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Forging Communities of Sex Worker and Anti-Trafficking Activists

Alexandra Lutnick, PhD. | RTI International
Minh Dang, MSW | MD Consulting &
University of Nottingham

Acknowledgements



- Our survivor/ally research team members
 - ▣ Insert names of research assistants and CAB members
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Background

- The U.S. Office for Victims of Crime and the U.S. Bureau of Justice Administration have funded 42 anti-trafficking task forces since 2004:
 - Federal, state and local law enforcement & social service providers
 - Less than half have accumulated “high quality data”
 - Few evaluations conducted
 - None include sex worker rights organizations

The National Institute of Justice provided RTI with funding for 3 years to conduct a peer-based process and outcome evaluation of the San Francisco Mayor’s Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking

San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking

- Launched in 2013
 - ▣ Staffed by the DOSW
 - ▣ Receives no federal funding
 - ▣ Approx. 40 agencies
- Aims
 - ▣ Review and improve the City's response to human trafficking
 - ▣ Identify gaps in services for survivors
- Bimonthly General Meetings
- Subcommittees
 - ▣ Youth Trafficking
 - ▣ Adult Trafficking
 - ▣ Sex Work and Trafficking Policy Impact (established 2014)
 - ▣ Data Working Group
 - ▣ Executive Committee
 - ▣ Youth Fellowship

CBPR Evaluation: Rapid Appraisal Methods



- Historical Document Review
- Task Force meeting observations
- Qualitative Interviews with Task Force members
 - ▣ 31 individuals from 25 agencies

Sex Work & Trafficking Policy Impact

- Concerns about criminal responses to trafficking/collateral consequences of increasing danger for sex workers
 - ▣ Creation of Prioritizing Safety for Sex Workers policy
 - ▣ Critique of POST video
 - ▣ Bad Date Line





Prioritizing Safety Policy



- ❑ United in efforts to reduce violence people experience in sex trade
- ❑ Allows those involved in sex work to report sexual assault, trafficking, other violent crimes they experience or they witness without fear of being arrested/prosecuted
 - ❑ Prevents arrest for sex work and minor drug offenses
- ❑ Acknowledges violence against sex workers by law enforcement
- ❑ Requires referral to resources and training designed in collaboration with orgs serving sex workers

POST Human Trafficking Video

- Mandated by Prop 35 – 2 hours of training on human trafficking
 - Police officers assigned to field or investigative duties
 - POST created a training video on human trafficking
- Sex Work subcommittee and other TF members reviewed
 - Ignores the more complicated nature of human trafficking
 - Conflates severe forms of trafficking with sex work
 - Perpetuates racial stereotypes and profiling
 - Oversimplifies the challenges of gaining the trust of people experiencing trafficking

Recommendations for HT Training

- Eliminate inaccurate data and statements on trafficking;
- Incorporate more discussion of labor trafficking in domestic services, restaurants, nail salons, construction, and other industries;
- Clearly differentiate between human trafficking and sex work in keeping with the definitions in The California Trafficking Victims Protection Act (AB 22, 2005);
- Acknowledge the sometimes differing needs of trafficked persons and law enforcement;
- Address the various barriers to trust that trafficked persons may have with law enforcement, and the very real challenges that law enforcement face when engaging with trafficking victims;
- Discuss best practices on empowerment approaches to connecting trafficked persons to services;
- Model contacting child welfare hotlines when minor trafficking victims are identified;
- Remove sensationalistic and racist scenarios in the video;
- Remove use of condoms as evidence from the video;
- Involve a diverse group of social workers and community service providers who work with trafficked persons, inclusive of agencies that work with sex workers in developing these trainings.

Bad Date List/App



- ❖ Collect info & disseminate to community
 - ❖ Notify one another of violent, dangerous, or harmful people to reduce the likelihood of another bad encounter in our community
- ❖ Contain reports of 'bad dates' or incidents of violent or dangerous clients or other persons
 - Describe the incident, provide a description of the person, their vehicle (if applicable) and their phone number (if applicable).
- ❖ Dissemination
 - Hard copies distributed during outreach or at CBOs
 - Website
 - App

Challenges

- No formal conversations about group being part of the task force
- Differing philosophies and orientations create tension
 - ▣ Some looking for a more complex narrative
 - ▣ Others indicate that nothing would ever convince them that someone would choose to sell sex and the best response is to target clients and detain young people for their safety
 - ▣ Challenges of sharing space
- Bureaucratic Process
 - ▣ Still waiting finalization of SFPD bulletin for Safety Policy

QUESTIONS?

Project Website | <https://sftaskforceeval.wordpress.com>

Alexandra Lutnick, Ph.D. | alutnick@rti.org

Minh Dang, MSW | minhspeakstruth@gmail.com