



**OVC
Webinar Transcript**

**Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual
Assault:
Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to
Respond to Survivors' Needs**

May 28, 2015

Welcome

Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault: *Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to Respond to Survivors' Needs*

As part of the ongoing implementation of the *Federal Strategic Action Plan: Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017*, this webinar series is co-sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, Office on Violence Against Women, and Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services Program

State Justice Institute's Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative

Ashley Garrett: Good afternoon, everybody. We are really excited to get an opportunity to speak with each of you for the next hour and a half. My name is Ashley Garrett, and I will be spending the next hour and a half with you. I wanted to just do a couple of quick technology notes. As a reminder, with all technology, we may experience a momentary lapse in the Webinar session. In the event of a problem, please be patient and remain on the line. The Webinar session will resume shortly. We also encourage you to keep a copy of the PowerPoint accessible during the presentation in case of any technical difficulties. Please note that these sessions are being recorded. Because we have had such an incredible turnout for this series, the lines will be muted. We will only be taking questions via the chat box, or through an e-mail address for those unable to access the Webinar platform. We will do our best to respond to as many questions as we can. There will be breaks during the Webinar to provide time to respond to questions. And on that note, let us go ahead and get started.

Ashley Garrett: As all of you know, the prevalence of human trafficking across the country is widespread, spanning many small, rural jurisdictions to sprawling cities, and affects both domestic and foreign-born children and adults. Because of the coercive and violent nature of human trafficking, it is common for victims to experience overlapping forms of victimization, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault. Yet, many survivors are unrecognized, criminalized, or do not receive adequate services to address their complex needs. How can we, in our communities, work together to identify survivors and direct them to the appropriate services? How can we enhance their capacity and collaboration of these entities to support survivors' needs?

Ashley Garrett: It is because of this need that – that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, Office on Violence Against Women, and the Office for Victims of Crime

Training and Technical Assistance Center, as well as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, and the State Justice Institute's Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, have all come together to share this particular Webinar series with you.

Learning Objectives for the Collaboration Series

Learning Objectives for the Collaboration Series:

- **Understand the overlap between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault;**
- **Explore ways to effectively engage the justice system and community stakeholders and sustain involvement;**
- **Consider examples of partnerships to build agency capacity and enhance victim identification;**
- Explore strategies for promoting collaboration while protecting confidentiality;
- Identify effective collaboration strategies that leverage culturally specific resources on behalf of survivors;
- Learn about examples of successful law enforcement collaborations; and
- Identify court-based strategies to address the needs of trafficking victims and understand the role and significance of the court and judicial leadership in developing a response to human trafficking.

Ashley Garrett: So, this is the first of a five-part Webinar series. The series will offer strategies, practical tips, case studies, and resources to help domestic violence and sexual assault service providers improve outcomes for human trafficking survivors. Each Webinar will highlight models for potential replication and will feature local and national subject matter experts.

Ashley Garrett: So, today, what you see on the slide in front of you are the learning objectives for the entire series. The goal for this particular session is to spend some time discussing and understanding the overlap between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; explore ways to effectively engage the justice system and community stakeholders and sustain involvement; and consider examples of partnerships to build agency capacity and enhance victim identification. The bottom line for today, and for this entire series, is to improve outcomes for human trafficking survivors in our communities today.

Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013-2017

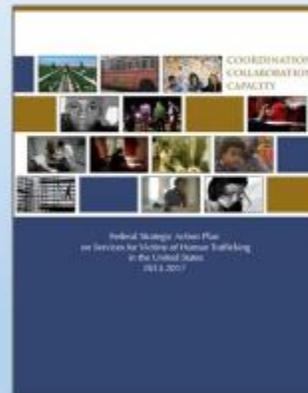
Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017

“Victim services should promote safety, healing, justice, and rights for victims, and should empower them to participate in efforts to bring traffickers to justice.

Survivors play a key role in elevating understanding and awareness of human trafficking, improving service delivery, and informing policy.

Anti-trafficking efforts should be victim-centered and culturally relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.”

<http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/FederalHumanTraffickingStrategicPlan.pdf>



Ashley Garrett: Sorry – we are having a little technical difficulty advancing the slides. So, this series is actually a partnership that comes out of the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking. The federal government came together to launch this collaboration, and there are some really important themes that the federal government has identified throughout all the ways in which we are working collectively to combat human trafficking and to identify and assist survivors.

Ashley Garrett: The first common theme is about how victim services should promote safety, healing, justice, and rights for victims, and should empower them to participate in efforts to bring traffickers to justice. Survivors themselves are integral and critical to understanding and elevating our awareness of human trafficking, and improving service delivery and policies. And all of our efforts should be victim-centered and culturally-relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.

Ashley Garrett: There is a link on this slide to the entire Strategic Action Plan. What we will be doing over the course of today, and this Webinar series, is really looking at how do we implement these core themes in our day-to-day work with human trafficking survivors, as well as domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

Webinar Schedule

Webinar Schedule	
<i>Getting Out of the Box: The Key Ingredients to Cultivate Collaboration</i>	May 28, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Balancing Collaboration, Confidentiality, and Privilege in Human Trafficking Cases</i>	June 18, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault</i>	July 9, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part I: Law Enforcement</i>	August 13, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part II: The Courts</i>	September 24, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET

Ashley Garrett: So, in case you have not seen the rest of the schedule, this is – today is the first session on *The Key Ingredients to Cultivate Collaboration*. We are going to use this as the starting point over the course of the next few months. The rest of the schedule is here, and we encourage you to register for these in advance, because we do definitely get – we are getting lots of registrations.

Polling Question – Who is Participating Today?

Polling Question – Who's Participating Today?

- Please check the box that best represents your role:
 - Domestic Violence Victim Service Provider/Statewide Coalition
 - Sexual Assault Victim Service Provider/Statewide Coalition
 - Human Trafficking Victim Service Provider
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Provider
 - Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Judiciary/Court Staff)
 - Medical/Mental Health Practitioner
 - Survivor
 - Training/Technical Assistance Provider
 - Other

Ashley Garrett: So, to get a better sense of who is participating today, I would like to ask you all to please check the box that is best going to represent your role, as soon as we get the option for doing so. So, go ahead and identify where you see yourselves as sitting, and we will be able to see who is participating across the country on this call. And I think in a moment, Jenna will turn it back over, and we will be able to see the total.

Jenna: Hi, I am just waiting for everyone to finish responding, so just take a minute. You can select the box right there for the one the best applies to you, and then I will share the results.

Ashley Garrett: Great. Some good feedback, too, on some of the groups that do not feel that they necessarily fall into a single one of these categories, or ones that are missing, so that is great feedback for the future for us.

Ashley Garrett: Okay. So, it looks like we have got, so far, about 20 percent looking at domestic violence, 10 percent looking at sexual assault, 6 percent looking at human trafficking service providers, a small but strong group from the runaway and homeless youth programming, the criminal justice sector at 13 percent, and then some – about 20 percent are showing up with a diverse other category, or that dual component. So we appreciate you all taking the time to do that.

Today's Webinar - Getting Out of the Box: The Key Ingredients to Cultivate Collaboration

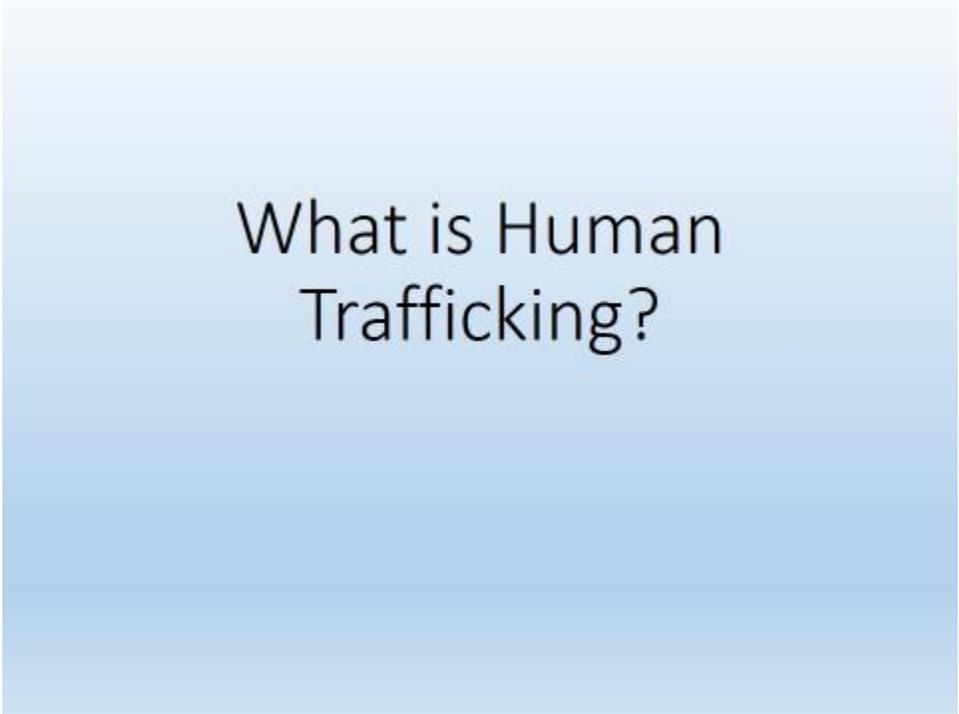
Today's Webinar
*Getting Out of the Box:
The Key Ingredients to
Cultivate Collaboration*

May 28, 2015
2:30 p.m. ET

Speaker: Ashley Garrett
Human Trafficking Team Lead
Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center
agarrett@ovcttac.org

Ashley Garrett: So, we are going to go ahead and get launched on today's Webinar. Again, my name is Ashley Garrett, and I am the Human Trafficking Team Lead for the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center. You have got my contact information there. If, at any point, we can be of further assistance to you after, there will be lots of ways that you can get in touch with us, as well as all the partners that are collaborating on this Webinar series.

What is Human Trafficking?



What is Human Trafficking?

