



Health and Human Services • Est. 1944

# Sex Trafficking

# Agenda

- Trafficking Laws
- What IS trafficking?
- Understanding recruitment
- Warning signs
- Screening for human trafficking

# Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

3 main components commonly known as the three P's:

- Protection
  - Providing assistance and non-immigrant status: T visas
- Prosecution
  - Force, fraud and coercion
- Prevention
  - Programs for victims and assisting foreign countries in drafting laws

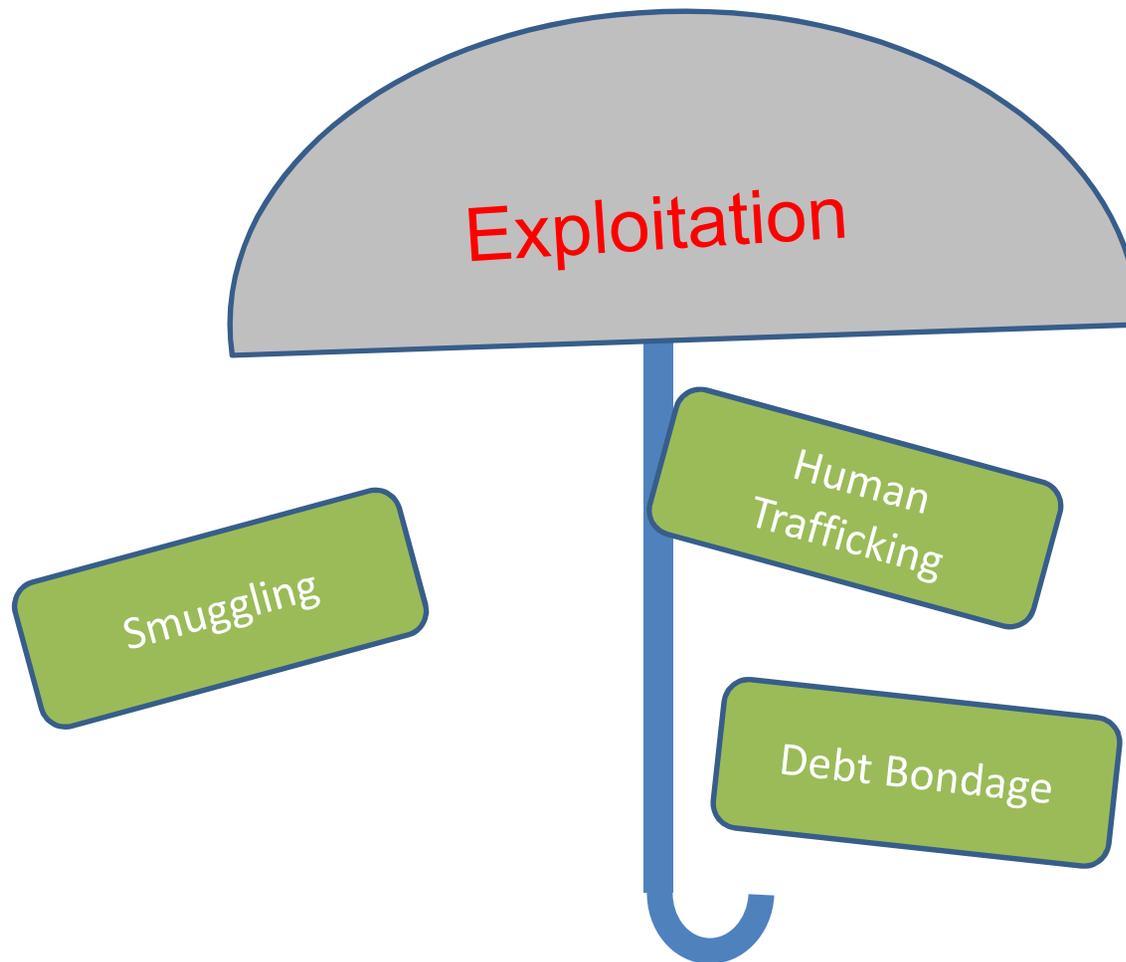
# TVPRA

- **Reauthorization**

- 2003
  - established a federal, civil right of action for trafficking victims to sue their traffickers. It also added human trafficking to the list of crimes that can be charged under the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute
- 2005
  - included a pilot program for sheltering minors who are survivors of human trafficking, and grant programs to assist state and local law enforcement
- 2008
  - Strengthened laws for unaccompanied children that required all UACs to be screened as potential victims of trafficking
- 2013
  - passed as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act, establishes and strengthens programs to ensure that U.S. citizens do not purchase products made by victims of human trafficking, and to prevent child marriage

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- According to a study conducted by the University of Texas at Austin released December 2016:
    - There are currently an estimated 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas.
    - Approximately 79,000 minors and youth are victims of sex trafficking.
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# Human Trafficking falls under the umbrella of Exploitation.



