Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth

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Goals for this training

- Understanding of the methods and types of exploitation

- Knowledge of common red flags and risk factors of CSE

- Gain skills and knowledge to identify and respond to CSE

MODULE 1:
Definitions, Language, Data and Framework

Federal Definition: Human Trafficking

- **Human Trafficking:** 18 U.S.C. § 1591 makes it illegal to recruit, entice, obtain, provide, move, harbor, solicit or patronize a person or to benefit from such activities knowing that the person will be caused to engage in commercial sex acts **where the person is under 18 or where force, fraud or coercion exists**. This statute does not require that either the defendant or the victim actually travel

- **Commercial sex act** means any sex act on account of which *anything of value* is given to or received by any person. This includes:

  Prostitution   Pornography/ web cam

  Exotic dancing/stripping   Erotic/nude massage

  Sex tourism   Gang based prostitution

  Any transactional sex with a minor

  - 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)

WA State Definition: CSAM

Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)
RCW 9.68A.100: Commercial sexual abuse of a minor —
Consent of minor does not constitute defense.

(1)A person is guilty of commercial sexual abuse of a minor if:

   (a) He or she pays a fee to a minor or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her;

   (b) He or she pays or agrees to pay a fee to a minor or a third person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefore such minor will engage in sexual conduct with him or her; **or**

   (c) He or she solicits, offers, or requests to engage in sexual conduct with a minor in return for a fee

(1)Commercial sexual abuse of a minor is a class B felony punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

Prevalence

- **100,000 to 293,000** children are sexually exploited each year; National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC); 2003

- **326,000** "at-risk" for commercial sexual exploitation in the U.S. Estes & Weiner, 2001; University of Pennsylvania

- **300-500** youth are commercially sexually exploited each year in King County, WA. Boyer, 2007

- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimated that **one in six endangered runaways were likely sex trafficking victims** in 2014

Sexual Exploitation Affects...

- Youth of ALL genders (girls, boys, gender variant)
- Youth of all sexual orientations
- Any economic class
- Any race
- Any education level

However, sexual exploitation **disproportionately** affects young people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination, particularly youth of color and LGBTQ2I youth

A number of studies have found that among homeless youth, there are comparable numbers of boys and girls who disclose sexual exploitation (ECPAT USA, 2013). See table: "*Prevalence Rates of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Homeless and Runaway Youth by Gender*"

Language Frames the Issue

- Prostitution
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)
- Prostituted Youth/Children
- Underage/Teen Prostitution
- Sex Work
- Sex Servitude/Slavery
- Sexual Exploitation of Youth/Young Adults
- The life, working, dating, making money

Consent vs. Choice

Definition of Consent:

To give permission or acquiescence of something

done or planned by another

However… For consent to be present two criteria must be met:

1. The individual has the developmental capacity to reason the choice being made
2. The individual must **believe** they have more than one option in the circumstance to which they are consenting

Getting Started: 5 Lessons

1. Relationship IS the intervention
2. Address the subculture (prostitution, gangs, street life)
3. Re-frame the economic strategy
4. Develop partnerships and know your systems
5. This is the *long game…*

MODULE 2:
Methods and Types of Exploitation; Social and Cultural Context

Types of Exploitation

- Pimps/3rd party trafficker (can be any gender)
- Gang-based
- Family-based
- Survival Sex
- "Independent", "self managed"
- Peer to peer
- Exploitation through other forms of the sex trades (strip clubs, webcam, private parties,

** In each of these types, much of the exploitation is facilitated through the internet using commercial sex websites (ex: Backpage.com) or dating websites. Some exploitation still occurs on street tracks, in businesses and/or through familial/social networks **

Risk Factors

Individual

- History of abuse or neglect
- Mental health issues
- Family dysfunction
- Homelessness
- Immigrant
- People of color
- Youth
- Girls/women
- LGBTQI
- Low IQ or developmental assets

Environmental

- Adult sex industry
- Transient male populations
- Substance abuse
- Poverty
- Violence
- Use of women's bodies in media/advertising
- Glorification of "Pimp and Ho" subculture
- Proximity to borders/ports

Social

- Sexism and Misogyny
- Privilege
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Classism
- Acceptance of violence towards women and minority groups
- Inaccessibility of legal economies
- Materialism/consumers

Busting the Boy Myths

- **Myth: Most CSE Boys identify as gay or bisexual.**
  - Compared to the U.S. population as a whole, disproportionately high numbers CSE boys identify as sexual minorities. In most studies however, *the majority* of CSE boys identified as heterosexual.

- **Myth: Boys identify themselves as hustlers, choose to engage in the sex trade and are not victimized in the same way that girls are.**
  - Researchers and service providers report that boys often experience an extreme sense of shame regarding their exploitation. It is widely speculated that this sense of shame leads boys to redefine themselves as "hustlers." A similar attitude can be seen with girls "in the life" who tout the money they make and the lavish lifestyle they lead while embracing terms like "ho" or "bottom bitch."

Content for this slide compiled by Norene Roberts, MSSW

Busting the Boy Myths (con't)

Myth: Boys do not come forward for CSEC services and/or are not identified as CSEC because there are very few CSE boys.

