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Awareness and Skills Focused Anti-Trafficking Trainings

NYC's Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy 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 Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov with inquiries.

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 dos and don'ts for work with trafficked youth. 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 a variety of 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 a variety of 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

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 are certified to present this training.

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

NYS Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) Trafficking 101 Trainer course. 2.5 to 3 days, depending upon number of participants. The Executive Director of the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy has been certified by OCFS to train trainers for their Trafficking 101 model. All modules will be walked through and thoroughly explained, with attendees participating in all exercises to gain personal experience towards training others. This course is for professionals with prior training experience who will use the model to train others. **With no exceptions, registration is through divisional or provider agency leadership who will be notified when the training is scheduled.** A training commitment of minimum 100 staff per year 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 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 an overview of:

- what is child trafficking
- description of the legislation that led to mandated sex trafficking screenings for children in the NYS and NYC child welfare system
- a detailed overview of the policy
- a step by step walk through of CTDB screening procedures, including a hands-on demonstration of CTDB screenings 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 in the CTDB and to perform the screenings correctly.

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

An original training by Selina Higgins. 2 hours.

Today, reality is virtual. Due to COVID-19, sheltering in place has become a way of life and recreational escape has become a virtual reality, resulting in greater amounts of screen time than ever before for both vulnerable youth and predators. Youth are therefore experiencing increased unsafe exposure resulting in a heightened vulnerability to predators. Recognizing these risks, a new groupwork model for teens was created and launched in May 2020. The model, Cyber Safety and Stress Release Workshop, focuses upon online child trafficking awareness coupled with Dialectical Behavioral Therapy distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness skills. The model provides four facilitated sessions on (1) Online Sexual Abuse, (2) Sextortion and Consent, (3) Media and Human Trafficking Vulnerability, and (4) Cyberbullying, each concluding with a DBT skill to help cabin fevered youth enhance their distress tolerance and interpersonal effectiveness skills. Presented at the 2020 International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG) Annual Symposium and the 2020 NYS Anti-Trafficking Summit.

This workshop will provide:

1. 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

3. How to use a virtual platform to engage with youth
4. An opportunity to participate in extracts from the four Cyber Safety and Stress Relief Workshop 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
5. How to book the model for youth to attend