



# Sex Trafficking in Nebraska

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NE Office of the Attorney General

# Human Sex Trafficking

- ▶ Public Health Crisis
- ▶ According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Human Trafficking has become the second fastest growing criminal industry — just behind drug trafficking.
- ▶ Healthcare needs to be involved




# Sex Trafficking defined

- ▶ Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a *commercial sex act*, in which the commercial sex act is induced by **Force, Fraud, or Coercion**
- ▶ Any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking

Neb. Rev. Stat § 28-830  
18 U.S.C. § 1590  
18 U.S.C. § 1591



# **Force**



Any form of dominance,  
control, influence,  
violence or physical  
pressure.

# Fraud

I will make you  
rich.

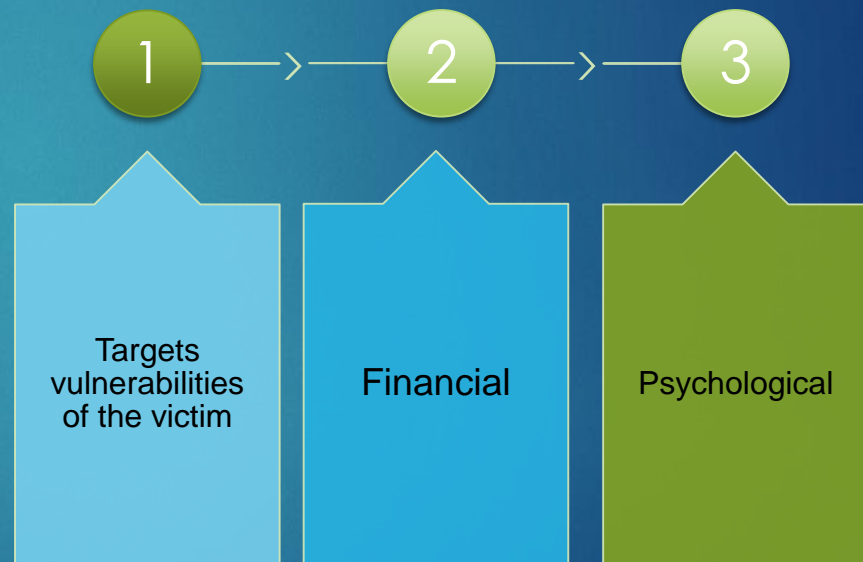
I love you.

I will take  
care of you.

You are better  
off with me.

# Coercion

## PHYSICAL OR NON-PHYSICAL HARM





# NEBRASKA DATA

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
INITIATIVE (CUHTI)



# A Demand for Youth

11% advertised under the age of 21.

20% advertised as very young based on keywords.

- ▶ “Just turned 18”
- ▶ “Fresh meat”
- ▶ “Virgin”

**TÈEN BBW💖💋💢 Daddy's girl👩🔍 Sweet HiGh SKoOI Girl**

Posted: Saturday, May 21, 2016 3:04 PM

**ONLY AVAILABLE FOR HEAD** Hello Guys, I'm SAMMI💋😘Sweet, Young, & Submissive💜My goal is

**Exxxtra small exxxtra tight xxxxx💋 - 18**

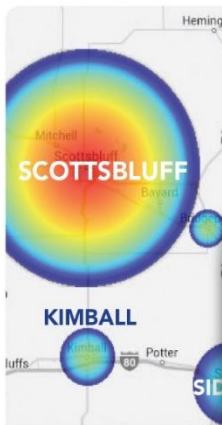
Posted: Friday, June 24, 2016 4:59 PM

Want a good time with a tiny baby let me know !! Fetish welcomed anael.

orrrrrallwelcomed . Tired of these girls being expensive ? I will do reasonable prices

