

GOVERNOR'S CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING TEAM

Child sex trafficking (CST) victims are already in all of our agencies' target populations, aren't they?

In 2016, UT calculated that on any day last year, there were nearly 79,000 CST victims in Texas. Over-represented in our foster care system, our juvenile justice and our runaway and homeless youth populations, we're already serving them, but do we really see them? When they are identified, are we trying, quite unsuccessfully, to force them into our rigid systems, rather than recreating that structure to meet their unique needs more effectively? And what would happen if service providers, systems of care AND both law enforcement and prosecutors committed to a new model for the care of these severely traumatized children?

The Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team is changing the way victims and survivors of child sex trafficking will be cared for, bringing funding, training and technical assistance for innovative best practices from across the country to designated regions in Texas. In collaboration with Region 3 CPS, TC Juvenile Services, child welfare-behavioral health-homeless service-medical providers and law enforcement, new integrated continuums of care are being designed and implemented in Tarrant County.

Alan Schonborn, Associate Director for Strategic Planning in the Governor's Office will describe the work already underway and new opportunities being developed for agencies to engage with Tarrant County's model.