OVC
Webinar Transcript

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

July 9, 2015
Welcome

Jenna Smith: Welcome, everyone. Thank you so much for joining us today. My name is Jenna Smith, and before we begin I just want to go over some technical details. 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 session will resume shortly. We encourage you to also keep a copy of the PowerPoint accessible during the presentation in case of any technical difficulties. To access the PowerPoint, please refer to the reminder e-mail that was sent out to all participants this morning. Please note that these sessions are being recorded. Because we have such an incredible turnout for this series, the line will be muted. We will only be taking questions via the chat box, or through an e-mail address for those of you who are listening in on the phone and who are 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 get started. I am going to pass it over to Shawndell Dawson.

Shawndell Dawson: Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you very much for joining us today. I am Shawndell Dawson, the Senior Program Specialist with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program. We are a division of the Family and Youth Services Bureau that is in the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.
Shawndell Dawson: I am honored to welcome you all today to this Webinar entitled, Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault. This is the third Webinar that is part of a five-part series, co-sponsored by 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 FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act) program, and the State Justice Institute’s Human Trafficking and State Courts Collaborative.

Shawndell Dawson: The FVPSA program has had the privilege of administering federal funding through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to help support the network of domestic violence services, state domestic violence coalitions, national resource centers, and culturally-specific institutes for more than 30 years. We have been working with the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Gender-Based Violence, and Casa de Esperanza, the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, to develop training and technical assistance resources that will support your capacity to respond to the needs of trafficking survivors, incorporating key learnings from the dynamic work that many of you have been leading for years.

Shawndell Dawson: We have partnered with our colleagues in the Department of Justice, as well as within the Runaway and Homeless Youth program, and the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Office for Victims of Crime, to make sure that domestic violence and sexual violence programs, runaway and homeless youth programs, and culturally-specific community-based organizations are included as key partners and are supported as you all work with trafficking survivors.

Shawndell Dawson: Over the last 2 years, we have been working to support your capacity to respond to survivors’ needs, as well as trying to identify key resources and having key strategic
conversations with survivors so that we have survivors informed, and helping to support meaningful partnerships within local communities.

Shawndell Dawson: We are thrilled today that so many of you have demonstrated such a high interest in our Webinar series. More than 1,500 of you have registered to join us today. This five-part Webinar series offers strategies, practical tips, case studies, and resources to help you improve outcomes for the survivors in which you are working with and to enhance your program. Each Webinar highlights program models for potential replication, as well as features both local and national experts. Next slide, please.

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.

Learning Objectives for the Collaboration Series

Shawndell Dawson: During this 90-minute Webinar, presenters will discuss key considerations and strategies for collaborating with culturally-specific community-based organizations. You all have joined us today because you are – you equally recognize the importance of culturally-relevant trauma-informed advocacy, and how meaningful and important that it can be for trafficking survivors. The comprehensive approaches to supporting trafficking survivors require critical programmatic and staffing attention to cultural relevance, language access, and multiple forms of trauma, including historical trauma and the impact of oppression. And the only way to ensure that this form of advocacy is implemented for survivors is through meaningful partnerships with culturally-specific community-based organizations.
Shawndell Dawson: Our speakers today, Chic Dabby, Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Gender-Based Violence, and Michelle Ortiz, Deputy Director of Al Justice on behalf of our grantee, the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families, have a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and practical experience for working with survivors. They will be sharing with us today very generously to help us enhance our advocacy and programming going forward.

Shawndell Dawson: The bold objectives that are on the slide there represent the outcomes that we will be discussing and trying to cover today during this Webinar. Next slide, please.

**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.ojp.usdoj.gov/otf/OTF_HTF_StrategicPlan.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/otf/OTF_HTF_StrategicPlan.pdf)

Shawndell Dawson: The Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking is committed and structured to help all improve victim services and promote safety, healing, and justice for survivors. It recognizes the critical role that survivors play in elevating our understanding and raising awareness around the significant need and helping to shape services, and improving service delivery, as well as informing policy. This Plan also makes a federal commitment to ensuring that trafficking programs and services are survivor-centered, are culturally-relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.
Shawndell Dawson: I would like to end my welcoming remarks today by saying that we know that domestic violence and anti-trafficking communities share a long history of grassroots advocacy and increasing public awareness and informing public policy. And the partnerships strengthened by the Federal Strategic Action Plan enables us all to be able to work across fields to leverage our collective expertise and resources to assist the women, men, and children who have been victims of trafficking, both here as well as abroad. I am proud to be a part of a federal strategy that equips advocates and programs across the country, and in international communities, with the ability to offer culturally-relevant and trauma-informed programming that is survivor-centered as well as empowering.

Shawndell Dawson: I now would like to pass the floor over to Chic Dabby, Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Gender-Based Violence. Chic?

Chic Dabby: Thank you. Next slide, please. Can you go to the Outline?

Outline

Thank you to all survivors and victims for speaking out, teaching us, contributing their expertise, and building the field’s knowledge

I. Analyzing the dynamics of trafficking and sources of trauma

II. Cultural competency and culturally-specific community-based organizations

III. Effective collaboration at points of contact to provide culturally-specific, trauma-informed care to survivors

Chic Dabby: This is Chic Dabby, and as Shawndell mentioned in her introduction, we are one of the national resource centers that is funded by the FVPSA Office, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and we are very proud to be a grantee of that Office and to work with different federal agencies on advancing the knowledge of the field to address human trafficking, both international and domestic trafficking. The structure for this – today’s Webinar, we have three different sections that we will be addressing. And Michelle Ortiz and I will speak at specific times, and then also in the third section we will be going back and forth. So you will be hearing two different voices present some of the material.

Chic Dabby: Here is our plan. We will start by talking about just a quick overview about analysis of trafficking and trauma. And then the second section will be on cultural competency and working with culturally-specific community-based organizations. And then the last section will be on collaboration at different points of contact. Next slide.
I. Dynamics of Trafficking: Power and Control

I. DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING
Power & Control

- Domestic violence tells us about inequality and control in relationships; the extent of the violence tells us about the extent of the inequality

- Sexual violence tells us about repeated violations and coercion over the life course, often starting at a young age, and the exercise of abusive power

- Trafficking tells us about exploitation; the level of exploitation tells us about the levels of vulnerability and poverty in our social structures

Chic Dabby: When we think about the overlap and the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, what we see is how central power and control are to all these forms of gendered harms. When we look at domestic violence, it tells us about the inequality in relationships and the extent of control that is exercised.

Chic Dabby: Sexual violence tells us about repeated violence, repeated violations and coercion over the life course, and sexual violence often starts at a very young age.

Chic Dabby: Trafficking tells us about the power and control dynamics of exploitation, and the levels of exploitation tell us about the levels of vulnerability and poverty in our social structures. So, it is really important to emphasize that we often live in a culture of gender-based violence that has normalized abuse towards women and children, and marginalized communities, including LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) communities. Next slide.
Who is Victimized in Domestic and International Trafficking?

Who is victimized in domestic & international trafficking?

- Minors
- Adults
- Native women and girls
- U.S. and foreign born individuals
- Refugees
- Immigrants: LPRs/documented, undocumented
- LGBTQ youth and young adults
- Individuals in remote, rural, urban areas

Chic Dabby: Who is victimized in domestic and international trafficking? I know that many of you have been on previous – the first two Webinars, so we are not going to repeat some of that information. But we just wanted people to understand that there is a whole group of individuals who are entrapped in both domestic and international trafficking. Of course, minors and adults, native women and girls, U.S. and foreign-born refugees, immigrants who might be documented or undocumented, LGBTQ youth and young adults, and individuals who live in remote, rural, and urban areas and on native lands. Next slide.
Who are International Traffickers?

