H.E.A.R.: An Intervention Mapping Approach for the Identification of Human Trafficking Victims by Health Professionals

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HOUSTON RESCUE & RESTORE COALITION
Victims of Human Trafficking
Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition

• HRRC is a non-profit organization that exists to prevent and confront modern-day slavery by educating the public, training professionals and empowering the community to take action for the purpose of identifying, rescuing and restoring trafficking victims to freedom

• Our coalition consists of local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and government entities/agencies
Objectives

- Define human trafficking as a public health issue
- Outline the HEAR Training Program as a model for victim identification for healthcare professionals
- Explain the Intervention Mapping Process as it relates to the creation of the HEAR Training Program
- Summarize the current conclusions of the HEAR Training Program implementation
Human Trafficking as a Public Health Issue

- Health issues are commonly ignored until they are critical or life-threatening
- Dirty or crowded living conditions
- Poor nutrition
- Chronic back, hearing, and vision problems can occur due to hard manual labor
- Long-term untreated issues such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory problems, diabetes or cancer
- Brutal psychological conditions

Sources
- American Public Health Association
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP)
Health Professionals are Important Stakeholders

- 28% of victims came into contact with the health care system while in captivity
  (Family Violence Prevention and, World Childhood Foundation, 2005)

- Many researchers support this claim
  (Miller, Decker, Silverman, Raj, 2009; Zimmerman et al., 2007; [FVPF], 2005, Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009)
The HEAR Training Model

- HEAR is a training specifically designed to provide the tools healthcare professionals need to identify human trafficking in the clinical setting.
- This three-part training is designed to:
  - Educate healthcare professionals about human trafficking
  - How to identify a victim in a clinical setting
  - What policies and procedures should be followed to connect that victim with appropriate services.
The HEAR Training Model

- The training program is offered for free and CMEs are available for physicians through Texas Children’s Hospital.
- Delivery method of program
  - In person facilitation
  - Web-based facilitation
- Evaluation
  - Pre and post survey
  - 3-month follow-up survey
HEAR History

- Developed by Audra J. Moore, B.S., M.P.H.
- Based on Intervention Mapping Process (Bartholomew et al., 2006)
- Informed by key stakeholders
Intervention Mapping Process

1. Needs Assessment
2. Matrices
3. Theory-Based Methods & Practical Strategies
4. Program Development
5. Adoption & Implementation
6. Evaluation Plan

Theme: Look Beneath the surface, H.E.A.R Your Patient

H: Human Trafficking and Health Professionals
E: Examine History, Examine Body, Examine Emotion
A: Ask specific questions:
  - “Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do?”
  - “Can you leave your job or situation if you want?”
  - “Have you or your family been threatened if you try to leave?”
R: Review options, Refer, Report
Jill, a runaway at age 17, left her home in order to escape sexual and physical abuse. Jill lived homeless until approached in a mall by a man named Bruce. Bruce promised to help her find a place to live and provide work. Jill was then taken to his “office” which was a room in his home. During the next 3 years, she suffered repeated rape by clients of Bruce. She became pregnant and Bruce attempted to perform an abortion. Jill had extensive vaginal bleeding that required Bruce to take her to the E.R. On her wrists, ankles and neck she had bruises, scars and strangulation marks. Bruce claimed he was Jill’s older brother. Jill did not deny that Bruce was her brother and admitted that he treated her nicely although she seemed reluctant and nervous when speaking of their relationship. The story was accepted by the E.R. health professionals. Jill was in the hospital for 3 days; she was never questioned regarding her injuries without Bruce present and was discharged from the hospital without her having the ability to become free of her captor. (Adapted from Barrows, J.)
Look Beneath the Surface
H.E.A.R Your Patient

H: Human Trafficking and the Health Professional
E: Examine History, Examine Body, Examine Emotion
A: Ask specific questions:
  ▫ “Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do?”
  ▫ “Can you leave your job or situation if you want?”
  ▫ “Have you been threatened if you try to leave?”
R: Review options, Refer, Report
H.E.A.R. Supplemental Materials

H.E.A.R.

Human Trafficking and Health Professionals
Examine History, Examine Body, Examine Emotion
Ask specific questions:
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do?
- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Have you or your family been threatened if you try to leave?

Review options, Refer, Report

Human Trafficking & Health Professionals
Look Beneath the Surface
H.E.A.R. Your Patient

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Look Beneath the Surface
H.E.A.R. YOUR PATIENT

EXAMINE BODY, EMOTION, HISTORY
BODY: Late presentation of illnesses, multiple STIs, bruising, branding, malnourishment
EMOTION: Fearful, Nervous, Shameful, PTSD
HISTORY: Inconsistencies in stories, Controlling, accompaniment, Uncomfortable with surroundings

ISOLATE VICTIM FROM ACCOMPANIMENT:
“I always like a few minutes alone with my patient.”

ATTEND TO ALL MEDICAL NEEDS

ASK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:
- “What are your current living situations like?”
- “When are you working, can you come and go as you please?”
- “Have you been threatened or harmed if you try to quit or leave your current situation?”

REVIEW OPTIONS, REFER, REPORT
Assess the level of danger:
- Be alert to surroundings and consider immediate environment.
- Does patient think he/she or a family member is in harm’s way if he/she does not return to the trafficker?

YES TO ABOVE QUESTIONS
Ascertain age, name, try to obtain consent.

NO TO ABOVE QUESTIONS
Refer to social services as applicable based on clinic protocols and procedures.

+ CONSENT
- Refer to social services & appropriate law enforcement
- Ensure client is not alone
- Call NHTRC hotline number
- Follow up with accompaniment, engage security detail, if necessary

- NO CONSENT
- Sensitive express concern for patient’s safety
- Schedule a follow up appointment as applicable
- Give patient the NHTRC number and inform patient they may call for help
- Refer to social services, if applicable

MINOR
- Refer to social services
- Ensure client is not alone
- Call CPS immediately
- Call NHTRC hotline number
- Follow up with accompaniment, engage security detail, if necessary

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HEAR Conclusions

• Advantages
  ▫ Victim identification
  ▫ Targeted approach for a specific population
  ▫ Continuing Education Units (Ex. CMEs)

• Disadvantages
  ▫ Length of training vs. Healthcare environment
  ▫ Continuing Education Units (Ex. CNEs)
Thank You! Questions? Contact.

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