❤❤❤❤ Just turned 18 yesterday💋 Get you a new tight one👩🔍 Let me do the things





Every month,

900



individuals are **SOLD** for **SEX**,  
often **MULTIPLE TIMES**

in Nebraska

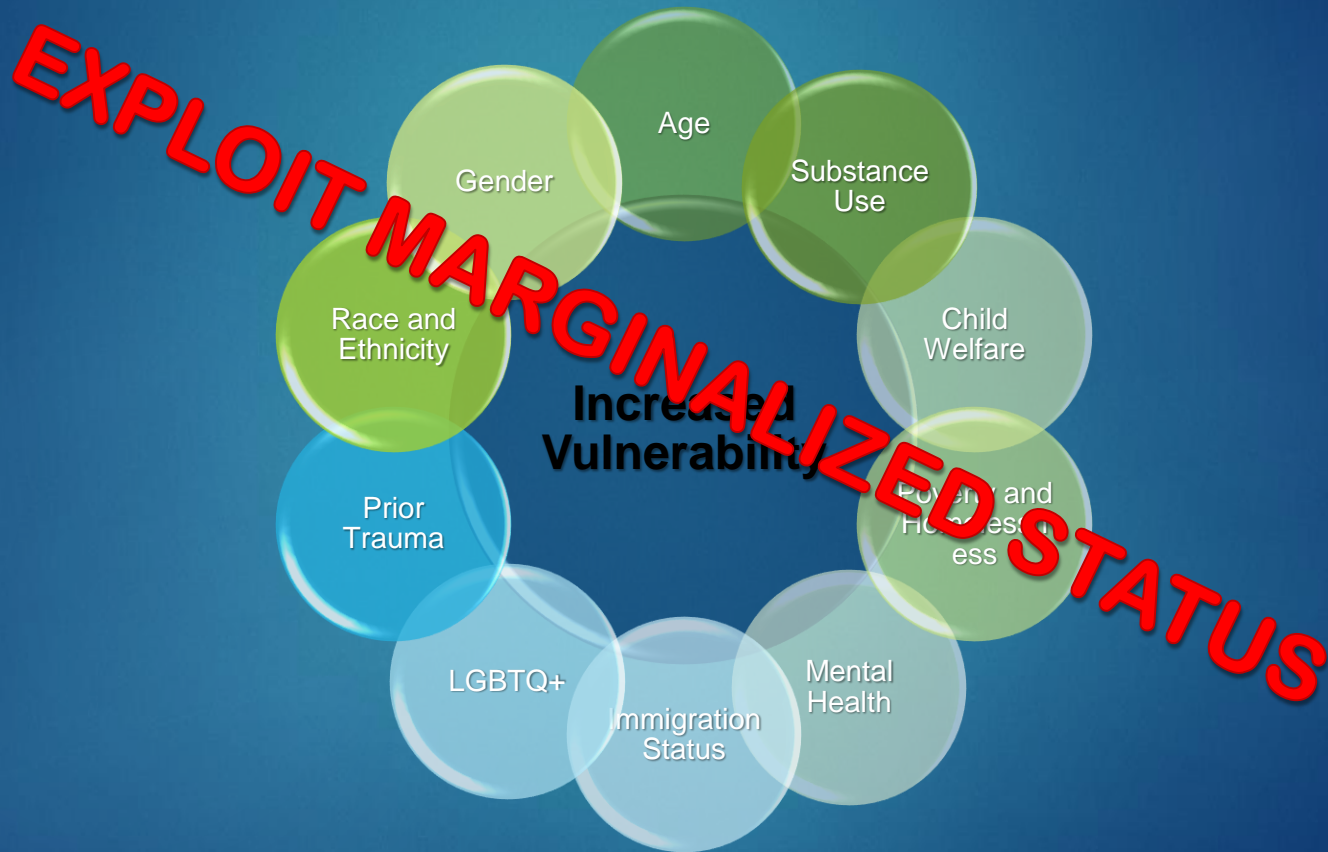
COM

SKA

# Market Draws

- ▶ Sporting and/or Community Events, Work Sites, etc.
  - ▶ Oil fields
  - ▶ Construction Sites
  - ▶ Ports
  - ▶ Seasonal Work
- ▶ **IT'S NOT THE EVENT!**
  - ▶ It is an increase in buyers with disposable income engaging in risky behavior.

# Vulnerabilities



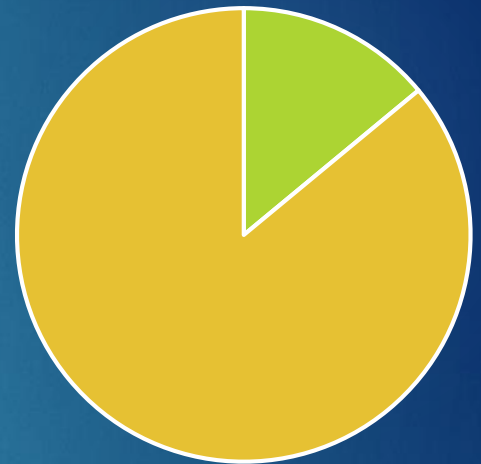
# National data



1 in 8 of reported missing children in 2017 are likely victims of sex trafficking.



