

CASE STUDY

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SOLUTIONS REQUIRE A MULTI- DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

AT A GLANCE ...

A holistic methodology that best helps victims involves identifying and evaluating community partners that act with the child's health and safety in mind.



HEIDI OLSON

FOUNDER, PARADIGM
SHIFT TRAINING &
CONSULTING | MSN, RN,
CPN, SANE-P



INVOLVING A HOMELESS SHELTER

A pubescent child was at a homeless shelter for youth during which time she visited with a nurse practitioner and disclosed that she had a 22-year old boyfriend – and was working at a strip club.

This information was hotlined to child protective services, but not reported to law enforcement. While the nurse practitioner did her due diligence of mandated reporting, child protective services often screens out reports that are not related to maltreatment by caregivers, so it's imperative law enforcement is notified in these instances.

Shortly thereafter, the girl left the facility to live with family members.

Unfortunately, the girl got into some altercations with the family and law enforcement was called. Police brought the child to the emergency room where she was met with staff trained in the CSEC Screening Protocol including having a forensic nurse assess her.

Our trained staff was immediately on high alert that this could be a trafficking situation, which the screening tool confirmed. As we later discovered, the child had been raped from the age of 9. On the other hand, it was concerning that community partners did not have a sense of urgency that this 12-year old child was being raped and trafficked by a 22-year old man, or that she was working in a strip club. Imagine the number of adults, clients, and professionals this 12 year old has encountered at the strip club, without anyone speaking up or helping her.

WHAT IS FAIR?

Modern human trafficking efforts, including the CSEC Screening Protocol, involve a multidisciplinary approach to ensure victims are identified, rescued and provided with continuing care. But that does not mean that all community partners are equal. That is why part of my CSEC Screening Protocol includes identifying and evaluating community partners that act with the child's health and safety in mind. That unfortunately does not include all partners.

We could say that in this case, and in fairness to the homeless shelter, they were acting in a desensitized way because there are simply so many troubled juveniles they are dealing with or that they are uneducated on this issue. True - but in fairness to the victims, what then do we have community partners for, or even medical staff, if not to have professionals with appropriate skills where a child is being raped and trafficked?



This case perfectly illustrates the importance of identifying and evaluating community partners that act with the child's health and safety in mind. Training, including through the CSEC Screening Protocol, is what provides relevant parties with the skills necessary to keep victims' health and safety top of mind.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRAINING
FOR HEALTHCARE AND ASSOCIATED
WORKERS, AND THE
CSES SCREENING PROTOCOL,
CONTACT HEIDI OLSON AT 575 571 8346
OR heidi@paradigmshifttc.com**

