

The Moody Foundation

Project Title: Collin County C.T.D. Program (CSE-IT, TREAT-IT, DIVERT-IT)/Moody Foundation-Case Manager

Project Description (word count 1000)

Collin County Juvenile Probation Department is seeking assistance working with juveniles who have been referred for offenses with an emphasis on those who have been subjected or who are at high-risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Juveniles who are referred for offenses are often detained in the detention center. The level of offense (runaway, truancy, signs of violence, etc.) are often found to be early indicators for youth being victims of human trafficking in the juvenile justice system. While the Collin County Juvenile Department has successfully implemented protocols and policy to screen and identify youth for commercial sexual exploitation, the program will look to expand operational capacity to identify even more victims of trafficking which has become a nationwide epidemic. More importantly, the program will look to serve as an early intervention program to provide appropriate services to keep them from being referred into the criminal justice system and divert them all together. Children, especially those with histories of runaway, truancy, expulsion, sexting, signs of violence (cuts, bruises, burns on child's body) or electronic transmission of certain material depicting minors, etc., and those involved in foster-care are exponentially more likely to be trafficked than other similar youth. The program will focus on early identification by using a multidisciplinary agency developed screening tool focusing on risk factors, in conjunction with applicable youth bring screened via the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Tool, commonly referred to as CSE-IT, a validated risk-assessment tool specifically designed to identify victims and potential victims of sex-trafficking. Once youth are appropriately identified, the program will provide youth with community based services with an emphasis on comprehensive victim's services care coordination. These services may include but not limited to medical and therapeutic services and intervention, educational services, clothing and school supplies, intensive-community-based case management services to establish wraparound support for ongoing success and long-term community-based placement. The program will use a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery, working with all community-based stakeholders serving youth throughout the community. This program will provide trafficked youth with needed services as opposed to criminalizing actual victims who are often detained in juvenile detention centers. This program will provide law enforcement a safe and services-based alternative to refer these youth as opposed to referring them to juvenile detention. The CSE-IT, TREAT-IT, DIVERT-IT (C.T.D.) Program will foster a safe environment for exploited and vulnerable youth to build community and healthy relationships, gain new knowledge, cultivate leadership abilities, and access resources. Through these community based program activities, youth learn to connect and collaborate with other, uplift their voices and express their truths, explore their passions and interests, access safety and healing, and develop the confidence, knowledge, and self-advocacy skills that empower them to lead healthy lives.

Specific need of project and purpose for acting on need at this time:

Every day in the United States, children and adolescents are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud. Or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years (Center For Family Services, 2020). While there is no consensus on the number of minor sex trafficking victims in the United States, there is clear consensus that the impact of this crime on the victims is devastating.

Girls who have been trafficked experience physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual repercussions from the trauma of sexual exploitation. Victims often present with following health-related issues:

- Physical health problems associated with beatings and rapes, including bones and the need for wound care;
- Reproductive health problems, including exposure to HIV and other STDs, pregnancies, and fertility issues;
- Malnutrition
- Mental health problems, including PTSD and somatic complaints (headaches, chronic pain) resulting from the trauma;
- Alcohol and other drug use, as well as addiction.

Mental Health Symptoms resulting from repeated abuse include but not limited to the following:

- Extreme anxiety and fear;
- Changed relationships with others (including the inability to trust);
- Self-destructive behaviors (including suicide attempts);
- Changed feelings or beliefs about oneself (including profound shame and guilt);
- Changed perception of the perpetrator (including establishing a traumatic bond); and
- Despair and hopelessness

(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Heather J. Clawson Ph. D. and Lisa G. Grace, LICSW, Finding A Path To Recovery).

The Collin County Juvenile Probation Department deals with the ongoing mental health and psychological trauma caused by trafficking on a daily basis. The Collin County John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center is a secure facility designated for both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication detention services. The facility currently designates 60 of its 144 beds to post-adjudication services. During the past fiscal year, the department was able to substantiate more than 15 cases or a staggering 25% of youth being served in post-adjudication having been subjected to commercial sexual exploitation. While youth were not committed to post-adjudication as a directly related consequence to being victims of trafficking, the trauma caused by it and the lack of a more concerted and focused trauma-informed and intensive services approach contributed to the traditional juvenile services model being ill equipped to keep these youth shallow in the system. Over the past fiscal year, the juvenile detention facility has seen the need for mental health intervention and case management increase exponentially. Although clinical programming and therapeutic series are readily available, the trauma these trafficked-youth have been subjected to manifests in self-harming behavior and acts of violence toward others, even staff members. When a child acts out self-harming behaviors, departmental policy and state statute requires one-on-one supervision until an appropriate mental health intervention can be facilitated. From 2015 to 2019, the juvenile probation department has seen more than an 800% increase in youth requiring suicide-mental health intervention, with children who have been subjected to human trafficking being a very common thread. Some examples of warning signs that Collin County Detention Center has been exposed to with children who have been subjected to sexual exploitation/human trafficking are the following:

- Thinking about or attempting suicide

- Self-harming (harming and hurting others)
- Poor Mental Health
- Going missing from home or care/runaways
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Guilt
- Anger control issues
- Attention deficit/impulse control issues
- Physical injuries
- Misuse of drugs or alcohol
- Involvement in offending
- Absenteeism from school
- Deterioration in physical appearance
- Evidence of online sexual bullying
- Evidence of vulnerability of social networking sites
- Emotional distance from family members