# EXPLOITATION

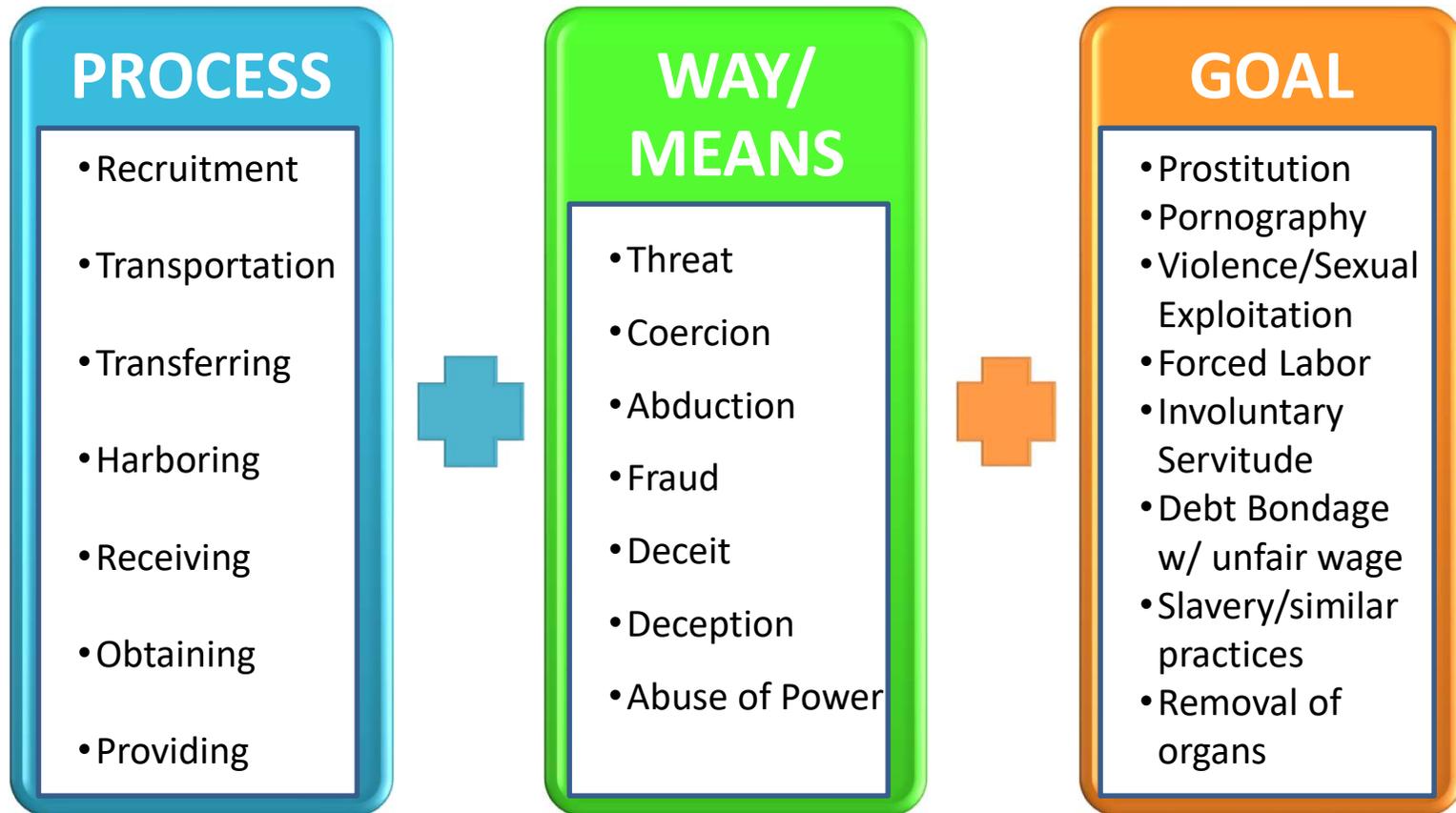
Exploitation is:

- The action of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work, including the exploitation of migrant workers.
- The use or manipulation of another person for one's own advantage.

# Exploitation vs. Human Trafficking

All trafficked children are exploited, but many children and families are exploited without being trafficked.

# So How Do You Know if It's Trafficking?



One condition must be met from each category.

# Process

## PROCESS

- Recruitment
- Transportation
- Transferring
- Harboring
- Receiving
- Obtaining
- Providing

Traffickers must have taken action against the victim, whether it's recruiting, helping to transport, or holding captive.

From a global perspective, the United Nations requires movement for a child to have been legally defined as “trafficked.”

In the United States, physical movement is **not** a prerequisite to trafficking – U.S. law dictates that a child can be trafficked in their own home or community, without being relocated.

# Way/Means

## WAY/ MEANS

- Threat
- Coercion
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Deceit
- Deception
- Abuse of Power

There must be an element of “force, fraud, or coercion,” for a scenario to be considered trafficking.

This means a trafficker must have:

**physically forced** the victim into the scenario

**deceived** the victim to trick them into the trafficking circumstances and/or

**threatened** the victim into the situation.

# FORCE

Can involve the use of physical restraint or serious physical harm. Physical violence, including rape, beatings, and physical confinement, is often employed as a means to control victims, especially during the early stages of victimization, when the trafficker breaks down the victim's resistance.

# FRAUD

Fraud involves false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, or other matters. For example, individuals might travel to another country under the promise of well-paying work at a farm or factory only to find themselves manipulated into forced labor.

# COERCION

Coercion can involve threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

# Goal

## GOAL

- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Violence/Sexual Exploitation
- Forced Labor
- Involuntary Servitude
- Debt Bondage w/ unfair wage
- Slavery/similar practices
- Removal of organs

For a scenario to be trafficking, the trafficker(s) must have the intent to engage in specific types of exploitation:

- Labor exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Removal of organs

# Sex Trafficking

Goal

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

Process

Way

Kids can't  
consent

# Types of Sex Trafficking

- Pornography
- Stripping/exotic dancing
- Recruiting other children into sex work
- Phone sex services
- Escort services
- Engaging in sex work

# Sex Trafficking vs. Sexual Abuse

- Sex trafficking indicates the victim has engaged in a commercial sex act. Somebody, somewhere, benefited materially from the act (e.g. the minor was paid, a pimp was paid, the trafficker was released from a debt). Something of value was exchanged.
- If no one has benefited materially, the circumstances may be sexual abuse (e.g. money or benefits never exchanged hands)

# Child Sex Trafficking and Consent

There is no such thing as a voluntary child sex worker, or a “child prostitute.”

