



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

**THE INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**REPORT ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION IN PENNSYLVANIA**

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Introduction and Overview

Dear Stakeholders:

In recent years, the Commonwealth has undergone a dramatic change in the legal response to commercial sexual exploitation— both in terms of “law on the books” and “law in action.” This Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania, published by the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE Institute), highlights some of the most impactful changes - from comprehensive law reform through Act 105 (2014), to the prosecution of sex traffickers in Federal Courts, to the bold initiatives throughout Pennsylvania that are changing the way we view individuals who have been subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead

The general public, law enforcement, and the legislature are increasingly recognizing that sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation take place in our state. Rather than merely accepting that CSE is inevitable and continue failing to identify its victims, groups of thoughtful, passionate citizens are joining together to change Pennsylvania’s response to CSE. The legislature enacted comprehensive legislation providing a clear definition of sex trafficking along with concrete elements of a crime to be investigated in order to hold perpetrators accountable. Additionally, this new law provides protections and created far-reaching civil remedies for its victims. Advocates are championing proposed legislation that would provide immunity from arrest and prosecution for minor victims of sex trafficking, and mandate that robust, trauma-informed victim services be made available to help them begin to heal and rebuild their lives. And the paradigm is beginning to shift with the recognition of the fact that demand for commercial



Shea Rhodes, Esq.
Director
The CSE Institute



Michelle Madden Dempsey, JD, LLM, DPhil

Professor of Law and CSE Institute co-founder, Michelle Madden Dempsey, has published extensively on commercial sexual exploitation from a criminal law perspective. Her articles on this topic have appeared in the *Criminal Law Review* (UK), *American Criminal Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and the *Journal of Human Trafficking* (forthcoming).

Prof. Madden Dempsey served as a lobbyist during the negotiations of the UN Palermo Protocol, and as a consultant to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the former UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons.

She is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Bar Association.

sex is a driving force fueling the sex trafficking industry, in the Commonwealth and beyond.

The CSE Institute supports the efforts of those committed to combatting sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, partnering with over 50 organizations throughout Pennsylvania to promote a victim-centered approach to addressing commercial sexual exploitation.

Our mission is three-fold:

- We educate and provide technical assistance to those who respond to commercial sexual

exploitation in Pennsylvania, promoting victim-centered, multidisciplinary collaboration.

- We equip policy-makers and the broader community with the knowledge they need to improve the Pennsylvania legal system's response to commercial sexual exploitation, in order to support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.
- In keeping with Villanova University's Catholic and Augustinian mission, we aim to create a community in which every human being is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

On behalf of the CSE Institute, I thank you for reading this Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania – and I invite you to reach out to us, to explore ways in which we can work together to continue transforming and improving the response to commercial sexual exploitation in our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Shea M. Rhodes, Esq.
Director, CSE Institute

2. Our Board of Advisors



Mary C. Burke, PhD
Executive Director, Project
to End Human Trafficking



Sen. Stewart Greenleaf
Pennsylvania's 12th
District



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3. Law on the Books

Tools in the Fight Against Sex Trafficking in Pennsylvania

In September 2014, Pennsylvania enacted its first comprehensive anti-trafficking statute, “Act 105.” The new law expands Pennsylvania’s legal definition of human trafficking, giving prosecutors better tools to hold traffickers accountable. It provides new and enhanced protections for victims of human trafficking, including a robust civil remedy that allows survivors to sue those who participated in or profited from their victimization. And, it calls for a state plan to coordinate anti-trafficking initiatives and to educate the community and stakeholders about human trafficking, to prevent it from happening in the first place.

3.1 Act 105 (2014): Pennsylvania’s First Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Legislation

PROSECUTION

Act 105 (2014) clearly defines human trafficking in Pennsylvania as a criminal offense that covers both sexual servitude and labor servitude. (The previous definition failed to include sexual servitude as a distinct form of human trafficking,

focusing instead on trafficking for “forced labor or services.” 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3002 (2006).) Under the new law, the crime of trafficking is committed if a person “recruits, entices, solicits, harbors, transports, provides, obtains or maintains an individual if the person knows or recklessly disregards that the individual will be subject to involuntary servitude,” or if the person “knowingly benefits financially or receives anything of value from any act that facilitates any [such] activity.”

The key to understanding Pennsylvania’s definition of trafficking is determining what it means for an individual to “be subject to involuntary servitude.” (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3011(a)(1)-(2)). Under Act 105, “involuntary servitude” covers both labor and sexual servitude. Given the focus of the CSE Institute, this report will focus on what constitutes sexual servitude.

Sexual servitude, as defined under Pennsylvania law (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3001), includes, “[a]ny sex act or performance involving a sex act for which anything of value is directly or indirectly given, promised to or received by any individual or which is performed or provided

by any individual and is induced or obtained from...[a] minor... or [an adult who has been] subject [to] any of the following means:

- (1) Causing or threatening to cause serious harm to any individual;
- (2) Physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain another individual;
- (3) Kidnapping or attempting to kidnap any individual;
- (4) Abusing or threatening to abuse the legal process;
- (5) Taking or retaining the individual’s personal property or real property as a means of coercion;
- (6) Engaging in unlawful conduct with respect to documents, as defined in 18 Pa. Cons. Stat § 3014 (relating to unlawful conduct regarding documents);
- (7) Extortion;
- (8) Fraud;
- (9) Criminal coercion, as defined in section 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2906 (relating to criminal coercion);
- (10) Duress, through the use of or threat to use unlawful force against the person or another;
- (11) Debt coercion;

(12) Facilitating or controlling the individual's access to a controlled substance; or

(13) Using any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause the individual to believe that, if the individual does not perform the labor, services, acts or performances, that individual or another individual will suffer serious harm or physical restraint. (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3012(b))

If the victim is a minor, then there is no need to prove any of the thirteen means listed above. Rather, the existence (or lack) of threats, harm, restraint, kidnapping, abuse of the legal process, etc. is simply irrelevant to determining whether a minor has been subjected to sexual servitude. As such, any commercial sex act involving a minor counts as trafficking under Pennsylvania law – even if the minor is not subjected to force, fraud, or coercion and even if the minor does not self-identify as a victim. In comparison, if the victim is above the age of eighteen years, then a prosecutor must prove that a victim has been subject to at least one of the thirteen means listed above.

The Pennsylvania definition of trafficking is consistent with the Federal definition, which was first enacted in 2000, in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Like the Pennsylvania definition, all

minors who are commercially sexually exploited are defined as victims of sex trafficking. When it comes to adult victims, the Federal definition counts these cases as “severe forms of sex trafficking” whenever the adult victim’s commercial sex act has been induced by “force, fraud, or coercion” (22 U.S.C. § 7102(9)). Insofar as the thirteen means listed in the Pennsylvania definition can be categorized as various forms of “force, fraud, or coercion,” the Federal definition and Pennsylvania definitions are very similar.

