

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, recently rising to the second most common criminal activity behind the illegal drug trade. Human Trafficking occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. Florida has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, citing one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country and recently listed as the 3rd highest state in the US for human trafficking activity.

Currently, several different agencies in the community are working on strategies to combat Human Trafficking, however, none of those strategies involve awareness training specific for County employees. The County enacted Ordinance PBC 2015-029, which pertains to the posting and enforcement of Human Trafficking public awareness signs. The Division of Victim Services provides advocacy and therapy for victims of Human Trafficking, performs community training and participates in outreach events with the Human Trafficking Coalition of Palm Beach County and other key stakeholders. The Human Trafficking Coalition meets monthly and provides HT 101, an in-depth training for those requesting it. They have a "Walk the Streets" initiative that engages local businesses. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office recently received a Human Trafficking grant to form a multidisciplinary task force, collect data, hire additional detectives and increase community awareness and services to victims. The Division of Victim Services will serve on PBSO's task force.

Human Trafficking Training Proposal

The following proposal is based on the comments of Vice Mayor McKinlay and other Commissioners at the 8/16/16 BCC meeting where she requested the following:

Commissioner McKinlay stated that she wanted to expand available Human Trafficking (HT) training to county staff based on the perception that it is a community problem.

She asked that county consider:

- Training like CSEC 101 "Signs and Symptoms of Child Sexual Exploitation" to staff members - specifically mentioning transit workers, parks and recreation, youth services, healthcare workers and anyone who could come into contact with with trafficking victims.
- Work with hotel/motel operators whom the county partners with for housing vouchers for the homeless to make them aware of signs and symptoms of HT and revise ordinance to have HT posters placed in those motels.
- Expand "safe zones" in fire stations and develop a protocol to address children being trafficked.
- Place link to one page training module (like program in Los Angeles) and quick quiz on transit through SFRTA.

Mayor Berger referenced reaching out to colleges and schools. Commissioner McKinlay stated SART could come into play as we have the system partners at the table already.

Commissioner Burdick mentioned sharing our training resources with the municipalities.

What Victim Services is currently doing:

We have a team consisting of Victim Services (Ranee Kogan, Monica Gonzalez), FBI (Twiler Smith) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Ed Russo) who are currently educating numerous groups in the community (including PBC school bus drivers, law enforcement , fire rescue and other professional agencies) on sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This outreach will continue.

Victim Services is currently treating victims (of all ages) of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

What Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Coalition is doing:

- HT 101 training and more in depth training for those who have already received HT 101 (training is provided by trainers who have taken an HT training for trainers). Monica and Ranee are currently looking to attend the next Train the Trainer training.
- Walk the streets: members of the HT coalition go out to local businesses to promote awareness and provide posters to businesses willing to display information on HT.
- The law (HB 369) aimed at raising awareness about human trafficking requires signs to be posted in a wide range of places, including rest areas, turnpike service plazas, weigh stations, welcome centers, airports and strip clubs. Member of the coalition are following up with these places of business to ensure that they are complying with HB 369.
- The Coalition holds open monthly meetings with various agencies and community members in attendance.

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What Florida Department of Children and Families has done:

In 2012, Florida passed House Bill 99, also known as the Florida Safe Harbor Act. This legislation allows for minors to be deemed as dependent instead of delinquent as it gives law enforcement the discretion to either arrest or deliver the minor to a short term safe house, if available. In 2016, House Bill 7141 expanded the provisions of the Florida Safe Harbor Act by requiring the Department to develop or adopt a screening instrument for the identification of sexually exploited children, service planning and placement. In addition, staff such as child protective investigators and case managers are required to have specialized training prior to working with minors that have been sexually exploited. Lastly, it provided the minimum standards to certify a foster home or group home desiring to care for sexually exploited children. Upon certification, these licensed settings are then identified as Safe Foster Homes or Safe Houses to serve as a placement option for sexually exploited children and young adults.

Expansion would take place in the following ways:

Proposed Human Trafficking Training Pilot Project Timeline Utilizing Existing Resources

April-June 2017	Begin to develop training materials in various formats, depending on target audience	Victim Services
	Identify proposed groups for in person training- Initial groups to include Code Enforcement, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation	Victim Services/Various Department Heads
	Meet with Human Trafficking Coalition to determine training capacity	Victim Services/Human Trafficking Coalition
	Meet with Human Resources to develop ability for staff to register through TED	Victim Services/Human Resources
	Develop pre and post test survey on Survey Monkey to determine effectiveness of training	Victim Services
	Modify Adult Entertainment application process to incorporate additional procedures to promote awareness when issuing Work Identification Cards. Amend Adult Entertainment Code if necessary.	Department of Public Safety
July-August 2017	Begin scheduling monthly training with County Department staff who are out in the field and who may encounter victims of HT without knowing the signs	Victim Services
	Work with Channel 20 to produce short training video which will be required for new county employees to view within 3 months of hire.	Victim Services/Public Affairs
Sept-Dec 2017	Offer additional in person training to County Departments on a requested basis, as scheduling permits	Victim Services
	Work with Public Affairs to develop county Human Trafficking Website with resources and training video posted	Victim Services/Public Affairs
	Allow for ongoing assessment of training modalities prior to expanding video to municipalities and others	Victim Services

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If additional resources become available over time, through grants or new partnerships the following could be considered:

- Advertise internet based training on transit systems (Tri-Rail, Palm Tran) so that citizens who use public transit can view while riding.
- Hire staff person who could do additional outreach regarding Human Trafficking and other violent crimes in order to expand reach.
- Trainings could be custom tailored to municipalities, Safe Zones, Hotel/Motel industry, transit systems.
- Don't be Silent campaign: Training to all transit workers, ads on buses and trains, brochures at metro centers/stations with QR codes for information on HT including the HT hotline.
- Pay for convention center to allow for higher number of others to be trained. Host training 1x monthly with 3 sessions per day.
- Through SART work with Fire Rescue to expand the use of "Safe Zones".

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