In Arizona, 1 in 3 homeless young adults have experienced sex trafficking.




86% were in the care of child welfare when they went missing

# Boys and Sex Trafficking

- ▶ Less data on this population
- ▶ In the U.S. exploited boys may be nearly equal in number to girls
  - ▶ Boys are more difficult to find because they are less reliant on pimps and tend to create their own protection groups
- ▶ Similar risk factors regardless of gender
  - ▶ Substance use, prior trauma, poverty and homelessness, etc.





# Trafficker Tactics, and Warning Signs



# Ramon

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing an orange shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is framed by a black border.

John: Did you look  
for a certain kind of  
girl when you

# Recognize Recruitment



# What Do Traffickers Look Like?

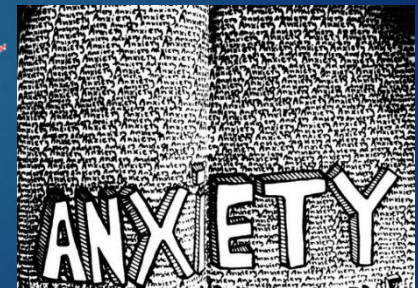
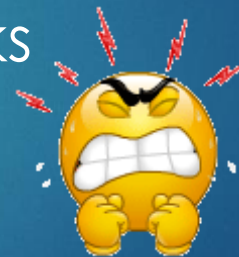




# Trauma Indicators

- ▶ Anger
- ▶ Hopelessness
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Unable to do routine tasks
- ▶ Self-blame
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Feeling out of control

**I BLAME  
MYSELF**



# Why don't We believe??

- ▶ Documentation in Healthcare often found terms such as alleges
- ▶ Coping
- ▶ “Cant happen in my town”
- ▶ Too “crazy” to be believable

# How Do Traffickers Operate?

POWER

and

CONTROL





# Indicators

Close Relationship Between Individuals  
Which Raises Suspicion

Unusual Tattoos

Several Cell Phones

Evidence of Inflicted Injury

Disorientation

Possession of Various Hotel Keys

Large Amounts of Cash

Unkempt  
and  
Malnourished

Cell Phone and ID Controlled by Others



# Human Sex Trafficking

88%

of victims saw a healthcare provider  
while they were being trafficked

# Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy: Annals of Health Law

- ▶ Any type of clinic 57.1%
- ▶ Hospital/ER 63.3%
- ▶ Planned Parenthood 29.6%
- ▶ Regular doctor 22.5%
- ▶ Urgent care clinic 21.4%
- ▶ Women's Health Clinic 19.4%
- ▶ Neighborhood clinic 19.4%
- ▶ On-site doctor 5.1%
- ▶ Other 13.3%



# Why Healthcare?

- ▶ **Patients will often come in for a variety of complaints and may not have disclosed.**
- ▶ Medical Providers can and do identify patients first
- ▶ **Why do healthcare providers get disclosures?**
- ▶ What will these patients require?
  - ▶ I.E. CAC's, FNE, Advocate, LE etc...
  - ▶ What happens when we fail to get resources necessary?

100

- 
- A cartoon-style illustration of an open first aid kit. The lid is white with a red cross and the words "First Aid Kit" in black. Inside the kit, there are several compartments: one with band-aids, one with a bottle of antiseptic, one with a pair of green gloves, and one with a roll of bandages. The kit is shown from a slightly elevated angle, and the background is white.

# Screening of suspected victims...

- ▶ Engage the victim alone
  - ▶ Significant others, friends, relatives could be perpetrators or other members of the stable
- ▶ Discuss confidentiality and its limits
- ▶ Assess for acute medical needs first
- ▶ Safety plan before the conversation ends, if able



## HEADSS mnemonic (At-risk youth screen)

- ▶ Home: Who do you live with? Get along? Can you come & go? Run away
- ▶ Education/Employment: Grades? Skip school? How make your money or survive?
- ▶ Activities: Typical day like? Do you have a significant other? How did you meet?
- ▶ Drugs/alcohol: Use to escape? Do something didn't want to when high/drunk/passed out?
- ▶ Suicide/Safety: Thought of suicide? Fight w/ significant other?
- ▶ Sex/Exploitation: How many in sex partners in life? When last time had sex? Ever pregnant/STI? Protection?