Chic Dabby: So who are the international traffickers? And there we see that the international traffickers can be a range. There is organized crime syndicates who are often very violent in their methods and purposes. They often have diversified portfolios in trafficking human beings, drugs, and guns. There are independently owned businesses. Third, there are large third-party labor recruiters, and these bring workers from foreign countries into the U.S. And then, there are community – community and family members who are also involved in trafficking rings. These can be the mom and pop operations, or folks with – members of the victim’s own community. Next slide.
Who are DMST / CSEC Traffickers?

Chic Dabby: So who are the traffickers in domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) or in commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)? Here the information that I present here comes from what victims of domestic minor sex trafficking have been telling us about – what victims and survivors have been telling us about who the controllers are and what the rubrics are and who the traffickers are.

Chic Dabby: So, firstly, we have a large number of pimp-controlled trafficking where there is often targeted recruitment of minors, and there is grooming and turning out. And the grooming is often can be a very long process, 6 months sometimes to basically engage the unsuspecting victim.

Chic Dabby: Then, there is family-controlled trafficking, which often starts with incest or some form of sexual abuse within the home, and then there is trading of that child between other family members and relatives, and then there is buying and selling so then there is actually money that – there are monetary transactions in family-controlled trafficking, although it may not start that way.

Chic Dabby: In gang-controlled trafficking, there is the recruitment by girls often to get elevated status in the gang, and gang-controlled trafficking can be quite violent with blackmail and threats as well.

Chic Dabby: The next form of control is transgender-controlled trafficking where gay, transgender, and a straight male minors can be trafficked, and they are often controlled – usually controlled by transgender women. This is a very controversial category because sometimes in many transgender and LGBTQ youth are not in their homes because of – because of their identity, they have been forced to leave home. And they often end up in group homes sharing spaces for safety, for just companionship, and for safety really, and to have a home. So sometimes they have this, they select
chosen families and they select who they are going to live with when they leave their own homes. And so we need to be cautious that we do not confuse or call every kind of situation as a traffic situation, especially in transgender-controlled trafficking.

Chic Dabby: And, lastly, crime syndicate-controlled trafficking. Again, these are traffickers with diversified portfolios, and sometimes these traffickers can change. So in the Balkan Region, there has been initially the crime syndicates are controlling – are trafficking in drugs, and then they see that the pimp-controlled trafficking is quite lucrative, so then they also start trafficking in – start human sex trafficking because then they sort of edge in on the, quote, “market.” Next slide.

**Common Misperceptions About DMST: People are Trafficked by Strangers**

Chic Dabby: One common misperception is that victims and survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking have been controlled and trafficked by strangers. But, as you can see from this chart, that almost 50 percent of domestic minor sex trafficking is conducted by family-controlled – is family-controlled trafficking. Next slide.
Root Causes

- **Gender oppression**: Culture normalizes objectifying, devaluing, abusing women and girls; marginalizing LGBTQ
- **Male demands for commodified sex**: Sex trafficking relies on male impunity – higher prices for younger girls
  - 100,000 estimated DMST victims annually, turning 10 tricks/day = 1 million male buyers/year
- **Escaping abuse**: Familial physical/sexual abuse, neglect, or abandonment; leaving home in hopes of greater safety
- **Money**: Organized crime, pimps find it lucrative w/ fewer penalties and losses than drugs and arms trafficking
- **Poverty | Debt traps**: Exploitation of poverty, reliance on systems of indebtedness created by local recruiters, organized crime
- **Demands for Cheap Labor**: Demands for cheap, exploitable labor in a globalized market

Chic Dabby: So what are some of the root causes? I know that is a very – you know, we all understand that it can be a really complex analysis when we look at trafficking. But I just want to quickly allude to gender oppression. Again, we live in a culture that normalizes objectification of women and girls, devaluation, abuse, and marginalization.

Chic Dabby: We also have confronted and have to confront in our own work the male demands and male expectations for commodified sex. So the increase of male impunity is very central to trafficking. And if we just look at some very rough estimates, there are 100,000 estimated victims annually, and if they are turning 10 tricks a day, we have 1 million male buyers per year. So we have to ask ourselves, who are these men that are buying sex from minors? And the younger the child – the younger the girl, the more they are willing to pay.

Chic Dabby: One of the other root causes is escaping abuse. And so, many traffic victims have left their homes because of the sexual abuse and neglect that they – that they experienced at home. And they leave home in hopes of greater safety. This is true also for international trafficking survivors.

Chic Dabby: Money is one of the root causes, of course. Pimps find it very lucrative, and organized crime makes a lot of money from human trafficking.

Chic Dabby: Poverty and debt traps. So from the survivors’ and victim’s point of view, there is so much poverty, and traffickers rely on this exploitation – on exploiting this poverty and creating systems of indebtedness that people cannot escape from.

Chic Dabby: And, lastly, the demands for cheap labor. In a globalized market, we see this in very large numbers, and it is one of the drivers of trafficking. Next slide.
Chic Dabby: So, in the previous Webinars you all went over the definition of trafficking, and I am not going to do that here. But the reason I wanted to show the definition of trafficking is to have us see so many points in this when we look at actions, means, and purposes, that there are – that all these show us the location of trauma, and we can identify so many sources of trauma, both physical and psychological, and economic traumas that are caused by any of these actions, means, and purposes. Next slide.
Chic Dabby: So what can some of the sources of trauma be? As we just saw, the actions and means used by – used to traffic individuals. The purposes for which they are exploited, so if you are being trafficked for organ harvesting as compared to sexual exploitation, compared to fraudulent adoption, transporting drugs and serving as drug mules, all these purposes affect the kinds of trauma you are going to experience.

Chic Dabby: The climate of fear, danger, and indebtedness is a large source of trauma. Of course, poverty before being entrapped, and vulnerability, abusive homes as we know from runaway youth, that runaway youth have given us the clear message that the streets to them feel safer than their homes. And we also know from the data that only one-third of runaway youth are reported by their parents as missing. So the home is also a source of trauma.

Chic Dabby: Negative help-seeking experiences. Repeated sexual assault. And the types of relationships or attachments that survivors have to their controller. As one pimp said, “Anyone can control her body, but only a pimp can control her mind.” Next slide
Chic Dabby: So, here Michelle Ortiz will talk about cultural competency.

Michelle Ortiz: Thank you, Chic, thank you for providing such a great overview on human trafficking and trauma. I am going to be providing a definition and overview of cultural competence and what it means to collaborate with culturally-specific organizations in the context of human trafficking. Next slide.
Michelle Ortiz: So, what is cultural competence? And here I have provided a definition that was developed by Terry Cross. And Terry Cross developed a model called the Cross Model of Cultural Competence. This model provides an individual and institutional framework where individuals and institutions can engage their cultural competence.

Michelle Ortiz: When we talk about cultural competence, we are talking about a set of behaviors, attitudes, policies that all come together in a system, agency, or individual, and enable that system, agency, or individual to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

Michelle Ortiz: And, a culturally competent system of care acknowledges and incorporates, at every level, the importance of culture, the assessment of cross-cultural relations, and understanding and vigilance towards the dynamics that result from cultural differences, the expansion of cultural knowledge and the adaptation of services to meet culturally unique needs. Next slide, please.
Cultural Competence Involves

- learning to build awareness, knowledge and skills to better understand, communicate with, and serve culturally diverse clients;

- identifying one’s own assumptions and biases; and

- creating flexibility in your service provision that creates space for varying cultural and individual needs and expectations

Michelle Ortiz: Cultural competence is about building knowledge and skills, learning to build awareness, knowledge, and skills to better understand, communicate with, and serve culturally diverse clients. And we will talk later about how collaborating with culturally-specific organizations can increase an individual and an agency’s knowledge and skills, and increase its cultural competence.

Michelle Ortiz: Cultural competence also involves identifying one’s own assumptions and biases. And when we talk about our own assumptions and biases, we are talking about self-reflection and self-awareness, and understanding that our perceptions and the way that we serve our clients are very much informed by our own cultural norms. And therefore, in order to be flexible and provide culturally-relevant services, you have to first identify where you are and how your own culture affects the way you provide services.

