

Community Education Series

The Recovery Village and Advanced Recovery Systems





Presentation Topic:

Identifying and Responding to Trafficked Youth in Ohio



Speaker:

Lauren Sabo, ESQ

About the Speaker:

Lauren Sabo

ESQ



- Lauren brings first-hand experience as a former educator to her work serving clients in a wide range of educational matters with a focus on special education law. When not serving clients with Team AW, Lauren can be found serving as a Guardian Ad Litem, representing children's best interests in challenging court cases involving juvenile human trafficking.
- As an educator, Lauren recognized that many of the issues her students faced could only be met with legal advocacy and she was driven by this newfound purpose to pursue a longtime interest in attending law school. Lauren earned her Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law as well as a dual master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.
- When not zealously advocating for her clients, Lauren enjoys life with her husband, daughter, and their two rescue golden/labs. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, biking, hiking, traveling, and the occasional game of golf.

Agenda/Objectives

- Introductions
- Myths & Facts
- Presentation
 - Define human trafficking
 - Identify human trafficking
 - Red Flags and Indicators
 - Screening Tools (resource handout)
 - Responding to human trafficking
 - Trauma-Informed Conversations/Report Writing
 - Engaging Youth on the Topic of Human Trafficking
 - Using Ohio's Safe Harbor Law
 - Resources
- Case Studies
- Self Care
- Questions/Wrap Up

Identifying and Responding to Trafficked Youth in Ohio

Human Trafficking Myths & Facts

#1 – Human trafficking is always a violent crime perpetrated by strangers.

Myth!

**#2: Only women and girls can
be victims/survivors of sex
trafficking.**


Myth!

#3 – Human trafficking does not have to involve moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders.

Fact!

#4 – If a trafficked person consented initially, then it cannot be human trafficking.

Myth!



#5 – People being trafficked are not always physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will.

Fact!



Notes Before We Start...

Pronouns used during this presentation

- She/He/They
- Most identified cases in Ohio have involved female victims.
- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking.

Note on self care

- This is a difficult topic to discuss and to learn about.
- Please allow yourself the space to take a break, if you need one.

Defining Human Trafficking

Defining Human Trafficking

- *Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others.*
- Often referred to as compelled service of others for profit
- In the United States, must include elements of force, fraud, or coercion

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, and 2013.

How Trafficking Occurs

ACTION	MEANS*	PURPOSE
<p>Recruiting Harboring Transporting Providing Obtaining Patronizing, soliciting, and advertising*</p> <p>*Sex trafficking only</p>	<p>*</p> <p>Force</p> <p>Fraud</p> <p>Coercion</p> <p>**Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims- regardless if force, fraud or coercion is present.</p>	<p>Commercial sexual exploitation</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Forced labor</p>

