates for their interests as their primary responsibility



Choice and Autonomy

The desire for autonomy is natural and healthy

- How do you assert autonomy in your own life?

Youth who have been trafficked may have a complex relationship with autonomy and choice:

- The trafficker may have taken their ability to make choices and exercise autonomy through control
- The trafficking experience may have provided the illusion of autonomy
- The youth may have been exercising autonomy to meet their needs in a way that seemed most accessible to them at the time



Choice and Autonomy

- Why is it important that we respect the youth's right to be autonomous and their need to make choices?
- How can we do that in both small and significant ways?
 - Controlling the car radio, youth being part of service team meetings, etc.



Conversation Strategies

Mirroring language, tone, and non-verbals

- Using terms the youth uses to identify people in the youth's life

Developmentally appropriate

- Use language and content the youth is prepared to engage with
- When educating elementary-age youth on trafficking, for instance, it may not be appropriate to discuss sex trafficking. Instead, the educator may focus on healthy boundaries in all relationships and safe vs. unsafe touch, etc.

Trauma-informed language

- Avoid blaming, stigmatized, and triggering language



Trauma-Informed Language Worksheet





Strengths-Based Approach

- Shift away from looking at deficits
- Focus on individual's and family's capacities, competencies, connections, values, hopes, etc.
- Does not mean ignoring challenges
- Encourage experiences where youth can be successful

Managing Resistance

- EXPECT RESISTANCE
 - Why might youth who have been trafficked be resistant in your work with them?
- Understand that at times, you and the youth you're working with will have different ideas and recommendations for the youth's success
 - You can reduce relationship damage by maintaining transparency, valuing the youth's insight even when disagreeing, and ensuring the youth is aware of all recommendations and reports you make regarding them



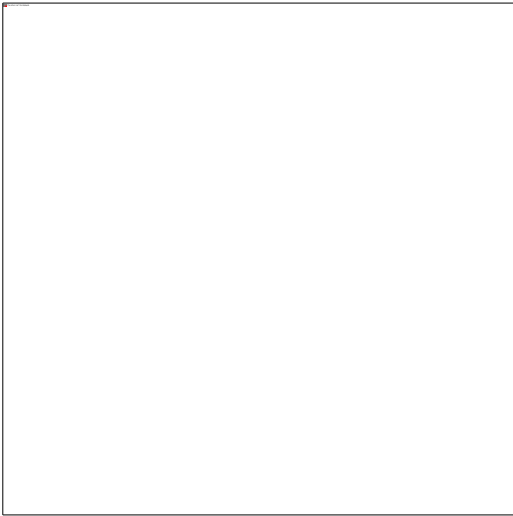
Managing Resistance Roleplay

- Find a partner.
- Take turns roleplaying the youth and the professional
- Youth should make a challenging statement, and the professional should respond in a trauma-informed manner
 - Youth examples:
 - “You’re paid to be here.”
 - “You don’t care about me.”
 - “You don’t know anything about my life.”
 - “I don’t want your help.”
 - Additional examples?



Plan for Harm Reduction





What Is Harm Reduction?

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Social work core values mirror those of harm reduction; they recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people, take a non-judgmental stance, respect diverse populations, encourage professional competency and the right to self-determination, advocate for social justice, adopt a strengths perspective, encourage ongoing research and evaluation, and facilitate inter-professional practice. ”

“*Harm Reduction*” refers to policies and practices that aim primarily to reduce adverse health, social, and economic consequences of high-risk behaviors. Harm reduction benefits people engaging in high-risk behaviors as well as their families and communities.

Source: Runaway and Homeless Youth- Training and Technical Assistance Centers



Safer vs. Safest

- Youth will continue to engage in high-risk behaviors
 - Safety planning is key
 - Where can youth go if they do runaway?
 - Do they know who to call in an emergency?
 - Can they identify safe individuals in their life?
 - Family, friends, case manager, etc.
 - If youth do continue engaging in these behaviors, how can we focus on reducing the level of harm instead of focusing on eliminating the behavior all together?
 - For instance: abstinence-only education vs. teaching safe sex
 - CDC studies show that when people use Syringe Service Programs there is an appx. 50% reduction in HIV/HCV incidence.

