



The Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (**HART**) was created in order to focus on and reduce Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

Webpage: <http://www.portal.ct.gov/DCF/HART/HART>



The 2nd annual Response to Recovery: A Child Abuse conference was held on May 17th with close to 400 people in attendance. This conference is sponsored by Connecticut Children's Alliance (CCA) and DCF's Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART).

In 2014, CT DCF Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team began partnering with Connecticut's multidisciplinary teams and child advocacy centers to provide a more comprehensive and supportive response to minor victims of human trafficking. Since 1995, CT's MDT's and CACs have been responding to child abuse victims in CT and have proven that a collaborative multidisciplinary approach is the best way to ensure each child receives the appropriate services from response to recovery. Together, CCA and HART brought awareness to the fact that the victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking deserve the same level of response as all child abuse victims.

Offering a diverse selection of session topics, this conference was an opportunity for law enforcement, child protective services staff, lawyers, social workers, therapists, teachers, forensic interviewers, medical professionals and child advocacy center staff to come together and learn how to strengthen their response to child abuse and exploitation cases across Connecticut. This year's theme focused on male victims of child abuse and trafficking.



Our Conference began with a powerful and emotional presentation by Kevin McNeil a Special Victims Detective, author, educator, motivational speaker, and child abuse survivor. Kevin's passion is to educate the world on the effects of abuse and how it can be eradicated from our culture. His passion was evident and his impact was great. Participants were moved and inspired by his message. Participants attended workshops which focused on general child abuse as well as human trafficking. There were several breakout sessions which included a focus on male victims one of which included a male survivor of human trafficking. The workshop presenters were amazing and all in attendance felt enriched by their experience and exposure to the content they received during the conference.

Krystal Rich and Yvette Young,
Conference Co-Chairs

This year The Underground, a grass-roots faith based initiative dedicated to ending sex trafficking in Connecticut received our Ally Award. The Underground was recognized for their generous donation and support of our anti-trafficking efforts. The Underground has undertaken several initiatives aimed at education, prevention and survivor care. Some of their efforts include a career workshop for high risk and confirmed youth, enrichment scholarships, back to school back packs, funding hotline cards, bracelets, and rapid response back packs, funding to support trainings and conferences, public awareness trainings, and funding for the screening of the "I am Jane Doe Documentary. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the Underground and we look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.



Kevin McNeil (Keynote Speaker),
Krystal Rich and Yvette Young



We would like to extend a special “thank you” to the Governor’s Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTFJAC) for their generous donation. This conference would not have been possible without their assistance.

It took a team to make this conference a reality so we would also like to thank all the volunteers who assisted us on that day to ensure we had a successful event. Your generosity of time and support is greatly

appreciated.



Kevin McNeil (Keynote Speaker), Tammy Sneed and Yvette Young

The Underground – Ally Award Recipient



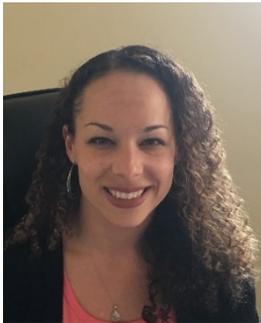


HART SHINING STAR AWARDS

The HART Shining Star Awards is an initiative to honor the exceptional work being done by DCF staff, HART Committee Members, and community providers in CT whose focus is on eradicating human trafficking as well as empowering victims of this crime. Our recipients this quarter are:

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Brooke Morris



Brooke Morris, LMSW has been with the Department of Children and Families for 11 years and is an Intake Program Manager for the Bridgeport Office as well as a Human Anti Trafficking Response Team (HART) Liaison. This transition occurred recently as most of Brooke's work prior to her transition occurred in Region 5 as an Intimate Partner Violence Specialist and HART Liaison for the Department. Brooke has raised awareness across the state of Connecticut by training in the community as well as law enforcement in human trafficking and intimate partner violence. Brooke has provided education and awareness at events such as the National Association of Social Workers Conference, Response to Recovery Conference as well as a multitude of community events. Brooke has assisted in the development of the Youth Awareness Curriculum as well as revising the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking community and law enforcement curriculums. Brooke is also an adjunct professor for Post University in the subject matters of forensic psychology and special topics in forensics.

