

#### Disclosure

No financial disclosures or conflicts of interest.

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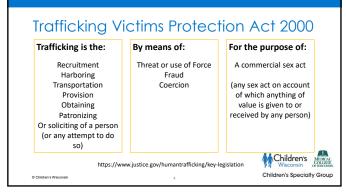
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#### Objectives

- Review barriers to exiting the life of trafficking and helpful responses from the perspective of survivors
- Describe recommendations for the multidisciplinary response to youth and young adults who have experienced trafficking
- Discuss examples and outcomes of multidisciplinary collaborative efforts to address trafficking







# Sex Trafficking of a Minor When anything of value is exchanged for a sexual act in a person <18 years of age Children's Wisconsin Children's Specialty Group

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## Medical Data (Milwaukee) • Youth seen by medical in 2014 • 143 confirmed or suspected youth <18yrs • Child Advocacy and Protection Center Data • 11% of youth entering foster care

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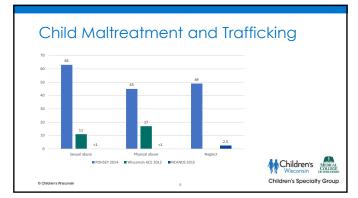
#### Mental Health Disorders in Youth

- Youth who are trafficked have significantly higher rates of:
   Depression (P<0.0001)
   Bipolar disorder (P<0.0001)
   ADHD (P<0.0001)
   PTSD (P<0.05)
   ODD (P<0.0001)

Palines and Rabbitt. 2019. Comparing mental health disorders among sex trafficked children and three groups of youth at high-risk for trafficking. A dual retrospective cohort and scoping review. Child Abuse & Wisconsin Wisconsin Collegen Wisconsin Collegen Wisconsin Collegen Wisconsin



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### **Red Flags** Inappropriate dress Lack of personal hygiene Evidence of homelessness Controlling companion/adult Large amount of money with no apparent source Specific fattoos: barcodes, candy, Pimp names Money or gifts with no legal source Feature transporturis be path concerns Frequent reproductive health concerns (pregnancies, STIs, requests for STI testing) Children's Wisconsin OF WISCONSIN

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#### How to ask?

- · Needs focused approach
- Describe trafficking using examples
- Continue to ask at each visit (medical)- make it routine
- · Avoid making them repeat information over and over
- Words matter
  - Person first language
  - "soft eyes, soft words"
- Allow for autonomy (as much as possible)



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#### How to ask?

- Do you have a safe place to stay right now?
- Are you worried about your ability to get the things you need like food, shelter, or other things?
- \*Has anyone harmed or threatened you or someone you love to get you to work, making you feel scared or unsafe?
- \*Has anyone ever withheld payment from you, given it to someone else, or controlled the money you should have been payed?

\*https://damascusroadproject.org/



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#### How to ask?

"Sometimes we hear about people who trade sex, go on dates, or do sexual things for money, clothes, a place to stay, drugs, or other things they need. Others say they have been asked or forced to let other people do sexual things to them.

Have you ever heard of this? Has this ever happened to someone you know? Has it ever happened to you?"



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#### Managing Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Outline the limits of confidentiality before asking sensitive questions

"people can come to (doctors, therapists, social workers) for help with some types of problems that we can keep private, those are things like ... But there are some things that if you told me I could not keep them private,

those are thinks like ... I just wanted you to know that before we talk more because you are the best person to know what is safe to tell and what isn't."



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#### Safety Considerations

- Review protocols for high-risk situations
- Involve security in development of trafficking protocol response quidelines
- Questions to ask patient/client:
  - Is trafficker present?
  - What does the patient believe will happen if they do not leave with or return to the trafficker?
  - Is anyone else in danger?



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#### Risk factors but no disclosure

- Focus on their most pressing needs
- Provide resources for high-risk youth
- Let them know they can come back



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#### Trafficking and Domestic Violence

- It's not easy to leave
  - May be the only way to cope and survive after a life of abuse, neglect, homelessness
  - May have no education, marketable skills, job history, no supportive relationships outside "the life"

A woman suffering from DV leaves her abuser on average 7 times before she leaves for good.