# Care of known victims...

- ▶ Discuss resources
- ▶ Engage your community partners
- ▶ Don't be an investigator
- ▶ Do know resources ahead of time

# Healthcare Role

- The number one **priority** is always - identification and care of injuries
- Secondary focus is forensic evidence collection
- Prophylaxis for STDs
- Emotional support
- Healthcare Follow-up

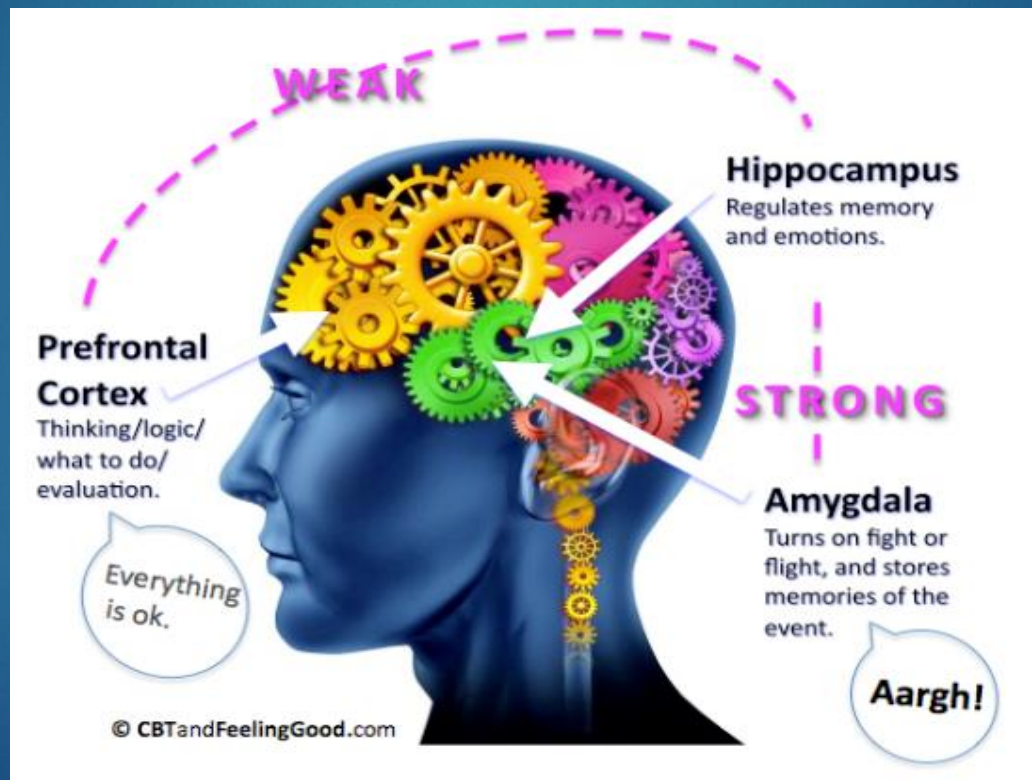


# Reporting process

- ▶ Mandatory reporting
- ▶ Child Protective Services
- ▶ Forensic Nurses
- ▶ Child Advocacy Center
- ▶ Law enforcement
- ▶ Others?



# Understanding the brains natural reaction to “Triggers” “Fight, Flight, Freeze”





**Nadine Burke Harris**  
**Founder & CEO,**  
**Center for Youth Wellness in San Francisco**





## Listen

Be patient.  
People who  
have  
experience  
d trauma  
may not  
share  
everything  
all at once.

## Believe

Start by  
believing.  
Build trust  
first vs  
focusing on  
facts.  
Disclosure is  
a big first  
step.

## Respect

Provide  
services  
and  
support ...  
no matter  
who it is.

# Adult/Adolescent Examinations

- Male or female patients
- Menstruating females
- Sexual assault kit can be performed up to 120 hours or 5 days.
- Community collaboration is crucial
  - Advocacy
  - SANE/FNE
  - Law enforcement

# Child Examinations



- Pre-pubertal Children
- Evidence typically collected for up to 72 hours or 3 days.
- CAC model of care best.
- Often delayed reports and important to provide medical exams to reassure normalcy.