"Brooke is an amazing, dedicated Social Worker who leads with her passion and heart. She has been the DCF Region 5 HART Liaison in Waterbury for years and is a wonderful asset to our Regional Multidisciplinary HART Team. Brooke also trains staff on DMST, as well as the

community providers, educators, our local law enforcement providers, as well as the youth she engages with to make safe choices and better protect themselves from potential traffickers and exploitation, and to recognize potentially risky situations.”

- Erika Mongrain, MSW

COMMUNITY AWARD

Detective Matthew Greenstein

Detective Matthew Greenstein has been a member of the Connecticut State Police since 2001. After graduating from the Connecticut State Police Academy, he was assigned to Patrol at the Troop A barracks in Southbury. In 2004, Matthew Greenstein was assigned to the town of New Fairfield as a Resident Trooper. During that time, he became a Field Training Officer where he trained rookie troopers and local police officers. In 2009, Matthew Greenstein was promoted to detective in the Central District Major Crime Unit. His primary job focus was investigating and processing crime scenes in cases involving homicides, mass murders, police involved shootings, sexual assaults, kidnappings, missing persons, robberies and other Class A and B felonies. Key investigations that Detective Greenstein was involved in were the Sandy Hook Mass Murder, the New Britain Serial Killer case and the Kleen Energy Natural Gas Explosion. In addition to his primary duties as a detective, he became an Adjunct Staff Instructor at the State Police Academy. In 2015, Detective Greenstein was assigned to the Connecticut Human Trafficking Task Force where he has been working in conjunction with Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Officers to investigate all cases involving the trafficking of persons, to include sex trafficking of minors and adults as well as labor trafficking. In addition to investigating cases involving trafficking in persons, he has instructed numerous Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Officers in identifying and investigating Human Trafficking cases. In an effort to spread awareness about Human Trafficking, Detective Greenstein has conducted several lectures to high school and college level students as well as presented at speaking engagements involving members of the community. Throughout his career in law enforcement, Detective Greenstein has received various departmental awards as well as receiving the Police Officer of the Year Award by the Connecticut District Exchange Club.

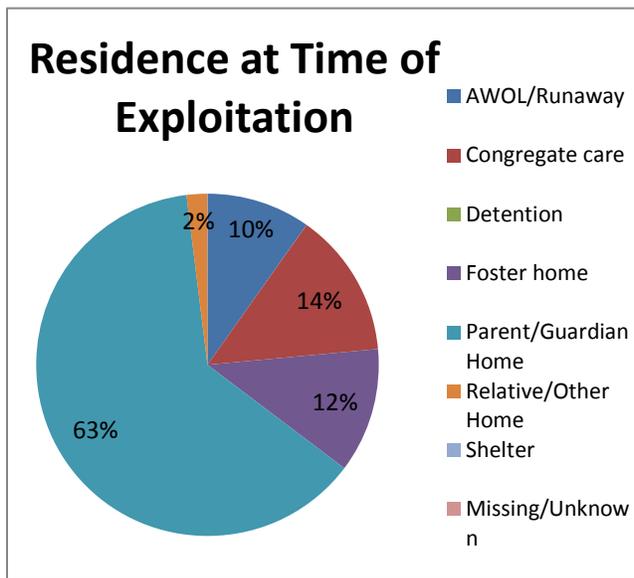
“Detective Greenstein is a 16 year member of the Connecticut State Police, currently assigned to the Central District Major Crime Squad’s Missing Persons Unit. Since 2015, he has been a member of the Connecticut Human Trafficking Task Force initiated by the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Connecticut. He has concentrated his efforts in investigating juvenile human trafficking, and also provides human trafficking training and awareness to state police personnel, municipal law enforcement agencies, and other non-law enforcement state agencies. Detective

Greenstein exercises great diligence in each investigation, ensuring that those responsible for the sexual exploitation of our youth are prosecuted at state and/or federal levels”.

– Sergeant M. Gunsalus

HART DATA

Our data from Quarter 1 of 2017 continue to show an increase in the number of referrals of youth residing at home with their parent or guardian. Sixty three percent of the youth referred in the first quarter of this year were residing at home with a parent or guardian at the time of their victimization. We closed the year in 2016 with 58% of our referrals being youth living at home. Our data is highlighting that youth residing at home are at high risk of being trafficked. It is imperative that our youth are educated about human trafficking to prevent this crime from occurring. We are in the process of finalizing a DMST Youth Awareness curriculum which will assist us in reaching more of our youth in CT.