**Any minor under 18 who has been involved in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether they report consent.**

# Smuggling is not Trafficking

Human smuggling is the importation of people into a country via the deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This includes bringing undocumented immigrants into a country, as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of undocumented immigrants already in a country illegally. Some smuggling situations may involve murder, rape and assault.

# Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Trafficking	Smuggling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Victims are <b>forced, defrauded, or coerced</b> into trafficking. Even if the victims initially offer consent, that consent is rendered meaningless by the actions of the traffickers to exploit them for labor, services, or commercial sex.</li><li>• Human trafficking is a crime committed <b>against an individual</b></li><li>• Trafficking <b>need not entail the physical movement</b> of a person.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individuals <b>consent</b> to being smuggled.</li><li>• Smuggling is a crime committed <b>against a country</b> and its borders</li><li>• Smuggling involves the illegal transport of an individual across a national border. Smuggling is <b>always transnational</b>.</li></ul>

# How are children trafficked?

- Some children are abducted and forced into involuntary servitude or sex trafficking.
- Some children are sold by their parents or caregivers into trafficking.
- It is difficult for children to protect themselves from these scenarios.

# Recruitment

When children are recruited into trafficking scenarios, they often know and trust the trafficker.

# Recruitment Techniques: Fraud

- Victims may be lured into a trafficking scenario with false promises (fraud). Examples of the kinds of fraudulent promises a trafficker might make include:
  - Promising a romantic relationship
  - Promising independence
  - Promising money
  - Material goods they could not otherwise have

# Attachment and Trafficking

Victims who have an insecure attachment – a challenged emotional bond – with their primary caregivers are at heightened risk for trafficking via the promise of a romantic relationship.

# Attachment and Vulnerability

Children who have experienced any of the following are at a greater risk of developing “insecure attachment” concerns:

- Childhood Trauma
- Physical or Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Long-term separation from primary caregivers
- Frequently changing caregivers
- Caregivers who are themselves traumatized

Youth who have experienced at least some of these characteristics, are at an increased risk of developing attachment-related behavioral concerns.

# Child with secure attachments believe:

- The world is a safe place most of the time.
- They can count on adults to meet their needs.
- If they have a problem, there are people who can help them with it.
- Their choices make a difference.
- They matter to other people.
- If they try hard enough, they can accomplish things that will bring them success.

## Children with insecure attachments believe:

- Caregivers will not be helpful.
- People are not trustworthy or caring.
- “I need to meet my own needs.”
- “My choices don’t affect anyone else.”
- They are insignificant and without value.
- They are small or powerless.
- No one can love them.

# Attachment and Risk

Because attachment-challenged children feel unlovable, they become more vulnerable to traffickers and less able to discern safe and unsafe people. Love becomes a primary need at any cost.

**Traffickers prey on this need for love.**

# Recruitment Tactics

Many traffickers target victims by:

- Befriending the youth online
- Befriending youth who are “outcasts” at school, or enlisting recruiters at school to target vulnerable youth
- Targeting runaway youth at shelters, bus stations, or on the street

# Recruitment Tactics

- Many traffickers begin manipulating their targets by engaging in a romantic relationship with them, at first. They understand the needs of attachment-challenged children and may:
  - Say loving words
  - Provide gifts
  - Appear secure and stable
  - Provide basic needs: shelter, food, clothing
  - Reinforce the child's worry about their parents' inability to help or love them.
- Traffickers may begin to isolate the child, distancing the child emotionally from parents and friends – the people who could help them.

# It's not as easy as "Just Say No."

Traffickers are often very smart, very manipulative, and keenly aware of a particular child's emotional and material vulnerabilities.

By the time a youth is being trafficked, they may not recognize their "boyfriend" as a trafficker. Victims may have developed such a strong bond with their trafficker that they may not realize or believe the reality of the abuse.



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If you were going to brainwash someone, make a person compliant, and too afraid to run away, what would you do?



**Biderman's Chart of Coercion**

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**Method:**

**Effects and Purposes:**

**Isolation**

- Deprives victim of social support that is necessary for the ability to resist
- Develops an intense concern with self
- Makes victim dependent upon interrogator

**Monopolization of perception**

- Fixes attention upon immediate predicament; fosters introspection
- Eliminates stimuli that compete with those controlled by the captor
- Frustrates all actions not consistent with compliance

**Induced debility and exhaustion**

- Weakens mental and physical ability to resist

**Threats**

- Cultivates anxiety and despair

**Occasional indulgences**

- Provides positive motivation for compliance

**Demonstrating "omnipotence"**

- Suggests futility of resistance

**Enforcing trivial demands**

- Develops habit of compliance

**Degradation**

- Makes cost of resistance appear more damaging to self-esteem than capitulation
- Reduces prisoner to "animal level" concerns

# Victims may not self-identify

Trafficking victims might:

- not know their rights
- not believe that their rights are being violated – “I’m getting paid for something others do for free.”
- be attached to their trafficker and not want to get him/her in trouble
- blame themselves for what has happened to them, or believe they deserve it
- have been threatened with violence or deportation if they tell
- not trust others enough to disclose

# Characteristics of Trafficking Victims

- 25% grew up without a mother in the house
- 59% grew up without a father in the house
- 40% someone died in their home while they were growing up
- 22% the person who raised them left for more than one year
- 33% someone in the household incarcerated
- 27% someone in the home had a major illness or disability
- 62% someone in the home was frequently hit, slapped, pushed
- 40% someone in the home was kicked beaten, raped, threatened, and/or attacked with a weapon
- 56% ran away from home at least once
- 65-80% victims of child sexual abuse, rape, or incest
- 50-75% victims of physical abuse as a child

# CSE-IT

## (Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool)

- DFPS, TJJD, and over 40 other child serving agencies are using the CSE-IT to identify child sex trafficking victims.
- The CSE-IT prompts you to gather and evaluate information you already have about a youth and score it to determine the level of concern you have have about a youth.
- For most care coordinators and advocates, if a youth scores a “clear concern” they are eligible for CSEC advocate/case management services.

