



## EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

## MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 • (925) 608-5000 • Fax (925) 313-9748 • [www.ehsd.org](http://www.ehsd.org)

To: **Family and Human Services Committee, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**

From: **Devorah Levine, Assistant Director, Employment and Human Services Department**

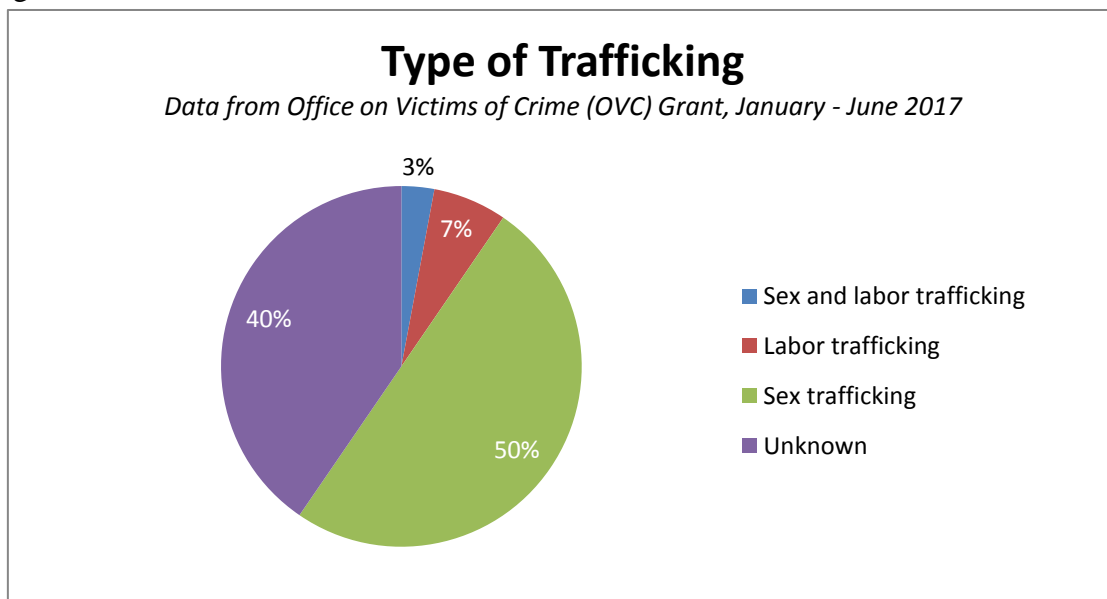
Date: **February 20, 2018**

Subject: **Update on Human Trafficking, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, and Family Justice Centers**

### Human Trafficking in Contra Costa County: A Snapshot

#### *Data on Prevalence*

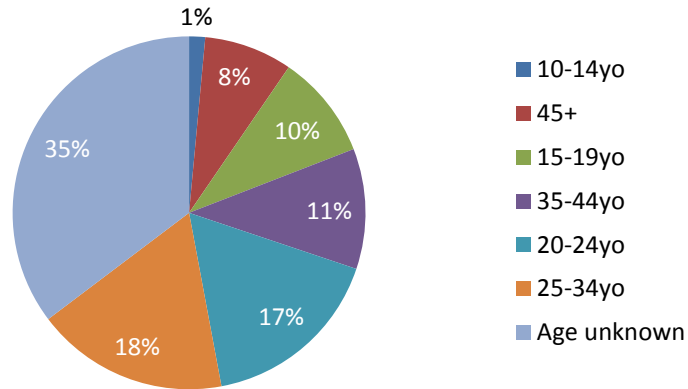
Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of human beings for the purpose of forced and coerced labor or sexual activities. By nature, it is a hidden crime and is often under reported. However, six agencies have consistently collected data over the last several years, providing an important snapshot.<sup>1</sup> The data presented below was collected over a six-month period from January to June 2017 and represents 136 survivors of human trafficking who were identified during this time.



<sup>1</sup> These agencies include STAND! for Families Free of Violence, Community Violence Solutions, Calli House, Bay Area Legal Aid and Rainbow Community Center.