Runaway Youth

- According to Polaris, running away is one of the top five risk factors that increase vulnerability of youth to trafficking
- Incidences of running away should be reported
 - Be transparent about this
- Harm reduction = planning
 - Have a safety plan that is developed with the youth
 - Clearly outline your obligation of reporting runaway behavior



Substance Use

- What are some ways we can practice harm reduction around substance use?
 - Connect individuals to overdose education, counseling, and referral to treatment for infectious diseases and substance use disorders.
 - Distribute opioid overdose reversal medications (e.g., naloxone) to individuals at risk of overdose, or to those who might respond to an overdose.
 - Lessen harms associated with drug use and related behaviors that increase the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and bacterial and fungal infections.



Substance Use

- What are some ways we can practice harm reduction around substance use?
 - Reduce infectious disease transmission among people who use drugs, including those who inject drugs by equipping them with accurate information and facilitating referral to resources.
 - Reduce overdose deaths, promote linkages to care, facilitate co-location of services as part of a comprehensive, integrated approach.
 - Reduce stigma associated with substance use and co-occurring disorders



Physical Safety/Sexual Health



- Identify key people within the reproductive health field that they can reach out to in times of a sexual crisis:
 - Free clinics
 - Community testing
 - Sexual assault crisis centers
 - Department of health
 - Freely available contraceptives
- Education around safe sex/sexual health



Relationships



42% were brought into trafficking by a member of their own families.

39% were recruited via an intimate partner or a marriage proposition.

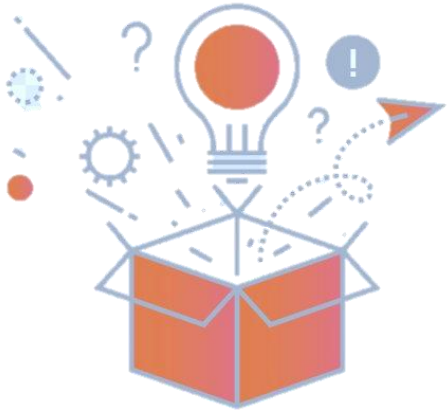


Relationships

- Relationships are a key component to healing
- Key qualities of a healthy relationship:
 - Mutual Respect
 - Communicate openly
 - Ability to be oneself



Thinking Outside the Box



- Examples of Harm Reduction practices
- What is your organization doing around harm reduction?

Identify Service Models



Mentorship



What are the benefits of mentorship?

Increased high school graduation rates

Lower high school dropout rates

Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices

Better attitude about school

Higher college enrollment rates and higher educational aspirations

Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence

Improved behavior, both at home and at school

Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers

Improved interpersonal skills

Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use (MENTOR, 2009; Cavell, DuBois, Karcher, Keller, & Rhodes, 2009)



Mentorship

- Provides connection with safe adults
 - This is one of the top 5 Resiliency Factors
 - Source:
<https://governor.ohio.gov/priorities/building-resiliency/about-the-summit/growing-resiliency>
 - Two different types of mentorship:
 - Natural (Informal)
 - Coach, Older Family Member, Teacher
 - Assigned (Formal)
 - I.E. Big Brothers/Big Sisters