Notably, both the Pennsylvania definition and the Federal definition impose criminal liability for trafficking on those who “benefit, financially” from trafficking (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3011(a)(2); 18 U.S.C. § 1591(a)(2)). While the mens rea differs somewhat between the two definitions (with Pennsylvania requiring knowledge, and the Federal definition requiring mere recklessness), this provision arguably exposes strip clubs, massage parlors, hotels, motels, and other entities to criminal liability for sex trafficking that they allow on their premises.

Act 105 also specifically targets purchasers of sex, otherwise known as “the demand” or “Johns.” It imposes criminal liability on those who solicit sex from someone they know is a

trafficking victim (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3013: Patronizing a Victim of Sexual Servitude). Moreover, Act 105 imposes criminal liability for trafficking not only on those who induce sex trafficking (such as pimps), but also on those who solicit or obtain sex from a person (buyers), if the buyer knows or recklessly disregards that the individual is a victim of trafficking. Given the difficulty of proving the mental element (knowledge) included in the offense of Patronizing a Victim of Sexual Servitude (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3013), prosecutors should pursue charges against purchasers of sex under Act 105’s expansive definition of trafficking, in cases where buyers solicit or obtain sex in reckless disregard that the victim is a trafficking victim. In sum, under the expansive definition of sex trafficking in the Pennsylvania law, prosecutors need not prove that buyers knew their victims were being trafficked – it is enough that they acted in reckless disregard of this fact. (A similar provision, allowing buyers to be prosecuted directly as traffickers, was recently enacted at the Federal level in the U.S. Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.)

PROTECTION

Act 105 provides a civil remedy for victims of trafficking (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3051), permitting

them to sue any person that “participated” in their trafficking. Additionally, Act 105 specifically permits victims of commercial sexual exploitation to sue anyone who profited from their victimization or anyone who knowingly published an ad recruiting them to the sex trade. These provisions of Act 105’s civil remedy arguably expose hotels to liability, as well as advertising websites like Backpage.com, which traffickers frequently use to advertise their victims as available for sex, usually at a hotel.

Furthermore, Act 105 permits judges to vacate certain criminal convictions – such as prostitution or simple possession of a controlled substance – that trafficking victims received as a direct result of their victimization (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3019(d)). This provision critically helps survivors move beyond their victimization, both symbolically and practically. Vacating these convictions symbolizes Pennsylvania’s recognition that it has unjustly convicted and punished these victims – and that they are not, and never were, criminally culpable for their actions. Moreover, vacating these convictions has the crucial practical value of removing barriers to finding a job. That said, however, there is an important flaw in this provision, insofar as the

The U.S Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the seminal anti-trafficking legislation. It was originally passed in 2000 and reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013. The TVPA was groundbreaking because it provided a federal definition of a human trafficking victim: any person induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. The TVPA also established an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and created special protections for victims. The passage of this law confirmed the federal government’s awareness of the crime and reinforced anti-trafficking efforts across the nation.

The U.S Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), passed

unanimously by Congress in May 2015, generated some controversy because it expanded the range of conduct that can be charged as sex trafficking to include both pimps (suppliers) and consumers (demand), thus clarifying that consumers (demand) can be charged as traffickers. The law also establishes a fund for victims and service providers, a council to advise policymakers, and two new units within the Cyber Crimes Center to combat online forums where victims are bought and sold. Additionally, provisions of the JVTA incorporate several amendments, including the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which provides financial incentives for states that pass Safe Harbor legislation.

Commonwealth must consent to the petition being filed in the first place. An improved version of this law would allow survivors to have their day in court, with a judge ruling on the merits of their vacatur petition, regardless of whether or not the Commonwealth agrees.

Finally, Act 105 provides important protections for victims

by creating an evidentiary privilege for confidential communications between victims of human trafficking and their caseworkers. Pursuant to 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5945.3, human trafficking caseworkers cannot disclose these communications without their clients’ written consent. This privilege allows victims to get the care they need without having to worry that their

“There is no such thing as a child prostitute. There are only victims and survivors of child rape. S.B. 851 would establish a non-punitive response for juvenile sex-trafficking victims, and provide them with support to address their trauma and specialized services, which would be partially funded through enhanced penalties for traffickers, facilitators, and patrons of prostitution

wherein the victim was a minor. Juveniles involved in sex-trafficking are already considered crime victims under international and federal law. Pennsylvania must advance anti-human trafficking reforms such as this legislation to protect these innocent children.”

– PA Senator Daylin Leach (D, Dist. 17)

victim-centered approach to support victims and target perpetrators.

There are three distinctions among state Safe Harbor laws: those providing children with total immunity from criminal prosecution, those which allow for prosecution but provide children with the opportunity to be diverted from the juvenile justice system, and those with a combination of immunity and diversion. We believe the best policy and the only appropriate legislative

traffickers’ defense attorneys can subpoena their caseworkers, and thus use that information to attack their credibility at the time of trial. Victims can communicate freely with their caseworkers, knowing what they say will be truly kept confidential and protected from disclosure.

PREVENTION

Act 105 permits the Commonwealth to award grants, “subject to the availability of funds” to organizations that develop, expand, or strengthen programs for victims of human trafficking and to direct funds toward increasing public awareness of human trafficking. Unfortunately, Act 105 was signed into law without a fiscal note. As a result, no organizations have received funding to implement this comprehensive

legislation. Instead, more than 30 anti-trafficking organizations and coalitions from across the Commonwealth have formed Pennsylvania Alliance Against Trafficking in Humans (PAATH), to work together to implement Act 105 cohesively.

3.2 “Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children” (SB 851): New Legal Tools to Combat Sex Trafficking in Pennsylvania

In May 2015, Pennsylvania legislators Senator Greenleaf (R-Dist. 12) and Senator Leach (D-Dist. 17) introduced Senate Bill 851 - “Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children.” Safe Harbor laws, now enacted in over thirty states, protect and serve child survivors of commercial sexual exploitation with a practical,

“For many years, we have treated the victims of trafficking as criminals and the criminals as victims. Children are often lured into sex trafficking and charged with serious crimes. It can be difficult to identify human trafficking victims because they either do not identify as victims, are mistrustful of law enforcement, or fear retribution from their trafficker. These children deserve the protection of the child welfare system, not re-victimization and incarceration in the juvenile justice system.”

– PA Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R, Dist. 12)

response for the Commonwealth is to provide full immunity for prostitution and related offenses if the victim is under 18 years of age, which is precisely what SB 851 proposes. (For a complete analysis of the Safe Harbor Full-Immunity Policy, see our paper, *Why “Safe Harbor” Full-Immunity is the Best Policy for*

Decriminalizing Child Victims of Sex Trafficking, available on our website.)

Furthermore, SB 851 seeks to impose a duty on child services agencies to establish adequate victim services for these children, require police training to identify child victims of sexual

exploitation, and establish a fund to provide optional services for child victims of sexual exploitation. We look forward to tracking the positive impact the Safe Harbor legislation will have on the lives of all child victims of sex trafficking in Pennsylvania.