Means: Examples & Definitions

Force: Physical assault, sexual assault, confinement

Fraud: An act of deception with criminal intent

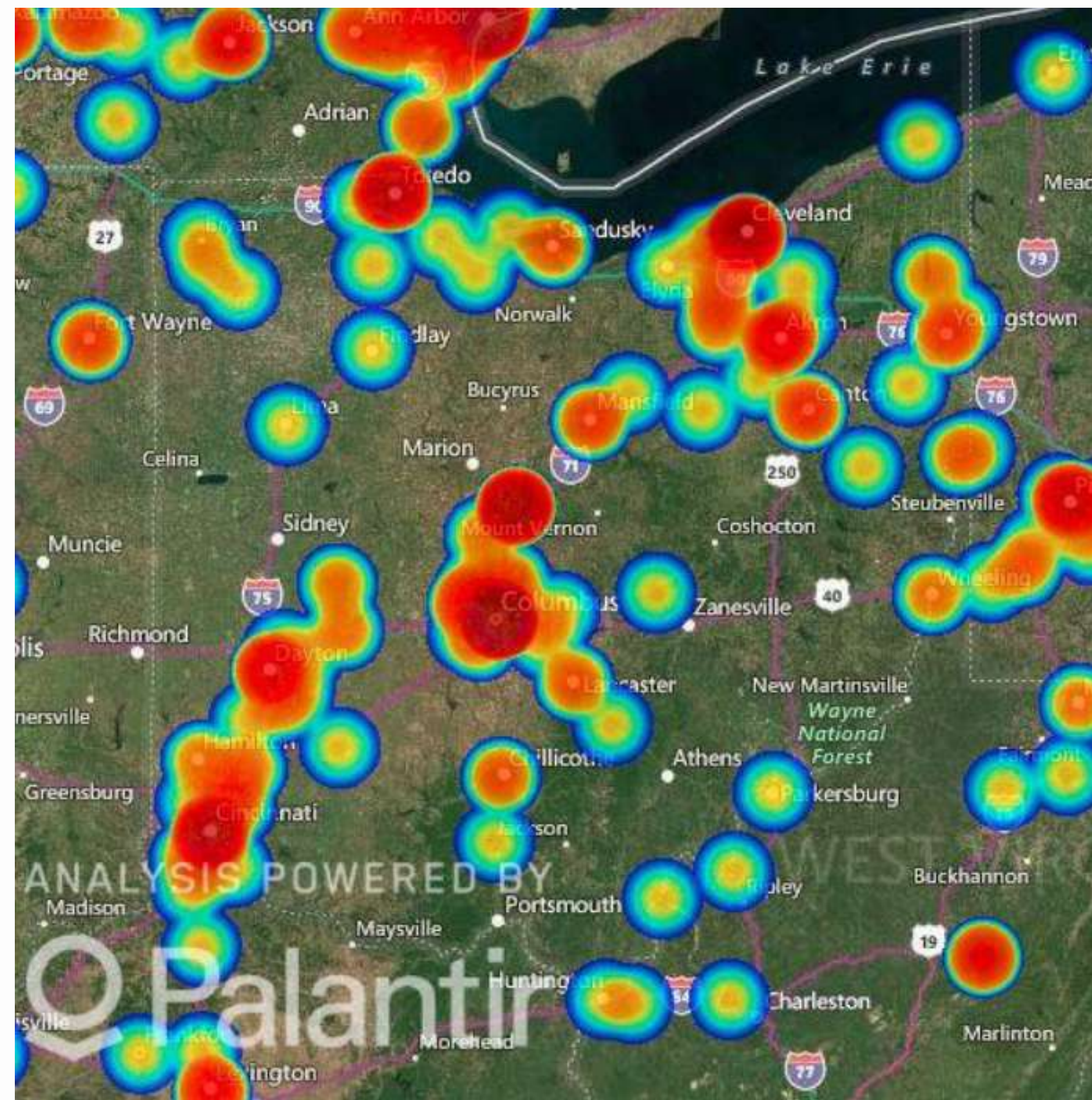
**Coercion: Threats of serious harm against any person;
the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process**

Identifying Human Trafficking

Ohio Calls to National HT Hotline

2016

Overall, Ohio had the 4th highest call volume in all 50 states and Washington, DC.



Red Flags for Trafficking

Each case will have different indicators.

- Behavioral Indicators
 - Truancy
 - Withdrawn demeanor
- Mental health Indicators
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
- Physical indicators
 - Malnutrition
 - Injuries
- Financial indicators
 - Unexpected possessions
 - More or less money than expected



Left: Erica's tattoo covers up the 'Sin City' tag she had been given by gang members; photo from Survivors Ink in Columbus, Ohio (from The Guardian)

Consideration of the whole child/person is important!

High Risk Youth

- Youth currently involved with child protection
- Youth involved with the juvenile justice center
- Youth with substance abuse disorder
- Youth who are currently homeless
- Youth that engaged in survival sex at least once
- Noncitizen foreign-born
- Youth that have family members involved in the commercial sex trade
- Youth with friends in the sex trade
- Youth that have runaway more than once
- Youth with boyfriend 4 or more years older
- Foreign-born– relative previously trafficked
- Gang membership or affiliation

Moderate Risk Youth

- LGBTQ Youth
- Youth that ran away at least once
- Youth who have experienced domestic violence
- Youth with mental health diagnosis
- Foreign-born- Legal non-citizen
- Youth involved with negative, anti-social peers
- Youth involved with child protection in the past
- Youth who have been homeless in the past
- Youth with disabilities

Williamson, C., et al. (2017). A Guide to Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Human Trafficking Prevention for Youth in Your Community. Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

At Risk Youth

- Low income
- Youth of color
- Youth with poor school performance
- Youth who are foreign-born & low income
- Youth with immediate family with a mental health diagnosis
- Youth with immediate family with a substance use disorder
- Parents in current DV relationship

Williamson, C., et al. (2017). A Guide to Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Human Trafficking Prevention for Youth in Your Community. Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

Before They Were trafficked in Ohio,

Mental Health Diagnoses

- 30% of Ohio children had Major Depression
- 36% of adult victims had a mental health diagnosis

Prior Victimization/Challenges

- 57% of Ohio children were raped prior to recruitment into human trafficking
- 63% of children ran away at least once before being trafficked

Williamson, C., et al. (2017). A Guide to Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Human Trafficking Prevention for Youth in Your Community. Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

LGBT Youth Vulnerability

- **LGBTQ youth are more likely to experience homelessness than their peers**



Ray, N. (2006). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Coalition for the Homeless

Why?

