

Responding to Human Trafficking in the Healthcare Setting

I had been swept away and I was drowning. I was constantly looking for someone to throw me a rope. Ropes are connections. They allow us to see that life exists outside of the world we have fallen into.
~Andrea, Trafficking Survivor

Problem Overview

- Up to 88% human trafficking victims access healthcare during captivity ¹
- Only 10-20% of healthcare providers surveyed have had formal training or felt confident in responding ²
- Only 1-2% of hospitals have a formal protocol ²
- Very little uniformity between hospital protocols ²

Current Healthcare Requirements

- Policy and protocol for child welfare professionals in identifying and caring for child victims ³
- MCL 333.16148 of the Public Health Code requires healthcare provider education and training
 - Understanding types and venues of human trafficking in the U.S., how to identify victims, warning signs in the healthcare setting, and resources for reporting.
 - One time requirement for relicensure
 - Future education will occur pre-licensure.

Call for Amendment

- Current policy is not enough!
- Research documents correlations between traumatic experiences and long-term health consequences ⁴
 - How trauma is addressed, how treatments are implemented, contribute to health outcomes ⁴
- Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board has emphasized the need for healthcare facilities to have a response protocol in place ⁵
- Adult human trafficking victims can not be “saved”. They need a rope to pull themselves up.
- Education and referrals alone are not strong enough
- **Require health care facilities to:**
 - **Provide ongoing annual training for ALL personnel**
 - **Establish and implement written policies and procedures**

A 3-Stranded Cord Is Not Easily Broken!

Education & Training

Response Protocols

Referral Services



Please consider sponsoring a bill that will require health facilities to establish and implement a written policy and procedure for responding to human trafficking victims.

References

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