

## *Human Trafficking: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know*

Instructor: George Nagle

### I. Course Description

In compliance with Florida Law imposed in Chapter 2019-152 and its directives, this course has been derived to fulfill this legal obligation and State mandate.

### II. Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to convey the State of Florida's established requirements, training and expectations regarding the need for awareness to Human Trafficking with healthcare professionals statewide that have direct contact with the public. This class will target those who work as Health Care Professionals as defined within Chapter 2019-152 and impart the State's documented subject matter covering all State requirements. This outline provides the course and sequence of training topics that will be presented to a class of Health Care Professionals.

### III. Discussion of State Requirements- Why do optometrists need to take this course?

- A. By January 1, 2021, each licensee or certificate holder shall complete a board-approved, or department-approved if there is no board, 1-hour continuing education course on human trafficking. The course must address both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, how to identify individuals who may be victims of human trafficking, how to report cases of human trafficking, and resources available to victims.
- B. Additional Requirements
  - 1. By January 1, 2021, the licensees or certificate holders shall post in their place of work in a conspicuous place accessible to employees a sign at least 11 inches by 15 inches in size, printed in a clearly legible font and in at least a 32-point type

2. Required verbiage on each posted sign:

"If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave, whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work, or any other activity, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to

233-733 to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and Florida law."

i) Discussion of options to obtain required signage

#### IV Definition of Human Trafficking

A. -Sex Trafficking / Labor Trafficking-identifying the difference:

A. Class discussion on the difference and identifying clues.

#### V-Discussion: Clues to identify victims

A. Identifying clues of potential victims

1. no parent present and child is reluctant to contact them
2. brought to the clinic / office by someone identified as an older brother  
or sister who acts as if they have custodial rights
3. during conversation the child never identifies a permit residence
4. it becomes apparent that the child is not attending school / reasons don't make sense
5. child patient or person with child makes payment in cash
6. child seems withdrawn unwilling to engage in any form of a detailed discussions / speaks in broad simple terms
7. hygiene / clothes seem unclean or not recently washed / brushed teeth fingernails etc.
8. obvious negative reaction to male staff
9. Runaways and how they constitute the majority of victims in Northeast Florida.

10. Poor mental health or abnormal behavior: • Appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous or paranoid
11. Avoids eye contact
12. Refuses to cooperate with physical exam
13. Behavior or demeanor does not align with injury or complaint (i.e., acts like it is “no big deal,” even with concerning injuries)
14. Refuses treatment that does not take place during that visit (i.e., refuses to go to specialist)
15. Poor physical health/ Appears malnourished
16. Signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
17. Is not in control of identification (ID or passport)
18. Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or interpreting)
19. Unable to clarify address or where he/she is staying
20. Unsure of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in /Loss of sense of time
21. Inconsistencies in his/her story
22. Tattoo(s), brand(s) or other marking

V. If human trafficking is suspected:

A.

1. Remain nonjudgmental
2. Observe the body language and communication style of the patient and those who accompany him/her
3. Use plain language; try to use words the patient uses.
4. Try to interview and/or examine the patient privately at some point during the visit.
5. Ensure the patient is alone when you discuss sensitive issues.

6. Document your concern in your notes to ensure it is not overlooked if the victim returns for care or assistance

7. Give the patient info for National Human Trafficking Resource Center Call: 1-888-373-7888 (24/7) Text: 233733 Email: [nhtrc@polarisproject.org](mailto:nhtrc@polarisproject.org) Report online or access resources: [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

- Question/ Answer period

V. Methods of Reporting suspected victims of Human Trafficking