



# An Introduction to Project NO REST

April 23, 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 designed to address the trafficking of child-welfare involved youth in North Carolina

# Project NO REST Goals

- Increase awareness of human trafficking affecting children and youth involved in the child welfare system in NC
- 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
- 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
- This information will be widely disseminated

# Project NO REST Process

- The goals will be accomplished by bringing together government agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address human trafficking among 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
- NC Department of Public Safety Division of Juvenile Justice (Angela Taylor)
- NC Administrative Office for the Courts, GAL
- NC Human Trafficking Commission
- NC Department of Public Instruction
- NC Division of Medical Assistance
- 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

# 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

# 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:

D. F. Duncan

[dfduncan@email.unc.edu](mailto:dfduncan@email.unc.edu)