STAY INFORMED

End Demand CT: Update

- More than 650,000 commercial sex ads were posted online selling sex in Connecticut during 2016, a major increase from previous years.
- End Demand CT is working to develop and launch decoy ads which will 1) redirect would-be buyers to information and services, and 2) provide us with greater data on who is buying sex, when, and how often.
- Be on the lookout for some research on Pornography & Sex Trafficking
 - It has been said that prostitution and pornography are “symbiotically related” to sex trafficking and that the latter “would not exist without the former.”
 - Any type of pornography that contributes to (helps fuel) the demand for a particular type of prostitute is likely over time to attract the attention of traffickers, who can provide that type of prostitute.

- In the last ten years in Connecticut, Of the 738 arrests for possession of child pornography, 407 were in the first degree (over half, 55%), meaning:
- The person possessed 50 or more visual depictions of CP, or
- The CP they possessed depicted serious physical injury or the threat of such injury

NEW LEGISLATION - AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

An Act Concerning Human Trafficking will go into effect October 1, 2017. It makes the following changes to existing law:

1. Adds the Commissioner of the Department of Education, or the Commissioner's designee to the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Council, and an adult survivor of human trafficking;
2. Requires the TIP Council to develop a list of key indicators that a person is a victim of trafficking;
3. Requires the TIP Council to develop a standardized curriculum and to conduct training for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, emergency medical services personnel, teachers, school counselors, school administrators and personnel from the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Public Health to identify victims of human trafficking, and assist such victims;
4. Requires the TIP Council to develop and conduct training for personnel from the Department of Children and Families and Public Health on methods for identifying children in foster care who may be at risk of becoming victims of trafficking;
5. Requires the TIP Council to develop a plan for mental health, support and substance abuse programs for individuals identified as victims of trafficking and those arrested for prostitution. The plan shall provide for the diversion of victims of trafficking and prostitution offenders in community-based treatment and support services, including, but not limited to, substance abuse recovery, housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support, and after the successful completion of the program, the dismissal of any related criminal charges against the accused;
6. Requires the TIP Council to examine the challenges faced by victims of trafficking who are persons without legal immigration status and make legislative recommendations for services that could benefit said victims;
7. Amends the trafficking in persons felony charge to include a third condition that constitutes trafficking in persons when such person 'otherwise commits an act that constitutes sex trafficking.' Sex trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation or provision of a person for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with another person for a fee;

8. Removes patronizing a prostitute when such other person has not attained the age of 18 from state law;
9. Creates a new standalone charge of Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor for buyers paying to sexually abuse a child. This crime is a Class B felony when the child being purchased is 15-17 and Class A when the child is under the age of 15;
10. Expands the entities required to post signage regarding human trafficking including massage businesses, public airports, acute care hospital ERs, urgent care facilities, rail and bus stations, employment agencies, nail technicians. It also adds financial penalties for failure to do so;
11. Requires DCF to develop training for law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and hospital ER and urgent care staff;

Additionally, this legislation makes effective immediately a requirement that the Attorney General and Commissioner of Administrative Services, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management develop a proposed certification for inclusion in state contracts that conforms to federal Executive Order 13627, Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts.

I AM JANE DOE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Over the past several months there have been two additional screenings of the documentary *I am Jane Doe*, a documentary that chronicles the epic battle waged by several American mothers on behalf of their middle school daughters who are victims of sex trafficking on Backpage.com.

These mothers have stood up on behalf of thousands of other mothers, fighting back and refusing to take no for an answer. Each screening has been followed by a panel discussion which included CT human trafficking experts. The panel discussions focused on internet safety, demand, human trafficking in CT and the work being done as well as a call to action.

On April 26, 2017, the students from the Center for Youth Leadership in Norwalk, members of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council in Stamford and Bob Kocienda, hosted an event at the Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. On June 15, 2017, the Walnut Hill Community Church and the Jericho Partnership group hosted an event at the Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel, CT. Both events resulted in over 100 participants being educated about human trafficking. Audience members asked very thought provoking questions and left the event with a deeper awareness of the impact of human trafficking and with the realization that this is a backyard issue not just an international issue.