Michelle Ortiz: Again, flexibility is key. You need to be able to create space that provides very cultural and individual needs and expectations. Next slide, please.
Michelle Ortiz: Why is cultural competence important when working with survivors of human trafficking? Next slide, please.
Case Example: Maria

Maria is a 32 year old indigenous woman born in rural Guatemala who speaks very basic Spanish and an obscure dialect of a (fairly) common indigenous Guatemalan language, Kanjobal. A co-worker observed bruises on her arm and offered to help Maria. The co-worker called the police.

- The police attempted to communicate with Maria using their Spanish-language interpreter. The police officer understood that Maria needed help, and transported her and her children to a DV shelter across the county.
- Once at the shelter, Maria insisted that she wanted to leave and go home. The Spanish-speaking shelter advocates feared that she was returning to a dangerous situation and advised her not to leave.
- She had no transportation and could not leave the shelter without financial assistance.

Michelle Ortiz: I wanted to start this section on cultural competence with a real story, and this is a case that I worked on. I work at an organization where we are very proud of our cultural competence. All of our staff is Spanish-speaking or Haitian Creole speaking, and the majority of our staff are either Spanish-speaking immigrants or first generation Americans that come from a Latin American background. And this case kind of awoke us to what it means when we are lacking cultural competence outside of the populations that we are used to working with. It taught us a lot about how we needed to be flexible and expand our knowledge and skills in order to provide services to Maria.

Michelle Ortiz: And in the next two slides I have detailed the story of Maria who is a 32-year-old indigenous woman from rural Guatemala. Her Spanish was very basic but she believed it was, you know, we could get by on very basic communication. And she spoke her – her native language was an obscure dialect of Kanjobal, which is a pretty common indigenous Guatemalan language. The police were called when a coworker noticed injuries on Maria’s body. And through a Spanish-language interpreter, the police attempted to communicate with her. The police were able to gather that she needed help, and specifically what that help was not clear, but the police officer transported Maria and her children to a domestic violence shelter across the county, about 45 minutes away from where she was living and working.

Michelle Ortiz: Once she arrived at the shelter, Maria begged to be able to go home. And the Spanish-speaking shelter advocates convinced her to stay, and were so afraid that she was returning to a dangerous situation, they advised her not to leave. She could not leave without their help, so she had no way to just walk out of the shelter and get home. She had no one else to contact. She had no financial assistance, and so she had to stay at this domestic violence shelter. That was her understanding. Next slide.
Michelle Ortiz: Once she was at the domestic violence shelter, I received a call that there was a victim of domestic violence and if I could do an intake. And when I attempted to communicate with Maria, the Spanish definitely was not sufficient to understand her story, and we tried to get a Kanjobal telephonic interpreter, but they still could not get through. The only one thing that did get through was that Maria thought she was in jail. She kept asking, “Why am I in jail? Why am I in jail?” And I just did not know what to do because the telephonic interpreter, we were still not getting what we needed. And then I remembered that we had a partner a couple of counties away that specialized in serving indigenous Guatemalan families. So I picked up the phone and called this culturally-specific organization and they passed around the phone until they could find a member of their staff who could communicate with Maria. And it was through this partnership with the culturally-specific organization where we were really able to understand Maria’s story, explain to Maria what was going on, clarify who we were, what role we were trying to play, and really understand her needs and expectations.

Michelle Ortiz: The culturally-specific organization was also able to put certain cultural – to put her experience in a cultural context. When I tried to talk to Maria about her working conditions and her domestic violence experience, a lot of stuff was not getting through because I did not understand the cultural norm. I did not understand what marriage meant to her or what work meant to her, and what her expectations were. And I was listening to her story, putting it into my own cultural understandings, and the culturally-specific organization helped me gain the knowledge that I needed to provide the best services for her that were culturally-relevant. Without that culturally-specific organization’s assistance, I really – I really feel like Maria would not have had access to justice or access to culturally-specific services, and it was just really crucial in this case. Next slide.
Michelle Ortiz: So when you are working with trafficking survivors, just like when you are working with a domestic violence or sexual assault victim, it is important to understand how culture actually plays a role in the experience, in the trafficking experience or the domestic violence experience. There may be cultural nuances that affect the actual dynamics of human trafficking, or increase the survivor’s vulnerability to be victimized.

Michelle Ortiz: The survivor may come from a culture where gender violence is normalized, where violence against women and exploitation of women is normalized.

Michelle Ortiz: Traffickers may also use cultural norms for culturally-specific means of coercion to control the victim. So without cultural competence, service providers and law enforcement might not recognize a situation of one of human trafficking, because we might not acknowledge or recognize certain actions of coercive due to our own cultural norms/assumptions.

Michelle Ortiz: And I can provide two examples of this. In some cultures, sexual activity may be something that is extraordinarily shameful. And we have seen clients whose traffickers control them just by threatening to tell their families that they were engaging in sex work or in sexual activity, where the taboo against sexual activity may be so strong that it might be more significant to the victim’s family than the fact that it was done against their will. And so, law enforcement or service providers might not see that as enough of coercion, and may not understand the power of such a threat, without the cultural context.

Michelle Ortiz: Another example in the labor trafficking context is we have seen some victims who are in a debt bondage situation where they are forced to work to pay off a debt to a trafficker.
And in some cultures, just the shame of either not paying a debt, being unable to pay off a debt and feeling an obligation to pay off a debt, or the shame of returning home without – empty handed. Right? Coming to the United States in an effort to work and bring money back to their home, and feeling that they failed that that. Sometimes that level of shame or expectation, which is culturally-specific, may be strong enough to facilitate or maintain an exploitative labor situation. Next slide.

**Trauma May be Culturally Specific**

Michelle Ortiz: Trauma may also be culturally-specific, and may affect the way a survivor experiences trauma. As Chic mentioned before, some of these survivors that we work with may come from cultures where gender-based violence is normalized. And we might be expecting a typical, what we call typical, response to being forced to work in the sex industry, or to sexual violence, and we might be surprised that our survivor does not seem to be expressing or having a certain response to having experienced sexual violence. And this can be for a number of reasons. They may come from a culture where sexual violence is normalized, where physical abuse against women is normalized, or where people just simply express themselves differently as a result of trauma. So they might not cry in front of you, or they might not tell their story in a manner that you would expect a victim of human trafficking to express themselves. They might not openly express pain or fear. And again, you want to be careful because while a lot of these things have to do with culture, they may also have to do just with that individual. And so you do not want to either impose your assumptions about a culture on to the individual if they are not behaving the way that you might think they should because of the culture from which they came. Next slide.
Culture May Shape Your Client’s Needs and Expectations

- Culture may affect your client’s willingness to seek help from mainstream services or report the trafficking to law enforcement

- Culture may affect a survivor’s expectations

- Culture will most certainly influence the needs of your client (social, religious, dietary, etc.)

Michelle Ortiz: Again, when we talk about your client’s needs and expectations and how culture plays into the trafficking experience, it also – culture will affect the way that your client receives services, what kind of services your client needs.

Michelle Ortiz: So, first of all, culture may affect your client’s willingness to seek help in the first instance. Right? Many of our clients come from cultures and societies where these systems and services simply do not exist. So part of being culturally competent is orienting your client and explaining to your client who you are, who you work for, and what these processes and systems are, and how they can help your client. A lot of this is really understanding that where your client comes from, domestic violence might not be a crime. Sexual violence might not be investigated or there may not be services for sexual assault survivors. Your client might also come from a country where law enforcement or authorities cannot be trusted, where there may be corruption and they may be extremely afraid of telling their story to any authority or any law enforcement agency.

Michelle Ortiz: Culture may also affect a survivor’s expectations, particularly when it comes to service provision. So your client may feel that, you know, depending on their background or on their individual needs, that they are not getting the services that they need, that they are being offered services that are kind of not relevant to their situation, or that they are not having access to culturally-relevant services.