### Continuum of Concern

(draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)



# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **HOUSING AND CAREGIVING.** The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.
- Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (overnight, days, weeks).
- Youth experiences unstable housing, including multiple foster/group home placements.
- Youth experiences periods of homelessness, e.g. living on the street or couch surfing.
- Youth relies on emergency or temporary resources to meet basic needs, e.g. hygiene, shelter, food, medical care.
- Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision.
- Youth has highly irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences.
- Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA.** The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).
- Youth has been sexually abused.
- Youth has been physically abused.
- Youth has been emotionally abused.
- Youth has witnessed domestic violence.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE.** The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.
- Youth presents a significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight.
- Youth shows signs of physical trauma, such as bruises, black eyes, cigarette burns, or broken bones.
- Youth has tattoos, scarring or branding, indicating being treated as someone's property.
- Youth has repeated or concerning testing or treatment for pregnancy or STIs.
- Youth is sleep deprived or sleep is inconsistent.
- Youth has health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition or irregular access to meals.
- Youth's substance use impacts their health or interferes with their ability to function.
- Youth experiences significant change or escalation in their substance use.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE.** The youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.
- Youth engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization.
- Youth spends time where exploitation is known to occur.
- Youth uses language that suggests involvement in exploitation.
- Youth is connected to people who are exploited, or who buy or sell sex.
- Youth is bullied or targeted about exploitation.
- Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or juvenile justice.
- Gang affiliation or contact involves youth in unsafe sexual encounters.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS.** The youth's relationships and personal belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.
- Youth has unhealthy, inappropriate or romantic relationships, including (but not limited to) with someone older/an adult.
- Youth meets with contacts they developed over the internet, including sex partners or boyfriends/girlfriends.
- Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.
- Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, drugs, alcohol, transportation.
- Youth has several cell phones or their cell phone number changes frequently.
- Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA.** The youth exhibits signs of trauma exposure.
- Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety, or hypervigilant.
- Youth has difficulty detecting or responding to danger cues.
- Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.
- Youth has a high level of distress about being accessible by cell phone.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **COERCION.** The youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.
- Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner.
- Someone else is controlling the youth's contact with family or friends, leaving the youth socially isolated.
- Youth is coerced into getting pregnant, having an abortion, or using contraception.
- Someone is not allowing the youth to sleep regularly or in a safe place, go to school, eat, or meet other basic needs.
- The youth or their friends, family, or other acquaintances receive threats.
- Youth gives vague or misleading information about their age, whereabouts, residence, or relationships.

# CSE-IT: Identifying Risk Factors

- **EXPLOITATION.** The youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter.
- Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter for themselves or someone else, e.g. child, family, partner.
- Youth is watched, filmed or photographed in a sexually explicit manner.
- Youth has a history of sexual exploitation.
- Youth is forced to give the money they earn to another person.

# Now what?

- You have identified a potential victim of sex trafficking but not sure what to do next?
- You have screened a child but still unsure if they are a victim?



Health and Human Services • Est. 1944

## **Common Thread**

An Advocacy Program for

Survivors of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation

## Who is BCFS Health and Human Services?

- BCFS Health and Human Services (BCFS HHS) is an integral part of a global system of non-profits, serving hundreds of thousands of clients annually

# BCFS HHS is known for...

- 24/7 Crisis Line Operations
- Emergency Sheltering (ACF/FEMA)
- Transitional Living Programming for foster youth and youth leaving juvenile justice
- Drop in Center Operations
- Family Reunification and Preservation Programs
- Foster Care programs
- Emergency Management

# BCFS HHS is known for...

- Responsiveness
- Cultural Competency
- Community Partnership
- Flexibility
- Mobility
- Speed
- Trust



# Common Thread

Common Thread is a project of BCFS Health and Human Services.



**Common Thread**

A project of BCFS Health & Human Services

# Common Thread Origins

Common Thread launched in 2017 following an initiative of the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team.

Common Thread initially launched in Central Texas, expanded to Greater Houston in September 2018, and recently launched in Rio Grande Valley/border area.

# What is Common Thread?

Common Thread is a **relational advocacy** program for sex trafficking survivors – or likely survivors - throughout Texas, serving:

Children and youth up to the age of 25

Of any gender

Of any nationality

**Slide 53**

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**IR1**

changed the age from 25 to 22

Irasema Resendez, 9/24/2019



# Service Area

Williamson	Bell	Falls	Cameron	Jim Hogg
McLennan	Bastrop	Caldwell	Hidalgo	Maverick
Blanco	Bandera	Kerr	Starr	Kinney
Gillespie	Kendall	Bexar	Willacy	La Salle
Guadalupe	Comal	Hays	Webb	Zapata
Hill	Limestone	Freestone	Val Verde	Grimes
McMullen	Atascosa	Karnes	Dimmit	Polk
Wilson	Frio	Medina	Uvalde	Madison
Bosque	Coryell	Real	Brooks	San Jacinto
Harris	Montgomery	Waller	Duval	Walker
Fort Bend	Brazoria	Galveston	Edwards	
Liberty	Chambers	Brazos	Kenedy	

# Common Thread is...

**Immediate.** When survivors are referred to Common Thread anywhere within our service area, a Common Thread advocate will be on-site to support a newly identified survivor within 90 minutes, 24/7/365.