# It's On Us

- ▶ The system has failed these people many times.
  - ▶ We missed signs, symptoms and the environment.
  - ▶ Naturally test the system when seeking help.
- ▶ We need to ask questions and be ready for the true answers.
- ▶ Providers must build an environment of trust for children within our systems.
- ▶ We need to encourage open communication and to return for help.
- ▶ We need to empower with options by researching services.



# Health consequences of Sex Trafficking Survivors



# Survivors reported

- ▶ Any Physical Health Problem 99.1% (N=106)
- ▶ Neurological 91.7% (N=106)
- ▶ General Health 86.0% (N=105)
- ▶ Injuries 69.2% (N=102)
- ▶ Cardiovascular/Respiratory 68.5% (N=106)
- ▶ Gastrointestinal 62.0% (N=106)
- ▶ Dental 54.3% (N=105)



# Signs and symptoms of strangulation

## NEUROLOGICAL

- Loss of memory • Loss of consciousness • Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation • Extremity weakness • Difficulty speaking
- Fainting • Urination • Defecation
- Vomiting • Dizziness • Headaches

## EYES

- Small red spots on eyeball or eyelid
- Bloodshot eyes
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

## FACE

- Tiny red spots • Slightly red or florid • Scratch marks • Facial drooping
- Swelling

## CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

## VOICE AND THROAT CHANGES

- Hoarse voice • Unable to speak • Trouble swallowing • Clearing the throat • Coughing • Nausea
- Drooling • Sore throat • High-pitched wheezing

## SCALP

- Small red spots from bleeding in the skin • Bald spots (from hair pulling) • Bump on the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

## EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Small red spots on earlobe • Bruising behind the ear • Bleeding from the ear

## MOUTH

- Bruising • Swollen tongue or lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Small red spots from bleeding inside the mouth

## NECK

- Redness • Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising made by thumbs or fingers • Swelling • Ligature marks

## BREATHING CHANGES

- Difficulty breathing • Respiratory distress • Unable to breathe



# Important aspects to consider for institutions performing examinations.

- On-site medications.
- Designated SANE room with specialized supplies.
- SANE provider outside ED staff or other models
- How to accomplish continuing education and training?
- Continual Quality Assurance.



# Other aspects to consider..

- Use of the Alternative Light Source with strangulation and other injuries.
- Be prepared for additional resources otherwise not available to patients.
- Collaborative approach with Victim Advocate and Law Enforcement.
- Development of MOU's with advocacy agencies, law enforcement and for follow up medical care.



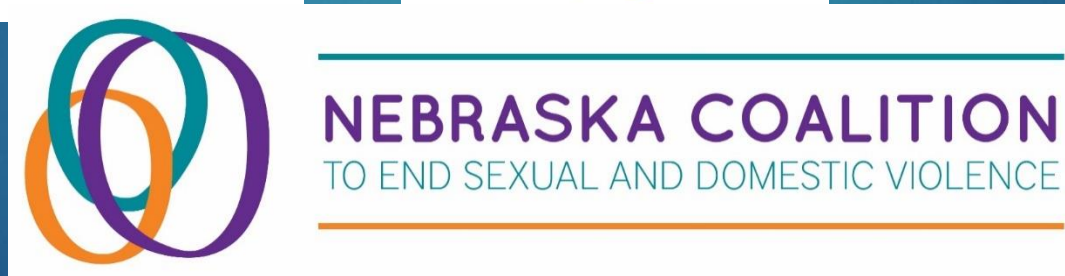
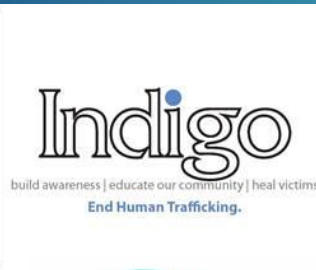
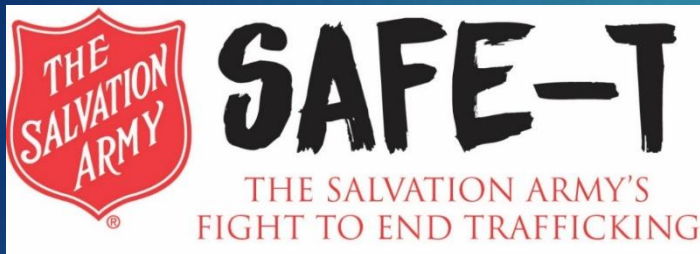
# So I have a victim, now what??