Photos from *I Am Jane Doe* screenings.



Pictured left to right: Emma Curtin, Dina Spadacini and Latoya Lowery



Annmarie Boulay, Moderator from *The Underground*



Pictured left to right: Yvette Young, Jillian Gilcrest, Brooke Morris and Brian Reilly

HART GRANTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC

In May of this year, Yvette Young, HART Coordinator, Tammy Sneed, HART Lead, Krystal Rich, Chapter Director of CT Children's Alliance, Latoya Lowery, HART Liaison, and Samantha Lowery, Evaluator ICF attended the annual Administration for Children and Family (ACF) grantee meeting in Washington, DC.

This year all the grantees were asked to present on their projects. Yvette Young and Samantha Lowry presented on behalf of HART. They highlighted for those in attendance the accomplishments of the HART team as well as the lessons learned. The following were some of the accomplishments shared.

- Provided 93 trainings reaching 2,474 participants.
- Conducted TOT's for our "DMST of Boys and Male Bodied Youth" and "Introduction to DMST in CT Law Enforcement" Curriculums (33 People were trained)
- Trained 32 new Therapeutic Foster Parents in our one day, "Working with children at risk of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking"
- 95 DMST cases were seen by our Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) in CT
- Partnership with State Attorney's Office, US Attorney's Office, FBI, and State Police
- Partnership with The Underground – Faith Based Initiative
- Response to Recovery: A Child Abuse Conference
- DMST Youth Awareness Curriculum
- EMS Curriculum
- Screenings of the documentary, I am Jane Doe
- Foster Care Breakfast Event and Youth workshop with Survivor Speaker
- Implementation of PIE data system
- Human Trafficking Awareness Month Events
- Expansion of Love 146 Survivor Care Program



Pictured left to right: Krystal Rich, Samantha Lowry, Tammy Sneed, Yvette Young and Latoya Lowery

MDT CONFERENCE



Pictured left to right: Marcy Carlone, Jennifer Shimer, Diana Juliao, Dr. Katariina Rosenblatt, Matthew Greenstein, Yvette Young

CMHA hosted the Central Multidisciplinary Team's annual conference titled Human Trafficking: A Survivor's Story and the Acute Psychology of Trauma, on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at the Crystal Ballroom of New Britain.

The full day training featured keynote speaker Dr. Katariina Rosenblatt, LLM, PhD, Human Trafficking Survivor Leader, Author, and Founder of the Orlando, FL based non-profit, There Is Hope For Me. Alongside Dr. Rosenblatt was Diana Juliao, A.A., Executive Director of There Is Hope For Me and daughter of Dr. Rosenblatt. Topics included lures and recruitment tactics used by traffickers, the physical and mental toll victimization takes on survivors, solutions, collaboration, and prevention. Rounding out the day was a panel discussion, featuring participants from local agencies: Jennifer Shimer of LOVE146, Matt Greenstein of the CT State Police, Yvette Young of the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team, and Marcy Carlone of CMHA which highlighted the impact of human trafficking on the local community.

Over 140 people were in attendance representing multiple disciplines, including local law enforcement and the Department of Children and Families, as well as a number of other service providers from New Britain and the surrounding areas.

FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

On April 21, 2017, HART hosted an appreciation breakfast for Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) providers who had foster parents who have received training about Human Trafficking and are willing to provide care for identified trafficked youth.

Foster Parents, TFC staff and DCF staff were all in attendance at the event. Our guest speaker for the event was Withelma "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew who is a Survivor, Leader and Nationwide Consultant in Domestic Human Trafficking, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, and Child Welfare. Her presentation focused on "Changing the Narrative: Human Trafficking in Reality".

"T" shared her story of being a survivor of human trafficking and how life has been for her beyond "the life". She encouraged those in attendance to begin to understand youth culture. It is important that adults know what they are seeing. What are the messages they are getting from others. She emphasized the importance of hope and providing opportunities for survivors. She shared the following quote by Oprah Winfrey with the audience. "It is a fact that when you change a girl's life you affect her vision of herself and her immediate world and the world she will have an impact on". "T" left an impact on those who were present at this event. An impact that will motivate them to provide compassionate support for youth who have been trafficked.



Pictured left to right: Tammy Sneed, Withelma "T" Pettigrew, Yvette Young and Linda Lukin



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