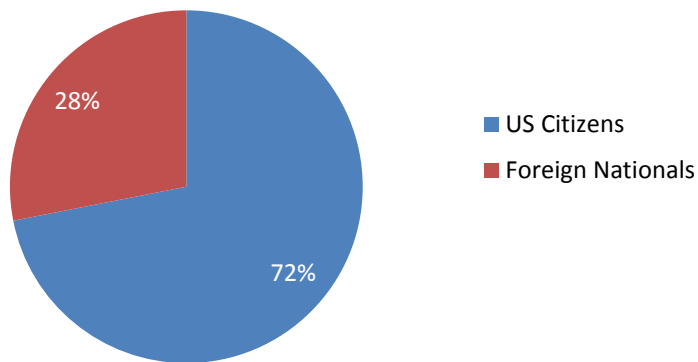
## Age

Data from OVC Grant, January - June 2017



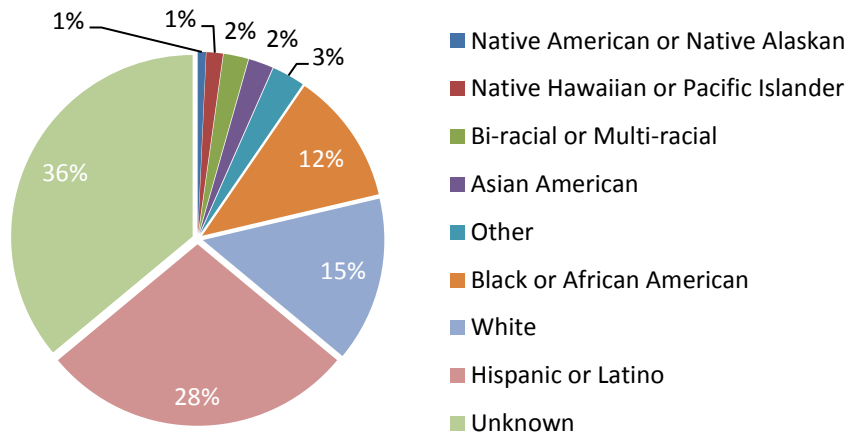
## Citizenship

Data from OVC Grant, January - June 2017



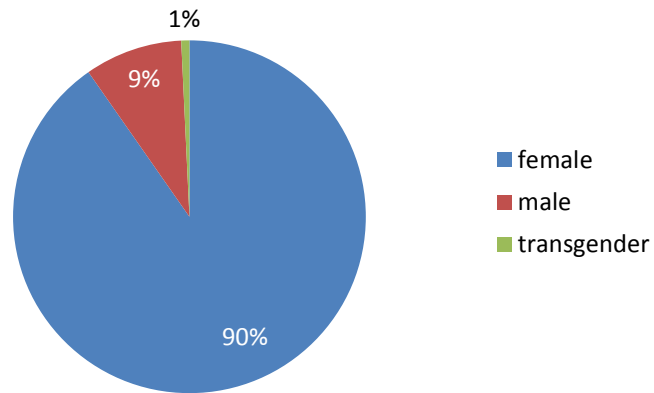
## Race/Ethnicity

Data from OVC Grant, January - June 2017



## Self Identified Gender

Data from OVC Grant, January - June 2017



## **Human Trafficking Intervention and Prevention Efforts**

### *Human Trafficking Coalition*

The [Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition](#) continues to serve the region and envisions public and private systems working together to create a community free of exploitation. The Coalition is made up of over 30 partner agencies including a wide range of service providers, community based organizations, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office and other local and national governmental departments.

The flagship of the Coalition continues to be the Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (HT MDT). Contra Costa County conducted ongoing monthly HT MDT meetings since April 2016. The HT MDT reviews complex human trafficking cases that benefit from further examination and resources (the majority of cases reviewed are Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, called "CSEC"). The HT MDT focuses on identifying needs and accomplishing one to five goals per case, each of which are associated with five Wellness Domains. The MDT is designed to be survivor centered. Survivors develop their own goals with a case manager that MDT partners then focus their attention on. The objective is to support and empower survivors in what they deem as goals or progress. Goals are centered on the survivor's well-being and protective factors.