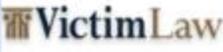
Ashley Garrett: So, we recognize that we probably have a very diverse level of experience and understanding when it comes to human trafficking with the participants on the call. And so, I did want to take a few minutes to set the foundation for what we are talking about when we talk about human trafficking.

Legal Definitions and Sources

Legal Definitions and Sources

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (federal statute)

- a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion**, for the purpose of subjection to **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.** (22 USC 7102(9))



Polaris 2014 STATE RATINGS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

Perfect Score: All categories passed
Delaware
New Jersey
Washington state

Most Improved Since 2013
Delaware (+8)
New Hampshire (+4.5)
Colorado (+4)
Pennsylvania (+4)
Utah (+4)

Total States: 51 51 42 37 31 20 46 25 22 38 36 18
Per Category: 5 2 11 16 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21

Ashley Garrett: So, there are always legal definitions when we look at human trafficking. Human trafficking often will involve severe violence to its victims, but it is often in partnership with a host of other crimes. This includes sexual assault, domestic violence, gang, drug, and property crimes, organized criminal operations, and other violations of state, federal, and international law. So, one of the things we wanted to highlight are some of the different key statutes that you want to be thinking about. So, under the federal law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was passed in 2000, and it provided, for the first time, a significant increase in the criminal statute available to combat human trafficking for law enforcement. It actually defined the crime of human trafficking that did not exist in our criminal codes federally until then, as human trafficking. It also identified critical elements to support and assist victims of human trafficking.

Ashley Garrett: The key elements, when you look at human trafficking, is the first is around sex trafficking. And there are two key forms of exploitation in trafficking. The first being sex trafficking, and what you are looking for is when someone is, through force, fraud, or coercion, induced into the commercial sex act. The key distinction under sex trafficking is that under the age of 18, there is no need to prove the coercion element to this.

Ashley Garrett: The second piece is when we look at labor trafficking, and that would involve the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, and coercion. Now, the key distinction between sex trafficking and labor trafficking when it involves youth is that, unlike in sex trafficking where anyone under the age of 18 that is in the commercial sex industry is considered a victim of human trafficking, under forced labor you still do need to actually prove force, fraud, or coercion.

Ashley Garrett: This is a federal definition. Now, since 2000, every state in the United States has passed trafficking definitions as well. Many models on the federal system, but not in their entirety. And so, one of the things you really want to look at when you are looking at building your human trafficking response in your community is what are the federal statutes, and what are your state statutes? And how, as you pull your collaborative team together, can you support each other in using those different statutes and criminal definitions?

Force, Fraud, and Coercion in Human Trafficking

Force, Fraud, and Coercion in Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking:

- Agriculture
- Begging/Street Peddling
- Beauty Salons
- Construction
- Custodial Work
- Elder Care
- Exotic Dancing
- Food Industry/Restaurant Work
- Traveling Sales Crews

Sex Trafficking:

- Child Sex Tourism
- Escort Services
- Massage Parlors
- Street Prostitution

The slide includes three small images: a person working in a field (top right), a person behind bars (middle right), and a person on a street (bottom left).

Ashley Garrett: So, let us shift from the legal context to the practical. When we look at what this really means in our communities, what is human trafficking looking like? So, what you see on this slide are the different sectors and locations that human trafficking is occurring in our communities across the United States. In every single instance, there have been cases in the United States where victims of human trafficking have been found in these sectors.

Ashley Garrett: What is really challenging about human trafficking is that there is no single profile of a trafficking victim. Victims of this crime may be men, women, they may be transgender persons, adults, minors, U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or foreign nationals. In the U.S., some of the most highly vulnerable populations to human trafficking include undocumented workers, runaway and homeless youth, individuals with substance abuse or addiction issues, and low income individuals. However, there is often a misperception that those are the only vulnerable populations. Regardless of background, the common denominator is some form of vulnerability, and whether that vulnerability for the individual lies in the dream of a better life, lack of employment, an unstable or violent home, a disability, or the desire to escape physical and/or sexual abuse. These conditions exist in every city and state across the United States.

Ashley Garrett: Due to the complex nature of the crime, perpetrators often operate unnoticed, and those who suffer are not likely to self-identify as human trafficking victims. They do not often see themselves as victims, often blaming themselves for their situation, and this can create real challenges for those of us that are seeking to identify and assist them. Too many times, victims are also misidentified and are either treated as criminals or undocumented migrants. So, in some cases, the victims are hidden behind doors in a domestic servitude or in a domestic violence situation in the home. And in other cases, victims live in plain view and interact with people on a daily basis, yet they experience commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor under extreme circumstances in these public settings, such as exotic dance clubs, factories, or restaurants, and they are still not identified due to a lack of identification training and awareness.

Power and Control Wheel



Ashley Garrett: So, for those of you that work in the domestic violence and sexual assault arena, hopefully this is not a new visual for you. This power – the power and control wheel was originally developed through the domestic violence movement many, many years ago. And this is an adaptation that the Polaris Project – a national NGO (non-government organization) on human trafficking – developed to look at how the same dynamics around power and control can play out in sex trafficking and labor trafficking. You will see a lot of similarities to what survivors of domestic violence have experienced, that are also experienced by sex trafficking and labor trafficking victims.

Ashley Garrett: What is critical for us is building a victim-centered response that requires that we work to counter all the various means of control and exploitation that perpetrators will employ.

So, when we look at developing a response to assist survivors and meet them where they need us to meet them, we need to look at doing – at providing things like immigration release to address

fears of exposure and – fears towards exposure and deportation that traffickers will use to coordinate – to control individuals. We need to provide appropriate and trauma-informed medical care and counseling to counter the physical and mental trauma traffickers use to terrify their victims. And we need to look at safety issues, not just of the survivors themselves, but of their family members as well, removing a potent tool of control from the traffickers.

Case Examples

Case Examples

- A young woman enters the country on a K1 visa (fiancée) after meeting her fiancée online. Upon arrival, she is forced to work in her fiancée's club as an exotic dancer and have sex with customers.
- A young man enters the country illegally and is forced to work on a farm to pay off his smuggling debt. The manager at the farm withholds all of his wages, threatens to turn him over to immigration, and sexually assaults him.
- A 15-year-old girl develops a romantic relationship with an older man, he coerces her into commercial sex work to help "support" them. They maintain a romantic relationship over the course of several years, which includes having children. Now an adult, she's arrested because of her role in recruiting other girls to "work" for her boyfriend.

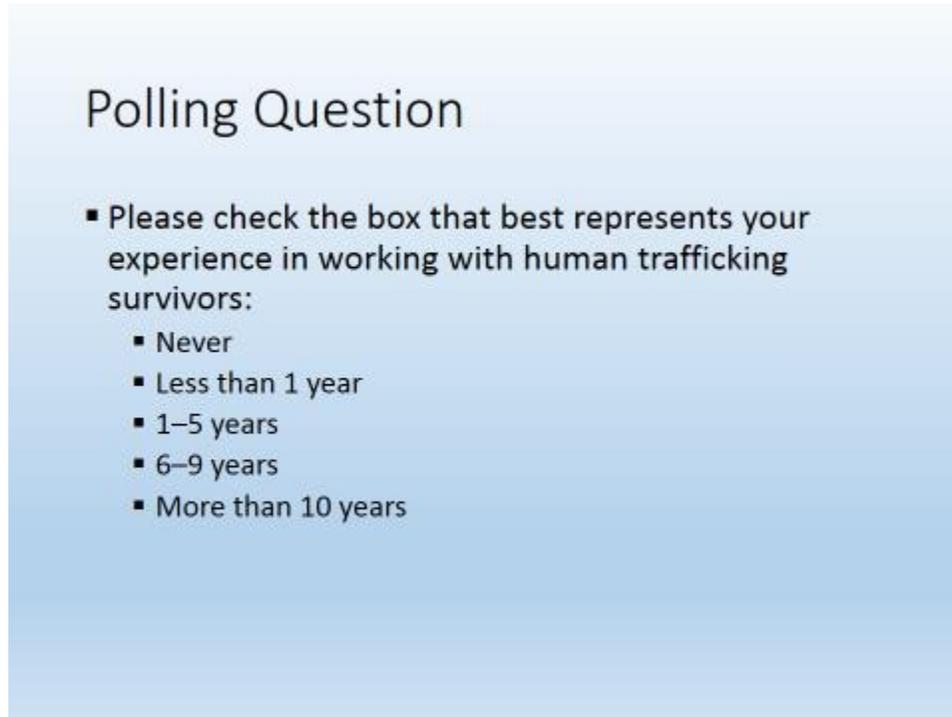
Ashley Garrett: So, I wanted to just take a few minutes to just look at some specific case examples where we really see the nexus between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. These are all not – unfortunately not too uncommon in our country. And so one great example would be a young woman enters the country on a K1 visa, which is also nicknamed the fiancée visa, after meeting her fiancée online. Upon arrival, she is forced to work in her fiancée's club as an exotic dancer and have sex with customers. So, in this situation, she is the victim of human trafficking, but she has also a victim of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Ashley Garrett: In the second scenario, a young man enters the country illegally and is forced to work on a farm to pay off his smuggling debt. The manager at the farm withholds all of his wages, threatens to turn him over to immigration, and sexually assaults him. Again, a survivor of human trafficking and sexual assault. And I think another important thing to flag is that men are absolutely survivors of human trafficking as well, as we know, through sexual assault and domestic violence.

Ashley Garrett: And then the final example here is a 15-year-old girl develops a romantic relationship with an older man. He coerces her into commercial sex work to help "support" them. They maintain a romantic relationship over the course of several years, which includes having children.

Now an adult, she is arrested because of her role in recruiting other girls to quote/unquote “work” for her boyfriend. Again, a potential as a survivor of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Polling Question



Polling Question

- Please check the box that best represents your experience in working with human trafficking survivors:
 - Never
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1–5 years
 - 6–9 years
 - More than 10 years

Ashley Garrett: Now that we have looked at some of the background on what human trafficking is in some of these examples, please take a moment to check off the box that shows what you would identify your experience in working with human trafficking survivors – either survivors that you recognize at the time that were human trafficking victims, or survivors that, as we have been talking today, you realize that you may have been serving a survivor of human trafficking, but did not recognize them as such.