# CSEC Advocacy: Crisis Response

Upon Recovery of a Survivor or Other Crisis:

- 24/7 response and availability to law enforcement, DFPS, care coordinators, survivors
- Arrive within 90 minutes to law enforcement need
- Help meet the immediate needs of the child for safety, food, rest, medical care, stabilization
- Develop safety plan with youth
- Support law enforcement, child protection, healthcare and juvenile justice partners in recovery, investigation, finding placement, medical and mental health care for survivors, case planning
- Accompany to interviews, forensic exams, other recovery activities and support before, during and after activities

# Common Thread is...

## Long Term.

- The same advocate who responds in crisis remains the long-term advocate for the survivor, to preserve the survivor-advocate relationship
- Common Thread can remain with survivors as intensively as they need us until they turn 25.
- This allows the program to move at the survivor's pace, *even if the survivor is not ready to make an outcry or engage with law enforcement.*

**Slide 58**

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**IR2**

**Changed 25 to 22**

Irasema Resendez, 9/24/2019

# CSEC Advocacy: Long-Term Support

## Ongoing, Long-Term Support:

- Regularly meet with the youth wherever they are (field-based)
- In addition to face to face visits, supportive contact with survivor by phone, texts, social media, FB messaging and other
- Supports transition from one system to another
- Ongoing safety planning for changing circumstances
- Identifying needs and navigating resources to meet those needs (Example: accessing CVC funds)
- Referring to community providers for follow up services such as: housing, counseling, medical follow up appointments, etc.
- Provide regular updates to all partner agencies involved with youth, including guardian
- Represent the survivor and his/her needs at investigative MDT and at care coordination meetings

# Common Thread is...

## **Evidence Based.**

- Comprehensive training: 120 hours of training prior to accepting cases, including training that DFPS requires for its own staff plus:
  - Motivational Interviewing;
  - Trust Based Relational Intervention;
  - CSE-IT
- Shadowing: intensive shadowing and supervision prior to working independently with survivors.
- Supervision: ongoing intensive supervision and recurrent training.

# Survivor Led

- Many of the Common Thread team members are survivors themselves
- All tools, approaches, and program strategy is staffed in consultation with our survivor advisors

# Common Thread is...

**Accessible.** Common Thread meets survivors in community both for scheduled meetings and whenever survivors decide they need us.

The program remains fully available to survivors 24/7/365 via text, social media, phone, and crisis dispatch.

# Emergency Management Informed

- Common Thread's staffing structure, monitoring tools, immediate dispatch capacity, and visibility are all made possible through BCFS HHS's access to specialized equipment, software, and expertise.
- This is what allows the program to be 100% responsive while preserving personnel safety in field

# Common Thread is...

**Mobile.** Common Thread advocates are not tied to a physical office.

Our advocates:

- Are able to serve survivors in community anywhere within our service area, and
- Can continue services even when survivors relocate.

# Strong relationships with survivors require mobility.



# Common Thread is...

**Collaborative.** Common Thread aims to promote positive adult relationships between the client and service providers.

The program believes that existing positive relationships should remain intact – and we actively facilitate continued contact.

The program is non-competitive by design, and promotes collaborative case planning.

# Community Partnerships

- Office of the Governor (OOG)
- Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department and local juvenile probation departments
- Local police and sheriff's departments
- Local district attorney's offices
- Hospitals
- Department of Public Safety
- Children Advocacy Centers
- Homeland Security Investigations-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (HSI-ICE)
- Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) grantees
- Office of the Governor (OOG) CSTT service providers grantees
- Local service providers statewide

# Case Management

- Common Thread is trained to case manage with survivors, particularly in areas of the state where case management services are unavailable

# Case Management Activities

- Protection of victims' rights
- Goal setting and service planning
- Initial and on-going assessments
- Locating resources
- Review of roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring safety
- Case conference reviews
- Communicating and following up with professionals within criminal justice and social service systems
- Identification of service gaps
- Case coordination meetings

# Common Thread Advocacy/Case Management Model

## Advocacy

- 24/7 Availability
- Instant Response in Crises
- Communication
- Unconditional Positive Regard
- Placement preservation
- Rebuilding Survivor Trust in Community Partners
- Identifying Triggers and Building Coping Skills
- Dependability
- Remaining Physically with Survivors Throughout the State
- Case Management



# Relational Advocacy

Case management is effective for survivors who are already ready to engage in services.

For many survivors, it's the long-term, trusting relationship with a safe adult – *relational advocacy* - that helps survivors to become ready to engage in services in the first place.

# Ready = Felt Safety

To be “ready” to engage in services, including successful forensic interviewing, survivors must have “felt safety.”

- “Objective,” physical safety is not enough.
- Survivors of trafficking often have **physiological** reactions to interviewing and law enforcement.
  - In a state of dysregulation, the survivor physically *cannot* engage in services or interviewing.
  - This dysregulation comes from the same part of the brain that controls their automatic bodily functions – it’s often not a conscious fear.
  - This dysregulated response – fear - is what causes them to run, or recant, or return to their trafficker.

