



Restoring Hope for Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Overview:

Center for Hope offers integrated programs and services designed to break the cycle of violence and its lifelong impact for victims of all races, ethnicities, and religions, from the cradle to old age. A nationally accredited children's advocacy center serving Baltimore for over 30 years, Center for Hope's Child Advocacy Center (formerly Baltimore Child Abuse Center) is one of the country's top violence intervention and prevention agencies, aimed at caring for children and family members affected by violence. As the primary advocate for victims and point of contact for child-sensitive investigations and follow-up, the Child Advocacy Center eliminates the lengthy, repetitive, and often traumatic process that previously existed in Baltimore City.

The Center's activities focus on intervention when abuse is reported, treatment to aid in the healing of survivors and their families, education around recognizing, preventing, and reporting suspicions of abuse, and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. The Child Advocacy Center's comprehensive services in these areas address the immediate and long-term challenges child sexual abuse and adverse childhood experiences pose to the Baltimore region. Mariam Imohi manages the Child Advocacy Center which houses the Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Team, including the Baltimore City Regional Navigator. The Anti-Trafficking & Exploitation team provides trauma informed and trauma responsive victim services to youth experiencing multiple forms of exploitation including, trafficking, child sexual abuse materials, online enticement, & sextortion. The Anti-Trafficking & Exploitation team also supports youth at-risk of exploitation including missing & runaway youth. The Regional Navigator has developed a unique partnership with the Missing Youth Response in providing additional supports to increase protective factors to prevent sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Human Trafficking Regional Navigator:

The Human Trafficking Regional Navigator (RNPG) was developed after Governor Hogan signed into law the Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019; this supports the Regional Navigator. The law requires Law Enforcement agents and Local Departments of Social Services who suspect or have reason to believe a child is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a Regional Navigator in their jurisdiction or region to obtain needed services for the child. The Regional Navigators assist with conducting screening assessments and providing or connecting youth with the following services: Safety planning, emergency response, basic living needs (not including housing), trauma counseling and mental health services, drug and alcohol abuse treatment & referrals, referrals for legal services, victim advocacy, and case management. Center for Hope was awarded the RNPG in November 2020 to expand services that were being provided to victims of sex trafficking at Center for Hope.

Highlights & Statistics since 2020:

1. Service Provision/Victim Services
 - a. Emergency 24/7 Forensic Interview
 - i. 154 forensic interviews for youth with primary trafficking allegations and precautionary forensic interviews for youth at risk of trafficking/exploitation
 - b. Supported 242 confirmed victims of trafficking/exploitation, unconfirmed victims of trafficking/exploitation, and individuals at risk of trafficking/exploitation
 - c. Provided 282 victim-centered services

- i. These services include basic living needs, case management, trauma focused therapy, case coordination, and linkages to resources.
2. Development and maintenance of partnerships that increase the prevention and intervention of child sex trafficking
3. Training of local, state, national, and international professionals on coordinated child trafficking responses
 - a. Facilitated trainings for local & state partners and community organizations
 - b. Maryland Child Trafficking Conference
 - c. Thailand Delegation
 - d. Mongolia's Federal Sex Trafficking Task Force
4. Coordination with/between partners
 - a. 52 Child Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team Reviews
 - b. Established regular Child Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team Review
 - c. Facilitation of information sharing and collaboration with partners to best support victims

Child Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team Review (CT-MDT):

One of the responsibilities of the Regional Navigator is to facilitate the CT-MDT. The mission of the Child Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (CT-MDT) is to provide a process that allows members to effectively and collaboratively respond to victims of alleged child trafficking in Baltimore and their non-offending caretakers. Since these cases are complex with multiple dynamics, the CT-MDTs are purposed to provide a forum for members to share knowledge, perspective and expertise regarding individual cases. This process promotes communications and coordination between disciplines, as well as mutual support and accountability for a coordinated response to allegations of child trafficking.

Regular CT-MDT attendees include:

- Center for Hope
- Department of Social Services
- Baltimore City Police Human Trafficking Unit
- Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office
- Department of Juvenile Services
- TurnAround Inc.

Other partners that join CT-MDT when relevant include:

- Araminta Freedom
- Maryland State Police
- Homeland Security
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- External mental health & social services providers
- Family Case Workers
- Other organizations supporting youth

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