Jenna: Did they show up?

Ashley Garrett: Okay. So, it looks like we have got more than half of the group with less than 5 years of experience. And probably the weight of the participation is coming from folks that have never worked with trafficking survivors or less than 1 year. So, this is great, because we really want to make sure that you all are getting that information. Also, we will flag the folks that have been working for more than 5 years. And for the 5 percent of you working for more than 10 years, use our chat box as well to share your experiences in working on this issue. We really want to promote a dialogue that is across the country on this important issue.

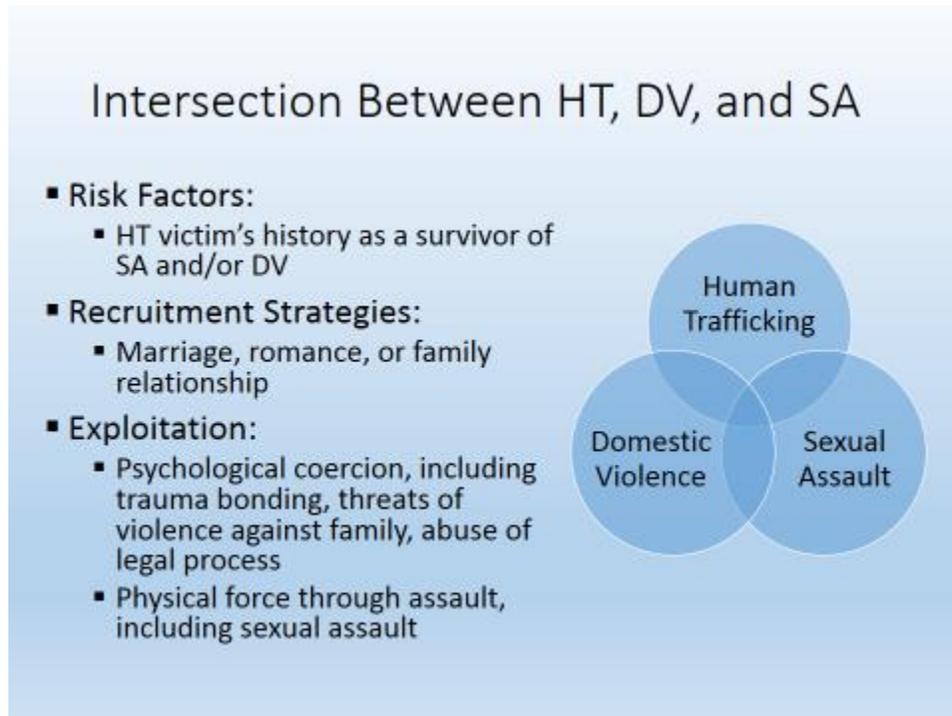
Ashley Garrett: There was a question in terms of the definition related to how exotic dancing does or does not fall into human trafficking. So, it is a common point of confusion that exotic dancing – if someone is forced into exotic dancing, that is a form of labor trafficking, unless there is an actual commercial sexual act that occurs.

So, you will often have a combination of survivors of labor trafficking where they may be doing things like exotic dancing, working in cantinas or bars, serving liquor, and whatnot, and then you may also have individuals who are forced into the commercial sex side that may occur in that same location. It can be a little bit confusing. The most important thing, from a victim identification perspective, is that they are a survivor of human trafficking, and that it is really – we leave that to the law enforcement and the prosecutors to figure out which part of the criminal statute works best to prosecute an individual. From a service provision standpoint, we really just want to make sure that we are identifying individuals and connecting them to the appropriate services, and that based on that individual, and not whether we would categorize them as a sex trafficking survivor or a labor trafficking survivor.

Ashley Garrett: So, yes. And then there is the comment about the state laws. So, again, this is part of what you really want to think about when you are thinking about building your response locally. There are the federal statutes, and there is a wealth of law – of cases that have been prosecuted federally, but there are also state statutes, and there may be distinct differences. And this is part of why building this kind of collaboration is so critical, so that you can actually really use all of the tools available to you in your own community.

Ashley Garrett: So, another quick question that came up – and then I am going to keep us moving forward, and I am going to shift on – is about who supersedes. Whether federal law supersedes trafficking, or state law, and there is no clear-cut answer on that. In most instances, what we want to promote is that the right people from the federal and the state systems are speaking to each other and working together on these cases, and that they are identifying what is the strongest tool that they have to go after the perpetrators, but also to do so in a victim-centered way. And there may be reasons that they would select to go federal, or to go state, depending on the unique circumstances of the case. And we will be talking in later sessions specifically about the collaborations with law enforcement and with the criminal court – with the court systems, and so we will get into more details on that in future sessions.

Intersection Between HT (Human Trafficking), DV (Domestic Violence), and SA (Sexual Assault)



Ashley Garrett: So, let us look at dialing a little bit deeper into what this intersection between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault is. So, when you look at a human trafficking survivor, in many instances, even before they become a survivor of human trafficking, they are a survivor of sexual assault and/or domestic violence. They may have grown up in a family situation where extreme abuse occurred in the home, they may have experienced sexual violence on their own, or through a romantic relationship. So, these are all really important things to consider.

[overlapping background conversations]

Ashley Garrett: It sounds like we have got some folks that have gotten not muted, so I am going to just flag to Jenna – if we could go ahead and mute everyone so we can all keep hearing what is going on. And then if you have got questions or comments, definitely chime in through the chat box or through our e-mail addresses that we have provided.

Ashley Garrett: Another important thing when we look at how they intersect is when we look at how individuals are recruited into a human trafficking situation, and it is very common that we will see marriage or romance, or a family relationship used to initially lure someone in. So, that exact case study that we talked about where a young girl is in – starts to date an older man, that is a – that is a person that is looking for her, and looking to see where she might be vulnerable, and in that particular instance, romance was a big part of what she was drawn to, and so that is a strategy that can happen, and often does, in recruitment.

Ashley Garrett: And I want to not just focus on the romantic and the marriage relationship. There are also a lot of ways in which individuals are trafficked through, particularly for labor trafficking, using familial relationships and structures, where someone might bring someone into the home, with a guise that they are part of their family, and then, in fact, force that individual, or that child, to become into domestic servitude among other sorts of exploitation.

Ashley Garrett: And then, of course, when we look at the exploitation factors that are rampant in human trafficking, they are not dissimilar at all to the ways in which domestic violence and sexual assault can occur. So, there is significant psychological coercion, including trauma bonding, or other – sometimes otherwise known as Stockholm Syndrome. In situations involving human trafficking, there are often threats of violence against the family, and abuse of the legal process. This can mean a couple of different things. Often, for foreign national victims, the threat of deportation or unveiling themselves to immigration is an abuse of legal process. For many others that are forced into what are considered criminal activities in the community in which they live, things such as prostitution, those are areas as well that they are coerced into that sort of an exploitation, but then they are threatened by being exposed to law enforcement or someone in the legal process. And then, finally, trafficking is a very violent crime, and it is often involving significant levels of physical violence and sexual assault.

Ashley Garrett: So, in all of these areas, there is just this constant overlap of how survivors – what survivors experience in their process. And so, we want to think, as we are looking at that, what are the things – what is the person that we are trying to serve – where are they coming from? Not what box can we put them in, but where are they coming from?

Understanding Polyvictimization and Complex Trauma

Understanding Polyvictimization and Complex Trauma

The experience of multiple victimizations of different types, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying, exposure to family violence, and more. This definition emphasizes different kinds of victimization, rather than just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization, because it signals a generalized vulnerability. Research shows that the impact of polyvictimization is much more powerful than even multiple events of a single type of victimization.

National Children's Advocacy Center

Ashley Garrett: Another really important factor to consider when you are working on human trafficking is understanding what polyvictimization and complex trauma are, because these are much more common – they are very common in human trafficking. I think they are also common in a lot of domestic violence situations, and in some sexual assault cases. One of the important things to understand is that because survivors of human trafficking experience so much different types of crime victimization issues, they may not – they often do not identify with one over another. They may not identify as a victim of human trafficking at all, but maybe they recognize that there was a sexual assault experience that they had one time.

Ashley Garrett: The other piece that is really important in understanding this is that there is a lot of evidence that shows that when an individual experiences different kinds of victimization over the course of their lifetime, they are not the same form of abuse over and over again, but a variety of forms of abuse over a period of time. That can be a very different and profound impact on the individual. And there is a lot of ways in which we need to recognize that as a dynamic, and then work with mental health professionals to strategize what the specific forms of support are for those individuals. And in one of our other sessions, we are going to talk a bit more of detail on that as well.

Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens to Collaboration

Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens to Collaboration

- A basic knowledge of trauma and its impact
- Understanding trauma triggers (victims' and one's own) to minimize re-traumatization
- Providing information about trauma to victims
- Helping survivors manage feelings, feel in control of situations, give input on program/services
- Supporting emotional safety for victims and staff
- Philosophically, asking "What has happened to you?" not "What's wrong with you?"

National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health, and the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

Ashley Garrett: So, the thing you want to think about when we are looking at building a collaborative response on human trafficking that is fundamental, is that we are building it through a trauma-informed lens. And what do we mean by that? It means that everyone that is involved in responding – whether you are law enforcement, you are a victim advocate, you are a civil attorney, you are a defense attorney, you are a judge or probation officer, you are a domestic violence worker or hotline responder – that we all need to be interfacing with the survivors that we are working with, applying a trauma-informed lens.

And so, we need to understand what trauma is and its impact. We need to understand how it can trigger both the victims' and survivors', but also our own, because doing this work, as we all know, is challenging and it is hard, and it is traumatizing to us, and it is traumatizing as we seek to support those survivors. So, we want to do – understand how that can trigger us so that we can hopefully do our best to avoid or minimize re-traumatization.

Ashley Garrett: We need to talk to survivors and victims about what trauma means, and help them understand why some of the things that they are struggling through right now are directly correlated to the trauma that they have been. And help empower them to be able to manage their feelings, feel in control, and part of that means giving input into the programs and services that they are – that they receive, as well as ones they are not interested in receiving.