# Survivors and Triggers

- ANY survivor of trauma may be triggered by describing what happened to them
- Survivors of trafficking are often specifically triggered by:
  - Authority figures
  - Uncertainty
  - Telling their story
  - Talking about their trafficker
  - Being alone
  - Feeling rejected
  - Power struggles

# Ready = Felt Safety

- Before a survivor will fully engage in services and interviewing, they need to first be able to manage their body's response to fear.
- They need to not only **be** safe, but to **feel** safe (Felt Safety!)

## **The Advocate's Role is to help create Felt Safety over time**

**Research demonstrates that for survivors of complex trauma, “felt safety” is impossible in the absence of at least one consistent, trusting, genuine, respectful, reciprocal adult relationship.**

**This is the role of an advocate.**

# Characteristics of Youth We Serve

Survivors of sex trafficking, and the complex, relational trauma that may have preceded their exploitation, often show behaviors described as “external regulation”. These include:

- Running Away
- Fighting
- Substance Use
- Heightened Risk-Taking

CSEC Advocacy uses evidence-based Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) to counter these reactions to trauma.

# Co-Regulation

Okay great! I'm on the way to the school as well

Do I wait for you outside ?

I don't wanna go in alone I'm kinda scared

Okay I can go in with you if you want me to

Yeah

Hey

Is there anyway you can take me to cenikor today im wanting to use really bad

Hi

I'm so depressed

Hi [redacted] this is [redacted] another advocate with Common Thread. Are you ok?

Yes I'm just so depressed

I don't feel myself

I lost myself [redacted] and I can't find myself

I feel so useless...

I don't wanna stay here another night

I'm scared I wanna go home

Im really suicidal

Good. Hope you have a good day at school!

[redacted]

Yes?

I feel like crying

Did something happen at school?

Hey my sister been talking a lot of shit to me and putting me down

Hi [redacted] it's [redacted] I work with [redacted] What's going on?

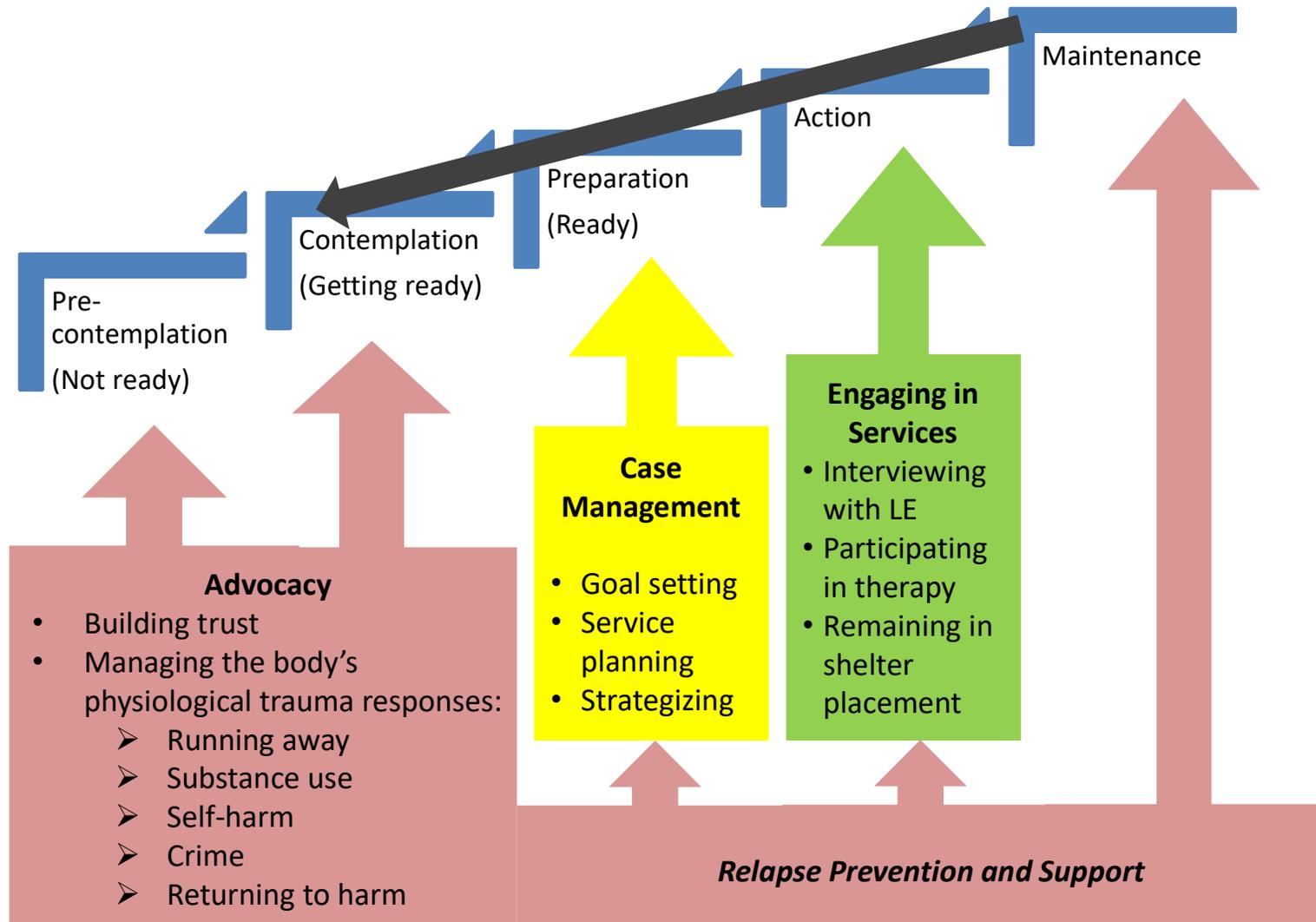
Idk my sister making me feel ugly n I wanna kill my self like I can't stand being told thins that put me down

