February 10, 2023

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

SUBJECT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only □ Time Sensitive □ Immediate

According to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), children and youth impacted by the child welfare system are at a higher risk for human trafficking due to issues such as potentially unstable living situations, experiences of abuse and neglect, emotional vulnerability, and disrupted support systems. In addition, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) finds that 1 in 6 of the children reported missing who had run away were likely child sex trafficking victims. As a result, ACF recently released new resources to assist child welfare agencies and community providers in strengthening the child welfare response to human trafficking.

Below are several websites, webinars, trainings, and resources that can assist child welfare agencies in strengthening response to human trafficking.

Federal Resources:

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): [https://www.missingkids.org/home](https://www.missingkids.org/home)
- NCMEC assistance with removing sexually exploitive images or videos removed from the internet: [https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyourexPLICITcontentouthere](https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyourexPLICITcontentouthere)
- ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP): [https://acf.hhs.gov/otip](https://acf.hhs.gov/otip)
- Resource from OTP to assist unaccompanied children who have experienced trafficking to be eligible for benefits such as case-management, medical services, food assistance, cash assistance, health insurance, and other needs to the same extent as a refugee: [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/child-eligibility-letters](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/child-eligibility-letters)
North Carolina Resources:
- NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault: https://nccasa.org/


Thank you for your commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and permanency of children and youth in North Carolina's child welfare system. Should you have questions, please contact Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for Human Services
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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