Ashley Garrett: We need to really look at supporting emotional safety for our victims and our staff. And philosophically and fundamentally, we need to be asking not the question about what has happened – about asking the question, “What has happened to you?” Not, “What is wrong with you?”

Ashley Garrett: And these are not lessons unique to human trafficking by any means. As you can see, the source of this particular information comes directly from the domestic violence arena. And I think that is a really important part of this whole series, is that the lessons that have been learned through domestic violence and sexual assault responders for decades are very applicable to working with survivors of human trafficking.

Bottom Line

Bottom Line...

- Survivors of HT often experience complex trauma and polyvictimization, including SA and DV. This directly influences how they are identified and where they seek assistance.
- By understanding how these intersect, we can:
 - Meet survivors where they are, rather than forcing them into a service category based on only a part of their trauma
 - Deliver client-centered and driven services
 - Enhance service delivery by connecting our clients to specialized services and helping them to navigate the complex systems with which they will need to interface (housing, medical/mental health, criminal justice, family law, immigration, etc.)

Ashley Garrett: So, the bottom line, as we look at moving forward, is that survivors of human trafficking are often going to experience complex trauma and polyvictimization, including sexual assault and domestic violence. And this is directly going to influence how they are identified, and where they seek assistance. So, we need to do our work in understanding how they intersect, so that they do not have to figure it out for themselves, but we help them make sure that we are meeting them – we are meeting survivors where they are, rather than forcing them into some sort of a service category based on only part of their trauma.

Ashley Garrett: So, if a victim walks into a human trafficking service provider, that they are also recognizing that there may be some things related to domestic violence in that particular situation, that a domestic violence expert may be appropriate to pull in at that point. That we are delivering client-centered and driven services, that we are allowing them to tell us what they need, and we are helping to respond to that, rather than telling them what we think they need.

Ashley Garrett: We need to enhance our service delivery by connecting our clients to specialized services and helping them to navigate the complex systems with which they will need to interface. And the systems are profound and extensive. Everything from housing and medical and mental healthcare services, the criminal justice system, the family law system, the civil court system, the immigration – all of these are very complicated systems. And for someone in trauma, it is not fair for us to ask for them to figure out how to navigate those, and we need to do a better job of working collaboratively together to help support survivors get what they need to recover.

Questions?

Questions?

Please type in your chat box. If you do not have access to the chat box, please e-mail questions to humantrafficking@ovcttac.org.

Ashley Garrett: Okay. So, I am going to take a pause and see what some of the questions are that have been coming in, and – okay. So, there is a question about the estimation of the numbers of people trafficked domestically each year. There is a lot of discussion about what that number is, and there is not – there is not, to be frank, an accurate number. One of the places that we often look is there is a trafficking report that the U.S. State Department puts out every year, and that has some estimates in there. There are some specific organizations who look within a specific subcategory of trafficking survivors, and so those are identified. So I think it is – I think for us, we can often get caught up in figuring out what the national numbers are, and from a response perspective what we really want to think about is what is going on in our own community. There are some great resources that we will share with you about how to figure out what is happening in your own community, so that you can develop a focused and targeted response to the current – the context in your own community rather than focusing on the national scope.

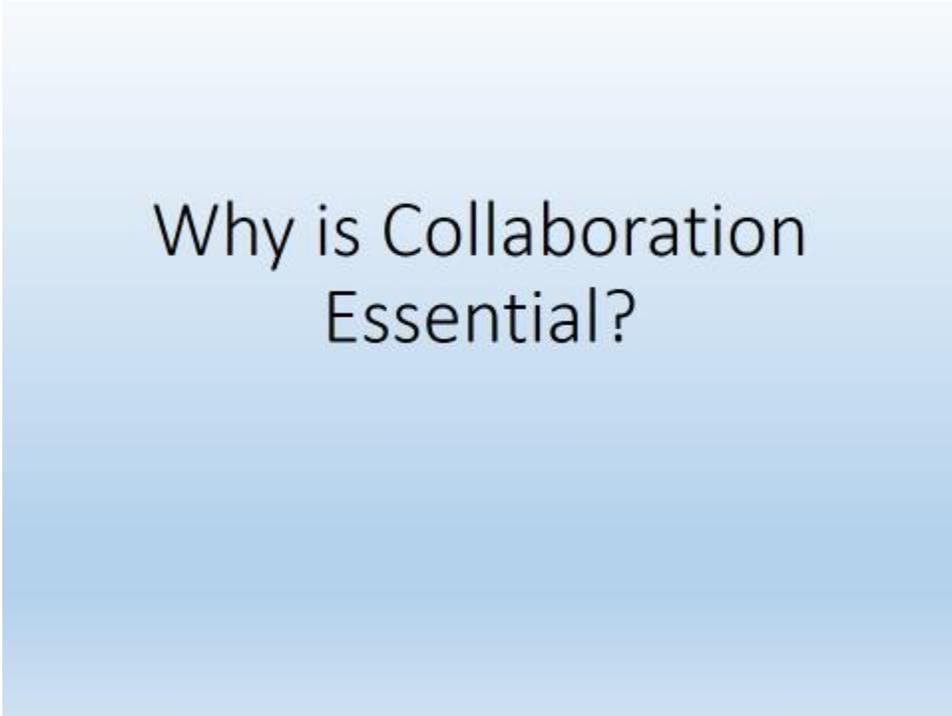
Ashley Garrett: Let us see. Okay. So, codes for prosecution – again, that is where you have got the federal statutes and you have got – so the question is, “What are codes used to prosecute perpetrators? Are they federally charged? What is the length of sentencing?” So, again, everyone, there are – there is a federal statute, and there are minimum and mandatory sentencing guidelines related to the federal statutes. There are also state-level statutes. And so, there is a very complex grouping of different laws that you can use both in the criminal system as well as in the civil system to go after perpetrators. And there is some great resources that we will provide to you that go into more depth there, and if you have got more specific questions, we can dig into that at other points.

Ashley Garrett: Let us see. And then, let me just talk a little bit about victim cooperation and prosecution, as one of the other questions that came through. So, the question is, “Is there data on how cooperative victims are with prosecution, and do you need victims to cooperate in prosecution?” This is – this is an area of some debate. For the most part, under most of the statutes, under human trafficking statutes, you do need someone that can tell the story as to what happened to them. But there are lots of ways that you – and strategies you can use to corroborate that victim’s story. And there are also ways that a prosecutor may choose not to use the human trafficking statute, because it would be so difficult for the survivor, and the survivor is not interested in actually cooperating. And you can still use other types of statutes to go after those perpetrators. So, there are not – there is not data about how many and how cooperative victims are. I think the really important part is that we want to, in a victim-centered approach, to our criminal justice process, we want to figure out, “How do we build our cases and our investigations and our prosecutions in a victim-centered way?” Which means if the victim is able and willing to participate and to cooperate, that is a right they have to participate in the system, but that there are other options as well. And they need to be – their situation needs to be considered.

Ashley Garrett: Okay, let us see, what else have we got? “So, what are some resources to support emotional safety for staff?” I think that is a great question to ask. Not just in the arena of human trafficking, but in the arena of anyone that is working with crime victims. And so, there are some really important resources out there related to vicarious trauma, burn out, and many of those came out of the domestic violence and sexual assault work that so many of you have been involved with for so long. I think one of the misperceptions that we really want to address in this series is that we do not need to think that because it is human trafficking, that we need to start anew and build new systems or responses. What has been happening within the domestic violence and sexual assault arenas have built a foundation for us to go forward. So, there are some different resources that we will show at the end that can connect you to some of the resources specifically for vicarious trauma, staff burn out, and other things.

Ashley Garrett: Okay, and I am going to keep going to make sure that we are on time. So, if we do not have a – if we run out of time to answer those questions, you will have contact information as well to reach out to all of us.

Why is Collaboration Essential? Enhanced Outcomes for Survivors and Communities



Enhanced Outcomes for Survivors and Communities

- **No Wrong Door** – Survivors enter victim services and the legal system through many entry points, we need to meet them where they are and connect them to the most appropriate resources.
- **Victim-Centered Services** – Complex needs require a trauma-informed, comprehensive service response from a diverse group of responders.
- **Diverse Access to Justice** – Criminal, civil, and family court systems intersect and influence the ways in which survivors can receive justice in the aftermath of human trafficking.

Ashley Garrett: So, why is collaboration essential? Oh, the big question of the day. Really, in order to enhance our outcome for survivors and our communities, we need to work together. There can be no wrong door in terms of how survivors enter. They will enter through a variety of different victim resources, as well as the legal system. There are many entry points, and we need to meet them where they are, and connect them to the appropriate resources. It is not their job to navigate those systems, it is our job to help them do so. And so, to do that, we need to know who each other is, and what we each bring to the table.

Ashley Garrett: Victim-centered services are about responding to a variety of very complex needs that require a trauma-informed and comprehensive service response. And no one service responder and no one entity can do that. And so, we need to partner with each other to figure out what each of us brings to the table, so that when we have a victim that has a particular need, we know who in our community can respond to that.

Ashley Garrett: And we also need to look at the diverse ways in which victims access justice. And it is not just looking at the criminal justice system, but it is looking at the civil and family court systems as well, and how all of these intersect and influence the ways in which survivors receive justice in the aftermath of human trafficking. These are very complex systems, and so we need to figure out how we can partner together to help make them less complex for the individuals that we are working with.