Today 2:18 PM

Hola mis solo queria desirle  
que me tome unas pastias. Y  
muchas gracias por todo

 me puedes hablar por  
favor

# Survivor Stages of Change



# Case Study



San Antonio

San Antonio

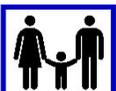
Corpus Christi



Rockport

South Padre Island

Corpus Christi



San Antonio



# Case Study



San Antonio



San Antonio



Corpus Christi

Rockport



South Padre Island



Corpus Christi



San Antonio

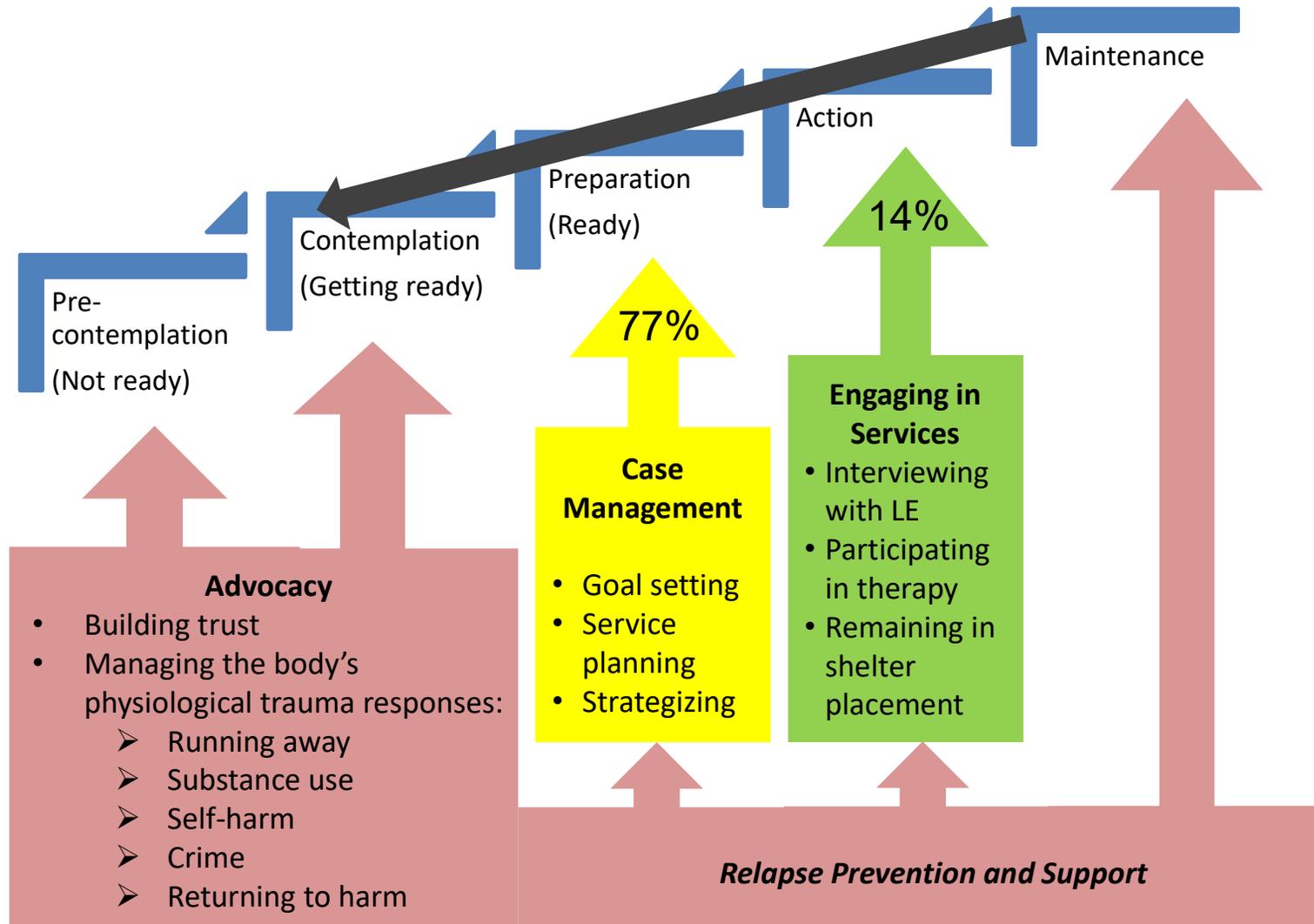


## **Common Thread is built specifically to serve the youth who fall through the cracks.**

Survivors who may need an advocate before case management:

- Suspected survivors whose outcry is inconsistent, who have recanted, or who have failed to attend their forensic interview
- Survivors who have a history of running away
- Survivors who are actively “in the life”
- Survivors who refuse SANE exams
- Survivors who refuse to engage with law enforcement
- Survivors with housing instability
- Survivors described as “disconnected” from their DFPS workers, foster families, and/or other safe adults
- Survivors who may be recruiting others
- Survivors with histories of psychiatric hospitalizations, suicide attempts and/or drug overdose
- Survivors whose treatment, placement, and/or family networks may require movement to other cities
- Survivors who you think will “disappear”