Michelle Ortiz: And, of course, culturally – culture will influence the needs of your clients, the basic needs, social needs, the religious needs, the dietary needs of your client. Next slide.
Culture May Also Affect Your Own Ability to Provide Culturally-Relevant Services:

• Our own understanding of and attitudes toward trauma, human trafficking, and social services may limit our ability to “think outside the box” and provide truly client-centered services that are both trauma-informed and culturally responsive.

• A lack of understanding of cultural context may inhibit our ability to understand a survivor’s needs and expectations.

Michelle Ortiz: Again, as I mentioned before, self-awareness is extremely important when we are talking about cultural competence. Our own understanding of and attitude toward trauma, human trafficking, and social services may limit our ability to think outside the box and provide truly client-centered services that are both trauma-informed and culturally-responsive.

Michelle Ortiz: A lack of understanding of cultural context may inhibit our ability to understand a survivor’s needs and expectations. Next slide.
The Trauma-Informed Approach lays a Strong Foundation for Cultural Competence:

- In the same way that a trauma-informed approach considers the particular experiences and needs of a client based on her individual experience, a culturally competent approach looks at the survivor’s experiences and needs with a flexible, adaptable lens that provides space for the variance in culture.

- Try to understand her reality without imposing your own assumptions based on mainstream ideas or stereotypes you may have about her culture.

- Understand that a survivor’s individual needs may be very different within the same cultural group.

Michelle Ortiz: The trauma-informed approach lays a really strong foundation for cultural competence. So, in the same way that a trauma-informed approach considers particular experiences and needs of a client based on her individual experience, a culturally competent approach looks at the survivor’s experiences and needs with a flexible, adaptable lens that provides space for the variance in culture.

Michelle Ortiz: You want to try to understand her reality without imposing your own assumptions based on mainstream ideas or stereotypes you may have about her culture. When you are working with a survivor of human trafficking, you want to try to understand her reality, her experience, her trauma in the way that she defines it. You want to ask open-ended questions. Ask her how she feels about her situation. Allow her to define her experience. Allow her to define what her needs are.

Michelle Ortiz: Understand that a survivor’s individual needs may be very different within the same cultural group. Next slide.
Increase Cultural Competence by Collaborating with Culturally-Specific Organizations

Michelle Ortiz: Increasing cultural competence by collaborating with culturally-specific organizations. And here I will provide an introduction to what is a culturally-specific organization and how we can collaborate. Next slide.
What is a Culturally-Specific Organization?

The majority of members and/or clients are from a particular community that shares a culture (typically around shared race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, disability etc.)

The staff, board, and leadership reflects the community that is served

The organizational environment is culturally-focused and identified as such by members

The organization has a track record of successful community engagement and involvement with the community being served

The community being served recognizes the organization or program as a culturally-specific organization

Michelle Ortiz: So what is a culturally-specific organization? A culturally-specific organization is one in which the majority of members or clients are from a particular community that shares a culture. And so, what is culture? It can be defined through shared race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, disability.

Michelle Ortiz: Typically in a culturally-specific organization, the staff, board, and leadership reflect the community that is served. The organizational environment is culturally focused and identified as such by members. The organization has a track record of successful community engagement and involvement with the community being served. I think most importantly, the community being served recognizes this organization or program as a culturally-specific organization. Next slide.
What are the benefits of Culturally Specific Organizations?

- Services are designed to address the needs of the culturally specific population
- Client’s primary experience is as an insider
- Client’s own culture is centered and affirmed
- In addition to services, CSO’s can provide your client with a sense of community after being displaced as a result of human trafficking

Michelle Ortiz: What are the benefits of culturally-specific organizations? There are many benefits to what we are going to call CSOs (culturally-specific organizations). Services are designed to address the particular needs of this culturally-specific population.

Michelle Ortiz: Your client will experience services of this organization as an insider instead of an outsider being served by a mainstream or not culturally responsive organization. The client’s own culture is centered and affirmed. And, in addition to the services that a CSO might provide, your client may be met with a sense of community after being displaced as a result of human trafficking. Next slide.
How can DV/SA Providers Initiate Collaboration with CSOs to better serve survivors of trafficking?

- Identify Culturally Specific Organizations in your community
- Develop relationships before you work on a case (if possible)
- Request a training on the Culturally Specific Needs of survivors from that community (by the CSO)
- Identify gaps in services and/or accommodations that each organization can fill
- ASK the CSO how you can improve services to increase your cultural competence for the culturally specific population

Michelle Ortiz: How can domestic violence and sexual assault providers (DV/SA) initiate collaboration with CSOs to better serve survivors of trafficking? The first step, of course, is to identify culturally-specific organizations in your community. Try to develop relationships before you work on a case. Request a training on the culturally-specific needs of survivors from the community, preferably by that CSO.

Michelle Ortiz: Work together with the CSO to identify gaps in services and/or accommodations that each organization can fill. You can request services – I am sorry – trainings from the culturally-specific organization to develop your knowledge and skills and capacity to serve a culturally-specific group. While, at the same time, offer your expertise on domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking to that culturally-specific organization.

Michelle Ortiz: One of the most important things is to ask. Ask the culturally-specific organization how your agency can improve its services, how you can increase your cultural competence for this culturally-specific population. One of the things that we have done is worked with culturally-specific organizations to review our intake tools, our screening tools, to review our case management procedures, and just to speak generally about the services that we provide and how that culturally-specific organization assess our cultural competence. And once you identify these gaps, you can work together with the CSO to improve your staff’s cultural competence, and the services that your agency can provide. Of course, hiring culturally-specific staff always helps, but if you do not have capacity to hire culturally-specific staff, these partnerships with culturally-specific organizations are key. Next slide.
Michelle Ortiz: Beyond assisting with increasing your cultural competence, CSOs can provide a variety of services. So depending on the culturally-specific organization, they can provide services such as interpreter and translation services, victim advocacy with the criminal justice system, accompaniment to medical appointments, child care, religious services and support, housing and/or emergency shelter, financial assistance, social interaction and events. Next slide.
Culturally-Specific CBOs

- Increase access for historically marginalized survivors
- Address intersections of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other forms of gender violence
- Provide multilingual services in up to 40 languages
- Identify dynamics and trends to tailor services to survivors in their communities
- Design trauma-informed interventions pertinent to types of trauma their communities experience
- Make available a range of resources and remedies
- Collaborate with other domestic violence, sexual assault and anti-trafficking programs
- Advocate for systems change to mitigate barriers
- Organize cultural change through community engagement

Michelle Ortiz: Now Chic will take over.

Chic Dabby: Hello. So, I just want to clarify very quickly about culturally-specific community-based organizations (CBOs), and mentioned how, you know, our role, as Michelle pointed out, has been to increase access for historically marginalized survivors. And to design trauma-informed interventions that are pertinent to the types of trauma that communities experience. So there are multiple types of trauma, historical trauma, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), insidious trauma, [inaudible/faint voice], and community based organizations are given to understand...

Jenna Smith: Hi, Chic?

Chic Dabby: Yes?

Jenna Smith: Hi, this is Jenna. We are just getting some feedback that people are having trouble hearing you. Do you mind speaking up a little?

Chic Dabby: Yes, okay, sorry.

Jenna Smith: Thanks so much.

Chic Dabby: That should improve it. So, yes, so I just wanted to point out that community-based organizations have a deeper and a more complex understanding of trauma that is culturally-specific. And I want to say that all communities have culture and have cultural specificity around the types of trauma. Next slide please.
Chic Dabby: To really just talk in a quick point about Asian and Pacific Islander Domestic Violence programs, many of our programs have been providing services to trafficked individuals, mostly trafficked women and some minors, since 1999. So domestic violence programs have been working at this intersection in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities for a long time, partially because in terms of sex trafficking, many, many of the victims come from Asia. And given the language access and the multilingual advocacy that is available in these programs, some of our programs can provide services in 20 to 40 different Asian languages. So they are also very significant in being able to connect to survivors.