Options for Building Collaboration

Options for Building Collaboration

1. Build partnerships with a human trafficking victim service provider
 - Service providers differ based on the victim – foreign national, U.S. citizen, male, female, adult, minor
 - Family and runaway and homeless youth
 - Systems-based (criminal justice, child welfare, etc.)
 - Domestic violence and sexual assault programs
 - Culturally specific programs
2. Integrate human trafficking response into existing multidisciplinary structures
 - Sexual Assault Response Teams
 - Family Justice Centers
 - Court working groups or subcommittees developing response protocols for CSEC, DV, SA
3. Connect with an existing human trafficking task force or begin the process to establish one

Ashley Garrett: So, what are some really specific starting points for how to build collaboration when we look at human trafficking? So, one of the first natural steps is building partnerships with human trafficking service providers. So, when we were looking at who was on the call, we definitely had a diverse group of folks, and only some of you are currently identifying as human trafficking service providers. So, what you want to look for are what are the vulnerable populations in your community, and who are people that are interfacing with them? And that is going to differ, depending on the type of victim that you might be working with. And so, some really important ones to start to build relationships around are the family and runaway and homeless youth programs, looking at the systems-based folks, both the criminal justice but also child welfare and the civil systems, housing systems, public housing. Clearly, as the series demonstrates, domestic violence and assault programs. And then there is also a wealth of culturally-specific programs that are out there that would work with a specific population. And so, you want to look at who are all of these folks working in your communities, and how can you start to back each other up, and work together in a more coordinated way?

Ashley Garrett: There are also some really great ways that are already working, in terms of collaboration, that have been developed to respond to things like domestic violence or sexual assault, and we do not always have to create a separate system to address human trafficking. What about if we integrate human trafficking responses into existing multidisciplinary structures? So, things like the sexual assault response teams (SART) or the family justice center approach to domestic violence and the SART teams related to sexual assault – those are preexisting relationships and mechanisms that you have about how to respond to those crimes. What if you infuse an understanding of human trafficking, and how they intersect with sexual assault and domestic violence?

And you are not creating something new, but you are creating something that is more effective for all of the individuals that you will encounter through those existing programs.

Ashley Garrett: The other thing is that people often get really caught up in, “I need to create a really long-term formal approach to this,” and there are different working groups or subcommittees that can be formulated for a specific period of time to develop a response protocol. So, a great example would be some of the court working groups that have been established to combat child sexual exploitation, domestic violence, or sexual assault. And, again, if there is existing multidisciplinary approaches or protocols, if you can integrate your understanding and response to human trafficking within an existing system, then you are reaching – you are making a huge impact on a much easier scale.

Ashley Garrett: And then, of course, the other pieces that there are across the United States, there are existing human trafficking task forces, or there are many communities that are looking at the process to establish one. And human trafficking task forces, from a practical standpoint, are task forces that are developed and pull together service providers, law enforcement and prosecutors, and other folks that are relevant, in order to identify victims of human trafficking, deliver comprehensive and quality trauma-informed services, and conduct investigations and prosecutions of all trafficking crimes. So, just as how the SART teams or the family justice centers have worked together, the task forces are a specific approach. And it does not mean that these have to be formal with tons of federal funding or other resources. Sometimes task forces get started because, just like with your SART teams or your family justice centers, you had five or six people that started working together and said, “We need to start to figure out how to formalize this and work more comprehensively together, because we are stronger together than we are on our own.”

Collaboration in Human Trafficking Responses: Why is Collaboration in Human Trafficking Hard?

Collaboration in Human Trafficking Responses

Why is collaboration in human trafficking hard?

Please respond with some examples using the chat box.

Ashley Garrett: Okay, so let us look at – I would actually like to hear a little bit from you all about why collaboration in human trafficking is hard. There is lots of reasons that people get stuck in figuring out how to collaborate. So, what are some of the things that you all are experiencing because of the challenges? So, I am seeing one comment about child welfare and limitations related

to collaboration because of confidentiality and privacy. A huge issue is about how do you share information, and understanding what each of our respective roles are in doing so. And we will have an entire Webinar looking at that specific topic in June. And I really encourage you all to look at that. It will be a great, much deeper dive than we can do in this session.

Ashley Garrett: “Confusion within the system about who takes control of the case.” These are very common challenges, not just in human trafficking, but certainly exist in human trafficking, particularly when you are looking at federal versus state actors. Who is perceived as having the strongest approach, who is perceived as having the most victim-centered approach? And so, those can be really challenging to figure out. The only way you can overcome them is sitting around and starting to work together on them, and there is some great resources out there to do so.

Ashley Garrett: Let us see, what else have we got? Moving so quickly, I cannot keep up with all your comments. These are great.

Ashley Garrett: “Perception that this is a victimless crime, because she wants to be in the work.” This is a crime of exploitation. Nobody is making a choice about how to do – about that they want to be in this, and it is our job to really understand why someone – why it is very common in human trafficking, just as it is common in domestic violence and some sexual assault situations, where victims may say they are not a victim and they do not identify as a victim. But there are specific reasons related to trauma and the abuse in which they do so, and it is our job to make sure that we are focused on the exploitation, and it is our job to make sure that we are training the individuals that come into contact with them to understand that context. So, that was a great point.

Ashley Garrett: “Many organizations do not want to play with others, due to protecting their role in the field.” I think that is also a really good one. Let us not understate the turf issues that happen or the perception that we may have about one entity or one agency being – having the right approach or the wrong approach. Maybe we had a history with an organization, or with a different agency, of conflict in the past and we have had negative results. How do we get past that? Because, at the end of the day, in order to identify victims and serve them, and meet them where they deserve to be met, we have to get over those turf issues.

Ashley Garrett: Let us see. “Disconnection between the mental health industry, law enforcement, and the legal system.” Again, each of us – this is a really common challenge. These are not dynamics in which we all typically work together, you know? And I think in some instances, we are asking folks that have been historically in a much more adversarial relationship to come together and say, “Okay, in this circumstance, we need to put aside our historic adversarial relationship and move forward. And how do we continue to work together on this?”

Ashley Garrett: Okay, so again, some questions, some comments around, for example, “Homeland Security and FBI unable to release information to outside agencies because of the jeopardy of cases.” So, again, understanding what information we can share, and what information we cannot, and figuring out how to do that.

And that, we will do some very specific strategies related to law enforcement and the courts, and how to collaborate with them during some of the other Webinars, and that is a – that is an absolute challenge.

Ashley Garrett: I really like the comment about, “We hear this over and over. This just does not happen here.” And all of us know that it does, and that is – it is – no community is immune to this as an issue. It is just helping to understand what your local context is to it. And there are some

really great resources about how do you start to have a conversation locally to assess what your community circumstances are, and really look at that. But getting past that, and I think collaboration is a huge part of how you get past that, right? I mean, if I am the only one in the community saying this is an issue, then my voice is one. But if we all come together, and particularly if we have a diverse perspective, and I am talking in concert with law enforcement and with prosecutors, and with service providers, and with homeless shelters, and a variety of folks, we are so much stronger through that collaboration in advocating within our community for what is really going on.

Ashley Garrett: Okay, and then resource issues. So, one comment was about how the trafficking task force started with five people and grew to about 30. And now with recent cuts – I am going to just summarize – with recent cuts in funding, people are starting to drop out. And there are different, you know, resources are challenging and collaboration is time consuming. And so how do we figure out how to leverage each other’s resources? And then how to go after resources because we are collaborating together. So, what are – this is all – the feedback you guys are adding are exactly the challenges that we are all facing.

Why is Collaboration Hard?

Ashley Garrett: So, this is the next slide that I am going to point out is hopefully just going to reiterate what so many of you have already brought out.

The slide has a light blue background and a white title. The title is 'Why is collaboration hard?'. Below the title is a list of 17 bullet points, each starting with a small square symbol. The bullet points are:

- Limited funding – preference from funding sources for one “type” of victim over another
- Misunderstandings around who can do what
- Former adversarial relationships that you have to overcome to work together (victim advocates- defense attorneys, immigration lawyers-law enforcement, etc.)
- Overburdened staff
- Opinions about who does it “right”
- Balancing the need for information sharing and confidentiality
- Past negative history
- Victim service providers fearful that law enforcement will not handle victims sensitively
- Differences of opinion about who is a potential victim
- Access to victims over the course of the investigation
- Time consuming
- Law enforcement reluctant to share sensitive information with outside parties
- Competing priorities between the investigation and the victim’s needs
- Conflict over timing of certain victim assistance resources, i.e., immigration relief
- Turf issues

Ashley Garrett: So, the limited funding issues. Again, this preference or this, “I can only serve this type of victim, over another type of victim,” and I think that is part of why we really want to emphasize the intersection of victims with human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Ashley Garrett: Misunderstandings around who can do what, at the most basic level to a much more complex way.

Ashley Garrett: The adversarial relationship, you know, immigration lawyers and law enforcement, particularly Homeland Security. Those are inherently conflicted relationships. They are victim advocates that are used to working with survivors of domestic violence, and defense attorneys who are used to defending them. Those are challenges that you need to figure out and get over.

Ashley Garrett: Our overburdened staff. These are challenging cases and challenging – it is challenging work. It is important work, and I think all of us would not be on this call and doing the work that we are doing every day if we did not think that it mattered, but it is a challenge. And how do we make sure that we are taking care of our staff and building programs that support our ability to do that?

Ashley Garrett: So, I am not going to read every single one of these, because you guys highlighted a lot in the chat box already. But, I think what is really important in understanding why collaboration can be hard, and then is that you are not in that alone. This is – these are common to every community that is trying to figure out how to respond. And yes, these are not unique to human trafficking situations. They are also many of the similar challenges that you face in building responses to domestic violence and sexual assault in your communities. So, the more we can learn from what our communities have done successfully in other areas, the more our response to human trafficking is strengthened..

How may Collaboration in HT Cases be Different From SA or DV Cases?

How May Collaboration in HT Cases be Different From SA or DV Cases?

- Different stakeholders involved
 - Law enforcement and prosecution actors – state and federal role
 - Service providers differ based on the victim – foreign national, U.S. citizen, male, female, adult, minor
 - Family and runaway and homeless youth
 - Domestic violence and sexual assault programs
 - Culturally specific grantees
- Polyvictimization and complex trauma
- Often lengthier investigations
- More involvement and collaboration during the investigation and prosecution between service providers, victims' attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors
- Victim as a defendant/respondent

Ashley Garrett: So, let us talk for a minute about where some of the points that can come into play more specifically related to human trafficking. So, again, there is different stakeholders involved. So, unlike most domestic violence or sexual assault cases, unless there is another type of crime involved, there is going – there is a potential for a state and a federal role. And that means that you have got law enforcement and prosecutors coming from very different perspectives. And just like service providers have turf issues, so do law enforcement and prosecutors. So, how do we figure that out? And how do you get past those differences and recognize that, in this particular circumstance, maybe the state case will be stronger for this reason, and in this particular circumstance, the federal case – we may have more resources to bring here and that is the right approach for that?