- Family conflict , especially over sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Half of teens experience a negative reaction from parents when coming out.
- Over 25% are thrown out of their homes.
- Service providers and other supports for youth seeking help may not be welcoming and inclusive.

Grooming

- Grooming is the precursor phase. Sexual grooming, or just “grooming”, is a preparatory process in which a predator gradually gains a person’s trust with the intent to exploit them. The victim is usually a child, teen, or vulnerable adult. The purpose of grooming is to manipulate the person into becoming a co-operating participant in their own abuse or exploitation, which reduces the likelihood of a disclosure and increases the likelihood that the victim will become attached and repeatedly return to the perpetrator.

Stages of Grooming

- Targeting a victim
- Gaining trust and information
- Filling a need
- Isolation
- Abuse begins
- Maintain Control

Grooming from: <https://fighttoendexploitation.org/2019/03/01/grooming-in-human-trafficking/>

Trauma Bonding

1) Trauma-bonding is a real thing

2) Abusive partners deliberately cultivate trauma-bonding

3) The trauma-bond maintains the abusive status quo

4) The trauma-bond is breakable

Trauma bonding from: <https://avalancheofthesoul.wordpress.com/2015/01/25/4-facts-about-trauma-bonding-in-abusive-relationships/>

You'll start to dress her, think for her, own her. If you and your victim are sexually active, slow it down. After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails is fine. She'll develop a feeling of accomplishment. The shopping after a month will be replaced with cash. The love making turns into raw sex. She'll start to crave the intimacy and be willing to get back into your good graces. After you have broken her spirit, she has no sense of self value. **Now pimp, put a price tag on the item you have manufactured."**

Quoted from "The Pimp Game." Slide borrowed from Dr. Jeffrey Barrows, Founder of Gracehaven

Responding to **Human Trafficking**

Post-Identification: Victim Needs

- Safety
- Basic needs
- Medical/mental health
- Trauma-informed response
- Strengths-based approach
- Gender-responsive care
- Culturally and linguistically responsive care



Post-Identification: Victim Needs



Build rapport



Active listening



Empathy



Nonjudgmental



Open body
language



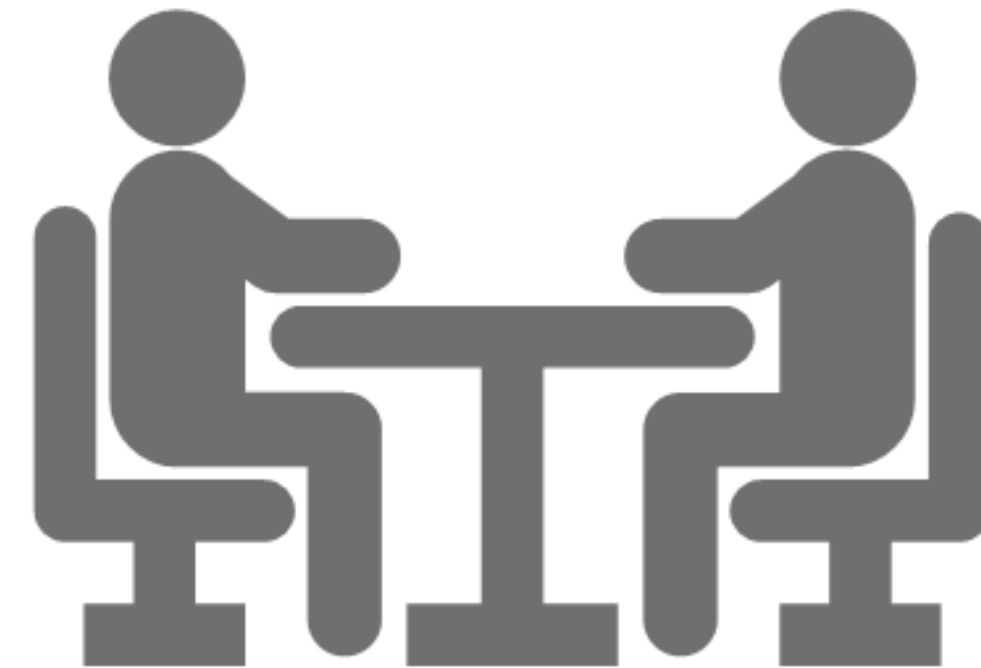
Mirror terms
used by child



Use interpreters
when necessary

Trauma-Informed Conversations

- How do we incorporate trauma-informed principles in all aspects of daily practice?
 - Safety
 - Trustworthiness
 - Choice
 - Collaboration
 - Empowerment
- Consider verbal & non-verbal communication
- Consider strategies to foster positive relational experiences