4. Law in Action

New Approaches to Addressing CSE in Pennsylvania

4.1 Identifying Victims of CSE in Pennsylvania

Successful investigations and prosecutions of human traffickers frequently begin with local police officers – specifically, the patrol officer, or “beat cop”. These officers are the first responders who have the most contact with the community they serve. Officers who are able to identify and recognize the signs of commercial sexual exploitation provide a vital link in potential human trafficking prosecutions. It is critical that officers identify victims early and connect them with trauma-informed services. These services provide victims with the care they need to put their victimization behind them. This is especially important because prosecutors frequently rely on victim testimony when prosecuting traffickers. Victims are able to endure the emotional difficulty of testifying against their traffickers if they have received non-judgmental care that responds to their needs.

Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania have recently begun

implementing various tactics that assist local officers in identifying victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Most importantly, ending sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation requires institutional change in which law enforcement agencies and individual officers recognize victims of commercial sexual exploitation as victims and not as criminals.

LOCAL

The Philadelphia Police Department’s Citywide Vice Unit (“Vice”) targets the entire city in its law enforcement effort regarding prostitution and human trafficking. According to Vice Commander, Lieutenant Gary Ferguson, his unit receives ongoing training in investigatory strategies and policing crimes involving commercial sexual exploitation.

Lieutenant Ferguson describes Vice’s response to addressing the women engaging in commercial sexual exploitation as “using the velvet gloves” approach. Balancing law enforcement

tactics with the specific social service needs of the women in commercial sexual exploitation challenges Vice. Although Vice does make arrests for prostitution, their ultimate goal is to encourage the women to use and participate in treatment services. When Vice officers encounter women engaging in prostitution, they conduct scene interviews in an attempt to investigate whether the woman is a victim of human trafficking. Lieutenant Ferguson says that Vice works closely with federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security when conducting on-sight interviews and have often encountered cases where commercial sexual exploitation victims come forward and are able to disclose their sexual exploitation in different states and/or other countries. “If you just focus on getting a lot of arrests, you are wasting time, energy, and resources,” says Lieutenant Ferguson.

STATE

The Pennsylvania State Police (“PSP”) has attended numerous out-service training opportunities relative to human trafficking. “Through training and an increased overall awareness, state troopers are more cognizant in determining whether or not prostitution cases are possible human trafficking cases,” says Sergeant Mark Mayger, an Analytical Intelligence Officer with the PSP’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The PSP has also partnered with area human trafficking response teams to conduct trainings. Currently, PSP is evaluating the Municipal Police Officers’ Education & Training Commission’s (“MPOETC”) human trafficking training and anticipate that mandatory training for all members will be forthcoming. The PSP works closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement to identify and further investigations into allegations of human trafficking.

The Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence (“PaCIC”) Analysts provide the state police members and federal, state, and municipal law enforcement officers with access to intelligence information, investigative data, and public source information 24 hours a day, seven days per week. PaCIC analysts have also attended out-service trainings and work closely with federal, state, and local law

enforcement on investigations involving allegations of human trafficking.

Using their training, Sgt. Mayger says, Troopers are more proactive in screening new investigations to identify potential trafficking connections. Troopers have initiated investigations utilizing open source intelligence on websites that post sex-for-sale ads, particularly targeting those ads that advertise minors, women who appear to be between 18-22 years old, or those who have a young-looking photo. Investigators also continue to investigate complaints regarding massage parlors suspected of harboring trafficking victims. According to Sgt. Mayger, suspects encountered in prostitution investigations are routinely interviewed in an attempt to determine if any person or entity has forced them into commercial sexual exploitation. Suspects identified through this process are then investigated and victims are given a questionnaire to determine whether they are a part of a trafficking network.

PSP also collaborates with various victim service agencies throughout the Commonwealth when investigating sex trafficking cases, and Troopers are instructed to be particularly vigilant in identifying minor victims. When sexually exploited

“We need to identify alternatives to incarceration that are immediately available to facilitate the first step in getting the victim to a safe place and getting them the services they need.”

“We can’t keep arresting our way out of the problem.”

– Bill Walker, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations

juveniles are identified, county children and youth services are contacted to establish a cooperative approach to protecting the victims. While no set investigative approach exists for sexual exploitation investigations, Troopers use all available resources, such as working with child advocacy centers for interviews, children and youth involvement, and cooperating with other law enforcement partners, particularly if the case crossed state lines.

But implementing these tactics is not without challenges, reports Sgt. Mayger. PSP covers approximately 83% of the Commonwealth, which is mostly rural and frequently lacks resources. Investigations are often hindered by a victim’s

inability or unwillingness to cooperate. Language barriers, combined with a lack of funding for translation services, impede victim communication and complicate investigations. Moreover, victims are often unwilling to cooperate due to their mistrust of law enforcement. PSP has noticed that juvenile victims, in particular, often come from troubled pasts and family situations, and they do not want to cooperate with law enforcement. Finally, as a broader issue, PSP attributes the underreporting of human trafficking crimes to a general lack of public awareness that this crime occurs throughout the Commonwealth.

FEDERAL

The Pennsylvania Office of the Federal Department of Homeland Security frequently collaborates with local and state law enforcement agencies when investigating allegations of sex trafficking. Prosecuting federal sex trafficking cases comes with similar challenges law enforcement faces at the local level. “The key for law

enforcement is recognizing that we, as law enforcement, cannot do this alone. We can’t keep arresting our way out of the problem,” says Bill Walker, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations. Unfortunately, finding appropriate services for victims, especially minors, can be challenging. Because many victims have also been arrested for prostitution, sometimes they face preparing to testify against their trafficker from jail. “Most agree that we shouldn’t be arresting these individuals, but one of the biggest obstacles is finding a [safe]place for them to go,” says Walker. “Obviously, we don’t want to send them back onto the street and into the arms of their trafficker. Law enforcement needs help connecting victims, particularly minors, with immediate services that provide safe alternatives to returning to their victimization. We need to identify alternatives to incarceration that are immediately available to facilitate the first step in getting the victim to a safe place and getting them the services they need.”

Walker cites institutional change as the most important means to catching traffickers and holding them, not their victims, accountable. “Law enforcement needs to recognize the victim in commercial sex cases is the most valuable piece of evidence we have, often the only evidence we have. The victim should be recognized as a victim, and treated accordingly. This is true even when the victim might not identify herself as a victim – law enforcement should always be aware of victim indicators.”

4.2 Focusing on Demand

Historically, in Pennsylvania, law enforcement followed an imbalanced approach when it came to policing and prosecuting crimes related to commercial sex. For decades, it was common practice to arrest the sellers (mostly women) for solicitation of prostitution, while allowing buyers (often referred to as a “John,” “Trick,” or “Date”) to go free. Unequal policing practices have traditionally penalized the victims of commercial sexual exploitation, while ignoring the market demand that fuels this abusive industry. This has been the practice, despite the fact that the “law on the books” in Pennsylvania defines selling and buying sex in the same section of the crimes code 18 Pa.C.S. 5902(a) and (e) and both carry the same penalties.

Today, this unequal approach to policing and prosecuting prostitution is slowly shifting. As awareness and understanding of commercial sexual exploitation evolves, law enforcement is beginning to recognize that targeting demand is a more effective approach to combatting commercial sexual exploitation in the Commonwealth. This shift is based on a fundamental and simple economic theory of markets. Demand drives supply.

