



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARI: PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT RISKS INITIATIVE



Prevention of Adolescent Risk Initiative

PARI PERIODICAL

#pursuingmeaningfulwork

October 2020



**UMB LISTED AMONG
BEST UNIVERSITIES
FIGHTING AND STUDYING
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

UMB as one of the 26 Best Universities Fighting Human Trafficking

This listing from Successful Student is comprised of the best universities located in the U.S. that are studying and fighting human trafficking. These universities offer various academic programs, resources, and initiatives for understanding, tracking, and fighting human trafficking locally, federally, and internationally.

WAY TO GO UMB and PARI!!!

Check out the article for further information.

<https://successfulstudent.org/the-best-universities-fighting-human-trafficking/>





SAVE THE DATE

Maryland Child Trafficking
Virtual Conference
January 11-12, 2021

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation at University of Maryland School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force and the Maryland Department of Human Services, is sponsoring the *4th annual Maryland Child Trafficking Conference*

This event is an annual statewide public awareness conference to mobilize the community in response to child trafficking. This will be a two- day virtual- event taking place on **January 11th-12th, 2021 from 9:00am -12:00pm**. This is a free event and open to the public. Registration is expected to open the first week of November.

Additionally, we are seeking individuals and organizations who are interested in presenting a poster with information about their work. Refer to the below image for the call. To be considered for a poster presentation, please provide your name, organization, and the category(ies) your proposal would cover. You must submit a brief 250-500 word description of your proposed poster. Proposals should be emailed to Sharon Henry at Shenry@ssw.umaryland.edu by *October 28 2020 with Maryland Child Trafficking Call for Posters in the subject line.*

POSTER PRESENTATION PROPOSAL DETAILS

Call for Poster Presentations

Organizers are seeking several engaging 3-5-minute poster presentations, with a voice recorded over 1-3 poster slides, to combine into a poster presentation on each morning of the conference.

Categories

Posters should be related directly to the field of child trafficking (either sex or labor trafficking), and fall into one of the following categories:



Practice

Tips on practice innovations that have been working well (in general or especially online during coronavirus)



Policy

Descriptions of new or updated policies affecting Maryland, information about local, state, or national legislative advocacy campaigns



Research

Background, methods, findings & discussion about trafficking-related research that may be of interest to practitioners



Outreach

An elevator speech about your agency, as though in a conference exhibition hall or community outreach fair

For more information on this event please visit the conference website:
www.marylandchildtraffickingconference.org



Staff Updates



Neil Mallon, LCSW-C is a Senior Training Specialist at the Institute for Innovation & Implementation. Neil has been with The Institute since 2013, primarily working with Maryland's public and private child welfare system to support the implementation of the Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) Assessment. Neil joined the PARI team in January. In his current role, he is responsible for overseeing several grant funded activities towards improving outcomes for child and young adult victims of sex



Gavin is a first year Foundation student at The University of Maryland School of Social Work. He graduated from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia with a BA in Psychology and minor in general sciences. Current work interests include criminal and juvenile justice, substance abuse, and youth homelessness. As an RA scholar, Gavin is learning what it takes to be part of a dedicated team and how he can contribute to addressing and preventing adolescent risk behaviors.

and labor trafficking in Maryland.

Interesting fact, Gavin is an amateur mycologist and enjoys spending time in nature collecting and identifying wild mushroom species.

Caroline Harmon-Darrow has joined the PARI team again for the 2020-2021 academic year as one of our PhD students, and we are so happy to have her back!



LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Maryland Human Trafficking Initiative MHTI (Original grant)

MHTI received a no-cost extension through March 2021 to finalize:

- human trafficking asynchronous online trainings
- videos and e-learning units/modules for various disciplines like judges, magistrates, medical providers, faith-based leaders and caregivers

..... and then there was MHTI 2.0

This second OVC grant (10/1/2019-09/30/2022) was awarded to

- to expand work with child and youth survivors of human trafficking
- to increase professional human trafficking training across disciplines in Maryland, including medical professionals, mental health providers, and law enforcement personnel



Wrapping up the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI) Five Year Grant

Between March 2017 and February 2020, over 1200 Department of Social Services workers have been trained in the "Engaging Child Victims of Sex Trafficking: The Role of the Child Welfare Worker training."

