



# Getting In Front of Juvenile Trafficking: North Carolina's Project NO REST

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# 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 U. S. 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 Process

- The goals are being 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 Guiding Principles

- 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 youth age 25 and younger in North Carolina, especially those involved with the child welfare system
- Select 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-July 2016: Select Pilot Sites
- August 2016-September 2019: Implement and Operate Pilots
- October 2018- September 2019: Plan for Expanding

# Project NO REST Activities

- Existing sources of data are being mined to develop valid and reliable estimates of the prevalence of human trafficking in the state
- The Polaris Project reports that North Carolina is 10<sup>th</sup> in the Nation (2014) 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





# Development of the Comprehensive Plan

# Development of the Comprehensive Plan

- To develop our plan, we treated trafficking as a multi-faceted system
- We decided to focus on each facet simultaneously and to recognize they were related
- It was important to focus on prevention as well as interdiction at the same time
- To develop this plan, we created a set of workgroups

# Project NO REST Work Groups

Six work groups were created to develop the comprehensive plan:

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

# Prevention Work Group

- Co-Chairs: Staff from NC-DPH and PCANNC
- Identified risk factors for child trafficking
- Documented best practices and model policies to prevent trafficking
- Developed recommendations to enhance policies
- Crafted strategies to increase public awareness of child trafficking risk factors

# Youth Engagement Work Group

- Co-Chairs: Executive Director of SAYSO and FYSB Center Director
- Identified ways to engage youth who are being trafficked as well as those who are trying to leave trafficking
- Suggested strategies for outreach and engagement that occur outside traditional helping organizations
- Determined what the message should be and how it should be delivered

# Intake and Screening Work Group

- Co-Chairs: Head of CAC organization in NC and a CAC director
- Developed approaches for the initial interview of potential human trafficking victims
- Created a model of a collaborative fact gathering process between law enforcement, child advocacy centers, county departments, guardians, and the courts
- This process will provide an initial assessment of immediate physical, dental, and behavioral health, as well as language needs

# Services and Practices Work Group

- Co-Chairs: NC DSS Chafee Program Coordinator, staff member from NC DMH/DD/SAS
- Developed a plan to connect trafficked youth with a safe and secure place to live and heal as they transition to independent living
- Will work with providers to create these facilities
- Identified ways to connect youth to needed therapeutic and medical services
- Articulated an array of services including life skills, financial literacy, employment and training, and education

# Funding Work Group

- Co-Chairs: Representative from NC Council on Women and NC-DMA behavioral policy specialist
- Cataloged public and private funding sources that currently support or could support recommended service components
- Recommended funding strategies and models to support efforts to reduce trafficking
- Supported public-private partnerships as well as one-time and ongoing support
- Developed a matrix of current and potential investments in anti-trafficking efforts



# Data and Evaluation Work Group

- Co-Chairs: NC DPS Missing Persons specialist, NC-DSS Chafee Program Coordinator
- Inventoried current data sources that contain information on child welfare-involved youth
- Use these data sources to provide valid and reliable estimates of the number of child welfare-involved youth who have been trafficked
- Will develop a data collection system for identification, screening, and assessment of trafficking victims
- Will create 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, especially those 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

- NC 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 AOC Court Improvement Project Coordinator
- 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
- Capitol Broadcasting/Fox 50

# Comprehensive Plan

- The comprehensive plan was approved by the Steering Committee at the end of September
- It is available for you to review on the project's website:  
<http://projectnorest.web.unc.edu/>

# Comprehensive Plan—Key Engagement Recommendations

- Development of a statewide agreement signed by top officials to work together to address trafficking
- Develop a local collaborative network in each community of organizations involved in addressing the needs of youth who have been or are at risk of being trafficked
- Provide extensive trafficking training in each community
- Establish a statewide information, referral, and tip line
- Implement an public service awareness campaign