Chic Dabby: And, lastly, of course, collaboration is critical to all of us, and the purpose and the focus of the collaboration becomes to mitigate systems barriers so systems are actually gateways to services and to justice. Next.
Chic Dabby: So here we go. Shawndell?

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you, Chic and Michelle, for a very informative presentation so far. We have had a couple of questions come in. One of them is related to the various levels of complex trauma, specifically sexual trauma that child victims suffer from, and considering their experiences of sexual violence, multiple experiences with sexual violence during a trafficking period. And the questions are – is: Are these children provided the same therapy provided to victims of sexual abuse? Or is there an alternative therapy that is considered related to complex trauma? So can we talk a little bit about some of the resources that may be available that are trauma-informed for working with child victims versus adults?

Chic Dabby: Yeah, this is Chic. I want to point out the distinction between trauma-informed care and trauma-specific interventions. So, generally, the trauma-informed care approach is, you know, understanding the sources of trauma, being able to explain that to a survivor so they have an understanding of their own trauma, and creating a climate of sort of readiness and acceptance within the agency that is culturally-specific and caring, and understands also the issues of vicarious trauma, secondary trauma. And I think it is a very good question because for some of the victims and survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking, as well as for minors who are entrapped in trafficking, it is possible and I think it is the case that often just trauma-informed care is not sufficient. Of course, you need to that, that is the climate of the service agency, but that they also need some trauma-specific interventions, and they can benefit and be helped by therapy that addresses this trauma.

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you, Chic. The next question is centered around cultural relevancy and cultural competency. There is a question related to identifying credible resources that have been found to provide meaningful information about a survivor’s culture of origin, as well as how exploitation is experienced or maybe experienced the culture of exploitation. And so, Michelle, you
mentioned before dialoguing and forming meaningful partnerships with cultural-specific community-based organizations, and partnering with them to assess and do cross training. But do you have other thoughts around resources or sources of information for our participants today?

Michelle Ortiz: We can pass out or send via e-mail some more general resources where they might be able to look up organizations and access. In your local area, what we have done is done outreach events where we have invited, you know, put fliers up at churches and invited culturally-specific organizations to attend an outreach event that we have hosted where we can understand who they are and what services they provide. And, typically, the ones who are interested in assisting, particularly in the areas of domestic violence and human trafficking, are interested in discussing further and meeting further and developing relationships. With respect to an online resource, I can think about it and send out an e-mail.

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you. Chic, can you talk a bit more about the work of the culturally-specific community-based resource centers and organizations?

Chic Dabby: Yeah, and I just want to add to the question about sources, Amnesty International often has country condition reports, and those I think are a very good source and are used for, you know, asylum applications, etc. All right, I am sorry, Shawndell, what was your second question?

Shawndell Dawson: Just to expand a bit more about the different culturally-specific community-based organizations and institutes that exist that have resources and information around experiences of sexual violence, domestic violence, and trauma.

Chic Dabby: Yeah. So, we are one of the national resource centers that is funded by the FVPSA Office. And, in addition, there is the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health, and they have a wealth of resources put together about the, you know, intersections of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence and the trauma, the resulting trauma, and then approaches to address both the trauma and to create trauma-informed organizations. They also do have a section about how this affects children. It is not specifically about trafficking, but that resource is available on trauma. And at the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Gender-Based Violence, we actually have a technical assistance brief on domestic violence – I am sorry – on trafficking and looking at the intersections of trauma. Many of the culturally-specific programs, the National Latin@ Network that Michelle is representing today, the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African-American community, the National Center on Juvenile and Family Court Judges, all these programs are looking at trauma-informed services, trauma-informed courtrooms, trauma-informed systems. So there is a real attempt to kind of create a systemwide understanding of trauma-informed care rather than just, you know, if you land at the right place you will get trauma-informed care. And that is part of the sort of mitigating barriers because if you do not understand the trauma, you do not understand the barriers that it throws up, and so many of us, many systems are working on trauma-informed care.

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you, Chic. Our next question before we move on in the presentation is around finding and identifying translation services within smaller communities, especially that collaborate with law enforcement. Do you all have some ideas related to that that you can share with our participants today?

Chic Dabby: Is this about translation, written translation and oral interpretation? Or just translation and interpretation generally?
Shawndell Dawson: The question was specific to translation services, so it was not specified whether it was oral or written.

Chic Dabby: Okay. So, this is Chic. For translation, you know, we would – there are professional organizations that translate information, and I would just urge some caution to translate information into other languages, whether those communities are literate in their own language. Sometimes languages are fairly recently, you know, that have the written form like Hmong, so not everybody is literate in Hmong. And so, you know, really assessing the use of translated materials is going to be important initially. And then checking with professional programs. At the Asian and Pacific Institute, we have a whole TA program that is connected to interpretation and translation, and we can certainly provide – answer any questions about resources that you are looking for.

Michelle Ortiz: This is Michelle. I can add that in emergency situations there are multiple telephonic interpreter services that are not always the best option but are there in an emergency. And also, here in South Florida, we have developed our own language access program for Haitian survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. And this is because when first responders were responding to a domestic violence or trafficking situation, law enforcement did not have capacity to properly interview Haitian survivors. And so we created a small group of stakeholders together and found volunteers that were willing to take the time to be appropriately trained on domestic violence and human trafficking, and willing to sign confidentiality statements. And we created our own language access response for Haitian survivors. And so far, you know, it has had its hiccups as we developed it further, but you know, in our community we created our own response, which I thought was also crucial due to the culturally-specific organizations that we work with.

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you, Michelle, and thank you, Chic. We will move further into our presentation and we will pause again before our Webinar ends to have our second question-and-answer session. So please keep your questions rolling in. We are keeping track of them.

Chic Dabby: Next slide.
Chic Dabby: Jenna, do you want people to take the poll whilst we start talking?

Jenna Smith: Hi, yeah, absolutely. So, everyone, you should see a poll pop up on your screen. Please take a minute to just respond to the question there. Thanks so much.

Chic Dabby: Jenna, can you prompt when we are ready to move to the next slide after you have got responses?

Jenna Smith: Sure, absolutely. We are starting to get some answers trickle in. Once we get some more, I will share the results. If there is another question that you want to answer while people are responding, we can do that as well.

Shawndell Dawson: We do have a question about the best way to approach a smaller demographic area in terms of – from what they are learning. They are not far from a main trafficking hub and so they are trying to figure out the best strategy for approach, I guess, for a collaboration standpoint around trafficking and trauma and cultural relevancy. So do you have suggestions on approaching sort of smaller communities where there may not be as clearly defined sort of services identified or programs?

Chic Dabby: Michelle, do you want to take that answer?

Michelle Ortiz: Sure. You know, again, I think it is about conducting outreach and, you know, sometimes there may not be formal culturally-specific organizations, they might not be a registered nonprofit or have a building that they work out of. But if you do some work on the ground and try to connect even – sometimes it is business owners, sometimes it is churches or temples, and make sure that they understand the services that you provide. I understood the question to be outreach to reach survivors in other populations. Is that correct? In small cultural populations?
Shawndell Dawson: It was not as specific, but they were referencing sort of a smaller demographic, so I think so. It is safe to assume.

Michelle Ortiz: Yeah, I mean, I think like with any other attempt at collaboration or outreach, you know, it is about doing the work on the ground and getting out into the community and creating ties, and approaching religious entities and other small social service agencies who are willing or responsive to your attempts to collaborate and reach out, so that they understand the services that you provide and what you are trying to do. And I think, you know, without that communication and going out into those communities, it is not going to happen. You have got to go out there and do that legwork.

Jenna Smith: And Chic and Michelle, you will notice I just shared the results of the poll. We got some responses, so thank you to those of you who replied to the question.

Chic Dabby: Okay, can we go to the next slide? I am trying to keep my eye on the time since we have 25 minutes left and we have a whole third section to cover.