It is impractical to focus on the supply in this crime, because it is easy for a trafficker to replace a victim with another victim – whereas, if buyers are deterred from seeking commercial sex, this abusive industry will plummet.

According to the website demandforum.net, which was created by Abt Associates to track anti-demand initiatives throughout the United States, various jurisdictions throughout Pennsylvania have adopted anti-demand initiatives to deter the buyers whose dollars drive commercial sexual exploitation.* Demandforum.net identifies twelve major anti-demand tactics: auto seizure, surveillance cameras, community service, john school, letters, license suspension, neighborhood action, public education, street-level and web-based reverse stings, public shaming, and SOAP (restraining) orders. These tactics have been employed across Pennsylvania.

CHARGING DISPARITIES APPARENT IN PROSTITUTION-RELATED OFFENSES

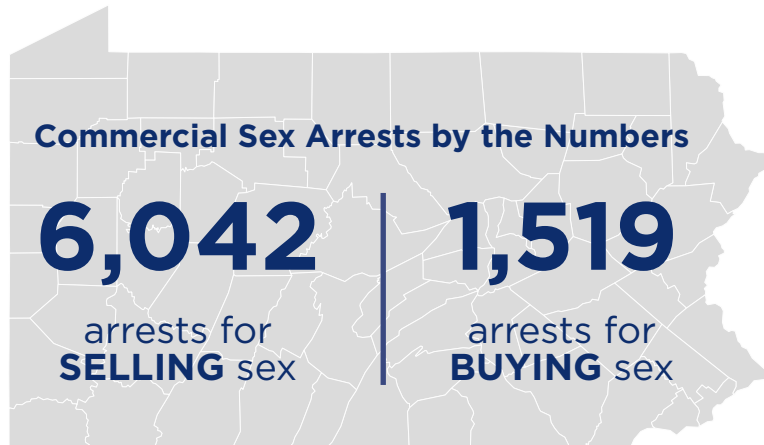
For decades, law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth have prioritized their efforts to deter prostitution by charging those who sell sex more than those who buy sex.

Pennsylvania Counties and Townships Using “Reverse-Stings” to Target Demand

Pennsylvania Counties Using “Reverse-Sting” Policing Practices to Target Demand: Aliquippa, Allentown, Arnold, Beaver Falls, Belle Vernon, Bensalem Township, Berks County, Bethlehem Township, Bethlehem, Bristol, Brookville, Carlisle, Chester, Clairton, Coatesville, Cumberland County, East Lampeter Township, Easton, Erie, Hanover Township, Harrisburg, King of Prussia, Lancaster, McKeesport, Middlesex Township, Montgomery Township, Moon Township, New Castle, Norristown, North Union Township, Palmer Township, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton, Stroudsburg, Susquehanna Township, Swatara Township, Uniontown, Upper Merion Township, Washington, Wilkes-Barre, Worthington, and York

* source demandforum.net

4.3 Pennsylvania by the Numbers for 2014-2015: Arrests for Selling Sex vs. for Buying Sex



Only 7 out of 39 counties in Pennsylvania that reported arrests **targeted the demand for commercial sexual exploitation**, by arresting buyers more frequently than sellers.

County	Selling	Buying
Adams *	2	4
Allegheny	1046	269
Beaver	18	2
Berks	25	0
Blair	9	0
Bradford *	0	1
Bucks	130	2
Butler	6	2
Cambria	5	0
Carbon	3	0
Chester	4	1
Clinton	1	0
Crawford	2	0
Cumberland	4	2
Dauphin	144	47
Delaware	45	26
Erie	78	4
Fayette *	6	14
Franklin *	1	5
Huntingdon	1	1
Jefferson	1	0
Lackawanna	43	11
Lancaster	41	8
Lawrence	12	4
Lebanon *	2	3
Lehigh	127	9
Luzerne	39	2
Lycoming	21	1
McKean *	0	3
Monroe	21	13
Montgomery *	27	37
Montour	6	0
Northampton	30	19
Perry	1	0
Philadelphia	4,005	1,022
Venango	5	0
Washington	17	0
Westmoreland	25	2
York	89	5

Data from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

* Counties where reported arrests for buying sex outnumbered arrests for selling sex.

This unequal policing practice has continued, despite the fact that it targets the very people who are victimized by commercial sexual exploitation, and fails to hold accountable those who create the market demand that fuels this exploitation. (For an analysis of the injustices created by this disparity, see the Op-Ed published by the CSE Institute, “Pennsylvania must link trafficking, prostitution,” Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 1, 2015.)

Data compiled by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) confirms that over a two-year period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015, the majority of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties charged “prostitution,” 18 Pa.C.S. § 5902(a), far more often than “patronizing prostitutes.” 18 Pa.C.S. § 5902(e). For example, in Philadelphia County, there were over 4,000 charges of “prostitution,” while there were only 1,022 charges of “patronizing prostitutes.” Likewise, in Erie County, 78 prostitution charges were filed, met by only 4 charges

of patronizing prostitution. In addition, the CSE Institute issued surveys to each District Attorney’s Office in the Commonwealth to inquire about charging practices during 2014, and the information we obtained corroborated the data from the AOPC*.

Despite the fact that a majority of counties in the Commonwealth have relied on targeting sellers rather than buyers, some counties have begun to focus on charging buyers more often. Indeed, a number of Pennsylvania counties and townships use “reverse-stings,” which focus on arresting and deterring people who buy sex. According to the research database, www.demandforum.net, reverse stings are used in Aliquippa, Allentown, Arnold, Beaver Falls, Belle Vernon, Bensalem Township, Berks County, Bethlehem Township, Bethlehem, Bristol, Brookville, Carlisle, Chester, Clairton, Coatesville, Cumberland County, East Lampeter Township, Easton, Erie, Hanover Township, Harrisburg, King of Prussia, Lancaster, McKeesport,

Middlesex Township, Montgomery Township, Moon Township, New Castle, Norristown, North Union Township, Palmer Township, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton, Stroudsburg, Susquehanna Township, Swatara Township, Uniontown, Upper Merion Township, Washington, Wilkes-Barre, Worthington, and York counties.

Policing practices that target buyers rather than sellers can be an effective method to deter the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Such practices include police stings, where the individual offering to “sell” sex is an undercover officer. The CSE Institute applauds these efforts and encourages other counties throughout Pennsylvania to expand their understanding of commercial sexual exploitation as a demand-driven crime that harms its victims.

*In response to our survey, Bedford County and Mercer County each reported one charge of prostitution during the year of 2014, but this information was not reflected in the AOPC data. Representatives from either county were not available to comment.