Participants in the MDT include:

- Community agencies and non-profits such as STAND! for Families Free of Violence, Community Violence Solutions, Rainbow Community Center.
- Probation
- Children and Family Services (Child Welfare)
- Behavioral Health
- Homeless Services
- Public Defender's Office
- District Attorney's Office
- Victim Witness
- Law enforcement from multiple jurisdictions

In early 2017 the MDT launched a survey to collect information on the effectiveness of the MDT process. 79% of partners surveyed had learned about different services because of the MDT. 13 out of 14 partners surveyed wanted to see the MDT continue, and over 29 new connections to partner agencies were made in the first year of the MDT.

A particular highlight around coordination and collaboration of services was a complicated and challenging CSEC case that was brought to the MDT in fall 2017. Because of the complexities involved in this case a smaller group met several times outside of the MDT to focus on coordination and streamlining of services. The meetings included local law enforcement, the Sheriff's Office, the youth's Children and Family Services social worker, two case managers from Community Violence Solutions (CVS) and the youth's group home provider. The meetings ultimately resulted in a detailed action plan including further placement options for the youth and delineation of law enforcement's role when the youth AWOL' d (absence without leave) in order more quickly find the youth and increase their safety once identified. Law enforcement were able

to take this case to the regional Innocence's Lost Working Group and learned that the youth had open cases in two other Bay Area counties. Law enforcement, in partnership with CVS and Children and Family Services, was able to streamline case information across Counties and jurisdictions. While this case is still ongoing, the smaller meetings and proactive approach to case coordination has and will continue to make service delivery and advocacy for this youth more effective.

In addition to the MDT, The Contra Costa County Human Trafficking Coalition launched the [Red Sand Project](#) this year to continue to focus on outreach and prevention efforts. The Red Sand Project is an engaging outreach event that raises awareness about survivors of human trafficking by asking community members to spread red sand in cracks in sidewalks. The event launched in Martinez in August 2017. During the 4 hour event, 185 Red Sand Kits were distributed and 30 individuals were trained in the Coalition's Human Trafficking 101 curriculum. The event was repeated in Antioch in the fall of 2017.

The Coalition outreach team also successfully led another [SB1193 Day of Action in East County](#) in June 2017. The event was co-hosted by the Antioch Police Department and involved volunteers pairing up with law enforcement to go to businesses mandated to post information about human trafficking in Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood and Knightsen. At each business, volunteers passed out posters about human trafficking and informational brochures, and had conversations with business owners.

#### *Office of Victims of Crime – Comprehensive Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Grant*

The Alliance to End Abuse (Employment and Human Services Department) manages a Comprehensive Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Grant through the Office of Victims of Crime (Department of Justice). This grant, which the Alliance has managed since 2014, has four main goals: increase the number of trafficking victims served; increase the number of services provided to human trafficking victims; increase the number of professionals trained in human trafficking identification and serving victims; and increase cross-agency collaboration to enhance and expand services for victims of human trafficking.

Since June 2014, community partners served 409 victims of human trafficking. At the grant's inception in 2014, partners reported 32 victims identified in the first six months, and 73 victims identified by the first year. Since then there has been a steady increase in victims identified and served.

Additionally, 245 units of service were provided to those 409 victims over the last three years by community partners. The most frequent service recorded was ongoing case management followed closely by emotional/moral support, mental health services, housing/shelter advocacy, personal items and safety planning.

Since June 2014 over 2,854 professionals and individuals have been trained on human trafficking identification and response (2,376 professionals trained June 2014 – December 2016, 478 professionals trained from January to June 2017). The most commonly covered topics at trainings included defining and identifying victims of human trafficking, services available for victims, techniques for screening and interviewing victims, procedures for reporting victims, health and trauma consequences of trafficking, and local and regional dimensions of trafficking. The most frequently trained professionals include advocacy and awareness groups, victim

service providers, community agencies, mental health providers and educational institutions, schools and students.