Jenna Smith: Absolutely.

**III. Collaboration at Points of Contact**

Chic Dabby: So, here we are. This is Chic Dabby. And for this section, I will be starting off by talking about some of the different—talking about the points of contact and how collaboration and collaboration with culturally-specific organizations is really critical to providing these services. Next slide.
Chic Dabby: I want to point out that for many of us who work in domestic violence or sexual assault programs, when we are starting to work with survivors of human trafficking that there is one very significant difference, and that is the level of danger that these survivors might be facing. And that affects the way we can also provide services. So, with domestic violence there is generally one abuser looking for one partner, and trying to track her down. But with trafficking, you have crime syndicates who can get information very rapidly, have lots of resources to track down the trafficked individuals. So the level of danger is an important consideration in collaboration at points of contact. And the types of traffickers who are controlling it, the state of the investigation, many of these issues affect the levels of endangerment. One thing that often happens when there are groups of trafficked victims, then somebody in there might actually previously be victimized but now has moved into middle management and is not properly identified now as a trafficker, which also then increases the danger level. Next slide.
Collaboration: (a) Raids / Stings

Raid are traumatic leading to potential jail time or homelessness, increased suicide risk

Establish protocols for coordinated response between law enforcement and advocates before raids are conducted in order to meet victim needs and separate out traffickers

**Being trauma-informed**

- Provide emotional safety, e.g., make appropriate clothing available for sex trafficking victims
- Understand sources of trauma, e.g., debt, separation from pimp, danger to self or family
- Identify triggers such as being in confined spaces

**Culturally-specific CBOs have**

- Bilingual advocates who can speak victims’ languages
- CBO’s community connections that can help start identifying who the traffickers might be
- Community resources to help identify minor trafficked victims

Chic Dabby: So, starting with the first point of contact, starting with raids and sting operations, I want to point out that raids can be quite traumatic because there is so much dislocation that happens when there is a sting operation or police raid. And it is very critical that community-based organizations, and advocates, and law enforcement coordinate a response before the raid is conducted in order to meet the victim needs and to separate out the traffickers.

Chic Dabby: So being trauma-informed means providing emotional safety, making appropriate clothing available, for example. Many times people talk about being sucked up in a raid and then they are wearing scanty clothing and they are sitting in cold police departments or jail cells even just without any adequate clothing. So those are very small ways to think about being trauma-informed.

Chic Dabby: It is important to understand the sources of trauma. For most trafficked individuals, debt is a huge source of trauma because it endangers them, not paying off the debt endangers them and endangers their families in their home countries.

Chic Dabby: Identifying triggers and understanding how being in a confined space might be a trauma trigger for some individuals, especially if they were sexually abused in their home.

Chic Dabby: So, what do culturally-specific organizations bring to this? They have bilingual advocates who can speak the victims’ languages. They can have connections to the community which help identify who the traffickers might be. And they can also have connections and the ability...
to sort out which of the victims are minors, because they may not say that they are minors but there would be ways that community-based organizations, because of their cultural understanding and language capacity, can get that information, which means then that their response to minors would be different.

Chic Dabby: Michelle, did you have any…?

Michelle Ortiz: I just wanted to add that with some culturally-specific organizations you want to be careful particularly if the community is very small. The survivor may or may not feel comfortable working with someone from their own community. And, again, this is something – this is why you have to be so open with your client and ensure that you are asking the right questions to understand your client’s needs and expectations. So we have had cases where our clients, we have directly asked, “Do you feel comfortable working with someone from your community who can help you with X, Y, and Z?” And we have had cases where they have said, “No, I do not want anyone from my village or anyone from my culture to help me because they know my mom and I do not want my mom to know what is going on.” Or they might know the trafficker. So that is also something that you want to be sensitive to and understanding of, just as you would when asking a survivor if they feel uncomfortable telling their experience to a man as opposed to a woman. Again, this is from a victim centered trauma-informed perspective. You want to have that same kind of consciousness about what your client’s needs and expectations are.

Chic Dabby: This is Chic. And that point actually applies later down the road as well, because oftentimes, especially individuals from a small community group who have been exploited for sex trafficking, many community members might have been buying sex from those very women. So, you know, in our work with domestic violence programs and survivors, we try to – we understand the connection to community and the reintegration and link to community. But for trafficked survivors, that link to community can actually be a source of danger. Next slide, please.
Collaboration: (b) Arrest

Trafficked individuals are victims, not criminals, they must be interviewed, not interrogated. “No one talked to me like I was a real person outside a criminal case.”

**Being trauma-informed**

- Help victims feel in control: Provide clear information about procedures, choices victims have, impact of their decisions on next steps, use language that minors and those with limited English or education levels can understand
- Help victims manage feelings: Offering respect and compassion can allay victims’ mistrust, fears; understand their loyalty to traffickers and anticipated ‘rescue’ by them
- Identify trauma triggers/sources: previous arrests, interrogations in their home countries, loss of earnings and future income

**Culturally-specific Resources: Advocates can help**

- Identify interpreters not connected to traffickers, or for languages of lesser diffusion; serve as observer about interpretation inconsistencies
- Provide culturally-specific interview tips e.g., explain how names on false documents don’t match what victims state
- Find safe spaces for victims to be released to

*Walking Prey* by Holly Austin Smith

Chic Dabby: So, coming to... So, moving along on the points of contact. If we look at arrest, the difficulty and the issue that so many programs face is that law enforcement has been starting from the assumption that women, especially in sex trafficking, are criminals. So they are the ones who are arrested. And slowly, as there is more awareness about this issue and there is more training of law enforcement, they are starting to understand that they are victims, not criminals, and that they need to therefore be interviewed as victims and not interrogated as criminals. Holly Smith says how “No one talked to me like I was a real person outside a criminal case.” And so that is part of then, you know, creating that trauma-informed environment.

Chic Dabby: Helping victims feel in control can be a very critical piece of the trauma-informed care because many of them have not been in control and have been in so many situations where somebody else was in control. This involves providing clear information about procedures, the choices that victims have, the impact of these decisions on the next steps. Because it is very hard to understand this chain that happens in the system and how certain decisions at certain points affect the next steps. And then, it is also important to use language that minors and those with limited English or lower education levels can understand.

Chic Dabby: Being trauma-informed means helping victims manage their feelings and understanding that many times they feel loyal to their traffickers. They have connections and bonds with traffickers, and understanding that is, again, important to disclosure and getting – providing them with the services.

Chic Dabby: Identifying triggers and trauma sources which can be, whether they have been arrested previously or interrogations in their home countries, and loss of earnings and future income is again a big source of trauma.
Chic Dabby: So what can culturally-specific resources and advocates, how can we help? We can help by identifying interpreters who are not connected to the traffickers. And for sort of rare languages or languages of lesser diffusion, we can also find those kinds of interpreters or bilingual speakers. And we can provide culturally-specific interview tips. I think, Michelle, you were pointing out some of these examples, too. But one issue that comes up a lot with trafficked individuals is, especially international victims, but also some domestic, is that their given name is not actually the name that they are necessarily using, and documents can have false names. So then that immediately becomes a way that their credibility is attacked because their interviewers feel like, well, they are not even using the correct name. So, as culturally-specific organizations, we can explain why those names may not match up.

Chic Dabby: And, also – it is also important at arrest, if the trafficker belongs to a large crime syndicate and it is a big ring, then they will send their lawyers to, quote, “represent” those individuals who have been arrested by the police. But, in fact, as advocates, we can explain to victims that those lawyers are eventually going to be representing the trafficker’s interest and not the victim’s interest. Michelle?