4.4 Sex Trafficking Throughout Pennsylvania

Traffickers often pimp their victims out of hotels, recruit them at local malls, and advertise them for sale on websites like Backpage.com. Sections 3011 & 3051 of Act 105 impose criminal liability on those who “knowingly benefit financially... from any act that facilitates [trafficking],” and impose civil liability on those who “profit from any victim

in a sex trade act.” Section 3051 also specifically imposes civil liability on those who “knowingly advertise or publish advertisements for purposes of recruitment into sex trade activity.” This expansive operative language arguably exposes hotels to both criminal and civil liability for sex trafficking that they knowingly allow to happen

on their premises. It also exposes websites like Backpage.com to civil liability. However, to date, law enforcement has not prosecuted a hotel under anti-trafficking laws, no victim has sued a hotel using these provisions of Act 105, and no victim in Pennsylvania has sued Backpage.com using Act 105.*



East Exit Motel: Location where convicted trafficking defendants Abernathy and Walker sold minor victims for commercial sexual exploitation in Monroeville, Allegheny County. U.S. v. Abernathy, et al. (W.D. Pa. 2014)

Rasul Abernathy and Poshauntamarin Walker met while Abernathy was incarcerated in state prison in Greensburg, PA, where Walker was a correctional officer. The two began dating, and when Abernathy was released, he moved in with Walker.

According to Federal indictments, the two recruited a 16-year old girl, a runaway from a juvenile detention center, and a 17-year old boy whom they met online, and forced the minors to sell sex for them. They posted ads of the two minors on Backpage.com and set up dates at hotels in Allegheny County, including the Hiland Motel and East Exit Motel (pictured), as well as the Sheraton Station Square hotel in Pittsburgh (pictured). Abernathy



Sheraton Station: Touted as a “family hotel” on its website, the Sheraton Station Hotel in Pittsburgh was also used by Abernathy and Walker as a site for selling minor victims of sex trafficking.

and Walker pled guilty to one count of sex trafficking of a child under 18 U.S.C. § 1591, the federal anti-trafficking statute. They were each sentenced to 10 years in prison. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

*Civil law suits have been filed against Backpage.com in other jurisdictions, including a pending suit in Washington state, J.S., S.L. and L.C. v. Village Voice Media Holdings LLC, that recently survived summary judgment.



Gallery at Market East: Recruiting ground for the “King Kobra” trafficking ring in Center City, Philadelphia.

Rahim McIntyre, the pimp known as “King Kobra,” ran a prostitution ring in Philadelphia, recruiting teenage girls to sell sex for him either off the street or out of various hotels in and around the city.

According to Federal Indictments, the locations where McIntyre sold his victims included the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Philadelphia (pictured), the



Sheraton Suites: Location of sex trafficking in the case of U.S. v. Rahim McIntyre (a/k/a “King Kobra”) (3d Cir. 2015).



Holiday Inn: Location where sex trafficking occurred in the case of U.S. v. Rahim McIntyre (a/k/a “King Kobra”) (3d Cir. 2015).

Sheraton Suites near Philadelphia International Airport (pictured), and the Holiday Inn located near Philadelphia’s sports stadiums (pictured).

McIntyre advertised his victims for sex on Backpage.com and forced them to give him all the money they earned from their “dates.” He kept his victims compliant by either threatening them with violence, or brutally beating other women in front of them.

At his trial, one victim testified that McIntyre demanded she go to the Gallery Mall at Market East (pictured) to recruit girls.

McIntyre was convicted by a federal jury of three counts of sex trafficking by force pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1591 and was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in prison.



Courtyard Marriott: Location of sex trafficking in the case of U.S. v. Rahim McIntyre (a/k/a “King Kobra”) (3d Cir. 2015).

Rahim’s older brother, Rashaad McIntyre, ran his own unrelated prostitution business and pled guilty to three counts of sex trafficking of a child. He was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

Both cases were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.



Day's Inn: Location of sex trafficking in the case of U.S. v. Craig Johnson (a/k/a "AGeez") (E.D.Pa. 2013).

Craig Johnson ran a prostitution business out of northeast Philadelphia. His victims, 15 and 16 year old girls, were runaways from the foster care system.

Johnson forced his victims to sell sex for him out of the Day's Inn on Roosevelt Boulevard.

In addition to advertising the girls as available for sex on Backpage.com, Johnson bragged about his activity on Facebook, snapping a photo of himself in the hotel's lobby and writing, "[W]hen I die they should honor [sic] me for giving a lot of women jobs, I took them off the streets and made them learn a skill called get my money! I'm the boss of all bosses! Shout out to me."

Johnson paid Adrian Palmer, a security guard at the Day's Inn, between \$60-100 a day to provide protection and "lookout" for him in the event that law enforcement learned of Johnson's activities.

Johnson pled guilty to two counts of sex trafficking of minors and was sentenced to 24 years in prison.

Palmer pled guilty to conspiracy and sex trafficking of a minor and was sentenced to 80 months in prison.

The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

4.5 Problem-Solving Courts: Philadelphia's Project Dawn Court

by Mary DeFusco, Esq.

For defense attorneys, there are very few successful outcomes for women charged with prostitution. Most of these women want to plead guilty, whether they are guilty or not. They are attracted by a sentence of probation because their main goal is to avoid incarceration. However, that outcome is not always assured.

Probation violations cause women with prostitution charges to cycle in and out of prison and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, unable to get out of "the life." This is, in part, attributable to the need for sexual trauma recovery treatment.

The Project Dawn Court (PDC), started in 2010 in Philadelphia's First Judicial District Municipal Court, is a prostitution intervention court, which utilizes the principles of problem solving courts, recognizes that relapse is a part of recovery,

and establishes a relationship between the participant and the PDC team. The PDC team is made up of the judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation Officer. They work together to assist the women by providing access to sexual trauma recovery treatment, as well as drug and alcohol treatment, and other services, such as specialized case managers.

Upon successful completion of the PDC, the women can dispose of their cases without a conviction; and, following one year without new arrests and convictions, the original arrest can be expunged.

As defense counsel, getting a client out of the life, getting her clean and sober, and getting no conviction in the process, is a win/win/win.



Mary DeFusco, Esq.
Director of Training and Recruitment
Defender Association of Philadelphia

4.6 Pennsylvania's First Juvenile Human Trafficking Court

In 2014, Philadelphia Family Court began a new approach to the complex, devastating, and surprisingly common cases of children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The City's first Juvenile Human Trafficking Court - W.R.A.P. (Working to Restore Adolescent Power) - was developed and is presided over by Common Pleas Court Judge Lori A. Dumas. W.R.A.P. Court employs a multidisciplinary team approach to address the complex individual needs of each child. Team members include an Assistant Public Defender, Assistant District Attorney, Assistant City Solicitor, The Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking Program social workers, and a court representative from Community Behavioral Health and Child Advocates - all of whom have had specialized training in commercially exploited children.

Juveniles can enter the W.R.A.P. Court program in several ways. Those facing charges relating to their victimization in the commercial sex industry can be automatically referred to W.R.A.P. Court based on the nature of their charges. Juveniles can also be referred to W.R.A.P. Court after being identified as

CSE survivors by professionals within the court system, including social workers, juvenile probation officers, or attorneys. At any point during an open delinquency case, an eligible child may take advantage of the W.R.A.P. Court program. Once involved in W.R.A.P. Court, each child meets individually with Judge Dumas and the W.R.A.P. Court Team on a monthly basis to review progress.