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise, valued to be an estimated \$32 billion a year global industry. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise, a status it shares with illegal arms trafficking. Sex trafficking can and does take place in every community, no matter the cultural make up, the affluence, or the location of a community. No community is immune from being affected by the exploitation of commercial sexual activity. Due to recent legislative changes and the public becoming more informed regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children, the state legislature introduced and passed legislation eliminating prostitution from the juvenile delinquency offense code. Although juveniles can no longer be charged with prostitution, other offenses and patterns of juvenile delinquency have been proven to be an overwhelming correlation to victimization and risk of human trafficking, especially the CINS offense of Runaway. This correlation proves even stronger when a child has multiple runaways and is even more exacerbated with foster-care system involvement. In fiscal year 2019 (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019), the Collin County Juvenile Probation Department received 86 referrals for runaways. Departmental data shows 70 of the youth had no prior adjudications while 16 had a previous adjudication before the juvenile court. Ages of youth referred ranged from 13 to 16, with white males making up the bulk of the sample. This data is not surprising as females are not exclusive victims of commercial sexual exploitation and the department has multiple substantiated cases of male victims. Even more telling, without a diversion alternative program for Collin County, more than 35% of these youth spent time in the juvenile detention center, including those who were identified as trafficking victims but also had other delinquent conduct pushing deeper into the traditional juvenile justice system. Finally, 15 youth within the sample or 17% were referred to detention for multiple runaway referrals with one youth being referred a staggering nine (9) times during the review period.

1. Collin County QuickFacts, State and County QuickFacts, U.S. Census Bureau. 2. Collin County Juvenile Probation Departmental Database/Numbers, September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019. 3. www.justice.gov (Sex-Trafficking Law Enforcement Task Force).

Goals and objectives:

Program goal will be to serve a minimum of 30 youth identified as victims or potential victims (high risk) of trafficking via the Validated Risk Instrument (CSE-IT).

Objective 1: Ensure 75% of youth identified and served do not receive any additional referral for offenses which increases the chances of trafficking while in the program.

Objective 2: Ensure 75% of youth identified and served are placed in long-term community based, family or custodial kinship placement and working toward academic achievement or appropriate job placement upon program completion.

Unit of measure and time span for evaluation:

The following are the units of measure: a year to 18 months for evaluation

Output Measure/Target:

- Number of individuals offered diversion: 30
- Number of individuals who engage in services through the diversion program: 30
- Number of individuals who enter the diversion program: 30

Project Results:

The following are the project results:

Outcome Measure/Target:

- Number of individuals successfully completing the diversion program: 26
- Number of individuals from diversion program who offend or reoffend: 4

Proposed method for evaluating impact or success of project:

Offenses will be tracked via the department's case management software applications, Techshare Juvenile Case Management System. The software applications also provides a platform (Noble Software Application) to enter all CSE-IT screenings and account for recidivism rates to track program success, number of youth screened, identified, and served in the program. The department's case management system also tracks and records all demographic information for youth including race, age, gender and educational status.

Target audience for disseminating results of project:

The C.T.D. Program staff will serve any victim with the main focus being youth between the ages of 10-17 years of age and victims of commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking. The program will not discriminate in service delivery for any victims pursuant to race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. The Collin County Juvenile Probation Department will be collaborating with other agencies and stakeholders working with program youth on a daily basis. One of them being The Collin County John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center, a secure facility designated for both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication detention services. The facility currently designates 60 of its 144 beds to post-adjudication services. During the past fiscal year, the department was able to substantiate more than 15 cases or a staggering 25% of youth being served in the post-adjudication program having been subjected to

commercial sexual exploitation. While youth were not committed to post-adjudication as a directly related consequence to being victims of trafficking, the trauma caused by it and the lack of a more concerted and focused trauma- informed and intensive services approach contributed to the traditional juvenile services model being ill equipped to keep these youth shallow in the system, let alone divert them altogether as this program is focused, evidenced-based, and trauma informed has left youth who are victims of human trafficking to fall through the cracks and be subjected to punitive punishment as opposed to receiving needed treatment and services. The need for mental health intervention and case management for identified youth has increased drastically. From 2015-2019, the Juvenile Probation Department has seen more than an 800% increase in youth requiring suicide-mental health intervention, with children who have been subjected to human trafficking being a very common thread. The program will work closely with Collin County Children's Advocacy Center (CACCC) and The Collin County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). Additionally, the program will work to ensure ongoing public awareness and education by ensuring literature regarding warning signs of human trafficking, and more importantly, the availability of this program to provide services for children who may be victims of human trafficking be readily available to the Collin County community.

Timetable and/or schedule for implementing project:

Start date: 03/01/2022

End date: 02/28/2023

Request Amount: \$47,247.00

Project Budget: \$116,633.00

Current Status of project: Active

Key staff for project and qualifications:

Licensed Therapist: will provide behavioral health services. The therapist will be licensed/certified, have experience in working with victims (of sexual exploitation) trauma, have strong multicultural counseling. The therapist along with the Case Manager (through Moody Foundation funds) will coordinate service delivery, ensure communication among providers internally and externally; ensure follow up of any recommended assessments of services; act as an advocate for client with medical professionals, aid in the developments and coordination of treatment plans; and ensure communication with family and placing agencies.

The Case Manager will also serve as a liaison. Will have intensive case management skills. Monitor the progress of clients served. Conducts special projects for the Therapist or along with the Therapist. Bachelor's degree required. Valid Texas Driver's License. Must have experience in Juvenile Probation.

Number of new personnel involved and plan for new personnel upon completion of project:

There will be no new personnel involved upon completion of project.

Listing of funds on hand or pledged for project:

\$116,633.00 has been pledged by the Office of the Governor and will pay for the Licensed Therapist. The \$116,633.00 includes fringe benefits.

Listing of other sources where proposals for project are submitted or pending:

At this time, there are no other sources where proposals for project are submitted or pending.

Description of how project will be financed after initial funding expires:

Collin County will continue seeking sources of additional funding for this project through federal, state, local, and foundations to continue providing services that are truly needed within Collin County, region, and state.