Michelle Ortiz: So, I just wanted to add that at all these points of contact, particularly the ones that involve law enforcement, you want to be sure that your – that the victim or survivor understands the role of each individual. So, it is really important that they understand that the victim advocate or the culturally-specific organization is not working for law enforcement, or is not working for the government, and is there solely to provide for the client and provide, you know, based on their needs and expectations whatever services are appropriate. For many of these survivors, particularly when dealing with law enforcement, there may be a lack of trust of authority, of governmental figures, of law enforcement based on the experiences, particularly for foreign-born victims who may come from countries where there is a lot of corruption, and where calling the police is not always going to be the right answer. And this is where culturally-specific resources and organizations can really help provide the client or the survivor with the cultural context in terms of understanding the American cultural context and what the systems are that they will be encountering, beginning with a raid or an arrest.

Chic Dabby: Okay, next slide.
Collaboration: (c) Investigation

“Uncooperative” victims: Fear? Hostility? Self-protection?

**Being trauma-informed**

- Minimize re-traumatization caused by recounting stories, details repeatedly; facing traffickers’ lawyers; feeling humiliated by information in medical, mental health, other service systems’ files
- Provide information to survivors about trauma triggers: Explain how being challenged on inconsistencies during investigation can trigger memories of trafficker and feeling stupid, worthless

**Culturally-specific CBOs collaborate on:**

- By understanding cultural prohibitions to disclosing sexual violence, advocates can help survivors cope w/shame
- Safety planning based on how dangerous traffickers/ controllers are
- Connect international HT survivors with family members in home countries
- Witness safety: tips from community members alert advocates to risks/plans

Chic Dabby: So the next point of contact is investigation. And I want to point out here how this notion of this sort of uncooperative label that gets attached to victims who are seen as uncooperative. And for us, as advocates, we have to be able to understand and then convey to other system actors that victims are acting out of fear, hostility, you know, and self-protection. So remember that they have connections to their traffickers and sometimes have affections for them, have relationships with them, so it is not easy to just feel that everybody who gets – everybody is getting, quote, “rescued” from some predatory exploitative relationship. And during the investigation a lot of these conflicts emerge in how systems view the trafficked women and their level of cooperation, or traffic survivors, men and women. And, many times withholding of information is, you know, seen that way rather than understood as being self-protective. So it may be important to hold back on some information for clients.

Chic Dabby: What does trauma, being trauma-informed mean here? It means the importance of minimizing re-traumatization caused by recounting stories. So during investigation phases, victims have to recount their stories and make reports in multiple locations and with different actors. So that repetition can be re-traumatizing. And in those instances they are facing the trafficker’s lawyers, they may feel humiliated by the information which is in their charts or in the service system’s files, they maybe feel humiliated and afraid about their own sort of role in acquiescing or not being able to resist strongly enough, etc. So there are many complicated psychological issues and emotional attachments that surface around the investigation.

Chic Dabby: And being trauma-informed also means providing information to survivors about the trauma triggers, and that is one of the main principles of trauma-informed care. Explaining to survivors how they have been challenged, that they will be challenged on inconsistencies during the investigation, and this can, again, trigger memories of the trafficking situation, of feeling stupid or feeling worthless. And sometimes in just recounting what happened can be that very trigger and can be very traumatizing. We suggest that instead of – also sometimes instead of asking, “Do you
remember the first time something happened to you? Do you remember the first time you were raped, or can you tell us this?” So in legal situations, those reports are important, those stories and those narratives have to be conveyed. And in advocacy situations, we also want to know, “What was – how did you know, what was the first time you knew that you would escape, or that you would feel strong enough to get away? Or that you would feel strong enough to survive?” So we go for both the information that we need and also the support that we can provide.

Chic Dabby: So, what do culturally-specific community-based organizations, what can we offer? We offer the understanding that cultural prohibitions to disclosing sexual violence can be a barrier. So, many times it is not okay to talk about sexuality, it is not public – public information, there is a lot of shame attached to it, as Michelle, as you already mentioned. And so, making clear that that will have to be in the report and that will be the information provided during the investigation phase, so helping survivors cope with their shame and their feelings around that.

Chic Dabby: Safety planning is also important and connected to how dangerous the traffickers and the controllers are. And safety planning is also important in terms of understanding the victim’s relationship to the controller and their attachment to the person who has been controlling them. In domestic minor sex trafficking, many – in pimp-controlled trafficking, the pimps are referred to by victims as daddies or boyfriends, and there is a relationship that also gets established. So safety planning has to focus on how dangerous this trafficker might be based on many different factors.

Chic Dabby: It is also about connecting. As community-based organizations, I know that we have connected survivors here with family members in their home countries so they can explain to them what might be going on or what their situation is. Because if they are now in an investigation phase, they are not able to communicate, so we can provide the conduit and be the conduit to that.

Chic Dabby: And, witness safety. Often we get tips from community members alerting us, and I can think of one example when I was working with a group of trafficked individuals and the trafficker was a very prominent family. And we got a call from a travel agent – this was a trafficked group from India – and we got a call from a travel agent who handled a lot of bookings to India and she told us that this prominent family member had bought a whole bunch of tickets for women to go back to their home country. So it alerted us to the fact that many of the victims, the victims that had not been arrested or caught up in the operation, were being hurriedly sent back to the home country so they would not be material witnesses, and then we could take a step to do something about that. Michelle?

Michelle Ortiz: I just wanted to add that when Chic mentioned understanding the cultural prohibitions around disclosing sexual violence, that may also be true in the labor trafficking situation, and even when working with men, not just with sexual violence, but even through the exploitation itself. So there may be, I think I mentioned earlier, shame connected to the simple experience of being trafficked or being unable to pay off a debt, or the shame of not being able to earn money. So when we talk about shame or embarrassment to disclose, it often goes beyond the sexual violence and may go into the other components of different kinds of trafficking.

Chic Dabby: Okay, next slide.
Chic Dabby: Shelter. Many trafficked survivors are housed in shelters and may be in shelters before they were trafficked and after, so there is the issue of safety in both runaway homeless youth shelters or domestic violence shelters. It does depend on whether the resident of that shelter was controlled by pimps, gangs, family members, crime syndicates, or transgender. So the identity of the controller and the type of control that the trafficking victim experienced does affect their safety, and therefore how shelters can be responsive and protective of this safety and ensure that there is not, you know, exposure for the shelter and its other residents.

Chic Dabby: In a trafficking case that I worked on, we – every time we moved the victims to a different shelter, the traffickers found them because it was a big crime syndicate. And so, eventually, we ended up moving them with in, you know, in collaboration with the Federal Prosecutor’s Office and ICE and so on, we ended up moving them to a military base, which seems awful, sounds awful when you first hear it, but actually it was safe. And although they were cut off, they were also cut off from the shelter. So it became a place where at least the trauma of being discovered and then suddenly moved after 2 days or in the middle of the night, or having people show up at the shelter with guns, did not happen. So there was safety in that way. So we have to think in very creative ways and in ways that we are often not used to thinking to provide safety.

Chic Dabby: What is trauma-informed – being trauma-informed here mean? It is, again, minimizing the re-traumatization triggers that may be due to being in an environment where there are other victims, where movements are curtailed, where there are shelter rules and rules have to be enforced. It means building emotional safety. Many human trafficking victims will feel isolated in a domestic violence shelter. If there is an investigation going on, they actually cannot discuss why they are there or what happened to them, and that can create conflict between residents as to why somebody
is not being open or attending the shelter’s group program, etc. And so, there can be mistrust of other residents in the shelter.

Chic Dabby: It is also important to understand that victim and perpetrator boundaries are often blurred, and that itself is a source of trauma. So trafficked youth may be forced or even consent to violently recruit other traffickers for their own pimps. So they are victimized by a pimp, and then they are recruiting others in the shelter to, for the pimp, and that blurred boundary can also cause – be a source of trauma.

Chic Dabby: So what can culturally-specific programs provide for domestic violence sex trafficking survivors? We can help identify intergenerational trauma. When they are – for those survivors who are not trafficked by family members, we can be a conduit and a connection to the family, and educate the family about sexual exploitation and what was happening to their minor children. Shelters can provide life skills training so that when survivors reintegrate back into a community or exit the shelter, they have some experience about being able to manage cooking, etc., because they do not have that when they are just being exploited for work. And we can provide ESL (English as second language) classes. Michelle?

