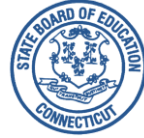





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: John D. Frassinelli, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: February 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Professional Learning Opportunity

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Additionally, the International Labour Organization reports that one in four victims of human trafficking are children. In Connecticut, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has received over 1,000 reports of potential human trafficking since 2008. No community is immune to child trafficking – reports to DCF have come from urban, rural, and suburban communities and have involved children of every socioeconomic group and demographic.

School personnel are uniquely positioned to prevent, identify, and report child exploitation and trafficking. Research has found that many trafficked youth continue to attend school throughout their trafficking. In Connecticut, General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 17a-106h requires persons employed by a local or regional board of education or a constituent unit to receive training on human trafficking within 6 months of hire and annually thereafter.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is partnering with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Attorney's Office, Connecticut Office of the Chief State's Attorney, DCF, and Connecticut-based trafficking prevention and survivor-care organization Love 146, to provide a unique opportunity for school personnel to learn about crimes against children including: human trafficking, child exploitation, computer crimes, and sexual abuse investigations of school staff. Experts in these areas will discuss the prevalence in Connecticut, prevention efforts by State partners, recognizing signs and risk factors, and organizations and resources available for further education, prevention, reporting and care for survivors and victims. Attached to this correspondence are brief bios of the presenters.

This professional learning opportunity is occurring on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Center for Communication and Engineering, Quinnipiac University, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut. All staff are welcome, however, we are especially interested in attendance by principals and vice principals, school nurses, school counselors, social workers, psychologists and health education teachers. The DCF portion of this training satisfies the statutory requirement for school personnel in attendance.

Please visit <https://www.trumba.com/calendars/connecticut-state-department-of-education-sde-events-calendar> to register for this event. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy M. Sneed, Office of Human Trafficking Services, DCF at (860) 550-6471 or tammy.sneed@ct.gov.

Presenters

Kurt Siuzdak is the FBI Supervisory Special Agent who leads New Haven FBI's Cyber Squad CY-2. This squad has several functional teams including Connecticut's Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF), the Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) that conducts Computer and Network Forensics, and a covert technical team. On any given day, Kurt is overseeing trafficking investigations, child exploitation cases, covert operations, undercover operations, technical missions, computer forensic analysis and has assets involved in flight operations. When it comes to investigations, CY-2 is one of the FBI's elite squads.

Wendy Bowersox is the FBI Agent who is the Coordinator of the FBI's Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force. She not only leads the task force but is a primary human trafficking investigator. She is one of the FBI's experts in human trafficking. She leads all of the FBI's proactive human trafficking operations in Connecticut. She is also the lead investigator for child abduction matters.

Sara Crosby is a Strategic Intelligence Analyst for the FBI. She oversees intelligence gathering of intelligence related to human trafficking, child exploitation, child kidnapping and other violent crimes involving children. She is responsible for ensuring investigators and management understand these threats in the Connecticut area of operation. She also oversees analysts who assess tactical operation threats.

Courtney Litowitz is an FBI Victim Specialist. In the New Haven FBI, she is responsible for coordinating victim services of all federal crimes investigated by the FBI including human trafficking. Among other things, Courtney was the Victim Specialist who served the victims of the Boston Marathon Bombing, Sandy Hook, and Virginia Tech shooting.

Sarala Nagala is an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) and Deputy Chief, Major Crimes Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut. She is one of the principal federal prosecutors who directly litigates human trafficking cases in Connecticut. In Connecticut, AUSA Nagala is the subject matter expert for federal prosecution of child predators.

Stacey Haupt Miranda is a Senior State's Attorney in New Haven. She prosecutes a range of serious crimes ranging from homicides to sexual assaults. She is also an adjunct professor and a member of the Special Crimes Unit in New Haven.

Erin Williamson is the U.S. Programs Director for Love146, an international anti-trafficking organization. In this role, Erin oversees Love146's Connecticut Survivor-Care Program which provides direct services to children and youth at high risk for and confirmed survivors of human trafficking. Erin also oversees the implementation of *Not a Number*, Love146's interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation.

Courtney Collier has worked in the juvenile justice field for 16 years. She worked as part of a juvenile court evaluation team for seven years and has been a Juvenile Probation Officer for over seven years. She has worked in the Hartford Juvenile Court as well as the Torrington Juvenile Court. She became a certified trainer for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) about five

years ago when she noticed an increase of victims that were involved in the juvenile justice system, and wanted to be able to advocate for victims and educate law enforcement, providers, schools, and court personnel as to how to best support and work with this population. Courtney has trained court personnel, judges, school staff, hospital staff, community providers, law enforcement, and others on the DMST curriculum. Since becoming a certified trainer, Courtney has become a member of a few of the regional Human Anti-Trafficking Response Teams (HART) and the state HART.

Nancy Pugliese is the Chief of the Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practices at the Connecticut State Department of Education. She investigates and assists in administrative hearings regarding educators engaging in misconduct such as sexual assault, child pornography/exploitation, child abuse/neglect and test security breaches. She also presents to certified educators, educator preparation candidates and beginning teachers on professional practices and educator ethics.