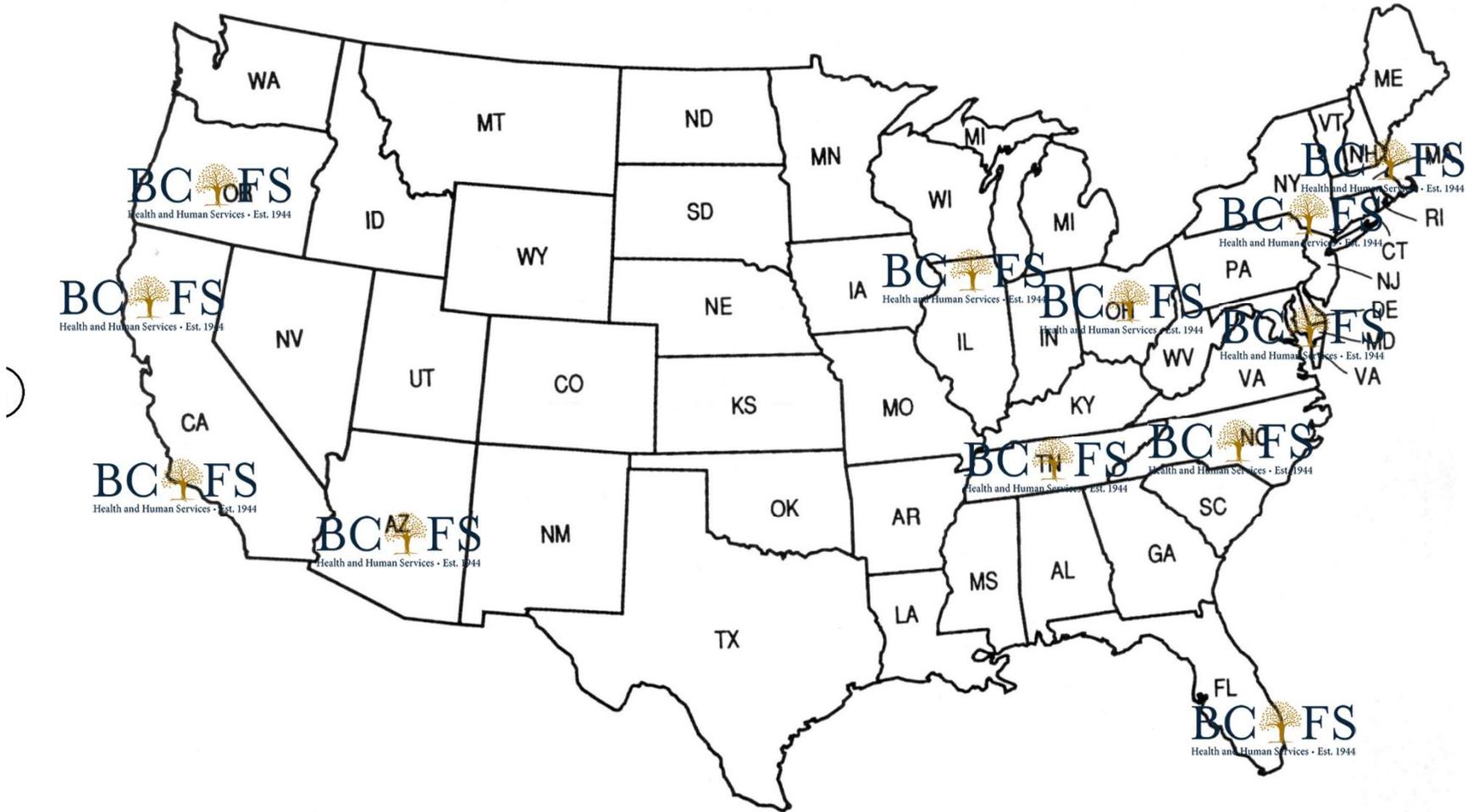
# Survivor Stages of Change





# Geographic Reach – U.S.

AK



# In Sum...

- Advocacy is relationship-focused, with outcomes targeting stabilization
- Advocacy can make investigations, case management, and child protection more effective for survivors
- Common Thread's reach allows for survivors to remain meaningfully connected even if their victimization takes them outside of our service area

# Who Can You Refer?

- Sex trafficking survivors who are:
  - Confirmed OR “clear concern”
  - Of any gender identification
  - Of any legal status
  - Physically in our service area, or expected to travel to our area
  - Under the age of **25** <sup>IR3</sup>
- For other survivors, email us at [commonthread@bcfs.net](mailto:commonthread@bcfs.net). We'll help however we can - we may be able to get approval to serve the client, or may be able to refer him/her to local supports.

**Slide 87**

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**IR3**

changed from 25 to 22

Irasema Resendez, 9/24/2019

# Eligible Survivors

- We don't require the outcry to accept a case. If you believe a child has been sex trafficked, we'll assign an advocate.
  - Many of our referrals begin as “clear concern” cases identified on the CSE-IT screening tool
  - The vast majority of our kids don't self-identify as having been “trafficked” at the time of referral

# How to Refer

Call **1-888-8THREAD** for 24/7 immediate response.

Remembering our number:

- “Thread” is in the number, because the name of our program is Common Thread
- The rest of the numbers are “8,” because 8s look like the infinity symbol. We think that symbol is a good representation for our “no matter what” model

Email [commonthread@bcfs.net](mailto:commonthread@bcfs.net) for non-urgent referrals

# Program Materials

Visit our website at

[www.commonthread.net](http://www.commonthread.net)

Here you can find:

- Flyers to download to share with clients
- Our service area
- General information about the program

# Contact Information

24/7 Hotline for referrals:

**1-888-8THREAD**

[www.commonthread.net](http://www.commonthread.net)

Maria Cansino, Community Advocate

mc3016@bcfs.net

Cell: 956-328-7677