The children who appear before Judge Dumas come from various neighborhoods, backgrounds, and lifestyles, so no two cases are the same. However, the fundamental commonalities these children share are the trauma of their experiences and their vulnerability to further exploitation and abuse. Because each child's story is unique, there is a crucial need for variety in services. To address this need, Judge Dumas has recruited the support and expertise of numerous agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department, the Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking Program, and the CSE Institute. "We toil together to change the lives of these young people," says Judge Dumas on the collaborative effort.

The accomplishments of the W.R.A.P. Court are particularly impressive given the lack of adequate financial support for specialized victim services, services that are necessary for these children to properly heal from the trauma of their sexual exploitation. "Adequate funding would allow us to be able to pay for all the services that these children need to fully heal," explains Judge Dumas. For most victims, required services include a holistic range of resources addressing a wide variety of needs - from safe, sustainable housing, to education and life skills training, to intensive trauma therapy and more.

Prior to initiating W.R.A.P. Court, Judge Dumas professes she was unaware of the extent of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children in Philadelphia. Judge Dumas was educated on this issue and encouraged by the advocacy work of Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller, the First Lady of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. Dr. Waller convinced Judge Dumas that human trafficking is a domestic issue. "I began searching our system for victims," she explains. "Once these youth were identified, thus was the need for W.R.A.P."

4.7 The Other Story

by Shea Rhodes, Esq.

In the summer of 2011, the Philadelphia Police Department's Citywide Vice unit conducted a prostitution sting at Enoch Smith's residence in North East Philadelphia. The police seized Smith's laptop computer during the execution of a search warrant. The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a forensic search of his laptop and uncovered sexually explicit photographs of a sixteen year old girl, one of many of Enoch Smith's victims. One of the photographs depicted the girl, fully naked, squatting on Smith's bed with her legs spread. This young girl was one of many victims that Enoch Smith exploited for his own personal profit.

Smith preyed upon drug-addicted women and girls whom he forced into prostitution. He controlled their access to drugs, supplying them with "wake-up" kits every morning that contained a hit of either heroin or crack cocaine. Smith used drugs as a weapon, strategically supplying his victims to create an addiction and therefore, dependence upon him. When the police raided Smith's house, it was littered with hypodermic needles.

In the case of his teenage victim, he met and wooed her when she was just 16. After having sex with her, he convinced her to start "working" for him in prostitution. He got her addicted to crack cocaine and became her daily supplier in order to keep her compliant. He posted her photographs to Backpage.com and set her up on "dates," as many as five to ten per day.

In July 2013, a federal jury convicted Smith of sex trafficking of a minor and production of child pornography. On November 21, 2014, United States District Court Judge Joel H. Slomsky sentenced Smith to 30 years in prison, followed by 20 years of supervised release.

Prior to his Federal trial, Smith was convicted of promoting prostitution and forcible rape in state court in Bucks County. In that case, which involved additional victims, Smith was sentenced to 40-80 years in State prison. Smith's lengthy criminal record includes disturbing convictions for the crimes of rape and stalking.

Smith's extensive criminal record is only a small part of a larger and



Shea Rhodes, Esq., Director, the CSE Institute, delivering introductory remarks at the official launch of the CSE Institute in September 2015.

terrifying story. They are cold, impersonal facts, the charges that come up on his rap sheet. The truly important story that Smith's crime leaves us with lies within his victims, their struggle, and their treatment in the criminal justice system.

Smith's 16-year old victim's life was destroyed by Enoch Smith. In a striking picture of injustice to victims, the victim herself sat shackled in a federal courtroom the day that Smith was sentenced. Because of

Smith, she has seven criminal convictions for prostitution or prostitution-related offenses. Because she was in prison on one of those prostitution charges at the time, Smith's victim was literally handcuffed as she sat in the courtroom, listening to Judge Slomsky sentence her trafficker to 30 years in Federal prison. The sentence she was serving is one that Smith gave her - his greed and horrific victimization created a life of drug addiction and selling sex. He turned a child into a criminal by "selling her the dream" of a better life.

But she was also serving, and continues to serve, another more lasting sentence. She is forced to live every day with the shame and memories of her humiliating degradation. When she met Smith, she had never had a taste of crack cocaine. She had never sold her body for sex. Before Smith, she had her youthful innocence. She was naïve and impressionable. Smith lured her into his life and sold her body to hundreds of strangers for his personal profit. She was merely a commodity, a thing - rather than a human being. To Smith and those who paid him to have sex with her, she was something to buy and sell and use over and over again. She struggles to find an identity other than the one he gave her. At Smith's sentencing hearing, she told the judge, "I am not the same person I used to

be. It changed me a lot. I can't seem to stay out of jail. It seems like prostitution is the only thing I know." Even though she is no longer stuck in Smith's stable, she is still his prisoner. Her story, and her identity, is still intertwined with his, even though he is behind bars.

One day, she will hopefully be a survivor. She will move forward and be the person she wants to be, a person unchained from her victimization. But that day is still to come. She, and the story of her brutal victimization, epitomizes everything that is wrong about sex trafficking and the way the Commonwealth's criminal justice system treats sex trafficking victims. This cannot continue to be the story of so many women and girls in Pennsylvania. We must change law enforcement practices so traffickers are punished and victims are treated like victims, operating like the Philadelphia police and federal prosecutors did in Enoch Smith's case.

We must provide trauma-informed care to victims so women and girls can attempt to move on with their lives and stay off drugs and out of jail. We must create an environment for victims that values, cherishes, and uplifts them.

We must re-write the story.

U.S. v. Enoch Smith: The Official Story

In 2013, Enoch Smith, a Philadelphia pimp better known as "Idris" or "Drees," was convicted of several charges related to commercial sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking of a minor and production of child pornography in the United States District Court for Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The prosecution's evidence and testimony showed Smith operated a prostitution operation out of Philadelphia and Bensalem hotels as well as his home from April 2009 until his arrest in June 2011. Smith routinely used Backpage.com to create internet advertisements promoting the illegal services of the young women he prostituted.

Enoch Smith was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle L. Morgan. In November 2014 United State District Court Judge Joel H. Slomsky sentenced Smith to 30 years in prison to be followed by 20 years of supervised release.

5. Law and Social Change

Communities Coordinating to Combat CSE

5.1 Supporting Victims on the Road to Recovery

As law enforcement trafficking response practices continue to improve and public awareness of the crime increases, the Commonwealth must prepare to support victims in the hours, days, months, and years after they break free from their traffickers' control and adapt to society. Every sex trafficking victim has a complex composite of care needs. Although there are notable commonalities, no sex trafficking victims' stories are the same. Therefore, treatment must be tailored and relevant to individual situations in order to be successful. For instance, beyond fundamental needs such as safe housing and regular meals, many victims require intensive trauma therapy or drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation. Of course, such specialized services require substantial funding. But with skilled providers, a compassionate volunteer base, and a legislative commitment to victim assistance, Pennsylvania can set the standard for sex trafficking victims' services.

According to the federal definition, sex trafficking victims are forced, defrauded, or coerced into commercial sexual exploitation. The perpetrator of this deplorable 'recruitment', the trafficker- better known as a pimp- might be a stranger, neighborhood delinquent, a peer or friend, or even a victim's own family member. Often, following initial interactions with the trafficker, a victim undergoes a period referred to as "grooming" wherein the torturous reality of the trafficker's intentions are disguised by the offering of gifts, compliments, drugs, and other promises.

