



**A14 A Survivor-Centered Cultural
Lens for Reaching Parents of Domestic
Minor Sex Trafficking, Part 1**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**B14 A Survivor-Centered Cultural
Lens for Reaching Parents of Domestic
Minor Sex Trafficking, Part 2**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Jamille Harrell Sims

Pacific

A Survivor-Centered Cultural Lens for Reaching Parents
of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking



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A Survivor-Centered Cultural Lens for Reaching Parents of DMST

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OVERVIEW

- What is Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (CSEC)
- Survivor-centered
- Cultural lens
- Risk factors
- Sign and symptoms
- What parents should know
- A cultural look at parental knowledge
- The stages of grief
- Resources as intrusion
- When they have had enough
- Culturally competent support
- Where do we go from here?

What is Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, in which the sex act is induced by force fraud or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age

What is Survivor-Centered?

- The victim centered approach recognizes the victimization of children
- Helps to recognize the need to provide services instead of incarceration
- Shifts paradigm from criminal-centered to victim-centered
- Recognizes the trauma's associated with victimization

Survivor-centered

- Empowers the victim to move forward
- Uses strength-based and resiliency as a foundation for change
- Allows the victim to reflect on what has happened and empower themselves through it
- Creates the fight in fight or flight mode

The Cultural Lens

- The majority of victims are white middle class females nationwide
- The majority of those arrested are African American 54.3%
- Asian Americans do not trust law enforcement, so those numbers are not yet solidified
- Hispanics in California, Texas and Arizona have high numbers, but are not solidified due to undocumented youth and cultural barriers

The Cultural Lens

- LGBTQ numbers are high, with the least amount of resources
- Male victims are usually estranged from their families and have no supports at all
- Due to environmental factors and lack of programs, many youth are turning to sexual exploitation as a means of providing for themselves
- Foster youth are a prime target for traffickers

Risk Factors

- Child Sexual Abuse
 - Neglect
 - Mental health or educational deficiencies
 - Peer pressure
 - Low self esteem
 - Poverty
 - Media influence (materialism)
- ***Any child can be at risk***

Signs and Symptoms

- Multiple cell phones (one is a throw away)
- Change in clothing (revealing)
- Staying out late
- Running away
- Language of the life
- Tattoos and brandings
- Clothes and adornments the child cannot afford
- Boxes of condoms

What Parents Should Know

- Sex trafficking can happen anywhere, including inside their home
- They need to monitor their child's social media accounts
- Conduct random searches of their rooms if they suspect anything
- Always go with their gut and don't ignore it
- Know who, what, where, when, how and why
- Women can be pimps and/or recruiters
- If they suspect they must act!
- Talk to their child about sex trafficking before it is too late
- Create a relationship where the child can tell them there is trouble
- PARENTS SHOULD RECEIVE TRAINING ABOUT CSEC

A Cultural Look at Parental Knowledge

- Most parents think sex trafficking happens overseas
- Many believe attending church will protect their child
- Homeschooling as a protection
- Shaming the family name
- Attitudes toward gay children
- Parents are not aware of the dangers of social media
- Parents believe they know their children's friends
- Most parents trust their child to do what is right
- Some cultures believe an older friend is ok

Stages of Grief

7 Stages of Grief <small>(Modified Kubler-Ross Model)</small>	
Shock*	• Initial paralysis at hearing the bad news.
Denial	• Trying to avoid the inevitable.
Anger	• Frustrated outpouring of bottled-up emotion.
Bargaining	• Seeking in vain for a way out.
Depression	• Final realization of the inevitable.
Testing*	• Seeking realistic solutions.
Acceptance	• Finally finding the way forward.

Communicating with the Parent

- Be culturally competent
- Be aware of the stages of grief (unbelief, anger, acceptance)
- Be empathetic and genuine
- Offer supports and stand by what you offer
- Do not blame the family
- Do not assume they share your perspective
- Be prepared for the family to stand back from the situation

Communicating with the Parent

- Understand that resources like wraparound may not be welcomed
- Do not intrude on their privacy
- Honor their anonymity
- Recognize the trauma parents will or may have experienced
- Provide a training so parents understand how CSEC happens
- Understand some cultures want police help, but do not trust them
- Empower the parent so they do not engage in self blame
- Offer strength and cultural based solutions and supports

Resources as Intrusion

Wraparound- Best support available
 Issue: Many cultures do not welcome the intrusion into their homes and personal business

Multi-disciplinary Teams- Brings different agencies to the table
 Issue: Different perspectives and paradigms often do not work well
 Issue: In addition to Wraparound, can be intrusive as well

Police/Probation- The ability to investigate, rescue and prosecute
 Issue: Very strained relationship with law enforcement

When they have had Enough

- Parents may force the child to leave
- Refuse to acknowledge
- Refuse to participate
- Trauma is too much
- Verbally re-victimize the child
- Turn to you to deal with it
- Give up entirely
- Involve extended family

Culturally Competent Support

- Understand their fears and/or concerns
- Respect their cultural values
- If possible, send someone who shares their culture
- Do not engage in rule breaking
- Do not patronize
- Do not engage in language you do not share
- Be mindful of body language
- Check your biases at the door
- Use mindfulness (Harm reduction)

Where do we go from here?

- Provide trainings at schools, churches and community events
- Trainings must be aimed at parents, not professionals
- Send representatives who share the culture
- Form support groups for parents and/or survivors
- Develop a community hotline
- Schools must provide assemblies to discuss CSEC
- Teachers and clergy must be trained so the message gets out
- Bring back the village

References

Harrell, J. (2015). *Knowledge of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking among African American parents*, Doctoral Dissertation
Walden University, UMI Proquest

Kubler-Ross, E. (1974) *Question and answers on death and dying*
New York, NY, Touchstone

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TRAINING

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