



NOVEMBER 2022

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PATH EDUCATION

TRAFFICKING SCREENING TOOLS FOR YOUTH

By Sinnah Litsey

Human trafficking is a violation of human rights that targets the vulnerable in society. The article, "Screening for Human Trafficking Among Homeless Young Adults", discusses how homeless youth in America, between the ages of 26 and younger, are vulnerable and at a risk of being trafficked. The article states the contributing factors that make homeless youths an easy target is their basic need for, "shelter, food, and a feeling of connection to others" ([Chisolm-Straker et al., 2019, p.2](#)). Although the numbers could be much higher, the article states the recorded data of youth at risk for trafficking is 441,000.

When an individual is trafficked, they endure emotional, physical, and psychological abuse and for the homeless youths who are trafficked, they experience trauma that is different from peers who have never been trafficked. Due to their unique experiences of trafficking and potential risk of trafficking, the

article stated organizations and community members needed a screening tool to help those who desire to assist homeless youth to communicate effectively with them. Once screened, they could then accurately be provided with the appropriate help to prevent them from being vulnerable to trafficking.

The Vera Institute's Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIP) and The Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14) were the main tools being used. During the screening process, individuals were asked different sample step questions that would determine whether they were sex trafficked or labor trafficked to better understand their needs. Regardless of the outcome, organizations and community members still asked what services the individuals wanted and would be most beneficial of their own choosing. Some services mentioned were, "clothing assistance, employment assistance, housing, legal aid, medical assistance, parenting classes, psychological support, and food assistance" (Chisolm-Straker et al., 2019, p.3). Although both were useful, they were time consuming and required trafficking experts which made it difficult for organizations to effectively fulfill their mission.

To solve this problem, the Quick Youth Indicators of Trafficking (QYIT) was created. This screening tool had fewer sample step questions (2 step questions) that would accurately determine which form of trafficking was endured. Although it has limitations, such as only screening for two types of trafficking (labor and sex) and not being able to provide all the services TVIP and HTIMA-14 offered, QYITP;

"can be used by social service agencies, working with homeless young adults, that have the capacity, or refer QYIT-positive clients for, a more in-depth human trafficking assessment and relevant services. Universal use of QYIT at appropriate agencies will enable social service providers to systematically detect and serve homeless young adults who have labor and/or sex trafficking experiences" (Chisolm-Straker et al., 2019, p.7).

It's critical that organization and community members can appropriately screen homeless youths and provide them the resources they need before they are trafficked. Although QYITP is faster and does not require an expert, it lacks the ability to expand beyond sex and labor trafficking. This sets a bias that these are the only forms of trafficking that youths are made vulnerable to and that other forms of trafficking are not as serious.

Reference

Chisolm-Straker, M., Sze J., Einbond J., White J., Stoklosa H., (2019), *Screening for human trafficking among homeless young adults*, ELSEVIER



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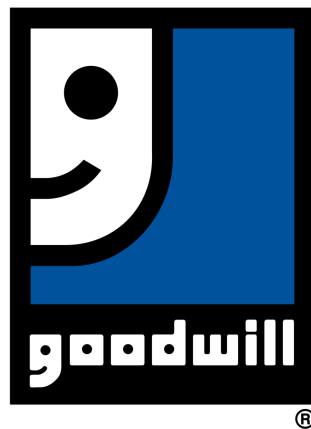
wellcare™

November was a busy month! It began on November 3rd with a presentation to 70 WellCare staff during it's 2 Day Summit Conference. WellCare is a health plan provider throughout the Commonwealth. This was PATH's second time presenting to a WellCare group. We presented to a smaller group in March of

2021 and because of what they learned during that presentation, we were invited to speak at the 2022 Summit to the broader audience.



Thanks to PATH Board Secretary, Debra Young, PATH's reach extends just beyond the Kentucky border into West Virginia. Deb spoke to a group of 10 staff and recovery home operators at the West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences (WVARR) on November 9th. WVARR envisions that all persons in recovery from addiction have access to the recovery supports they need to achieve their goals and live rewarding and fulfilling lives free of stigma. PATH appreciates WVARR's interest in educating it's staff and operators how to recognize Human Trafficking among the vulnerable recovering population.



PATH was pleased to, once again, partner with Goodwill to provide training to it's Louisville and Lexington Goodwill Opportunity Centers. Over November 17-18, PATH trained over 50 employees between the two centers on Human Trafficking 101. Back in October, we spoke to the Elizabethtown Opportunity Center staff.

Goodwill Opportunity Center is a nonprofit that strives to better the lives of the vulnerable through job opportunities and other resources such as, "health, community cafeteria, social, financial, career, those who struggle with any form of disadvantage within our community, and other important services" (Goodwill, n.d.). The services are there to help any who struggle with any form of disadvantage within our community including overcoming addiction, homelessness, disability, or unemployment. In their mission to empower and enhance the well-being of individuals, they are also preventing them from being targets of any form of trafficking.

The opportunity is here. Goodwill West Louisville. (n.d.). Retrieved November 23, 2022, from <https://goodwillwestlouisville.com/>



PATH AND YOU



Thanks to all who supported PATH on Tuesday, November 29th during GivingTuesday. A special thanks to our videographer, Tim Antkowiak for his \$1,000 in kind donation.

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