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## Anti-Trafficking Trainings

NYC's Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) offers a variety of trafficking awareness and prevention trainings and groupwork models for professionals, communities and youth. Due to the COVID-19 influenced shift to virtual platforms and staff availability, not all trainings and groups are currently available. Please email [Trafficking.training@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Trafficking.training@acs.nyc.gov) with inquiries.

## Trainings for Professionals and Communities:

**Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective.** 3 hours (can be edited to shorter timeframes). An original training by Selina Higgins. An extremely comprehensive view into the potential etiology of child trafficking, beginning with infant attachment and behavioral learning influences. The attachment pattern developed between an infant and the primary caregiver can have extensive influence across the entire life cycle. The deficits and resultant needs that develop in insecure attachment types will unconsciously impact upon subsequent relationship choices. The workshop will demonstrate how the development of certain attachment types in infants can lead to subsequent juvenile trafficking vulnerability, and how traffickers fulfill the inherent social-emotional deficits to trauma bond with, and exploit youth, then proceeds to teen cognitive and social-emotional development, the impact of trauma, relational influences, recruitment techniques, trauma bonding, red flags and language affiliated with the commercial sex industry, and concluding with engagement tips for work with trafficked youth. Based upon the timeframe, PowerPoint, media clips, and case scenario exercises will be utilized to facilitate learning. Presented at Shared Hope International's 2018 Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conferences and many 2019 - 2021 NYS/NYC trafficking conferences.

**Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent.** 3 hours (can be edited to shorter timeframes). An original training by Selina Higgins. Society's normalization and glorification of exploitation through the attitudes and norms expressed within media both overtly and covertly promulgate over sexualization and unhealthy relationships for adolescent and pre-adolescent youth. The normalizing concepts within media ads, museum art, films, shows, social media influencers and music videos serve to numb reactions and promulgate a sense of false glamour concerning sexual exploitation. This detrimental impact upon juvenile social-emotional development coupled with immature cognitive processes and often previously experienced trauma can influence the concept that exploitation is not only acceptable, but also appealing. The vulnerability to trafficking is also deeply enhanced through deficits and resultant needs that develop in insecure attachment types which

unconsciously impact upon subsequent relational choices. The workshop will focus upon the identification of a variety of media platforms that not only influence, but actually normalize and/or glamorize exploitation. Media ads, film extracts, music videos, museum art, social media influencers and video games will be utilized as influential examples. Warning: Some media material is explicit in nature, so persons who are sensitive, easily offended or have the potential for traumatization/re-traumatization should not attend. Presented at Shared Hope International's 2018 Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conferences and many 2019 - 2021 NYS/NYC trafficking conferences.

**Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth.** 3 hours. An original training by Selina Higgins, Dr. Ann Marie Pendleton and Jessie Boye-Doe. Safety plans are integral to optimizing safety at every stage for survivors of trafficking and youth at-risk of sexual exploitation. Planning should occur regularly, relate to whether the survivor plans to leave or remain with the trafficker, and address multiple criteria. Since youth are the experts of their situations and experiences, they should always have the opportunity to be engaged directly in safety-planning. This workshop will discuss the importance of safety planning WITH youth and provide strategies to encourage them to take ownership of and participate in the development of their own personalized plans. The workshop will suggest dos and don'ts, discuss short-term versus long-term planning, and provide strategies to engage youth who may be reluctant to participate in planning. It will also provide an opportunity to practice individualized plan development through case scenarios and role play opportunities. Presented at Shared Hope International's 2019 Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conferences and a variety of NYS/NYC trafficking conferences.

**Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Youth Trafficking, Parts 1 and 2.**

NYS Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) Trafficking 101 course. 6 hours but can be condensed into shorter timeframes depending upon module choices. Four members of the Child Trafficking Prevention team have been certified to present this training.

**Train the Trainer Seminar: Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Youth Trafficking**

A 2.5 to 3 day (depending upon the number of participants) Train the Trainer seminar for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) Trafficking 101 course. 2.5 to 3 days. The Executive Director of the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy has been certified by OCFS to train trainers for the Trafficking 101 model. All modules will be walked through and thoroughly explained with attendee participation in all exercises to gain personal experience towards training others. Additional material will be provided by the trainer. This course is for agency or program-based professionals with prior training experience who will use the model to train others. A training commitment is required.

## **OCTPP - ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings: Mandated Electronic Sex Trafficking Screenings for All Youth in the Child Welfare System**

An original training by Selina Higgins. 3 hours. In September 2020, ACS released Policy and Procedure 2020/05: Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims, which articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth for sex and/or labor trafficking, and for safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and ACS's Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, and making referrals for appropriate services. The Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) is the mechanism that all ACS and provider staff must use to screen children for sex trafficking. This training will provide:

- description of the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, its resources, support and technical assistance availability
- overview of all aspects of child trafficking, including vulnerability dynamics
- description of the legislation that led to mandated sex trafficking screenings for children in the NYS and NYC child welfare systems
- detailed overview of the ACS trafficking policy
- step by step walk through of CTDB screening process, including completing screenings, creating screenings manually, recording Law Enforcement Report information, supervisor abilities and report generation
- a hands-on live demonstration of a CTDB screening using a training model of the database

This training is a must for all NYC child welfare staff and any other professional who need to understand ACS' trafficking policy and its sex trafficking screening mandates or perform the screenings correctly in the Child Trafficking Database..

## **The Virtual Reality of Safety Enhancement: Cyber Safety and Stress Survival Groupwork for Trafficked and At-Risk Residential Youth**

An original training by Selina Higgins. 2 hours.

Due to COVID-19, sheltering in place became a way of life and recreational escape became a virtual reality, resulting in greater amounts of screen time than ever before for both vulnerable youth and predators. Child rights groups, law enforcement officials and international organizations have recently reported greater demands for online sexual abuse material and online grooming. Due to school closure, many children felt isolated and mitigated their loneliness by connecting with cyber friends. This exposure to excessive unsupervised screen time provides a heightened vulnerability to predators.

Recognizing the risks of increased, unsupervised screen time, a new groupwork model for teens, *Cyber Safety and Stress Survival*, was created to highlight online child trafficking awareness coupled with Dialectical Behavioral Therapy distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness skills for youth to learn positive methods for stress relief in these difficult times. The model provides four facilitated

sessions on (1) Online Sexual Abuse, (2) Sextortion and Consent, (3) Media and Human Trafficking Vulnerability, and (4) Cyberbullying to help youth understand the dangers inherent with websites, influencers, social media exposure and cyber pseudo-friends. Each session concludes with a DBT skill to help youth enhance their distress tolerance and interpersonal skills.

This workshop was presented at the International Association for Social Work with Groups' (IASWG) 2020 Symposium (virtual)) and the 2020 New York State Anti-Trafficking Summit (virtual).

The workshop will provide:

1. An opportunity for attendees to participate as youth in extracts from the four Cyber Safety and Stress Survival modules. Attendees will learn about applications that track location and extract information, the dangers of the Dark Web, Phishing and Catfishing, how media manipulates and influences trafficking vulnerability, how predators use online applications to groom and meet youth, the repercussions of cyberbullying and how and where to report human trafficking and internet violations. Attendees will also have an opportunity to participate in a DBT distress tolerance exercise, as these days, we can all use an enhanced ability to tolerate stress. The value of groupwork as a communication methodology for teens
2. Recognition of the dangers inherent in increased unsupervised screen time due to COVID-19 isolation which has not receded since re-opening
3. How to use a virtual platform to provide vulnerable youth with group facilitated skills.