Tips for Trauma Informed Report Writing

- Use accurate terminology; avoid slang
 - Examples:
 - Use domestic minor sex trafficking; do not use child prostitute
 - Use purchaser of commercial sex; do not use john, date, trick, etc.
 - The individual(s) you're writing about may read or hear about the report
- The report may be shared widely and on the record
- Stay factual; avoid blaming
- Use a trauma-informed lens to review your reports

SafeHarbor
Under Ohio's Statute

Safe Harbor in Ohio

- SAFE HARBOR (Ohio's law enacted in 2012)
 - Intervention in Lieu of Conviction for minors and adults
 - Specialty courts for minors and adults
 - Empowerment, Restore, CATCH
- Record expungement
- Victims can pursue damages
- Statute of limitations extended to 20 years
- Provides CCTV testimony option for victims under 16 during a preliminary hearing
- Allows termination of parental rights
- Prohibits disclosure of police reports involving minor victims

Empowerment Court: Franklin County

- Court intervention when trafficked youth are charged with complaints as a result of trafficking
- Qualification:
- Safe Harbor Motion
- Up to 9 months of programming
- Termination
- “Satisfactory compliance” = *dismiss and seal/expunge*
- Or proceed on original complaint



Final Safe Harbor Takeaways

- 1.) Safe Harbor may be granted on ANY charge from a minor misdemeanor to a first degree FELONY!
- 2.) Statute does not require the individual to cooperate with law enforcement in order to participate in Safe Harbor.
- 3.) Do NOT need a specialty docket in order to utilize Safe Harbor, but courts must be familiar with Safe Harbor.

Case Study #1

- Jamil is 14 years old and lives with his mother in an apartment. Even though she works two jobs, his mother struggles to make ends meet. Jamil spends a lot of time home alone, and the landlord started asking Jamil to help him with some projects around the building to keep him busy. For the last 3 months, while they are hanging out, the landlord makes Jamil perform oral sex and sometimes takes pictures of him during the sex acts. The landlord told Jamil and his mother that he would not evict them as long as Jamil keeps hanging out with him.
 - Is this a case of human trafficking?
 - What indicators & risk factors have you identified?
 - How would you engage with this youth?

Case studies from Capacity Building Center for States. (2015). "Child welfare response to child & youth sex trafficking: Caseworker's curriculum." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Case Study #2

- Ashley is 16 years old. She lives with her 84-year-old grandmother, who also takes care of her four younger siblings. The week before her first day of school, Ashley realizes they don't have enough money to buy her school uniform and supplies. One of her friends suggests she goes down to the local gas station and "stand on the corner" to make money. Within 15 minutes of standing on the corner, a man offers her \$50 for an oral sex act. Ashley agrees because \$50 will pay for her school uniform.
- Is this a case of human trafficking?
- What indicators & risk factors have you identified?
- How would you engage with this youth?

Case studies from Capacity Building Center for States. (2015). "Child welfare response to child & youth sex trafficking: Caseworker's curriculum." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Case Study #3

- Vanessa just turned 15 years old and is on the run from her foster home when she meets an older girl who says she can get her a job as a stripper. The girl introduces Vanessa
- to her boyfriend, Ricky, who says he'll operate as her manager. Vanessa gets a job at the club without even interviewing. She's super excited, but at the end of her first night of dancing, Ricky tells her he needs all of her money to cover rent and her dance outfits. When she hands him \$300, he says it's not enough and tells her he needs her to work "overtime" in the back rooms. She feels like she does not have a choice if she wants a place to sleep that night, so she goes in the back and engages in sex acts to earn another \$300 for Ricky.
- Is this a case of human trafficking?
- What indicators & risk factors have you identified?
- How would you engage with this youth?

