

# Human Trafficking Panel Highlight Scripts 2013

## **Brian Dempsey**

“A couple of years ago the Governor created a task force for human trafficking, and out of that came House Bill twenty three four which was signed into law by Governor Brownback this year. But as you all know, that work with the legislative process bills go through trials and tribulations it's not just an easy process, but we all work together. So that task force which is codified in twenty three four is an advisory board with most of the similar members worked together to identify issues and research, and come up with what we felt for now is the best plan moving forward to work with these victims.”

“A couple of the things that the statute did was one, it decriminalizes the behavior of these young women and boys. It removes the word prostitution from our definition of sexual abuse. They're not prostitutes, they're victims and then they're survivors. The other thing it does and, starting January one twenty fourteen is it creates our ability to go out with rapid response teams. So we can get on the scene quickly and assess for safety placement and treatment modalities.”

## **LT. Jeff Weible**

“I've been asked to talk about what human trafficking looks like in Kansas as well as how the individuals are grooming the victims into this activity. So far this year in twenty thirteen to give you some idea we've identified twenty two potential victims and twenty five alleged suspects just in Sedgwick County. A lot of our cases are intertwined with cases that are being worked out of other jurisdictions.”

“To give you some idea on age frames, our average age of our victims is anywhere between twelve. “

“I am very fortunate to be where I'm at, at EMCU because of the partnerships multidisciplinary aspect that we have when we're working these cases, because many of our victims believe it or not won't tell you that they're victims, and you'll hear from the panel today about the struggles that we have with our victims as far as getting information, and that's very difficult especially when you're trying to pursue a criminal investigation.”

“So that gives you some idea on the cases, but I can tell you it's a collaborative approach when you're investigating these cases, but the grooming techniques have gone from talking face to face to online. Two of our current cases the girls met their suspects online through different social media, not just Facebook.”

## **Chad Anderson**

“Today I want to talk about the training model, the trauma model of KVC and how that works, at KVC we have approximately 20 therapist that are all trained in TST(Trauma Systems Therapy) but across the state we talk about training in trauma informed care.”

“In our agency we realize that our children are with our Foster Parents more than they are with our case managers and so it is extremely important to talk to our Foster Parents about trauma. In our agency approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of our Foster Parents are trained in TST. So we want to make sure, and I keep talking about TST, Trauma Systems Therapy, but it's not about a model. It is about being trauma informed and it is about understanding what the experiences are of the youth that you are working with. “

“All of our workers that are working currently and will be working with youth directly will be going through training for assessment of human trafficking victims. This is a day training that engages them in understanding human trafficking survivors and also how to reach out for assistance. What I want to encourage you to do is get involved and ask questions. Currently we have children in care who are survivors of human trafficking and we are addressing those issues and looking for the least restrictive environment to make that happen.”

## **Rachel Marsh**

“I want to talk about particularly how we are dealing with these kids in the foster care system. If you look at the research, depending on which research you look at, and how you word it between fifty percent and almost all kids who are victims of sex trafficking have come in contact with the foster care system.”

“I think the trauma informed care that Chad mentioned is the critical piece and the fact that we have vulnerable kids, and we don't even know why they're vulnerable or what happened to

them, and we may not know that, but we have to know that, that's there and that, we have to develop those relationships and be committed to these kids."

"I recently went to a convention in Atlanta where a lawyer presenter was just amazing, and he had a room full of three hundred attorneys, and all were choked up. It's kind of a miracle, and what he said about changing the system is that if you want to change the system for kids you have to change the narrative. You have to change the narrative about what needs to happen for kids and you have to have hope and you have to keep hope."

"All the folks that have come to the table, they've changed the narrative on this topic, and then they've passed it in legislation. These children are not child prostitutes they are not little brats, they should be referred for social services with DCF, and those services need to be provided to those kid's. So I'm pleased that the legislation has been passed and I thank the leaders for changing the narrative."

## **Risa Rehmert**

"I'm Risa and I'm at the Children's Home and probably most people, if you're from Wichita, you know the Children's Home and we've been working on trafficking one way or another since eighteen eighty eight and we're celebrating our hundred twenty fifth year this year. Over the years terminology has changed but I think we recognize probably a lot more today and kids that come through our doors through the years that have the same issues. "

"When we look at sexual exploitation and what we have found over the last seventeen years or so, often it does have to do with the boyfriend and in some parts of the country they talk a lot about Daddy, I'll be your daddy kind of a thing. In our experience here we've seen more around they start out being a boyfriend and then suddenly and things progress from there."

"We sat with a girl who had run away who was twelve years old, and I will never forget her. She had a men's white shirt and it was unbuttoned to about there and she had a mini skirt on and she had ran away from home and we were talking to her trying to get her to come to the shelter with us and an adult man behind us said you can come stay with me and she was gone and short of us tackling her, there wasn't much we could do. That's how quickly, where you're desperate and you have nowhere to go they will go with people they literally met within minutes."

“Then of course force, fraud and coercion, we all know that, that’s about human trafficking but people have a tendency to envision being chained up or being locked in a room and force, fraud, or coercion for a youth, for a runaway or a homeless youth, often doesn’t look like force, fraud, or coercion from the outside.”