Michelle Ortiz: In addition, I think culturally-specific organizations can provide assistance to the shelter in understanding what the client’s needs and expectations are, and ensuring that the shelter services are, in and of themselves, culturally-relevant to that particular client.

Chic Dabby: Okay, next slide.
Collaboration: (e) Healthcare

Building Capacity for Victim Identification

Healthcare providers, untrained in screening for trafficking, may misdiagnose presenting problems. E.g.:

- Malnutrition ≠ eating disorder, but food insecurity
- Drug poisoning ≠ substance abuse, but being used as a drug mule
- Multiple pregnancies, multiple abortions, HIV/AIDS, STIs and STDs ≠ ignorance of safe sex or high-risk behavior, but reproductive coercion and assault
- Repeated Depo Provera use ≠ teen who can’t be bothered with her periods, but prostituted teen
- Untreated work injuries/diseases rarely seen in U.S. ≠ negligent or uninsured patient, but trafficked

Culturally-specific CBOs provide:
- Accompaniment
- Help for patient to understand informed consent

Chic Dabby: So, I am going to conclude with healthcare because I just want to make some points that we often do not consider, and healthcare providers do not often understand about working with trafficked individuals. There is some training and work going on nationally about building the capacity of healthcare providers for victim identification. And it is, of course, a very extensive training. I just wanted to point out a few issues where presenting problems can be misdiagnosed if you are actually untrained in screening for trafficking.

Chic Dabby: So, you might see somebody – so healthcare providers might see somebody who is, you know, diagnosed or sort of suffering who is actually suffering malnutrition, because many trafficked individuals have horrible diets, are often not allowed to eat properly, etc. But they may diagnose malnutrition as an eating disorder and not actually see it as food insecurity.

Chic Dabby: Similarly, with drug poisoning, they might consider or diagnose that as substance abuse but not investigate or rule out whether that person was used as a drug mule, and therefore got drug – has this drug poisoning.

Chic Dabby: Multiple pregnancies, multiple abortions, HIV/AIDS, STIs and STDs. So when these symptoms are presented, healthcare providers untrained in understanding trafficking may think that this is ignorance of safe sex or this is a person indulging in high-risk behavior, but not understand the aspect of reproductive coercion and repeated sexual assault that is causing these problems.

Chic Dabby: With domestic minor sex trafficking, there is extensive Depo Provera use and repeated Depo Provera use. So a provider may have a teen in their office who has not had a period for months and months and months, and the provider might think, “Oh, that is just one more teen who cannot be bothered having their period.” But, by understanding trafficking, they can see or rule out whether
that teen is – whether that person is a prostituted teen and that is why there is so much repeated Depo Provera use.

Chic Dabby: And finally, with labor trafficking, you know, many workers have untreated injuries, diseases rarely seen in the U.S. And, again, a healthcare provider might think of them as just being negligent or uninsured, and that is why they did not get help, when in fact they might be trafficked.

Chic Dabby: With culturally-specific community-based organizations, we can provide accompaniment to medical appointments. We can make sure that the medical practitioner has a trained medical interpreter available for the session. And we can also make sure that the patient in that clinic setting has – understands what informed consent means. Michelle, did you have anything to add?

Michelle Ortiz: No, just again, you know, at each of these points of contact – contacts, I think, again, one of the big roles of the culturally-specific organization can be to orient the client so that they understand what services, what healthcare services are in fact available. And, as you mentioned, the accompaniment and the understanding informed consent, just generally speaking, understanding the services and the confidentiality involved in the healthcare context.

Chic Dabby: Right. Next slide.
Chic Dabby: So, this concludes our part of the presentation, and we have a few minutes for wrap up and conclusion. Shawndell, I do not know if there is time for questions.

Shawndell Dawson: I think there is one more question that we would be able to pose. It is a question related to specific – obtaining more specific trafficking training, in-person training and sources of that. Can you talk a bit more around how our participants can go about expanding their knowledge around trafficking and obtaining that training?

Chic Dabby: Okay. So this is Chic. One of the things that we can do at the Asian and Pacific Institute is to provide in-person training, and our approach to in-person training is to go through points of contact. There are many more points of contact and more information about these. And as – and then sort of tailor that a little bit to an equal, you know, understanding of both international trafficked survivors and domestic minor sex trafficking, and also domestic trafficking for labor and other purposes. So, that would be one approach I would suggest. There are national trafficking – anti-trafficking organizations that also provide services and training. And in the training that we do, which we have done a lot of, you know, on-site training for trafficking, we also encourage programs to invite sort of key collaborative partners. Because one of the things that domestic violence and sexual assault programs find in working with human trafficking victims is that the players are very different and the collaborations are very different, so roles that, you know, where we have not necessarily collaborated with the FBI or the Federal Prosecutor’s Office or Federal Victim Witness Assistance programs, things like that. So how we, you know, build that collaborative structure is really important, and that is also the thrust of this Webinar series and also of the larger national initiative on the, you know, of the Strategic Action Plan that has been developed by the President’s Office.

Michelle Ortiz: I just wanted to add that OVC also has resources for training, and the Freedom Network provides in-person training for service providers and for law enforcement. For those of
you who are unaware, the Freedom Network is a national coalition of trafficking experts who have on-the-ground experience and have a training institute where they can train across the country social service providers or law enforcement on the dynamics of trafficking and trafficking services for trafficking victims.

Shawndell Dawson: Thank you. On behalf of all of our partners through the Department of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, OVW (Office on Violence Against Women), the OVC TTAC (Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center), and our colleagues through the [unclear] Improvement program, I really want to thank you all very much, Michelle and Chic, for offering your expertise and for sharing your resources with us today, and walking us through things that are very complex by providing some practical information, breaking it down from a real life perspective and talking about it for practice implications, and thinking more broadly about how to bring all of these intersections together. We appreciate you making time today to share this information.

**Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources**

[Image: Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources]

Shawndell Dawson: For all of our participants, please know that we will be recording this Webinar and I am sending out a link to the recording as well as a link to the materials. There are resources that we want to point you to before we close our Webinar today. It includes some key toolkits and technical assistance resources. There is the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which is listed there. There is the Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide which is available. There is Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative that has some tremendous resources. Futures Without Violence also has some resources on collaborating to help trafficking survivors and emerging issues for practitioners.

The FVPSA program supports a Special Collection on Trauma-Informed Domestic Violence Services. We also have a Special Collection on Trafficking that is available through the same link...
Webinar Transcript: Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault: Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to Respond to Survivors’ Needs

on Vawnet. And then there is a toolkit for those who are working with runaway and homeless youth, it has a specific tab around working with youth who are impacted by trafficking and domestic sex minor trafficking. And then, the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence website has a tremendous source of resources. Next slide, please.

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

Shawndell Dawson: If you have…If you need any more help and you want any more connection to specialized training and technical assistance providers, the OVC TTAC’s website is available, as well as the Center for Court Innovation, their website is available.

Shawndell Dawson: I really want to thank both Jenna and Danielle for all of your expert support on our Webinar today. We really appreciated you helping us sail through this Webinar. Next slide.
Shawndell Dawson: Please do not forget that there are two more Webinars left in our series. The next one will be taking place on August 13, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, and it is regarding Working Together With Law Enforcement. And then the last Webinar in our series will take place on September 24, and it is about Working Together, and it is Part II of Working With the Courts. All of the Webinars are being recorded and the link there is available on the OVC TTAC’s website. We will be sure to send that out to everyone who has registered.

Shawndell Dawson: I want to thank our participants today. I want to thank Nancy Wan as well for answering questions, as well as Cindy Liu and Ashley Garrett. We really appreciated your time and participation, and we hope that you will join us again in August. Thank you, and have a good day.
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/r/July0915HTwebinar