Ashley Garrett: The complexity of who the victims are is profound. And so, it means that you really need to look at who, and be honest about who are you capable of serving, and who is not getting served in your community, and how do you come together to fill those gaps? And so, looking at foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, male, female survivors, adult versus minor. There are a wealth of different entities that work in our communities that have a specialization in one of those areas. So, how can we bring those folks to the table with us and help them know and understand how we need to work together? And when we do not have someone that has that capacity, how do we build it? How do we leverage each other and say, “We do not know, we do not have someone that can handle this particular group, and we know this is – these are survivors living amongst us that we need to serve. And so, how can we work together to fill that?”

Ashley Garrett: We talked a little bit about the definitions around polyvictimization and complex trauma. You just cannot – I cannot understate enough how important understanding those terms and how those manifest for victims and survivors are.

You will often hear people become very frustrated, whether they are law enforcement, or prosecutors, or a service provider, about how victims are going to run. They do not want our help. They are adversarial to us. They are attacking of us. They are protecting their perpetrator. These

are directly tied to the types of complex trauma and polyvictimization that they have experienced, and we need to not get upset with them about how they are acting out in the ways that they have learned to survive, but help understand where that is coming from, and how can we build our skill set to respond differently and meaningfully to them.

Ashley Garrett: Trafficking investigations are often lengthy. In a federal arena, you can be looking at a year to a couple of years of an investigation and prosecution. And that is very taxing on survivors, and it is taxing on the individuals involved in the case, both in supporting the survivor as well as conducting the investigation and building the case to trial. Keeping track of where your survivors are and how they are doing is complicated in a short case. When you are talking about multiple years, potentially, that can be really complicated. And so you really have to collaborate to be able to recognize how you can address those issues when those cases are going on more lengthy.

Ashley Garrett: There is a lot of involvement in the cases. For those of you that have worked trafficking cases, and you have looked at it from both the victim service response perspective, as well as an enforcement and investigation and prosecution perspective, the most successful ones are ones that have very active collaboration between service providers, victims' attorneys, law enforcement, and prosecutors. And that can be a very different dynamic than other types of crimes, including domestic violence and sexual assault. So, it is really critical that you understand what each other's roles are, what your boundaries are, and your confidentiality and your privilege dynamics are, and how you can still work together and meet kind of the core objective that you are trying to achieve.

Ashley Garrett: And then, finally, the victim as a defendant and/or a respondent in a court situation. So, this is not – I am not going to say this is unique to human trafficking. I know certainly in the domestic violence and sexual assault arenas, survivors have been arrested, and continue to be so. But it is quite common as well in the human trafficking arena. And they are – probably the most commonly recognized is arrest related to prostitution, where survivors of commercial sexual exploitation are arrested as prostitutes and then are criminalized. And so, that requires a really specific response. It is also an opportunity where we can start to intervene early on, and if that is what is happening, that is an opportunity to begin to identify what is really going on. And there are some really interesting ways in which people are looking at, “How do we not criminalize individuals who are being exploited in these ways? But actually – by when they are intercepted at that particular point, how can we connect them to services?” And you will be hearing more about those, in particular, in our Webinar on the court system.

Ashley Garrett: But I also want to emphasize that there – that traffickers, just as in domestic violence in particular – you have got traffickers who are very adept at using family courts and other civil proceedings to manipulate and control their survivors. And so – and that there is other types of criminalization that goes on, so prostitution is not the only one. You have truancy, you have drug trafficking, you have a variety of ways in which individuals who are being exploited and in a human trafficking situation are being recognized as defendants and not as survivors. And so, we really need to look hard at who those individuals are and what is really going on in the particular circumstances.

Example of a Successful Collaboration #1

Ashley Garrett: So, I wanted to highlight a couple of ideas around successful collaboration for folks. So, these are taken from examples that many of the partners putting together this Webinar series wanted to highlight.

Example of a Successful Collaboration

- 30-year-old female U.S. citizen victim is arrested for prostitution. She's been with her boyfriend/pimp since she was 12, experienced chronic physical violence from him, and has a 5-year-old child with him.
 - After he posts her bond, she leaves him, moving into a domestic violence shelter. He petitions her in family court for custody of their son.
 - Working with a team that includes her court social worker, her defense attorney, and a prosecutor, she receives appropriate support, with everyone recognizing that this is a combination of HT, DV, and SA.
 - She and her son continue to receive services through a DV service provider. Her defense attorney works to get her record expunged, and she qualifies for housing that she was not eligible for previously because of her criminal record.
 - She agrees to testify against him. He is indicted on human trafficking. She petitions for full legal and custodial custody of her son.
- **Key partners:** court social worker, defense attorney/public defender, prosecutor, DV service provider

Ashley Garrett: So, this first example is of a 30-year-old female U.S. citizen who is arrested for prostitution. And she has been with her boyfriend/pimp since she was 12, which is not an uncommon age of recruitment for sex trafficking survivors. She experienced chronic physical violence from him, and she also has a 5-year-old child with him. So, she is arrested, and he posts her bond, but somehow in that intervention she leaves him and she moves into a domestic violence shelter because, from her perspective, that is the dynamic that is going on. She is looking at it from a domestic violence situation. And he petitions her in family court to take custody of their son. So, all the ways that he can try and manipulate and maneuver the different systems to work on his behalf in controlling her.

Ashley Garrett: However, working with a team that includes her court social worker, her defense attorney, and a prosecutor, she receives appropriate support, and everyone recognizes that this is a combination of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. With some unique partnerships, for those of you coming from the criminal justice system, it is not every day we get to hear about defense attorneys and prosecutors collaborating together on behalf of survivors, but it is happening more and more, and we want to keep supporting that.

Ashley Garrett: So, she and her son continue to receive services through a domestic violence service provider, because, again, that is where she identified and felt the most comfortable in receiving her services. And her defense attorney works to get her criminal record related to the prostitution charges expunged, and because of that, she now is able to qualify for housing that she was not able to previously qualify for because she had a criminal record. She has agreed to testify against him, and he is now indicted on human trafficking. She is now petitioning for full legal custody – legal and custodial custody of her child.

Ashley Garrett: So, that is a great example of how court social workers, defense attorneys, and public defenders, a prosecutor, a domestic violence service provider all come together – family law – all come together, recognizing that there is something going on here, and this is an individual who needs our help, and that we do not want to let their trafficker continue to manipulate and control the situation. So, I think that is a great example of collaboration.

Example of a Successful Collaboration #2

Example of a Successful Collaboration

- 35-year-old female foreign national victim is brought to the United States by a friend of her family. Forced into domestic servitude, she is repeatedly sexually assaulted by her family friend. She eventually escapes on her own. After being referred to a service provider from a priest she meets at church, she eventually discloses her fear of being jailed and deported, something her trafficker insisted would be the result if she ever spoke out.
 - The service provider contacted a fellow task force member from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) who agreed to meet with the victim to review his role as an agent and his commitment to the investigation, without asking the victim's name.
 - The victim builds rapport with the agent. The victim discloses her name, the agent applies for Continued Presence to stabilize the victim. Eventually, she agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation.
 - She applies for a T visa with the help of an immigration attorney, the HSI agent provides a I-918B that affirms she is a victim of human trafficking and is cooperating with law enforcement.
 - The survivor graduates from the victim service program and becomes a peer counselor for other foreign national survivors of HT, as well as DV and SA, who fear coming forward to law enforcement.
- **Key partners:** faith community leader, service provider, law enforcement, immigration attorney

Ashley Garrett: Here is another one. So, we have got a 35-year-old female foreign national who is brought to the United States by a friend of her family. She is forced into domestic servitude, where she is repeatedly sexually assaulted by her family friend. She eventually escapes on her own. After being referred to a service provider from a priest she meets at her church, she eventually discloses her fear of being jailed and deported, something her trafficker insisted would be the result if she ever spoke out.

Ashley Garrett: So what happened? The service provider, because they – is contacted, contacts the fellow task force member. So, in this circumstance, they have an existing relationship with law enforcement, including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) who agrees to meet with the victim to talk about his role as an agent, and his commitment to the investigation and concern about what is going on, without ever asking for the victim's name. So he is focused on building a rapport with that individual, and not about – and not about reinforcing what the trafficker said about his interest in deporting her.

Ashley Garrett: So, the victim builds rapport with that agent, and she eventually discloses her name. The agent applies for something called Continued Presence, which is a short-term immigration status that is available to human trafficking survivors to stabilize the victim. Eventually, she agrees to cooperate fully in the case.

Ashley Garrett: She applies for a T visa, which is a long-term form of immigration relief for foreign national victims of human trafficking, and she is doing that with the help of an immigration attorney. The agent – the federal agent from HSI, also provides what is called an I-918B that is affirming that she is a victim of human trafficking and that she is cooperating with law enforcement, which helps her application significantly.

Ashley Garrett: Ashley Garrett: The survivor graduates from the victim service program, and now has become a peer counselor for other foreign national survivors of human trafficking, as well as domestic violence and sexual assault, who fear coming forward to law enforcement.

Ashley Garrett: Another great example of how coming together and working together can really serve survivors and individuals. And so this, in this instance, faith community leaders, service providers, law enforcement, and immigration attorneys all are coming together to work together to receive – to achieve the successful outcome.

Questions?



Ashley Garrett: Okay. So, we are going to pause again for a minute and see what other questions have come in. Okay, so, there was a question about, “How will OVC create collaborative funding opportunities, more easier accessibility for survivor-based organizations, such as mentoring programs, etc.?” So, for those of you unfamiliar, the Office for Victims of Crime is one of the federal agencies that funds victim service programs specifically for human trafficking.