Neil Mallon and Caroline Harmon-Darrow facilitated final focus groups in August and September 2020 to gather information about the impact of this training, as well as child welfare worker's experiences in working with child victims and survivors of sex trafficking. CSTVI ended on September 30, 2020.



The PARI Team partnered with the Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA) and the Baltimore Child Abuse Center to provide a training on *"The Role of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in*

Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking." The training was led by MCA Regional Director, Susan Hansell, PARI Director, Nadine Finigan-Carr, and

Baltimore Child Abuse Center's Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Program Manager, Iona Rudisill. It was held virtually on July 20th and September 24th with over 100 participants attending and was created after gleaning information from the comparative surveys given to CACs and local DSS groups about reports of child trafficking victims.

The Baltimore City Health Department's U-Choose/PREP sponsored project will continue funding through July 2021. Efforts this quarter have focused on aligning the evaluation protocol to align with the sponsors request to move the implementation of *Power through Choices to a virtual format*. Rochon Steward has collaborated with the CTRICS team with the University Of Maryland, School Of Medicine to align the research & evaluations needs of the project to the current virtual implementation of the EBP, Power through Choices. Refinements to the protocol have been completed and data collection will continue using the REDCap platform.



ADAPTING TO THIS NEW WORLD: E-Learning and Infographics

PARI staff continue to work with UMB SSW Media team to host e-learning trainings, refine evaluations for future trainings, and infographics including:

- *Virtual Human Trafficking (HT) 101, 201, and 301* trainings for mental health professionals created in collaboration with Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, and Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault.
 - Participants invited to 301 training will also be invited to join a bi-monthly Clinician Collaborative group with ongoing clinical consultation and peer learning.
 - These clinicians will be considered specialized mental health professional providing trauma informed services to survivors of human trafficking
- PARI has worked with Healthy Teen Network to create *infographics for public awareness and social media---* *#HiddenInPlainSight* and *#JustDownTheStreet*

To access all of PARI's free educational tools including a variety of online trainings, Public Service Announcements, fact sheets, environmental scans, and all materials from our annual Child Trafficking Conferences, please visit

<https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/pari/resources/>.



MARYLAND CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

PARI's own Neil Mallon continues to lead the efforts of the Learning Collaborative. The Learning Collaborative was developed in response to:

- the lack of an existing CPS policy in Maryland for labor trafficking
- the lack of a child labor trafficking criminal statute in our child abuse laws
- as well as the complexity of child labor vs. labor exploitation vs. labor trafficking.

The PARI team has refocused the approach from developing a labor trafficking multidisciplinary team towards creating a learning collaborative to better understand these issues and explore ways to address barriers to identification.

The learning collaborative meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday. The PARI team is also conducting an environmental scan to better understand the prevalence and experiences of child victims of labor trafficking and labor exploitation in Maryland. This scan will include a comprehensive review of the literature, as well as interviews and surveys with child serving professionals, as well as federal and local law enforcement across the state



Thoughts from our Director

A lot has changed since we kicked off 2020 with several events to commemorate National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January. Between a global pandemic, protests of anti-Black racism, and a presidential election, our worlds have changed dramatically. In the midst of all of this, the needs of the youth we serve have increased.

Many years ago, I stated, ***“Foster Youth Need Sex Ed, Too!”*** This has become even more evident as system-involved youth are quarantined at home with families and in congregate care with less of a safety net from

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the community. As a result, we have been working with our partners on the U Choose project to insure that the evidence-based sexual reproductive health intervention is implemented virtually.

Over the past several months, we have all been challenged to continue identifying youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking while quarantined in our homes. We have also had to pivot in how we get the message out there to the community and get professionals trained under the stay at home orders. We have adapted by hosting many of our trainings virtually in addition to pushing the e-learning units and infographics we have been developing over the past five years. In addition, we have been working to spread the word about labor trafficking in our communities. The issues related to poverty have been exacerbated during the pandemic leading to increased exploitation of all kinds. We must continue to work hard for the youth we serve.

Lastly, with all that is going on, I am reminding you to remember to take time for yourselves. Typically, we are supporting others who are going through something we cannot even imagine. This time, we are all experiencing the upheaval of current events while supporting those who are experiencing it as well. These are not typical times. It is important to recognize that in order for us to all do well we have to all be well. Stop. Breathe. Then, Act.