- In reality, boys don't come forward and will often deny CSE for a number of reasons:
  - Cultural context: women are victims, men are strong
  - Fear of being outed as gay or perceived as gay
  - May think service providers do not serve males even when they do
  - Not believed when they do come forward
  - Screening is often only routinely done with girls
  - CSEC street outreach teams often only frequent the female "track"

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Subculture

Definition:

A subculture is a group of people within a culture that differentiate themselves from the larger culture to which they belong.

People in subcultures attach to the rules, norms, language, clothing, decorations, practices, attitudes and beliefs reflected in the subculture.

MODULE 3:
Red Flags, Identification and Reporting

Red Flags!

- **Chronically truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth**
- **Multiple cell phones**
- **Having expensive goods or services that they cannot pay for**
- Excess amount of cash
- Hotel room keys
- Signs of branding (tattoos, jewelry)
- Lying about age/false identification; inconsistencies
- Dramatic personality changes, evasive behavior especially around a new partner or new group of friends
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts
- Provocative clothing, sex toys, multiple condoms, lube or other sexual devices

Identification

- Ask specific questions during intake to screen for risk factors or involvement.

- Increase attempts to track youth that are chronically running away and/or truant.

- Consider significant behavior change especially if youth becomes secretive or has new "older" friends or a new partner.

- Ask about STI's, pregnancy, unexplained injuries.

- Hyper-sexualized behavior, offering sex acts.

- Observe communication patterns in school, clinics, milieus, drop-in or street outreach settings; who talks to who, who doesn't?

Asking the Question

- ***Sometimes people trade sex for money or because they have to survive, has that happened to you? (Or, is that going on in your life?)*** (In person interviewing)

- Have you ever traded sex for money or things you need to survive? (Intake form)

- I'm wondering if you are in the life? I will not judge you or anything you tell me. I'm here to listen if you ever want to talk or want support.

WA State: Mandatory Reporting

The Washington State Legislature's definition of child abuse and neglect includes domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims. "Sexual exploitation," is defined in RCW 26.44.020 as:

(a) allowing, permitting, compelling, encouraging, aiding, or otherwise causing a child to engage in prostitution by any person.

As a result of the inclusion of sexual exploitation, which covers prostitution, pornography, and sexual performances, victims are considered abused or neglected for the purposes of Washington law and can receive a child protective response and CPS may intervene in the life of any child, under the age of 18 who is being sexually exploited **by any adult— familial or non-familial.**

MODULE 4: Impacts of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

Physical Health Impacts

- Lack of care to vision, dental, physical and mental health
- Educational losses
- Loss in "wages"; belief that "the life" is the only job for which they are qualified
- Cognitive issues from trauma, drug use or injury
- Pregnancy, STI's, chronic gynecological health issues
- Somatic issues (numbing, desensitization)
- Malnutrition
- Physical injuries, often left untreated

Mental Health Impacts

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Complex PTSD
- Disturbances of self or identity
- Decreased self esteem/self efficacy
- Guilt and Shame
- Substance Abuse
- Aggression and Anti-social Behaviors
- High-risk Sexual Behavior

Symptoms of PTSD

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a complex disorder in which the affected person's memory, emotional responses, intellectual processes, and nervous system have all been disrupted by one or more traumatic experiences. It is sometimes considered:
 "a normal reaction to abnormal events."

- Dissociation/avoidance symptoms**
  - Depression, guilt, fractured or lost memory, emotional and/or physical numbness, loss of interest, "checked out"
- Re-experiencing symptoms
  - Flashbacks, bad dreams, intrusive/frightening thoughts
- Hyper-arousal symptoms
  - Jumpy, edgy, paranoid, outbursts, trouble sleeping or eating
    **Providers should expect to see high frequency of dissociative symptoms/traits. Supportive techniques should focus on awareness, establishing control and "being in one's body"

MODULE 5:
Interventions and the Exit Process

Guiding Principles of Engagement

- Maintain a **Compassionate** and **Non-judgmental** attitude at all times.

- **Be Consistent**; follow through on everything and do not make promises that cannot be kept.

- **Build Trust then Relationship**; this is a very slow process and relationship testing is expected.

- **Cultural Competency**; be sensitive to the unique cultural needs and experiences of each person. Personnel need to be aware of their own bias and cultural worldviews.