They – for those of you that have not seen, there has been – there was a passage in the appropriation this year for federal funding to significantly expand those resources, and so there are solicitations out, happening right now, that are looking at building up different organizations. Also, through OVC’s Training and Technical Assistance Center, which is where I work, we do a lot of support in

helping to build the capacity of organizations, including survivor-led organizations, on how to build up their specific programming. And that can be anything from providing services, figuring out how do you provide culturally-competent services, to grant writing skills, to strategic planning – a variety of things. And I know several of the other partner organizations in this Webinar series also have some great resources, so we have got some links at the end about where to go for additional help and support.

Ashley Garrett: Let us see what else. “What can you do with a newly developed non-trauma-informed community group seeking to support victims?” Good question. So, I think a big part of it, right, is figuring out how do you build that knowledge base around trauma, and how do you do it in an appropriate way? And again, keeping in mind that human trafficking is not unique. I think that most communities are probably, hopefully, further along on the domestic violence and sexual assault side of things. And how have they built up that capacity, and how can you build off of that? There are ways in which we really are, at the federal level, we are really working hard to encourage and support survivors’ roles in being part of the solution, and there is some great resources available to do that as well. But we also really want to make sure that if you are partnering with a survivor, that you are partnering them in a way that recognizes them as a professional, that their role is not just about telling their story of exploitation, but that their role is about, “How can we help understand and change the ways in which we serve people, and assist folks?”

Ashley Garrett: Let us see if there is any other ones coming through. A great comment about bringing people on. “How do you...?” So, some of the task forces – and this may not be – this is probably, again, a lesson that was learned through some of the other multidisciplinary teams out there, but there are human trafficking task forces that have a membership process in which they want to make sure that the relevant folks in their community are part of the task force. And they have an orientation process in which they go through. Anyone that is interested in joining the task force has to be vetted and has to be determined that they do have a response that they can provide to the task force. But then there also – they go through an orientation process so that everyone is on the same page about what the purpose of the task force is, how do they work together, and there is some other really great examples that you will be able to see in the different resources that we have towards the end of this.

Practical Steps: Build Your own Capacity to Serve HT Victims

Practical Steps

Build Your Own Capacity to Serve HT Victims

- Assess your staff's capacity to identify and assist victims of HT that are also victims of DV and/or SA.
 - Consult with survivors to audit your organization's programs and policies to be trauma-informed and culturally competent.
 - Train staff on specific resources that HT survivors are eligible for that differ for DV or SA survivors.
 - Modify your current staff training to integrate HT knowledge and skills.
 - Modify your intake tools to enhance identification of polyvictimization, including sex and labor trafficking.
- Assess your organization's service gaps.
 - Identify other organizations that may provide those services.

Ashley Garrett: Okay, all right. So, I am going to keep going because I have only got about 22 minutes left. So, let us talk some really specific practical steps. So, how do you get started, right? How can you build your own capacity to serve human trafficking victims? Well, you need to start

by understanding what your current capacity is. So, if you are a domestic violence or sexual assault provider, it is pretty likely you have also been serving human trafficking survivors, and you did not know it. So, a couple strategies that are really helpful in understanding that is looking for survivor leaders to help audit your organization's programs and policies to be trauma-informed and culturally-competent. Some of the things that we have been learning in the domestic violence arena about shelter and housing, and the rules in which we offer those services and programs, have been really influential in what we need to learn about working with human trafficking survivors. And it is often survivors that have pointed out those problems and helped us do so.

Ashley Garrett: There are different resources that are available for human trafficking survivors that are different than for domestic violence or sexual assault survivors. So, you need to spend some time training your staff on what those are, because just as if you are working with a DV person, survivor, and you need to connect them to the right resources that they are eligible for because of that, or some other part of their context, you need to figure out what are the resources that are available. So, for example, from an immigration standpoint, there are some specific short- and long-term available resources for foreign national victims that are unique to human trafficking. It is really important to know what those are so that when you are working with a survivor, you can help them navigate to access the most appropriate and best resources for them.

Ashley Garrett: You need to modify your current staff training to integrate that human trafficking knowledge and skill. And you really need to modify your intake tools to enhance the identification of polyvictimization, including the potential for sex and labor trafficking. And again, I do not want us to just focus on the sex trafficking side of the nexus with domestic violence and sexual assault, labor trafficking victims, and then coming through our domestic violence and sexual assault programs as well.

Ashley Garrett: We want to look at assessing what your organization's service gaps are. Maybe that is not an area that you work with. Maybe that is part of a population you do not work with, or you do not have someone in your mental health referral network that has an expertise in polyvictimization and complex trauma. They are used to working, you know, with sexual assault survivors that have experienced a single incident of sexual assault. So, really different skill set that we want to be looking for. And so, how can you look to see in your community – are there others that are doing that? That maybe they are not working on human trafficking, but they have the skill set that you are looking for. And how can you bring them in and partner with them, and get you all on the same page? You may also decide that your organization wants to start filling some of those services. And so what do you need to do to expand your service provision?

Collaborate With Other Victim Service Providers

Collaborate With Other Victim Service Providers

- Map out a comprehensive service matrix for the needs that survivors have, then identify who has the capacity to address those needs.
- Identify who is missing, what you can do to bring them in.
- Recognize what each person brings to the table.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Understand and respect each other's limitations.
- Identify common shared goals to work together outside of a case.
- Cross train staff at all levels.
- Establish information-sharing mechanisms – formal or informal.
- Expect conflict and establish a mechanism to address – formal or informal.

Ashley Garrett: So, how do you really look at collaborating with other service providers? And again, this is not new just to human trafficking. It is really important that in any victimization response we are mapping out what are the comprehensive service matrix for the needs that survivors have, and then who has the capacity to serve them and address those? And if you do not, who is missing? Maybe you have someone in your community that can do that, but they are not at the table with you. So, what can you do to bring them in?

Ashley Garrett: You need to spend time recognizing what each person brings to the table, and what each person does not. And I think that is just as much an honesty about from our own perspective as it is with the group that we are trying to build relationships with.

Ashley Garrett: And really clarify roles and responsibilities in your collaboration. A huge part of the conflict is – that comes up, as many of you flagged in the chat box, is around this clarification of who does what.

Ashley Garrett: And respect and understand each other's limitations. You know, we have systems-based victim advocates, and we have non-systems-based victim advocates, and they have limitations, respectively. But they also have tremendous resources and services that they can provide that only they can really provide to the survivors we are working with. So, we have got to recognize that what those limitations are, and what the benefits are to still working with them.

Ashley Garrett: I think a really important first step is identifying what your common shared goals are to work together outside of a case. You know, building a relationship at midnight on Saturday night over a case in which you are trying to find somewhere to place someone that night is not the best time to start your relationship.

And so, what can you figure out – what are things that are a lower-level list in terms of building outreach programs or training, and other ways that you can work together? So that you start to build

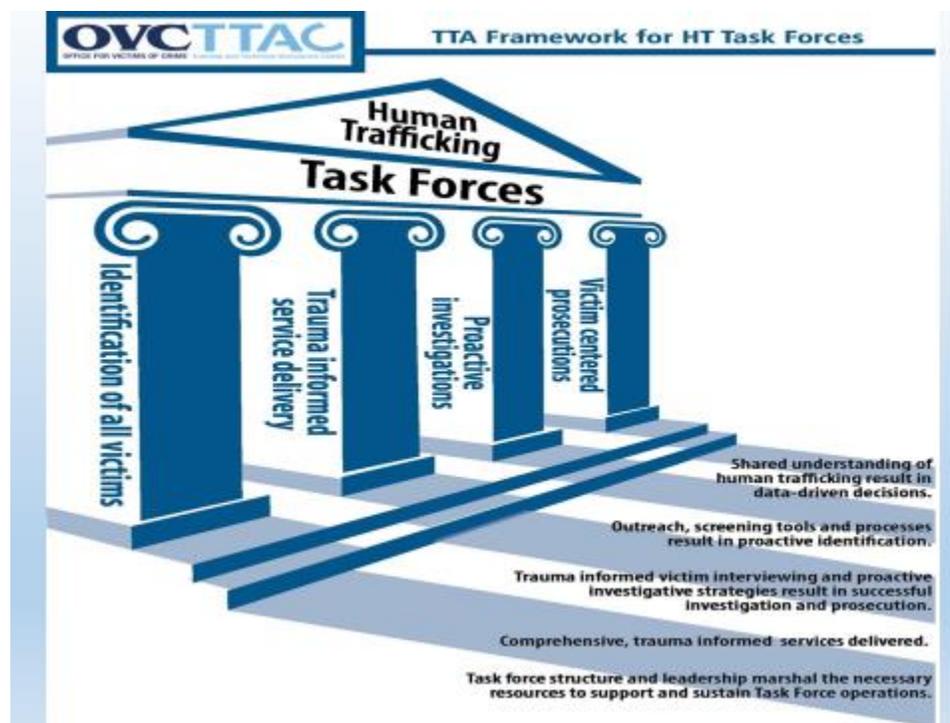
that relationship and that credibility with each other, and trust, and then you start to deal with the case situation.

Ashley Garrett: Cross training of staff at all levels. So it is just as important that your street-level police officer or your hotline call responder understand what is going on, as it is your chief of police or your executive director. So, we really need to look at how do we cross train each other to know how we can reinforce all those bullets that we just talked about?

Ashley Garrett: Establish information-sharing mechanisms. These can be done formally, and they can be done informally. But it is important that you talk about what you are going to do about sharing information, and what you are going to not do, and we are talking a lot about that in the next Webinar.

Ashley Garrett: And you need to expect conflict and establish a mechanism to address that. It is going to happen, it is guaranteed, as you all know. And so what can you do to be proactive? Whether it is formal or informal, there are lots of great ways to handle it, but you need to make sure that you are prepared for that.

Human Trafficking Task Forces



Ashley Garrett: So, I wanted to just highlight one of the things that we have been looking at within OVC TTAC is, "How can we really support the specific relationship of building human trafficking

task forces?” And by task forces, we do not mean just formal – formalized or groupings. These can also be – the lessons that we can learn here are also from informal ones. You may have a single prosecutor, a police detective, and a domestic violence service provider that start working together, and start to figure this out in your community, and that is the start of what a task force can look like.

