



Case Study 1: Law Enforcement Officer Sloane and Sophia

Recognize
Connect
Engage

Identify

Respond

Support

Recognize: Identify

Are there any indicators
or signs of victimization
that Officer Sloane could
have identified?

What are they?

Recognize: Identify

Indicators of possible victimization (child sex trafficking):

- Lack of awareness of Sophia's activities;
- She is relatively unsupervised;
- She is seen with an older man and, "running around with some bad people;" and
- Repeatedly running away.

What are some skills to draw on to build trust and learn more?

- Follow-up steps to take?
- What questions could she ask?
- What could she say or do to prompt disclosure?
- Is there language to use to account for trauma and avoid re-traumatization?
- To be empathetic? Avoid victim blaming?

Recognize: Respond

Skills to build trust and prompt disclosure:

- A quiet and neutral setting.
- No leading questions.
- Respond calmly and matter-of-factly.
- No comments about abuser.
- If a youth tries to “swear you to secrecy,” explain that may not be possible (mandated reporting).
- Do not promise that things will get better but do provide reassurance.

Recognize: Respond

Recognize: Support

**Where could Officer Sloane
have turned for assistance?**

**How can we make sure that
Officer Sloane:**

**Identifies possible child
victimization?**

and

Responds appropriately?

**Recognize:
Support**

**How can Officer Sloane
feel part of a linked system
of care?**

**Improved communication,
coordination, and
information sharing
(within ethical standards)
among agencies.**

Recognize: Support

Suggested approaches:

- Protocols on identification and response to trafficking.
- Training on recognizing child victimization, including trafficking.
- Training on trust-building, trauma-informed response, effective conversations.
- Practice guides, other written guidance and ongoing trainings.
- Task forces and multi-disciplinary teams.

Connect: Identify

**How should Officer
Sloane identify any
connections to make?**

What are they?

Connect: Identify

- IL HEALS Resource Coordinator.
- Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force.
- IL Heals Roster.
- IRIS: referral and case management system.

What are some skills that Officer Sloane could draw on to help make connections?

- Accompanying a victim/family to any connection made or available.
- Speaking with a counselor or social worker.
- Finding financial help for other costs (such as transportation).

Connect: Respond

What are some skills that Officer Sloane could draw on to help make connections?

- Using personal connections.
- Helping normalize seeking support.
- A warm hand off and following up.
- A harm-reduction approach.
 - Any other ideas?

Connect: Respond

Connect: Support

**How can we make sure
that Officer Sloane:
Identifies the connections
to make?
and
Makes the connections
appropriately?**

Connect: Support

A relational approach:

- Develop comfort reaching out to the Resource Coordinator.
- Communicating with multi-disciplinary teams.
- IL Heals Roster.
- IRIS: referral and case management system.
- Community-based organizations.

Engage: Identify

What are some of the components of effective engagement that might help?

What strategies might work best?

What more might be needed to effectively engage?

What would a trauma-informed response to Sophia and her family look like?

Engage:
Respond

- Ongoing training plans
- Development of policies and protocols for:
 - ✓ Trauma-informed response and services
 - ✓ Cultural humility/minimization of bias
 - ✓ Development and use of EBPs

Engage: Respond

Engage: Support

**How can we make sure that
Officer Sloan:
Is aware of the systems and
services that are available
and
Engages with them
effectively?**

Engage: Support

Suggested approaches:

- Protocols and training on victimization and abuse.
- Training on trust-building, trauma-informed response, effective conversations.
- Practice guides, other written guidance and ongoing trainings.
- Multidisciplinary teams and community organizations.

Engage: Support

A relational approach:
Improved communication,
coordination, and
information sharing (within
ethical standards) among
agencies.

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