- **Self-determination and Empowerment**; youth should have information relevant to their situation and be encouraged to make informed decisions whenever possible. Respond to youth as **Survivors.**

Relationship Building

| Rapport Building	Trust Building	Relationship Building	Support System Building
• Identification • "getting to know you" level information • May need to show up multiple times before engagement occurs	• Be CONSISTENT • Show up and be present • Expect testing • Offer choices • Trust is built over time with small interactions	• Pro-active communication from youth • Youth-led • Consistency • Advocate for the youth	• Leverage your relationship to increase youth support system • You should not be the "only" supportive relationship youth has

Stages of Change
(Prochaska, adapted by GEMS)
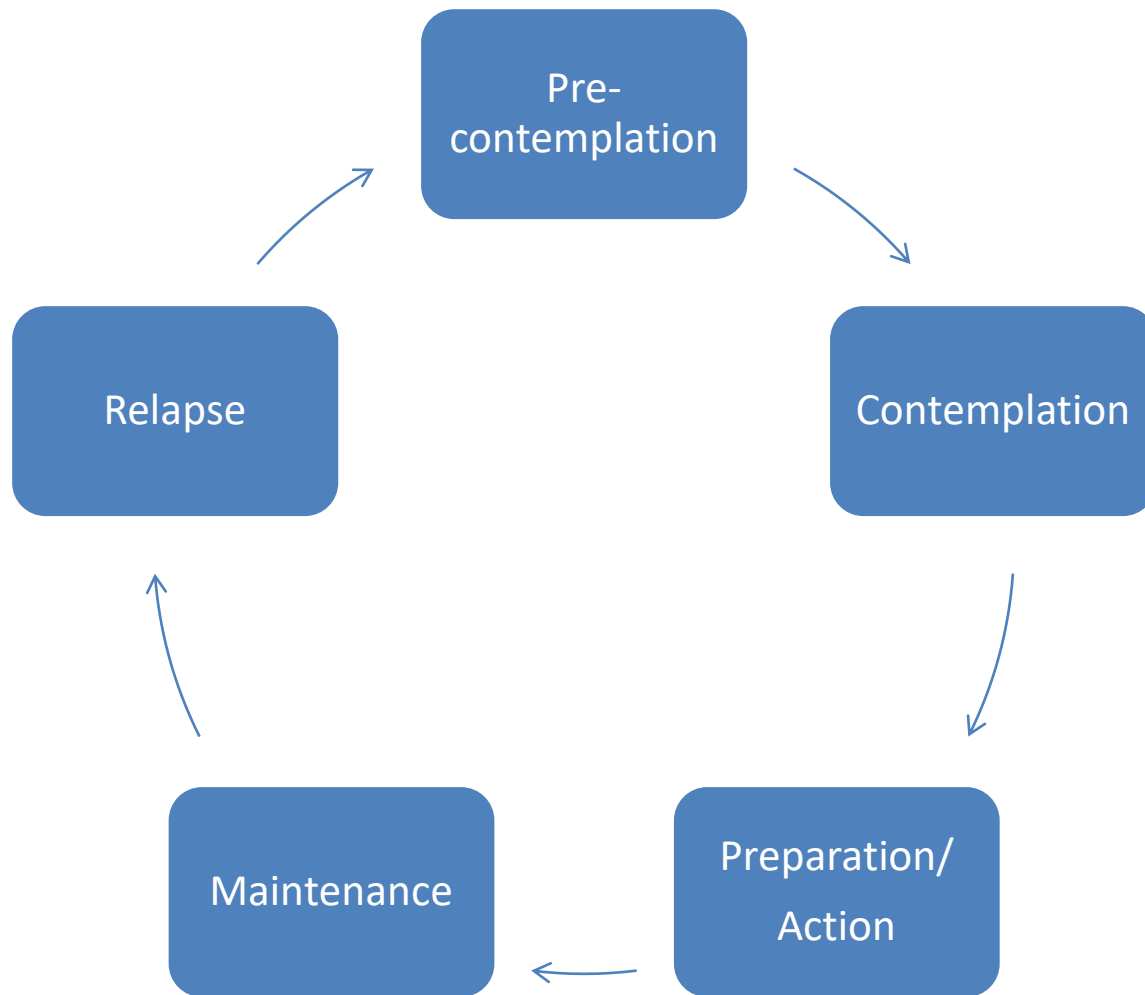
Safety Planning is:

a set of techniques to increase safety by creating strategies to reduce or avoid harm including stress and triggers:

- Identifying sources of support; safe family, friends or other safe places
- Identifying, developing and practicing coping strategies
- Create detailed plans to respond to or plan for dangerous situations such as changes in an abusive relationship, family Instability or leaving the life (squaring up)
- Identify safe family, friends and other safe Identify safe(r) strategies for youth who are still "working" (having and using condoms, screening buyers, working in familiar places, working in pairs, checking in)
- "Mini-plans": short, frequent and as specific as possible

Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction is built on the premise of reducing harmful behaviors incrementally instead of immediate abstinence

Examples:

- Moving from outdoor prostitution to indoor or stripping
- Not using certain drugs while "working"
- Having a safety plan; scanning for threats
- Negotiating out of high risk sexual activities
- Working in pairs
- Referencing the "bad date list"

Motivational Interviewing

The OARS approach:

Open-ended Questions

Affirmations

Reflective Listening

Summarizing

Responding to Trauma Exposure

- Know your individual responses to trauma and make sure those around you do also!

- Have a regular practice that includes:
  - Movement
  - Mindfulness, meditation, prayer, quiet time, reflection
  - Gratitude
  - Connection to others, community and nature

- Understand why you do this work and have a plan for what you would do if you had to leave tomorrow. If you feel trapped by the work, it is already impacting your practice