Case studies from Capacity Building Center for States. (2015). "Child welfare response to child & youth sex trafficking: Caseworker's curriculum." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Hotline

- National Human Trafficking Hotline:
 - 1-888-373-7888
 - 24/7, confidential
 - Callers can remain anonymous
 - Tele-interpretation in 200+ languages

CORRC

- Coordinated by The Salvation Army
- 100+ organizations
- 300+ individuals
- Partners include social services, law enforcement, medical providers, mental health providers, faith community and others
- Working together to combat human trafficking in Central Ohio

The mission of the Central Ohio Reach and Restore Coalition is to provide a collaborative community response to human trafficking in central Ohio through education, services, advocacy, and prosecution

<https://swo.salvationarmy.org/reachandrestore/>





Final Takeaways

01

Remember: human trafficking involves the exploitation of a person for profit through means of force, fraud or coercion.

- Minors involved in commercial sex should always be considered victims of sex trafficking.

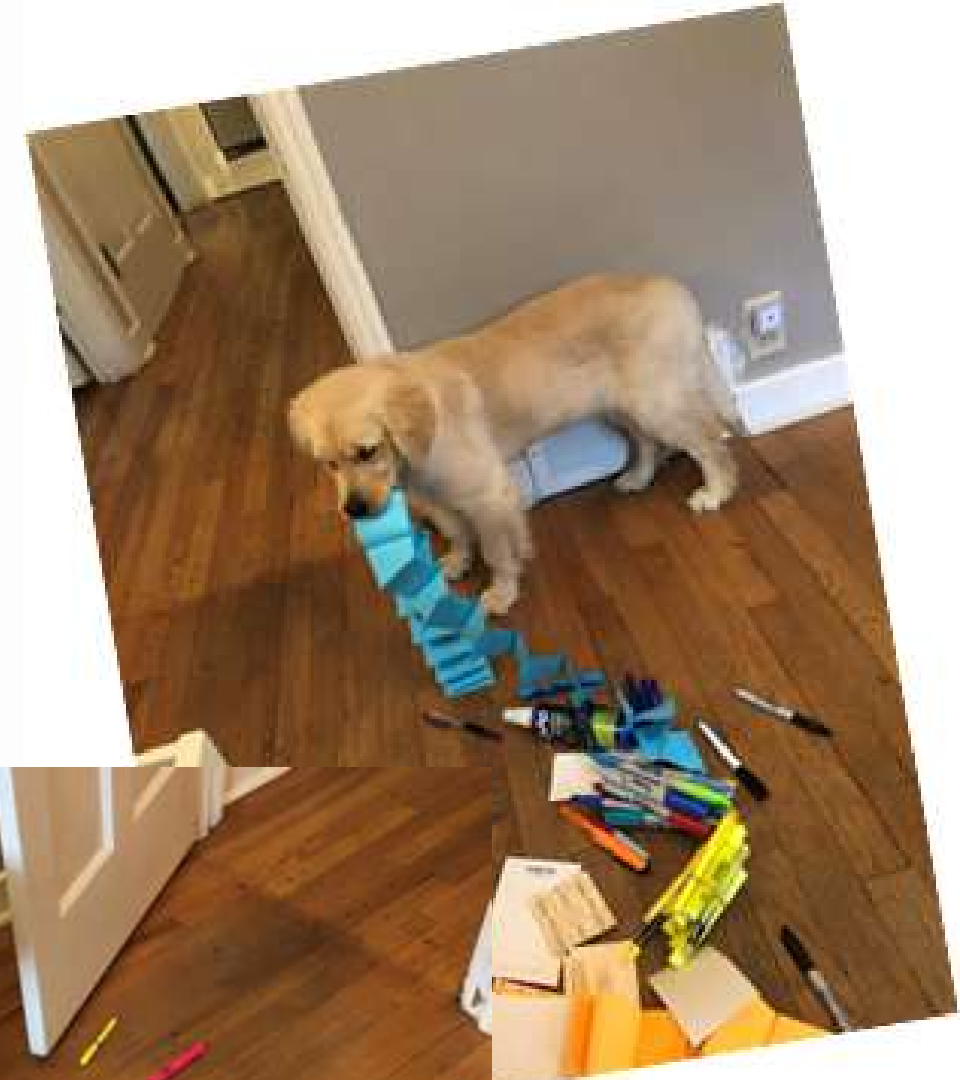
02

There are protections in the state and federal law for victims.

03

Our response to HT needs to evolve as our understanding of this issue does.

Self Care



Questions?

Contact Lauren Sabo, Esq.

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<http://www.awlawohio.com>

THANK YOU