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#### **Practitioner Perspectives**

Strategies to improve effectiveness of communication (30 Law Enforcement, 10 Social Workers)

- Honesty, transparency
   Needs focused approach
- Present as genuinely caring, non-judgmental, approachable
- Understanding the role prior trauma exposure plays in youths' behavior and life circumstances improves ability to be patient and non-

Ahern 2017



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#### **Practitioner Perspectives**

"We noted that young people engaged in sex trades as the least-bad solution to meeting fundamental needs for safety, shelter, social connection, and love. Sex trafficking was never the only problem, and often not the most critical problem, in young people's lives."

Gibbs, et al., 2014



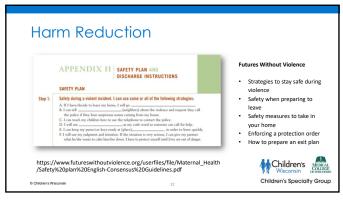
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#### Harm Reduction

"[Harm reduction] focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop the [harmful behavior] as a precondition of support."

https://www.hri.global/what-is-harm-reduction





#### Harm Reduction Addressing the risks of forced and coerced sexual contact Contraception may not be accessible or allowed Provide condoms Regularly screen for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy (ideally every 3-4 months) months) Vaccinate against HPV and Hepatitis B (if not immune) Educate about prophylactic medications for STI's and pregnancy HIV PreP Timeframes for post-exposure prophylaxis and how to access Children's Wisconsin Wisconsin

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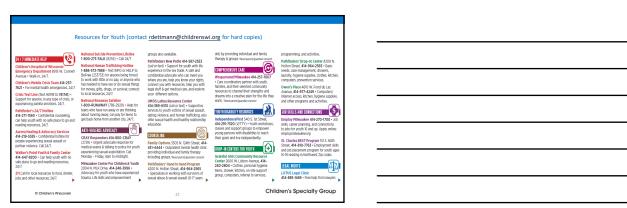
#### Harm Reduction Addressing substance use disorder • Opioid agonist therapy is associated with 54% reduction of HIV and 50% reduction in hepatitis C • Syringe Services Programs (SSP) are associated with 34% reduction of HIV and 76% reduction of hepatitis C Children's Wisconsin OF WISCONSIN MacArthur G et al. BMJ 2012; Aspinall et al. Int J of Epidemiology 2014;

Platt et al. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017

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#### Needs According to Survivors

- Safety
- · Housing for themselves and family
- · Peer support (survivor mentors) and community
- Medical Care
- Counseling and mental health support (including addiction recovery)
- Alternate financial and employment opportunities
   Job skills, education, training, resume
   Identification, bank account

- Clean criminal record





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#### Multidisciplinary Response

Requires a continuum of care utilizing multiple agencies and community services



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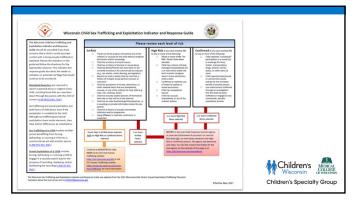
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#### Multidisciplinary Responses

Regional Hub Coordinator Region 3:

Rebekah Dettmann milwaukeecseccoordinator@chw.org rdettmann@childrenswi.org



#### Milwaukee's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

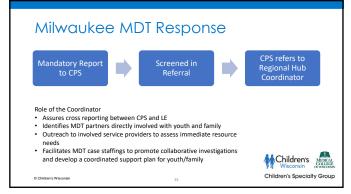
- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
   Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services
- City of Milwaukee Health Department
- City of West Allis Public Health Department
- Department of Children and Families, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
- Medical College of Wisconsin
   Sexual Assault Treatment Center
- West Allis Police Department
   West Allis/West Milwaukee School District
- Wraparound

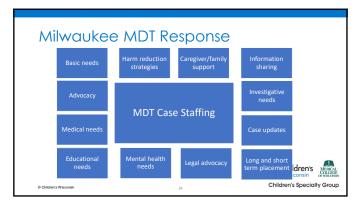
- Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
- Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executives Association
- Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department
- Milwaukee Police Department
   Milwaukee Public Schools