- Community response team benefits.
- Knowing your resources and making the connections.
- Who in your area can help?
- How should activation of team look?

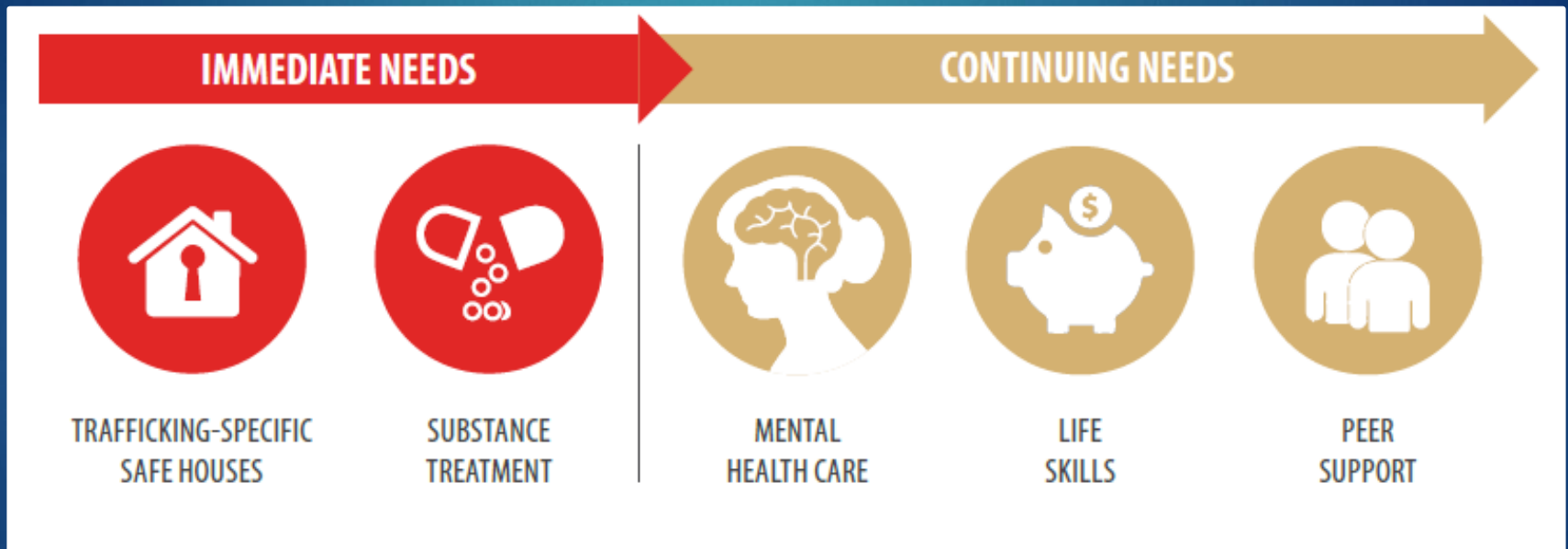
# Bringing it all together

- ▶ What policies does your institution have?
- ▶ Who would you call?
- ▶ What are your next steps?

