



An Introduction to Project NO REST

June 3, 2015

Project NO REST

- Project NO REST (North Carolina Organizing and Responding to the Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Children) is a five year effort funded by the Children's Bureau
- It is addressing the trafficking of youth in North Carolina through age 25
- A primary focus is the trafficking of child-welfare involved youth

Project NO REST Goals

- Increase awareness of human trafficking affecting children and youth in NC especially those involved in the child welfare system
- Reduce the number of these youth who are trafficked
- Improve outcomes for those who are trafficked

Project NO REST Goals

- All contacts with youth who may have been trafficked will be conducted with a trauma informed approach
- Our intent is to address the trauma youth experienced while being trafficked, to minimize the trauma they experience in leaving trafficking, and to assess the trauma they may have experienced before being trafficked
- This includes outreach and engagement, screening and intake, and the prevention services

Project NO REST Activities

- Develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the trafficking of child welfare-involved youth in North Carolina
- Select 3 to 5 communities to implement that strategic plan
- Develop a tool kit based on the experiences of these pilot sites for other counties to use

Project NO REST Timetable

- October 2014-September 2015: Develop Strategic Plan
- September 2015-November 2015: Select Pilot Sites
- November 2015-September 2018: Implement and Operate Pilots
- October 2018- September 2019: Plan for Expanding

Project NO REST Activities

- Existing sources of data will be mined to develop valid and reliable estimates of the prevalence of human trafficking in the state
- The Polaris Project reports that North Carolina is 8th in the Nation in trafficking but there is limited data to back that up
- We want to produce accurate estimates of the number of individuals being trafficked and the amount of money involved
- This information will be widely disseminated

Project NO REST Process

- The goals will be accomplished by bringing together government agencies, organizations, the faith community, and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address human trafficking among youth age 25 and younger, especially child welfare involved youth
- By bringing these groups and individuals together, we will strengthen the state's infrastructure for dealing with human trafficking issues



Project NO REST Work Groups



Project NO REST Work Groups

Six work groups have been created:

- Prevention
- Youth Engagement and Outreach
- Screening and Intake
- Services and Practices
- Funding
- Data and Evaluation

Prevention Work Group

- Identifying risk factors for child trafficking
- Documenting best practices and model policies to prevent trafficking
- Developing recommendations to enhance policies
- Crafting strategy to increase public awareness of child trafficking risk factors

Youth Engagement Work Group

- Identifying ways to engage youth who are being trafficked as well as those who are trying to leave trafficking
- Suggesting strategies for outreach and engagement that occur outside traditional helping organizations
- Determining what the message should be and how it should be delivered

Intake and Screening Work Group

- Developing approaches for the initial interview of potential human trafficking victims
- Creating a model of a collaborative fact gathering process between law enforcement, child advocacy centers, county departments, guardians, and the courts
- Providing initial assessment of immediate physical, dental, and behavioral health, as well as language needs

Services and Practices Work Group

- Connecting trafficked youth with a safe and secure place to live and heal as they transition to independent living
- Inventorying and working with providers to create these facilities
- Identifying ways to connect youth to needed therapeutic and medical services
- Articulating an array of services including life skills, financial literacy, employment and training, and education

Funding Work Group

- Cataloging public and private funding sources that currently support or could support recommended service components
- Recommending funding strategies and models to support efforts to reduce trafficking
- Supporting public-private partnerships as well as one-time and ongoing support
- Developing a matrix of current and potential investments in anti-trafficking efforts

Data and Evaluation Work Group

- Inventorying and analyzing current data sources that contain information on child welfare-involved youth
- Developing valid and reliable estimates of the number of child welfare-involved youth who have been trafficked
- Planning data collection system for identification, screening, and assessment of trafficking victims
- Creating performance indicators for all phases of the project

Accountability

- Project NO REST's results and capacity to improve outcomes on behalf of children and youth involved in the child welfare system depends on the ability of all project partners to successfully implement project strategies, complete tasks, and to monitor and assess project performance
- The Steering Committee, Workgroups, Members at Large, and Project Team are jointly accountable--to each other, external partners, and the children and youth of North Carolina--for the progress of the project

Steering Committee Members

- Association of Chiefs of Police
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Conference of District Attorneys
- County DSS Representatives
- Family and Youth Service Bureau (FYSB) grantees
- Governor's Crime Commission
- Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice
- NC Administrative Office for the Courts, GAL
- NC Human Trafficking Commission
- NC Department of Public Instruction
- NC Division of Medical Assistance
- NC Department of Public Safety, NC Center for Missing Persons
- NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services
- NC Division of Public Health
- NC Division of Social Services
- North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Partners Against Trafficking Humans in NC (PATH NC)
- Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
- SAYSO
- Immigrant/Refugee Rights Advocate
- County District Attorney
- NC Council for Women
- NC Department of Justice

Summary

- Project NO REST is a federally funded project to address trafficking of child welfare-involved youth in North Carolina
- The project is bringing together a broad base of stakeholders from public agencies and private organizations to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address trafficking of these youth
- That plan will address approaches to prevention as well as ways to engage youth, screen them, and provide services so that they can heal and transition to independent living

Funding Trends and Opportunities

- Service delivery is expanding rapidly but lacks standards and infrastructure
- Project NO REST pilots will develop, test, and document the impact of program practices over the next 3 – 4 years
- Fox 50's public awareness campaigns will increase public or industry identification and drive people to emergency and long term services

Current Opportunities

- Emergency short term needs
- Development of evidence based treatment for victims of DMST
- Support partnerships between DSS and HT service providers
- Long term service needs
- Technical assistance to organizations or institutions in a position to identify and refer, by HT experts
- Workforce Development/Industry Specific
 - Law Enforcement, Truckers Against Trafficking, Flight Attendants Against Trafficking, Tourism

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Summary

- The plan will explore ways to fund these services
- Pilot projects will be initiated in 3 to 5 communities across the state that implement the plan
- The experiences gained from the pilot projects will be used to revise the plan and to develop a tool kit for other communities to use in addressing trafficking

Question?

For more information, contact:

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