*Responding to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth (CSEC/Y) involved with Children and Family Services (CFS)*

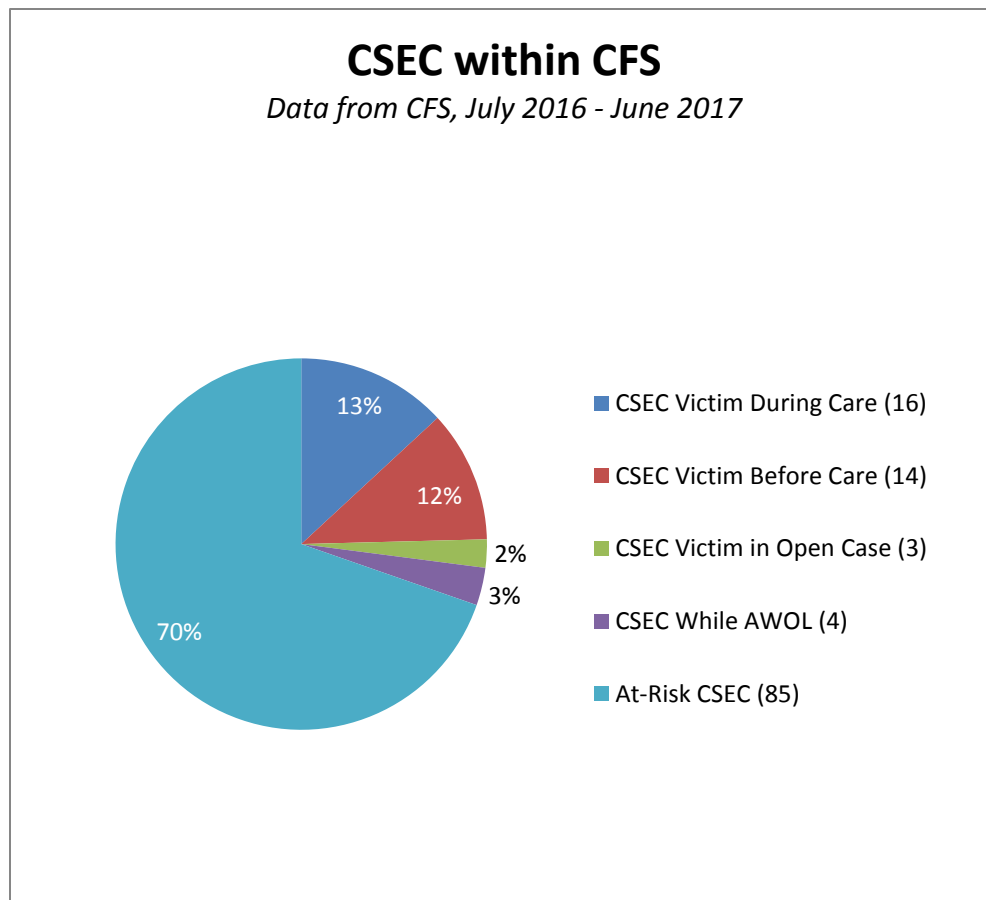
Recent Federal and State regulations and laws require county child welfare agencies to implement policies and procedures for commercially sexually exploited children and youth. These regulations include: identification, documentation, finding appropriate services and providing training.

The Contra Costa County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program is now entering its fourth year of implementation. Contra Costa County Children & Family Services (CFS) opted into the CSEC Program at its inception. CFS Social Workers are required to identify children and youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Identifying these children and youth as victims and survivors rather than as prostitutes and criminals continues to help change how these children are viewed in the community.

CFS staff have been trained to notice common red flags and warning signs for CSEC. Additionally, CFS participated in the pilot to create the West Coast Children's Clinic CSE-IT Tool. This tool helps staff identify and respond to CSE youth. CFS staff properly document within the state case management system the children and youth who are alleged or suspected victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

Below is a snapshot of the children and youth who are alleged or suspected victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) within the child welfare system. California Department of Social Services requires that counties properly document within the state case management system called Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) the children and youth who are alleged or suspected victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Data is categorized as follows:

1. Victim During Care
2. Victim in Open Case, Not in Foster Care (FC)
3. Victim while Absent Without Leave (AWOL)
4. Victim in Closed Case, Receiving (Rcv) Independent Living Program (ILP) Services (Svcs)
5. Victim Before Care
6. At Risk



CFS serves victims of CSEC in a variety of ways, including service linkage, case coordination and consultation, and outreach/education. This past fiscal year, CSEC within Child Welfare were served in the following ways:

#### *Case Coordination & Collaboration*

- Participation in Countywide Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings held monthly
- Child and Family Teams (CFT) held to coordinate care for youth who are CSE
- Work with Youth Partner to try to engage youth

### *Service Linkage*

- CFS contracts with community agencies (Community Violence Solutions and Catholic Charities) to provide critical service linkages including: a CSEC Case Specialist for CFS CSE youth; humanitarian bags which contain clothes, sundries, clipper cards, shoes, etc.; a Forensic Interviewer at the Children's Interview Center (CIC) to assist with the interviewing of CSEC victims when brought to the CIC; case management services to high risk youth and families, specifically targeting CSE involved youth; a CSEC Liaison and CSEC Coordinator to help streamline identification, service provision and training.

### *Trauma Responsive Training & Outreach*

- Provide trauma-informed services for youth in the form of classes at Independent Living Services Program (ILSP) via ARM of Care, a healing arts therapeutic agency.
- Set aside a fund for social workers to access money to pay for CSEC related expenses (tattoo removal, etc.)
- Sanctuary Institute provided a weeklong training for around 40 CFS staff (from various departments and levels) and provided consultation around creating trauma-informed environments for staff and youth. Trauma Transformed provided Trauma 101 courses six times in March 2017, over 100 CFS staff attended.

In order to prevent identified at risk youth from becoming victims, CFS provides the following services and outreach:

- Child and Family Teams (CFT) held to coordinate care for youth who are at risk
- Community Violence Solutions (CVS) Case Specialist consults with social workers regarding youth who are identified "at risk".
- ILSP CSEC Awareness Workshop held February 2017 (Yvette Williams)
- Provided trauma-informed interventions strategies via First Aid Arts Training for ILSP Staff in March 2017
- Ongoing CSEC Awareness classes held by the Community Colleges as part of their Resource Family Training series
- Set aside a fund for social workers to access money to pay for at risk and in-risk CSE youth related expenses

Significantly, an internal policy guide was developed to assist CFS staff in serving CSE youth. This policy guide followed CDSS guidelines and incorporated best practices identified through the interagency collaborations throughout the county. In February 2016, a CFS CSEC Workgroup was launched and provided input to the policy. The policy addresses:

- Protocol regarding identifying CSEC
- Procedures for the Hotline/Centralized Screening Unit, Emergency Response social workers, and social worker responsible for ongoing case management.
- Procedures for children/youth missing from placement



## **Challenges and Needs in Addressing Human Trafficking**

While incredible progress has been made on identifying and serving victims of human trafficking, significant barriers remain.

Some of the most consistent challenges have arisen around the lack of trained dedicated staff within agencies to address this population. Without consistent individuals who know and understand the intricacies of human trafficking and how to best work with and engage, survivors, clients are left to work with whomever is assigned to their case or available.

Both the District Attorney's Office and Children and Family Services have not been able to create full time staff positions or units to address human trafficking. While other forms of interpersonal violence (like domestic violence) have staff and units dedicated to the nuances and complexities of the issue, human trafficking lags behind.

While Children and Family Services as well as the District Attorney's office have worked brought in contractors to assist and rely on partner agencies, this has created real barriers to warm hand offs, wrap around services and consistent care. Many other Counties have moved towards specialized staff positions, task forces and units in order to address the specific training and expertise it takes to provide effective services to this population.

Additional challenges remain around flexible and timely housing and shelter options, language capacity, and training on identifying and serving labor trafficking survivors.

### **The Family Justice Center**

[The Family Justice Center](#) (FJC) continues to be a one-stop center for families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking. The Family Justice Center coordinates with on-site partners so clients can get safer sooner. Between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017, the Family Justice Centers provided services to 2,297 individuals who experienced interpersonal violence. Those services impacted an additional 1,949 children living with these clients. FJC is able to provide comprehensive and integrated services by working together with their 26 on-site partners. On-site partners include 7 law enforcement partners, 9 public agencies and 30 community based organizations. Below is a snapshot of FJC clients:

- 81% of clients are between ages 25 and 59; 8% are between 18 and 24; 8% over 60; and 2% are under 18
- 50% of clients are Latino, 20% White, 19% African American, and 6% Asian
- 76% of clients seek services related to domestic violence, 11% sexual assault, 8% child abuse and 5% elder abuse
- 64% report monthly income of \$2,000 or less
- 87% of clients are female
- 20% of clients have no health insurance, and 51% are on MediCal or emergency MediCal
- 15% reported that they are disabled
- 23% do not speak English

One recent case highlights the effectiveness of FJC's one stop model:

Lara was introduced to the Family Justice Center by a Community Violence Solutions advocate. She confided to the advocate that her ex-boyfriend had hit her the previous night and she did not know what to do next. The Navigator met with Lara and connected her to a *Lawyers for Family Justice* Attorney to file an online petition for a restraining order. She was also connected to RotaCare Richmond for an appointment to check on her injuries, since the client only had emergency MediCal. Lara also will meet with a STAND! liaison to prepare a safety plan and get emotional support while she is waiting for her restraining order hearing.

The intended outcomes of FJC's work are demonstrated in three areas: coordinated seamless services for victims of interpersonal violence (IPV); capacity building and partnership support; and building supportive and knowledgeable community. Below these three focus areas are further broken down.

#### *Coordinate Integrated Services*

FJC's services are organized into two groups: crisis support and long term safety. Crisis support services are coordinated through FJC Navigators, who connect clients to the services they need to leave their abusive situations or deal with their present crisis. After dealing with crisis, FJC staff offer services to get clients to long term safety and independence by working on four domains: health, education and training, wealth and community. Below are highlights from FJC's work to integrate services in 2017:

- The number of IPV clients served (2,297) increased, compared to the previous one-year period.
- FJC expanded their partnerships by adding more on- and off-site partners.
- Out of the 903 clients who filled out client surveys, 98% were satisfied with the services, 98% felt safe and comfortable at the FJC, and 98% would recommend the FJC to a friend in need.
- FJC's Women INspired to Grow and Succeed (WINGS) program completed two 6-week series with 30 participants. As a result, participants created resumes (two of which resulted in new jobs), signed up to complete GED courses, and signed up to further their education in ESL and computer skills. 12 continued to engage with the Center by joining Project Connect.

#### *Capacity Building and Partnership Support*

FJC's capacity building and partnership support strategy includes hosting monthly multidisciplinary team (MDT) case reviews of high danger domestic violence and human trafficking cases and law enforcement training coordination. In addition, through the Family Justice Institute, FJC offers trainings and workshops to educate service providers and the public about issues related to IPV. Below are highlights from FJC's work in capacity building and partnership:

- Of the 45 partners who completed partner surveys in July 2017, 84% stated that they could connect clients to more resources, compared to 78% who shared that view in July 2016 and 68% who shared that view in July 2015. 89% stated that they understood a shared vision and how their organization contributed to it, and 85% felt a sense of community at the FJC.

- 25 agencies participate in the monthly domestic violence MDT meetings and review 2 to 4 cases per meeting. Of the reviewed cases, 98% of victims were women, 77% had children and 32% were still married to their abusers.
- The Family Justice Institute offered 3 workshops, attended by 89 individuals. FJC developed these workshops in response to training needs identified by partners. The topics include IPV 101, Implicit Bias, and Cycles of Violence.

### *Community Building*

FJC strives to support resident-centered and community-based prevention strategies. They aim to engage residents and foster resident ownership of the Family Justice Center, build on community assets, and improve connections among residents, public agencies and non-profit organizations. FJC's Community Fellowship Program has advanced this approach, engaging 10 local resident survivors with leadership development training and opportunities for 10 months. In turn, these Community Fellows have brought community input and survivor insight to FJC's work. They have been involved in every facet of FJC's work and have made significant contributions.

FJC also hosts monthly Project Connect gatherings, intended to build community, offer learning opportunities and share stories. 114 individuals, many of them current or former clients, have come together for Project Connect.

### **More information and resources can be found below:**

- [Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition](#)
- [The Red Sand Project](#)
- [Human Trafficking Awareness Month Toolkit](#)
- [2016 Contra Costa Human Trafficking Impact Report](#)
- [The Alliance to End Abuse: Trainings](#)