# Service Development



# Survivor needs

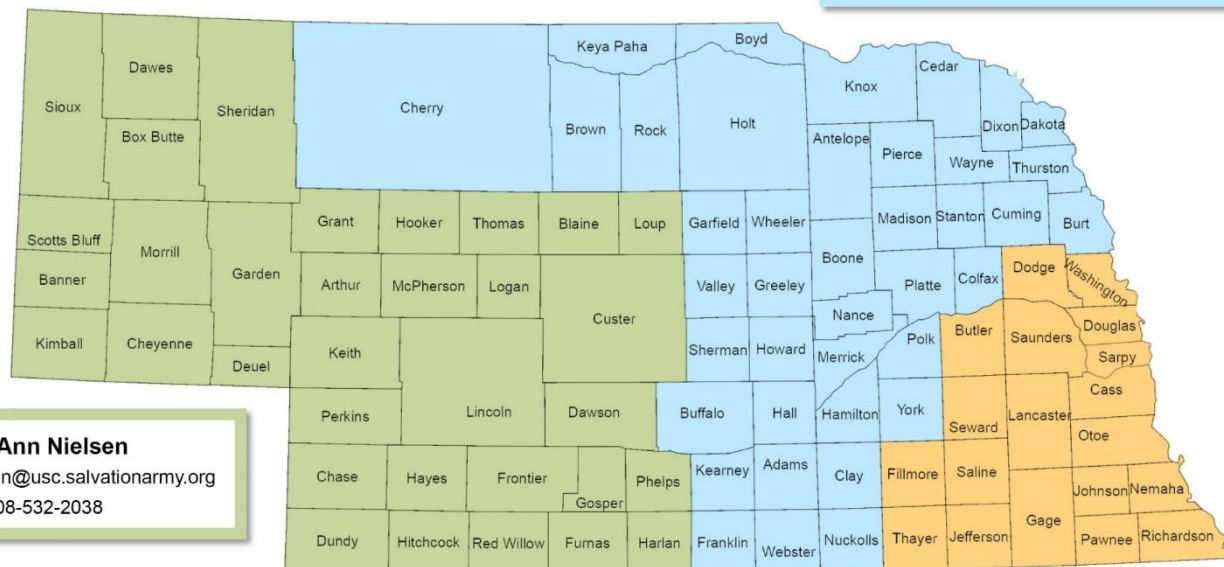


# NEBRASKA SAFE-T TRAFFICKING SPECIALISTS

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**SAFE-T**  
THE SALVATION ARMY'S  
FIGHT TO END TRAFFICKING

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402-898-4768

**Shelly DeBuhr**

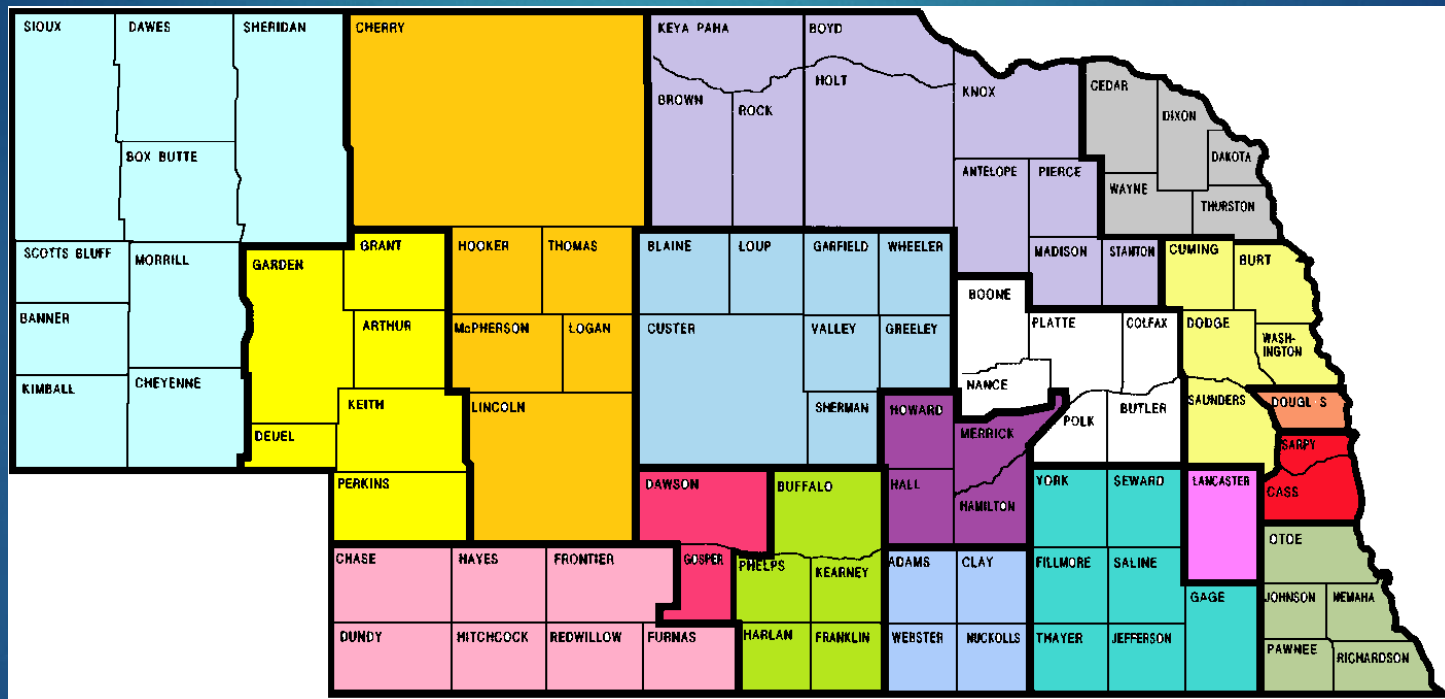
Shelly\_DeBuhr@usc.salvationarmy.org

402-898-6060

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline: 1-888-373-7888**



# Nebraska Network of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Programs



# How to respond when a child discloses

- ▶ Mandatory reporting
  - ▶ Know your organization's policies and resources
  - ▶ Lean on other resources (SANE, hospital social workers, outside advocates)
  - ▶ Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline:

