

# Human Trafficking: Actions From Florida's FQHCs

**Andrew Behrman, MBA**

**President & CEO**

**Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.**



# Human Trafficking is a Public Health

## Issue...Dr. Kimberly Chang (Asian Health Service CHC)

- Along with the social stigma victims feel, they are forced to deal with a multitude of conditions in both physical and mental health areas
- FQHCs are in a unique position to address these conditions
- FQHCs have a long history of seeing patients, regardless of their status, financial OR OTHER. This develops trust between the patient and provider. Allows for more candid exchanges.
- FQHCs consistently work alongside community partners – county health departments, housing, law enforcement, homeless shelters, mental health and other provider groups, as part of the “community-based” designation
- **Effective** interaction with law enforcement provides fearful victims with a “safety net” - a place to go where they are safe.
- Cultural competency’s are a tool for FQHCs. “...although there is no single profile of a human trafficking victim...” centers have patients that mirror the profiles of many victims. Therefore, modalities of care can be similar.

# FQHC Efforts...

- Unlike other providers, FQHCs are mandated to provide enabling services as part of their federal requirements to be a FQHC. This includes services such as eligibility, transportation, translation services, case management, outreach, health education and a host of others.
- Because FQHCs work holistically (patient centered), the opportunity to work in teams can be higher than in other practice environments. Providers can share information regarding a patient (immediately) and this can lead to one member of the team seeing something of relevance that might not be seen by others.
- The role of health centers is to care for the patient, including a referral to law enforcement IF WARRANTED. It may also include NOT making that referral!
- Education at the health center is a key component to the services provided



# Florida's FQHC Efforts...

- Posting of signage throughout our health centers is a consistent effort.
- Various procedures are utilized to separate victim from suspected trafficker. Staffs are educated to look and listen...
- Ordering tests at a “nearby hospital” requires victim to enter “safe room” where the suspected trafficker is not allowed.
- Continuous training of health center personnel AT ALL LEVELS.
- A focus on migrant, young populations...
- Many of our centers have close relationships with other agencies/organizations
- Citrus Health Network operates CHANCE (Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation) which specializes and focuses on treatment of young victims of human trafficking



# Florida's FQHC Stats

(source – 2016 UDS Report)

## 50 FQHCs & 2 Look-A-Likes Operating in Florida

- More than 530 service locations
- More than 1.5M total patients
- Surpassed 5.5M total encounters in 2018
- 37% patients are uninsured
- 37% have Medicaid
- 7% have Medicare
- 19% Private/Commercial
- 92% are less than 200% of FPL





