



Update from the Governor's Office Child Sex Trafficking Team

Andrea Sparks
Director
Child Sex Trafficking Team
Texas Governor's Office

The Charge

House Bill 10 & House Bill 1446

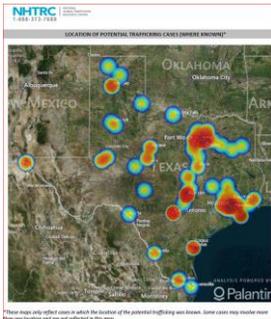
- Assist agencies in leveraging and coordinating state resources
- Collect and analyze research and information
- Provide support for prosecutions
- Facilitate collaborative efforts to prevent, recover, and restore
- Coordinate with state and local law enforcement, state agencies, and service providers to identify child sex trafficking victims
- Coordinate with local service providers to create a customized package of services to fit the immediate and long-term rehabilitation and treatment needs



2

But how bad is this problem in Texas?

The truth is overwhelming. But we can't continue to avoid or ignore it.



3

Trafficking Victims: Public Perception

"We are in plain sight but we are not going to walk up and say 'please help me.'" CST survivor



Trafficking Victims: Reality

The abuse and trauma is severe. The road to wellbeing is long.



How Does This Happen?

Progression of Control over Victims



Child Sex Trafficking Team Vision and Mission

Our vision is a state where children are free from sexual exploitation. Our mission is to prevent victimization, help identify and recover survivors, provide them the services to help them heal and thrive, and bring them justice.



Criminal Justice Division

CSTT Values

We value innovation and locally driven solutions but require all supported programs to adhere to these values.

Child-centered: Children are treated with dignity, informed of their rights and range of options, and empowered to help bring justice to their perpetrators. Youth purchased for sex are victims* and they are survivors*. Their voices are highly valued in our efforts. Our work is trauma-informed and culturally sensitive.

Collaborative: Collective efforts create greater impact. We plan and work collaboratively, encouraging participation by seeking out stakeholder input, engaging with and enhancing existing collective efforts, and leveraging the expertise and resources of both public and private partners to combat child sex trafficking and restore survivors to well-being.

Continuously improving: Solid strategy relies upon continuous improvement. Our work is guided by research, data analysis, professional expertise, and community input. We value innovation, evaluation, and transparency. We invest in sustainable, scalable programs that benefit our state

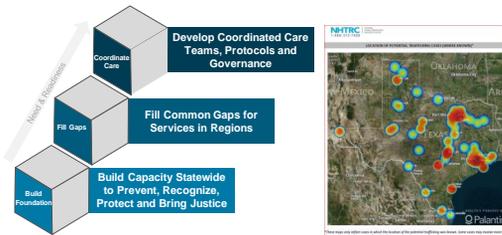
*CSTT uses both "victim" and "survivor" to refer to individuals who were trafficked.

Criminal Justice Division

Texas' size and diversity, and the diversity and urgency of victims' needs necessitates a concurrent approach

Working Statewide to **Protect, Recognize,** and **Bring Justice** to Victims

Working Regionally to Develop Regional Continua to **Recover** and **Restore** Survivors



Criminal Justice Division

Statewide Strategies

Urgent and/or Common Needs

- Discerning the scope and dynamics of child sex trafficking in Texas to be able to better combat it: UT Slavery Mapping Project
- Prevention education and building resiliency in vulnerable youth: strategically supporting youth serving agencies and prevention programs
- Identification of victims through uniform screening: CSE-IT tool
- Improved hotline for better reporting and response
- Training and technical assistance for community partners.
- Improved DFPS response: new Director of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation, new policies and procedures
- Improved juvenile justice response: survivor-led psycho educational groups
- Placements: shelters, specialized foster care homes, and long-term residential treatment
- Healthy, supportive relationships: advocacy programs for victims, family supports, drop in centers



Criminal Justice Division

10

Regional Continua of Survivor Care

Each region will have the tools, training, and services needed to ensure that victims are identified, recovered, given the trauma-responsive services needed to heal and thrive in the long-term. Communities will have coordinated care teams to ensure each child's individual needs are met.

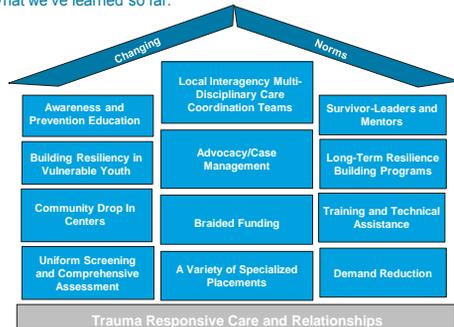


Criminal Justice Division

11

Essential Elements & Promising Practices

What we've learned so far.



Criminal Justice Division

12

Questions?

Contact

Andrea Sparks, Director
Andrea.Sparks@gov.texas.gov

Alan Schonborn, Associate Director for Strategic Development
Alan.Schonborn@gov.texas.gov

Todd Latiolais, Associate Director of Prevention and Policy
Todd.Latiolais@gov.texas.gov