**800-652-1999**

## **Minimal Facts Interview**

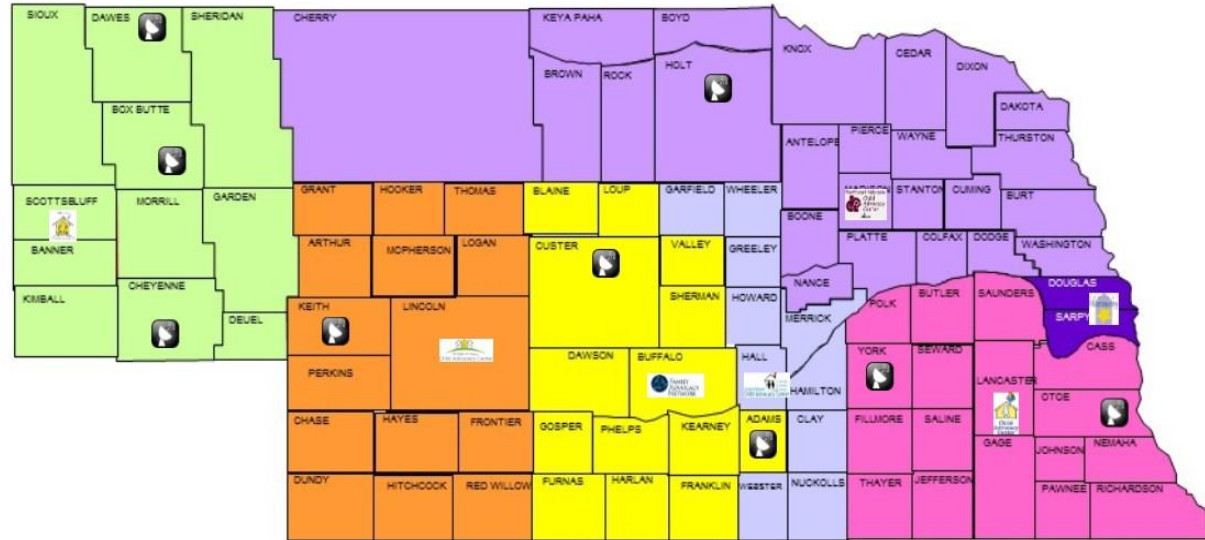
### **What To Ask the Child Victim**

1. Disclose: Tell me what happened.  
Observe: Tell me how that happened.
2. When did it happen?
3. Where did it happen?
4. Who did it?  
(Is \_\_\_\_ a grown-up or a kid?)
5. When is the next time you will see them?



Source: Project Harmony

# Nebraska Child Advocacy Centers



## Central Nebraska CAC- Grand Island

Adams, Clay, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Merrick, Nuckolls, Webster, Wheeler

## Family Advocacy Network- Kearney

Blaine, Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Loup, Phelps, Sherman, Valley

## Child Advocacy Center- Lincoln

Butler, Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, York

## Northeast NE CAC- Norfolk

Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cherry, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Stanton, Thurston, Washington, Wayne

## Bridge of Hope- North Platte

Arthur, Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, Thomas

## Project Harmony- Omaha

Douglas, Sarpy (also serves 16 counties in IA)

## Capstone- Scottsbluff

Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux

# Know Your Local Contacts

- ▶ Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
- ▶ Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program
- ▶ SAFE-T Trafficking Specialist
- ▶ Nebraska State Patrol
- ▶ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program



If you suspect human trafficking call

**911**

or

National Human Trafficking Hotline

**888-373-7888**

or

Text “**Help**” to **233733**



# Questions?

**Anne Boatright MSN, RN** State Forensic Nursing Coordinator;  
Nebraska Attorney General's Office | [Anne.Boatright@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Anne.Boatright@Nebraska.gov)



When the caterpillar thought it's life was over, it transformed into a butterfly.

~ A Proverb