Ashley Garrett: But one of the things when we look at how do task forces work, we started by looking at how did we learn about multidisciplinary work through the domestic violence and sexual assault communities. So places like our SART teams, or our family justice resource centers.

Ashley Garrett: So, the primary objective on this visual that a task force, formal or informal, has got to be looking at is that they want to be looking at identifying all victims of human trafficking, but they want to provide trauma-informed service delivery, that they want to conduct proactive investigations, not just reactive, and that they want to conduct and implement victim-centered prosecution.

Ashley Garrett: So, how do we do that? What are the ways that we have learned? Much of it builds upon the foundation that domestic violence and sexual assault responders have learned are the critical things that we need to consider.

Ashley Garrett: So, if you look at this visual, kind of the path leading to that courthouse. The first is really promoting a shared understanding of human trafficking that results in data-driven decisions. Now, there is a lot of different ways that you can do this, and so I am not going to spend a ton of time digging to each one of these. But, for example, you need to have a conversation about confidentiality, privilege, and privacy policies among your members so that you each have a stronger understanding of how you each work, and how you can and cannot share information. If you do not know how to do that, you will not be successful in meeting all of those objectives of the task force.

Ashley Garrett: Outreach screening tools and processes result in proactive identification. Again, how can we – how can that look? Well, one great strategy is partnering with survivors to develop survivor-informed outreach and proactive identification strategies. It is amazing to me how many times we forget to ask the people that have been there first. They have a wealth of information that they could share with us.

Ashley Garrett: Victim interviewing. So, trauma-informed victim interviewing and proactive investigation strategies result in successful investigation and prosecution. Well, that does not happen without a collaboration with service providers. And so, if you are not looking at developing strong and mutually agreed upon processes or procedures or protocols to support investigation and service referrals, that is not victim-centered, because your survivors need access to victim service providers, and they also need access to justice, if that is part of what they want to pursue.

Ashley Garrett: Comprehensive trauma-informed services delivery. A wealth of different ways that you want to look at that. But some of the things that are really critical when you look at that is looking at how to establish what are the confidentiality rules on will you or will you not share information? But what are some specific strategies to avoid arresting survivors? To access different types of human trafficking services, including federal immigration assistance, that is available to survivors and will prevent them from being deported. So, there is a ton of different strategies and tools that are out there to strategize about how to do that.

Ashley Garrett: The structure. Task force structure and leadership marshal the necessary resources to support and sustain task force operations. One of the things that I often hear task forces talk a lot about is that they always get together, all of them in the same room, and therefore they all cannot talk to each other in an open way, because there are confidentiality issues involved in that. It is just as important in a task force setting to figure out how do you come together within a discipline. So, where is there a law enforcement sensitive opportunity for law enforcement and prosecutors to have specific conversations that service providers should not be privy to? And likewise, from a service provision standpoint, what are the things and conversations that you want to be able to collaboratively have that law enforcement or prosecutors should not be privy to? You need to build infrastructures that not only figure out how do you work across disciplines, but how do you work within your discipline on behalf of survivors?

Ashley Garrett: So, those are just a few of the many, multitude of ways in which you can do this work.

Questions?

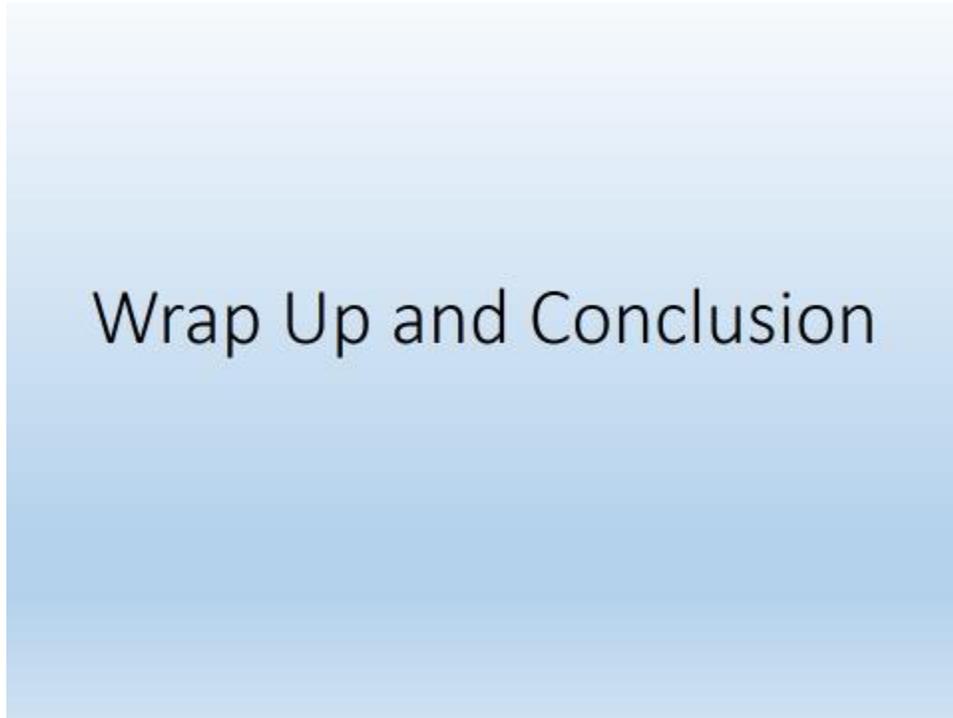


Ashley Garrett: So, we have got just a few minutes left, and I want to make sure I can give you our – the resources as well before we conclude, so I am just going to take one or two questions here.

Ashley Garrett: It looks like there is some great resources being shared in the chat box. And then it looks like – so one question is a really nice affirmation that this is a great – that there are some great things coming out of this, and the key is awareness. I think the key – the first step is definitely awareness, and that is certainly our goal through this series, but it is also, then, to give you all the tools and the skills to work together.

Ashley Garrett: There is a practical question coming in about how to get the slides. You can get them – they were sent out to you through the registration. We will also be recording – we have recorded this, and they will all be made available on our website on – as soon as we can get them up and accessible.

Wrap up and Conclusion



Ashley Garrett: Okay, so I am going to just wrap up and conclude, because I do not – I want to be respectful of your timing as well.

Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources

Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources

 http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/	 https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/
 http://www.htcourts.org/	
Special Collection: Trauma-Informed Domestic Violence Services http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVTraumaInformed-Overview	Runaway and Homeless Youth Tool Kit http://www.nrcdv.org/rhydtoolkit/critical-issues/

Ashley Garrett: So, here are – I kept saying throughout that there are some great resources and tools and I will let you know what those are. So, here are some of them. These are really compendium tools. So, they are toolkits and technical assistance resources that have a bunch of information within them. So, for those of you unfamiliar, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, they manage the 1–800 hotline for the federal government. You can call not only to report trafficking or to receive support from them, but also for great information, and they have got a great website as well.

Ashley Garrett: The Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide is a very robust resource for building collaboration on human trafficking in your communities looking at, and have a variety of resources available and ideas for how to do it, and where you can go for additional help.

Ashley Garrett: The Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, again, a phenomenal resource looking specifically at the nexus with the courts.

Ashley Garrett: And then there is some great special collections, specifically looking at trauma-informed domestic violence services, and runaway and homeless youth, all of which have, as we have talked about, a nexus to human trafficking.

Ashley Garrett: And so, these are just some of the many things. Part of why we wanted to highlight these is that they do not – it is not just a one – they can be a bit of a one-stop shop for you. So, there is a ton of resources and information to receive if you go to these, and be connected to a much more specific need that you may have.

Need More Help?

Need More Help? Specialized Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Providers



Ashley Garrett: If you need additional help beyond that, and beyond what is included there, we have got – we have highlighted here two very specific specialized human trafficking training and technical assistance providers that are available. And that would be OVC TTAC, which is where I am from, as well as the Center for Court Innovation. You have got their information there. And reach out. Ask for help. I think one of the messages we want to make sure come through loud and clear today, and through this series, is that we are here to support. That you are not in this alone in your community, and that there is a wealth of experience and information that is available to support you in doing this hard, but very valuable and important work.

Do not Forget – Upcoming Webinar Schedule

Don't Forget – Upcoming Webinar Schedule

<i>Balancing Collaboration, Confidentiality, and Privilege in Human Trafficking Cases</i>	June 18, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault</i>	July 9, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part I: Law Enforcement</i>	August 13, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part II: The Courts</i>	September 24, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET

All webinars are being recorded and will be available at:

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>

Ashley Garrett: So, on that note, I want to just do a reminder plug about the upcoming Webinars. If you found this one helpful, this is really the foundation to then set up what the next four will be specifically about. So, we talked broadly about collaboration and human trafficking today. The next one will be talking about how you balance collaboration, confidentiality, and privilege – a lot of what your questions were about. The next one is looking at how to develop collaboration for culturally-specific organizations. And then there will be a specific one looking at collaboration related to law enforcement and related to the courts.

Ashley Garrett: We did receive a huge turnout in registering for these, so if for some reason – they will also all be recorded and available on the OVC TTAC website. You just need to give us a little bit of time afterwards so we can get the transcripts up, so that they are available for everyone to be able to receive and see. But that website is listed right there.

Your Feedback is Important to us

Your feedback is important
to us – please take a few
minutes to fill out the online
evaluation form.

Thank you so much!

<https://www.research.net/s/May2815HTwebinar>

Ashley Garrett: And then, on that note, I am excited that we finished on time. So, I think it is really important that we get your feedback. We really want to make sure that this is meeting your needs. And so, when you click out of this – your – the Webinar, you will automatically, if you guys are in iLink, be taken to a survey. Please take just a couple of minutes to fill this out. If, for some reason, you are not on iLink and you are just listening in, that is the link to the survey, and we really value your input and feedback so that we can learn about how to continue to meet your needs, and how we can influence the upcoming Webinar series.

Ashley Garrett: So, on behalf of all of the partners that worked on this Webinar series, I want to thank you so much for your time, and we are really looking forward to being back together with you on June 18. Thanks so much, everyone, and have a great day.

[End.]