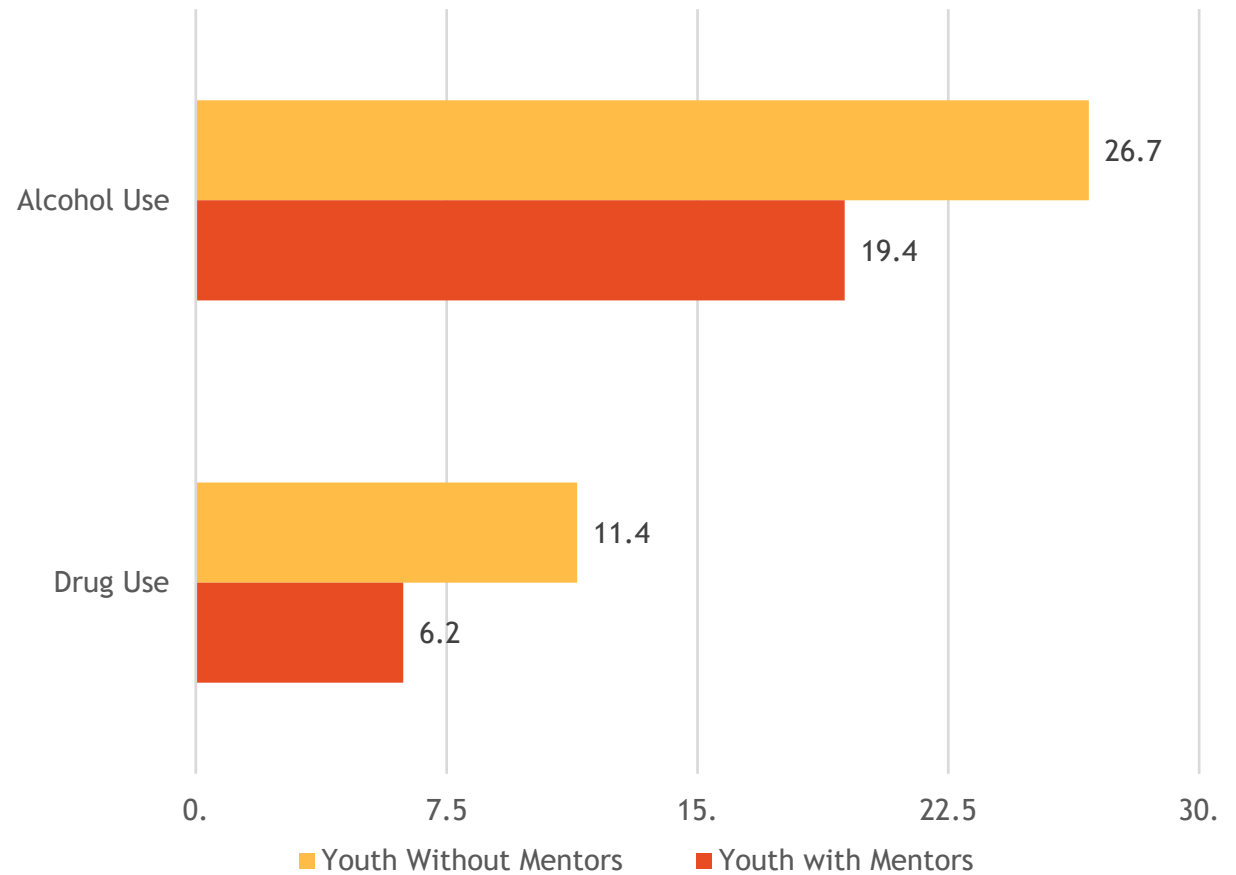
Mentorship

- Basic Models for Mentoring Programs:
 - One Adult, One Youth
 - National programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 - Group Mentoring (one adult, up to 4 youths)
 - Team Mentoring (Multiple adults, multiple youth)
 - Peer Mentoring
 - E-mentoring



What does the research say?

- In a 2015 study done with Big Brothers/Big Sisters:



Advocating for Youth



What is Advocacy?



SELF ADVOCACY



INDIVIDUAL
ADVOCACY



SYSTEMS
ADVOCACY

Advocating WITH Youth

- Involve youth in the decision-making process
 - Choice provides agency, a sense of control, and encourages independence.
 - These are things that are usually stripped away from someone who has experienced trafficking
 - It is key to recovery
 - Choice can start small:
 - Music you listen to in the car
 - Where you take them for lunch
 - What are some other examples?



Advocating With Youth

- Choice can be overwhelming
 - Narrow down options and give choice between a few options
- Choice can include boundaries or restrictions
 - Sometimes working within our programs doesn't allow for a lot of choice
 - Be transparent about the choices that are available and any limitations



Questions?



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