



***“On the Front Line: Training Healthcare Providers to Identify Human Trafficking Victims”***

***Executive Summary***

Global Strategic Operatives for the Eradication of Human Trafficking (GSO) was founded on November 9, 2018 when a group of high-level leaders and human trafficking experts convened at the United Nations. It was then decided to focus efforts on educating the healthcare sector about the plague of human trafficking.

Globally, it is estimated that there are 40M people trafficked each year, a disproportionate number of whom are women and children. According to a study of survivors, 88% of victims seek medical care/treatment while being trafficked. Assuming 1% of those victims are seen in the U.S. healthcare system, this accounts for at least 3.5M trafficked persons each year, many with multiple encounters. Healthcare provides a great opportunity to identify and provide these victims with a path to freedom. If we could identify and help just 1% of the victims seen annually by the U.S. healthcare system, we could potentially rescue 35,000 individuals from slavery each year.

As of fall 2019, GSO has been conducting a study entitled “*On the Front Line: Training Healthcare Providers to Identify Human Trafficking Victims and Take Appropriate Action*” in half dozen large Integrated Healthcare Delivery Networks (IDN) in the U.S. Each site will choose a specific Emergency Department to train. All sites will receive a standardized evidence-based, validated training program and be asked to use specific tools to establish a policy within their own institution. During the training, each site will be introduced to, and work with, their local law enforcement/Homeland Security agents and community agencies & resources. As a collaborative effort, all sites will share best practices.

Given the enormity of the issue, this is just the beginning. The GSO pilot study is the first step in training large, integrated delivery systems to identify trafficking victims and researching the impact of identification and taking appropriate action. Once the initial sites listed below are completed, the plans are to expand the program throughout the country and internationally.

***Goal***

The purpose of the one-year GSO pilot study is to successfully raise each IDNs level of knowledge and capacity to identify human trafficking victims and take appropriate actions. Upon completion of this pilot study, collating all the various policies and protocols developed by the GSO entities, GSO plans to submit a proposal to the World Health Organization (WHO) to be considered as a "universal policy" on human trafficking for healthcare providers worldwide.

***U.S. Sites for GSO Healthcare Sector Human Trafficking Training & Pilot Study***

Dignity Health / Common Spirit Health – The Leader of Educational Teams for all study sites

1. Baptist Health, South Miami Hospital, FL
2. Advocate Aurora Health, Chicago, IL
3. Hackensack Meridian Health, NJ
4. RWJ Barnabas Health, NJ
5. Northwell Health, NY
6. Harris Health-Baylor School of Medicine, Texas POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 CRISIS