Often, a victim has already experienced significant abuse or neglect prior to her interactions with the trafficker. A history of abuse or neglect can contribute to the victim's vulnerability and enhance his or her susceptibility to the deceptive persuasions of grooming. This effect is known as trauma bonding. Minor victims are particularly prone to trauma bonding because they have not yet developed a full understanding of intimate social interaction.

Trauma bonding, similar to Stockholm syndrome, can make a victim feel compelled to protect her trafficker. Worse yet, trauma bonding can prevent a victim from identifying as such. "The bond becomes so strong because the pimp knows how to break down and build up the victim," explains Jamie Manirakiza, MSW, Director of the Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking Program. "The victims are conditioned to believe this is what a family or safety and security looks like. We must alter the pimp's message that he is the only one who cares for the victim," says Manirakiza. Therefore, analysis and disruption of the trauma bond can be especially critical to a victim's successful recovery.

However, there are even more layers of manipulation that must be stripped away to fully free a victim. Sex trafficking victims are subjected to repeated and prolonged physical violence and intense psychological abuse. Indeed, there are many similarities to other crimes such as domestic violence or rape, but "the ongoing dynamics of captivity and isolation" inherent

[1] Hardy, Veronica L., Kevin D. Compton, and Veronica S. McPhatter. "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Practice Implications for Mental Health Professionals". *Journal of Women and Social Work* (2013) SAGE

in sex trafficking “create a unique set of needs.”[1] Minor victims in particular have simply not yet developed an adequate response mechanism to repeated traumatic events. Therefore, minor victims can begin to disassociate from reality and redefine violence as the new normal. This contributes to a damaged perception of the outside world, which in turn contributes to a victim’s suspicions and distrust of law enforcement.

Beyond addressing the challenges of trauma bonding and other psychological damage, victims simply need committed and unbiased support. Whether it is victim’s first or fifth or tenth attempt at gaining assistance, “our message stays the same,” says Manirakiza. As a social worker, Manirakiza emphasizes that giving unsolicited advice is not a valued approach. “Choice is vital to a successful recovery,” she explains. So, instead of focusing on forcing the victim to complete some generic program, Manirakiza focuses on building and maintaining a real relationship with the victim. “If I say I’m available 24/7, I always answer my phone.” That kind of consistent support is invaluable to someone trying to create structure and survive outside of her trafficker’s control.

Ultimately, Pennsylvania law should reflect an understanding of the varied array of services

that sex trafficking victims require, including but not limited to: long term housing, access to food, clothing and personal care items, access to affordable health care, on-site case management, education, employment, life skills training, trauma therapy, group therapy, and chemical dependence rehabilitation. In the end, the victim is the expert on her own story. Only a holistic, comprehensive, and creative approach to victim treatment will result in sustainable, positive change.

5.2 Salvation Army’s New Day to Stop Trafficking Program and New Day Drop-In Center

Many faith-based organizations in Pennsylvania have focused their ministry and advocacy to support victims of sex trafficking. One of the most effective and dedicated of these organizations is The Salvation Army of Greater Philadelphia. The Salvation Army fights human trafficking in the Philadelphia region through raising awareness, conducting trainings, and providing direct social services to victims. Moreover, in 2009, The Salvation Army launched an anti-trafficking initiative called the New Day to Stop Trafficking Program (NDST). Jamie Manirakiza, MSW, Director of Anti Trafficking and Social Services at The Salvation Army of

Greater Philadelphia serves as the NDST Program Director.

One of the most valuable aspects of the NDST program is the New Day Drop-In Center. Located in the heart of the Kensington neighborhood in Philadelphia, the Drop-In Center is centrally located along the very streets where commercial sexual exploitation occurs around the clock. The New Day Drop-In Center provides a safe, nonjudgmental, and resourceful space for victims. It is open Monday through Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Wednesday and Thursday nights from 9pm to midnight. On average, thirty to fifty individual women visit the Drop-In Center each day. These women are provided clothing, food, hygiene products, and access to showers and social services. Moreover, at the Drop-In Center, these women are treated with the respect, compassion, and dignity they deserve.

In addition to basic needs, women who visit the Drop-In Center will encounter trained professionals and informed volunteers who are eager to form supportive, respectful relationships with them, and help them address their specialized, trauma-induced needs. On Thursday nights, the Center hosts operational group meetings, including a class on spiritual freedom and expressive arts activities. In exchange for their

participation in expressive arts, the women are provided gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores.

The Drop-In Center is truly an exceptional resource for victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Philadelphia. To volunteer or to learn more about the Drop-In Center and the work that the New Day to Stop Trafficking team are doing, please visit their website at www.saphilly.org.

5.3 The VAST

Formed in 2010, The Valley Against Sex Trafficking is an anti-trafficking coalition located in the Lehigh Valley. The VAST was co-founded by Heather Evans and Beck Sullivan, who are both licensed social workers. Evans and Sullivan saw the need for an organization designed to combat human trafficking in their local area. The VAST's mission statement emphasizes that the organization is a collaborative effort among community members, service providers, businesses, law enforcement, and other organizations.

The VAST employs a four-part model, highlighting the following priorities: awareness, prevention, action, and aftercare. Raising awareness of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking,

includes holding community meetings every other month, hosting public campaigns and fundraisers, and arranging educational panels for the community to attend. In March 2015, the VAST coordinated a panel with a Bethlehem Township Police sergeant, a Pennsylvania Homeland Security agent, Evans of the VAST's aftercare team, and a representative of Truth Home, a victims' services provider in the Lehigh Valley. More than seventy people from the local community attended the panel discussion.

The VAST's prevention aspect is two-fold; it includes education on issues of demand as it relates to the commercial sexual exploitation and trainings on how to identify at-risk populations. One of the VAST's key prevention goals includes reaching out to victims in need. Currently, the VAST is developing a human trafficking curriculum that is age-appropriate for middle school aged children. The VAST also frequently connects identified at-risk youth with mentors, who are volunteers from the community.

The VAST has clear goals for their action outreach plan. They work closely with law enforcement on issues of human trafficking. These efforts include receiving victim referrals from law enforcement, and conducting trainings with law enforcement on victim services

and identification as well as other issues. The VAST also encourages community members to get involved on issues of human trafficking as part of its action outreach plan.

Finally, to address the VAST's priority of aftercare, they provide direct services to victims and survivors. These services include shelter, food, clothing, education and vocation training, social support, legal services referrals, and counseling. The VAST relies heavily on community volunteers to assist with meeting the needs of trafficking victims.

Through all these efforts, the VAST has had great success in uniting people on issues related to human trafficking in the Lehigh Valley. In fact, their success has been so noteworthy, the CSE Institute is documenting the VAST's best practices, so that those practices can be passed along to coalitions doing similar work. The VAST is eager to educate other community-based coalitions and hopeful that successful efforts to combat commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking will continue throughout Pennsylvania.