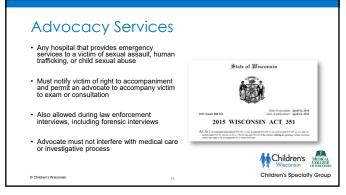


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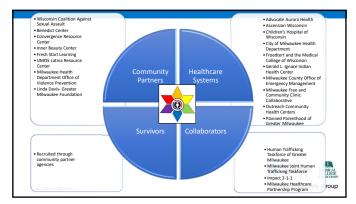


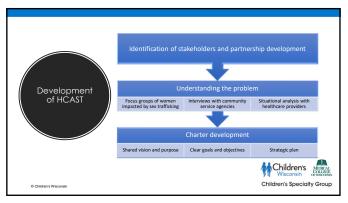




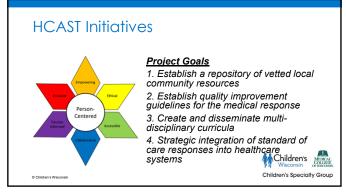


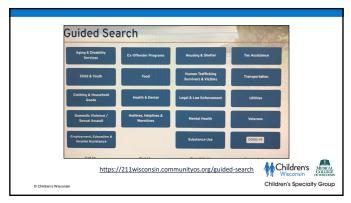














#### **Quality Improvement Guidelines**

- Common practices of Medical Home Models (literature review)
  - 607 articles reviewed (2010-2020), 52 provided recommendations for healthcare policy or protocols
  - Analyzed for organizational practices to address key action areas identified in focus groups, agency interviews, and strategic planning sessions



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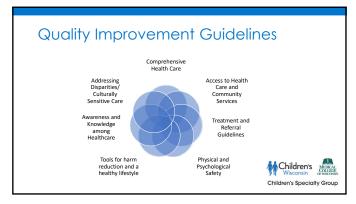
#### **Quality Improvement Guidelines**

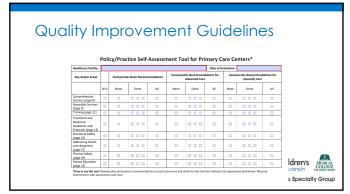
- Common practices of Medical Home Models (literature review)
  Training available to all staff (focus on trauma informed care and harm reduction)
  Response protocols in place and accessible
  Co-located medical and mental health services
  Reproductive health
  Dental care
  Services for trans/non-binary/gender non-conforming
  Substance use disorder
  Community referral network
  Initiatives to improve access to care
  Funding sources for patients without insurance
  Patient navigator
  Ongoing case management services
  Initiatives to ensure physical and emotional safety (including culturally sensitive care)
  Access to interpreter (trained in HT)
  Ongoing quality evaluation





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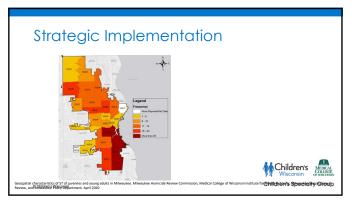
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#### Education

- HCAST trainings:
  - Basic knowledge and awareness
  - Identification and screening
  - Response and referral recommendations for healthcare
  - Survivor-informed engagement strategies
- Provided to all staff who interact directly with patients
- Quick-reference guides
- Mechanism for initial and refresher education







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#### **HCAST Provides**

- Comprehensive needs assessment
- Provider and staff education
- · Technical assistance
  - Creating process guidelines/protocols and procedures
     Quality improvement initiatives
- · Community and survivor expertise



#### Healthcare Organization Provides

- Organizational lead
- Integration of education (new hires and annual refreshers)
- Resources to support best practices:
  - Capacity to work towards outreach, co-located services, or telehealth model for key services
  - Capability to allow urgent or after-hours visits, walk-in visits
  - Patient Navigator or other position to assist patient access to care and community services
  - Commitment to partner with patient advocates to allow peer support/mentoring during health care visits



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