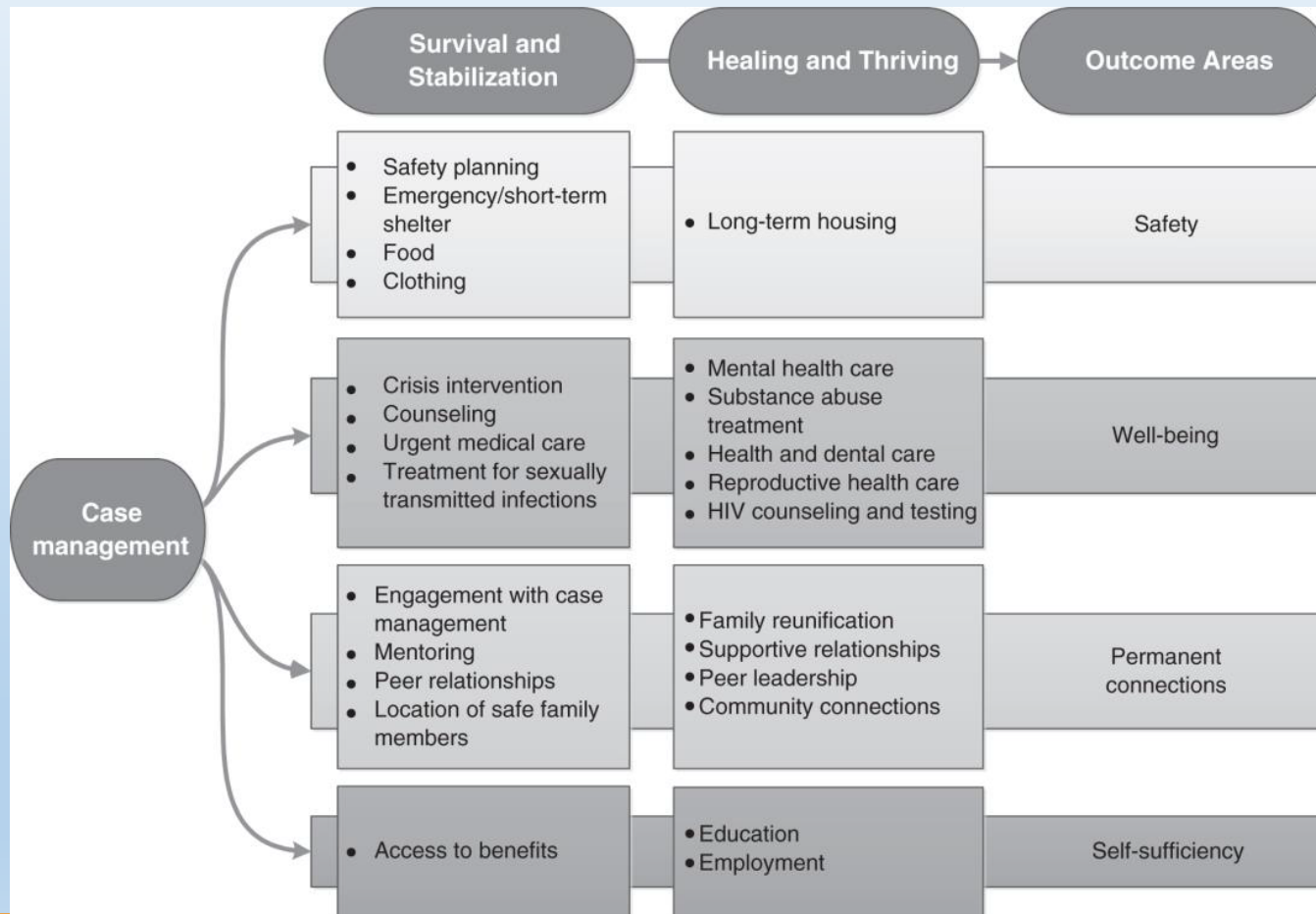
# Comprehensive Plan—Key Intake and Assessment Recommendations

- NC DSS needs to develop policies to identify youth in foster care or in still in their homes who are at risk of being trafficked
- Develop a screening tool that will be used in pilot sites and by other agencies
- Screen youth in the custody of Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
- Develop Rapid Response and Multi-Disciplinary teams for trafficking survivors
- Assess survivors of trafficking for medical and behavioral health care needs

# Comprehensive Plan—Key Services and Practices Recommendations

- All services should be delivered in a trauma informed manner
- Conduct research on the delivery of evidence-based services and practices for human trafficking prevention
- Develop practice models that addresses the needs of youth who have been trafficked
- Provide training and support for that practice model

# Services Needed by Trafficking Survivors





# Comprehensive Plan—Key Data and Evaluation Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive data repository to generate valid and reliable estimates of the prevalence of trafficking
- These data will be drawn from child welfare administrative data, law enforcement reports, intake assessments, and other sources
- Mine these data to identify promising prevention strategies

# Comprehensive Plan—Key Prevention Recommendations

- Deliver a quality anti-trafficking curriculum to youth at risk of being trafficked
- Create an infrastructure at a centralized agency or organization to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts across the state
- Strengthen state policies and practices to promote healthy child development as a primary prevention strategy



# Project NO REST Pilot Sites



# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

- One objective of the project is to implement the comprehensive plan in up to five communities
- We described community as one or more counties
- We wanted to recruit all types and all sizes of communities
- Small, medium, and large
- Rural, suburban, and urban
- Communities with experience addressing trafficking and communities with no anti-trafficking efforts in place

# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

- We wanted communities in the western, central, and eastern parts of the state
- We wanted to learn how communities come together to address trafficking
- We wanted to observe the challenges they face
- We wanted to track the approaches they use to address those challenges

# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

- We invited a large number of individuals to attend a meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh to discuss they pilot sites
- We discussed the project, the comprehensive plan, and what we wanted to do with the pilot sites
- Speakers included the Chair of the Governor's Crime Commission, the Chair of the NC Human Trafficking Commission, and a survivor-leader

# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

- As part of the application process, sites were asked to review the local level recommendations from the comprehensive plan and prioritize them based on local experience and need and develop an approach for implementing them
- Pilot sites are expected to participate in data collection and other activities including information on clients served, using screening and assessment tools, and participating in the evaluation of the Children's Bureau project

# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

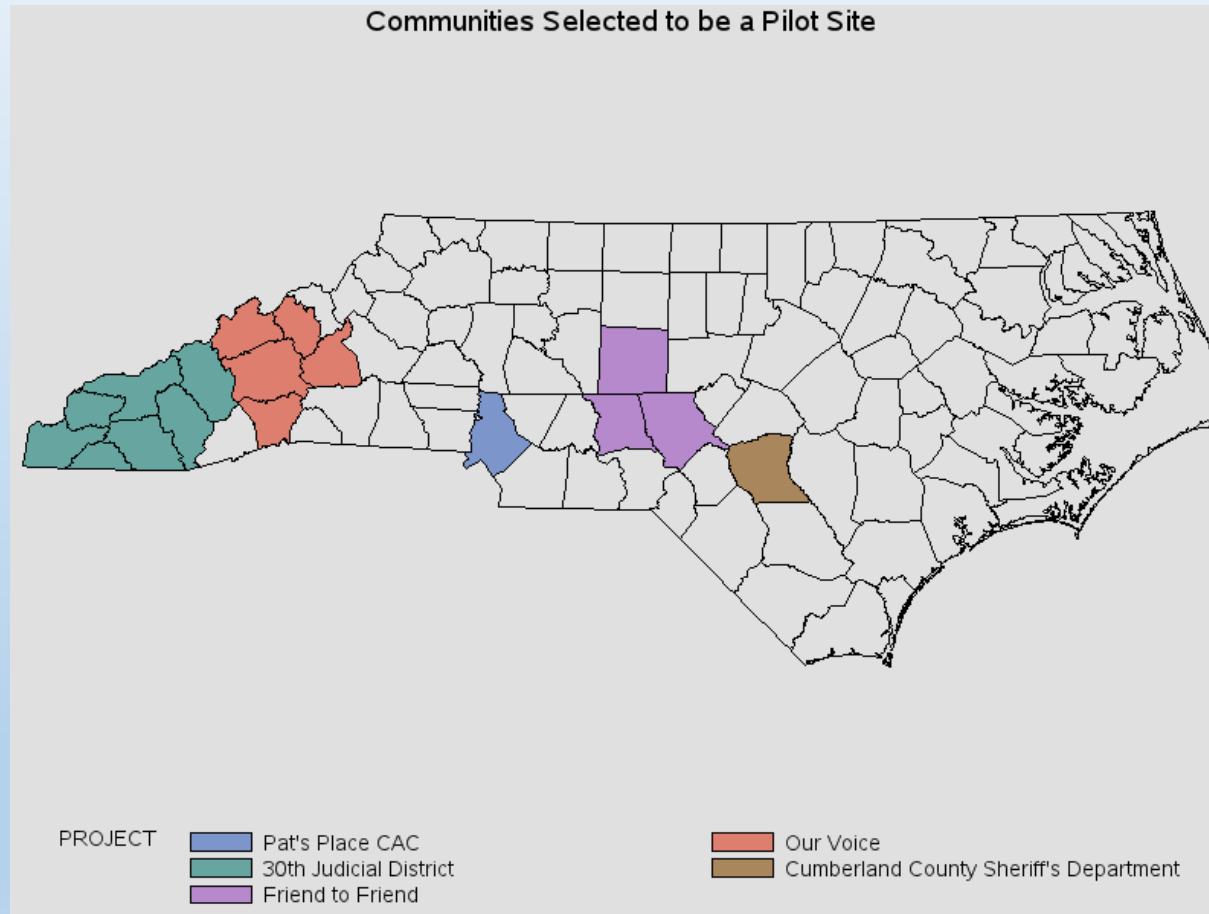
- Additional funding was sought from the Governor's Crime Commission
- These funds will support a public information campaign, workforce training and development, as well as information and infrastructure costs associated with the pilot sites
- All funding for the pilot sites are subject to limitations of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)



# Project NO REST Pilot Sites

- Eleven communities, representing 34 counties, submitted applications to be pilot sites
- The applications were reviewed by a team composed of members of the project team, members of the Steering Committee, and individuals who have broad experience with anti-trafficking efforts in North Carolina
- Five communities, representing 16 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, were selected

# Project NO REST Pilot Sites





# Funding Through the NC Governor's Crime Commission

# Funding Through the GCC

- In addition to funding through the GCC for Implementation and infrastructure related to the pilot sites, funding was sought for several additional activities
- Funding was also sought for developing and implementing a public outreach and awareness campaign through a series of television and radio spots as well as website ads
- The outreach campaign will direct individuals to call a statewide information and referral hotline or to obtain information through a website

# Funding Through the GCC

- Funds were also sought for intensive training and workforce development in the pilot sites and across the state
- A workgroup of service providers, survivors, NC DSS, funders, state and local agencies, and other stakeholders to develop and refine one or more practice models
- Funds were also sought for an annual trafficking conference to bring together agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to receive training and technical assistance to improve outcomes and celebrate successes

# Summary

- Project NO REST is a federally funded project to address trafficking of youth age 25 and younger in North Carolina, especially those involved with the child welfare system
- 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 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?

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