5.4 PAATH (Pennsylvania Alliance Against Trafficking in Humans)

The Pennsylvania Alliance Against Trafficking in Humans (PAATH) was formed in 2014 after the Pennsylvania state legislature passed Act 105. The purpose of PAATH is to advocate for cohesive implementation of the new human trafficking law across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PAATH is comprised of more than 30 organizations and coalitions from across the Commonwealth. Each group singularly endeavors to combat human trafficking. These organizations include, the Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking Program, Covenant House Pennsylvania, the CSE Institute, the Valley Against Sex Trafficking, Transitions, PA, Survivors, Inc., YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, YWCA York County, the Office of PA Senator Leach, Compassionate Humans Against Trafficking, Peace Promise, Dawn's Place, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys' Association, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and many more.

Within PAATH there are four committees: the Training Committee, the Public Awareness Committee, the Victim Services Committee, and the Labor Trafficking Committee. The CSE Institute administers PAATH's monthly conference calls and biannual meetings and acts as the clearinghouse for statewide collaboration and communication on Act 105.

5.5 PEHT (Project to End Human Trafficking)

The Project to End Human Trafficking, is a group of volunteers who come together to serve the common goal of prevention and elimination of human trafficking. The non-profit organization was founded in 2004 by a team of graduate students led by Dr. Mary C. Burke. Dr. Burke is a member of the CSE Institute's Board of Advisors. Beyond PEHT and her other anti-trafficking efforts, she is a Professor of Psychology at Carlow University and serves as the Program Director for the Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology.

PEHT works to eradicate human trafficking on a regional, national, and global scale, through direct

outreach, collaboration, and awareness raising. Currently, PEHT has offices in Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh as well as satellite offices in Washington, D.C., and Uganda.

As evinced in their mission statement, PEHT strives to make both direct and systematic impacts in opposition to human trafficking. They regularly provide direct services to victims as well as technical assistance to law enforcement and other stakeholders. Often, a volunteer from PEHT will be on the first response team as soon as a local case is identified. The first responders use a victim-centered approach to inform victims of their rights, refer them to services, and support them every step of the way. In addition, PEHT co-facilitates the Western Pennsylvania Human Trafficking Coalition alongside Special Agents from the FBI Anti Human Trafficking Task Force.

5.6 Dawn's Place

For women who have been victimized by commercial sexual exploitation, prostitution, and sex trafficking, the road to recovery can be long and may seem insurmountable. Many

have suffered years of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse at the hands of their traffickers, pimps and johns, and many have suffered years of abuse from family members or family friends. Trauma experienced on a daily basis in “the life” may have resulted in drug dependency and other addictions, used as coping mechanisms to dissociate with reality. Most women who have been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked have come to recognize trauma as their “normal.” Simply participating in the daily routines of everyday life can be overwhelming.

Dawn’s Place, a year-long residential program in Philadelphia, brings women out of “the life” and into a stable, loving, judgment-free home. Located in a sunny 10-bedroom Victorian, Dawn’s Place provides women who have chosen to leave or have escaped sexual exploitation and sex trafficking with a place for healing and

recovery. Once at Dawn’s Place, the residents participate in a holistic program that addresses each woman’s various and individual needs. “We have a structured program at Dawn’s Place that helps the women stay on track for recovery,” says Sister Kathleen Coll, Executive Director of Dawn’s Place. Women are assigned a case manager and clinical social worker, and are connected with medical services, legal services, and job training programs. Women also participate in pilates, yoga, art therapy, and a 12-step sexual exploitation recovery group, led by survivor Anne Marie Jones. Jones developed the group after she graduated from Dawn’s Place herself and started working there as a peer mentor. She believes the group helps women because they feel comfortable to talk about what they’ve been through in an environment where they feel understood. “Who better to understand them than someone who’s been where they’ve been?” says Jones.

Dawn’s Place is a house that feels like – and is – a home. It is a place for the women to experience love and community, something many have not had in years. The ten residents are each responsible for chores and cooking a family-style dinner each week. Most importantly, stresses Sister Kathleen, the women feel loved for who they are. If a resident wants to talk about her life, it is up to her. No one asks questions and no one judges.

Pennsylvania needs more residential programs and funding for programs like Dawn’s Place. While outpatient services are helpful, commercially sexually exploited and sex trafficked women need the security, accountability, and structure that only long-term transitional residential programs can provide. To date, 63 women have gone through the Dawn’s Place program in 6 years, but many more are on the waiting list.

6. Organizations and Groups Working Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania

Organization	Web Address
ACCESS - York, YWCA	ywca.york.org
Berks County Anti-Trafficking Coalition (BCAHT)	berkswomenincrisis.org
Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking	novabucks.org/getinvolved/bcat
Chester County Anti-Trafficking Coalition (CCAT)	www.sites.google.com/site/ccatsite/
Covenant House Pennsylvania	covenanthousepa.org
Crime Victims Center of Chester County	cvcofcc.org
Dawn's Place	ahomefordawn.org
Easton Children's Home	thechildrenshome.org
Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking, Philadelphia, PA	faastinternational.org
Lancaster Anti-Trafficking Network (LATN)	https://www.facebook.com/LancasterAntiTraffickingNetwork
Lancaster County CASE Task Force	www.web.co.lancaster.pa.us/705/C-A-S-E
Lancaster Initiative Against Human Trafficking (LIGHT)	facebook.com/LIGHT-Lancaster-Initiative-aGainst-Human-Trafficking-186767311856/
Lighthouse Counseling Services, LLC	lighthousecounselingpa.com
Montgomery County Anti-Trafficking Coalition (MCAT)	mcatpa.org
Nationalities Service Center, Anti Human Trafficking Project	nscphila.org/social-services/human-trafficking/
North Star Initiative	northstarinitiative.org
Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY)	nimby.me
Oasis of Hope	oasisofhopeusa.org

Organization	Web Address
Pennsylvania Alliance Against Trafficking in Humans-15 (PAATH)	facebook.com/PAAgainstTraffickinginHumans
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	pcadv.org
Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition	patcoalition.org
Pittsburgh Action Against Rape	paar.net
Project to End Human Trafficking	endhumantrafficking.org
Project Safe	projectsafephilly.org
Salvation Army New Day Drop-In Center	pa.salvationarmy.org/greater-philadelphia
Survivor's Inc.	enddvs.org
The Well, Bucks County	worthwhilewear.org/pages/about-us
Transition	transitionsofpa.org
Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST)	thevast.org
Western PA Anti-Trafficking Coalition (WPAHTC)	facebook.com/WPAHTC
Women in Need	winservices.org
Women Organized Against Rape	woar.org
YWCA Greater Harrisburg	ywcahbg.org/human-trafficking
YWCA Northcentral PA, Wise Options	ywcawilliamsport.org

About the CSE Institute

The Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE Institute) provides legal research, technical assistance, policy consultation and training to partners throughout Pennsylvania, the United States and internationally.

To partner with the CSE Institute or support our work, please

contact our Director, Shea M. Rhodes, Esq., at 610-519-7183 or shea.rhodes@law.villanova.edu.

For more information about our work, please visit our website at <http://cseinstitute.org>.

Thanks to LBDesign for the design and development of our website.

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