Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence:
Creating Partnership and Educating the Community

Amanda Brosnan, MPAS, PA-C
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Disclosures:

- No Disclosures
Outline of Presentation:

• Overview of HT/IPV

• Forging Community Partnerships

• Development of HT/IPV Seminar

• Next Steps
Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking

- **Intimate Partner Violence:** abuse or aggression that occurs in a close relationship. “Intimate partner” refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners. It can be sexual, physical, emotional, economic, or psychological in nature.

- **Human Trafficking:** the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor or services against his or her will. *Except with minors and commercial sex:* Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.
Public Health Problem

• On average, **20 people/min abused by an intimate partner** in the United States; = **10 million** men and women a year are **victims of IPV**¹
• **1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience** severe intimate partner physical violence/sexual violence/partner stalking¹

• **Linkage with Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence**
  • **70% of adult female trafficking victims** experienced domestic violence prior to being trafficked²
  • Power and control dynamics similar in human trafficking and intimate partner violence³
By: Miller (Senate Sponsor - Huffman)  H.C.R. No. 35
(In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2019; April 30, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; May 14, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Teas 9, Ways 0; May 14, 2019, sent to printer.)
Click here to see the committee vote

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a serious and escalating public health issue in the United States, particularly in Texas; and
WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in the State of Texas, and nearly 80,000 of those are identified as minors; and
WHEREAS, The number of cases reported rose 82 percent from 2015 to 2017, giving Texas the second-highest number of human trafficking reports in the country, with explosive growth occurring across all age, gender, and ethnic groups, in all corners of our society; and
WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking experience a severe and complex trauma that is recognized by the medical community as one of the most challenging to effectively treat; it requires long-term counseling, therapy, and often inpatient treatment, which is complicated by the fact that relatively few facilities in Texas are trained in trauma-informed care; and
WHEREAS, The health problems engendered by human trafficking are a crisis that impacts a substantial number of Texans in communities across the state; sexual exploitation of women and children account for 84 percent of cases and cost the state an estimated $6.6 billion in additional physical and mental health care and social services; this also creates additional strain on our health care and law enforcement systems; and
WHEREAS, Gangs and cartels have combined drug and human trafficking operations to become a primary controlling influence in both, with the traffickers involved proving to be some of the most dangerous and violent criminals to whom thousands more innocent victims fall prey each year; and
WHEREAS, All forms of human trafficking are criminal acts, and it is imperative that this issue be appropriately addressed so that we may bring an end to this atrocious crime and help survivors to move forward with their lives; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby recognize human trafficking as a public health issue.
Texas Statistics

- 2011 study from the Institute of Domestic and Sexual Assault - nearly 32% of all Texans have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.

- In 2019: report from the University of Texas in Austin revealed that there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas. Nearly 79,000 of those are minors.

- 234,000 victims of labor trafficking.
Community at Work

- John Peter Smith Health Network
- Local community based organizations, victim assistance programs
Local Health Department Response

- Knowing there is a problem:
  - 87.8% of Survivors reported that they had contact with the medical system while they were victims but were not recognized.

- What can public health do about it?
  - Bring everyone together
  - Educate and unite the community
Dream → Reality

• Starting meeting regularly

• Dreamed of educating the health care community of Tarrant County and hosting a HT/IPV seminar
  • With Tarrant County data, speakers and community resources

• Started comprising:
  • Topics to be taught → Creation of Seminar Agenda
  • Speakers proposed → Formally inviting speakers to present
  • Spreading the word → Formal creation of Seminar logo, formal invites to the community/media announcement
  • Finding a venue, financial support for the conference, CE credit, food vendor organizing
  *Key piece: utilizing contacts our community partners already had in place
Identifying and Responding to

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE in Healthcare

- November 2019
- 184 attendees total
- Diverse audience
How helpful were each of the presentations given today?

- Public Health and Law Enforcement Perspective: 2.95
- Trauma Bonds: 2.94
- Healthcare and HT/IPV: 2.94
- HT/IPV Survivor Stories: 2.91
- Evidence-Based Screening Tools: 2.94
- Local Resources: 2.94

[Not at all Helpful (1) Somewhat Helpful (2) Very Helpful (3)]
TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Freedom

Renewal

Persistence

Collaboration

Opportunity

Acceptance

Opportunity

Survivor

Miracle

Non-Governmental Organizations

Empowerment

Complex Trauma

Impossible

Survivor

Renewal

Opportunity

Freedom

Visibility

Success
Next Steps

• Development of a Community of Practice
  • 79% of participants said they would be interested in learning more about the Community of Practice

• Screening for IPV/HT within the health department’s clinical services areas
HT/IPV Community of Practice

• Meet regularly with community partners to share knowledge, methods, stories, cases, tools, documents, data etc. to impact Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking in Tarrant County

• **Proximal goals:** expertise and knowledge share, assist one another with challenges, influence confidence in the areas of HT/IPV

• **Distal goals:** innovate in a collaborative environment new strategies to end HT/IPV in the community, network and develop professionally in partnership, access future avenues for collaboration.
References

Questions?