SexEx Rural: The Newsletter

Newsletter Issue #1

Fall 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG 2

Project Partners Project Timeline Sexual Exploitation Facts Contact Us



Image courtesy of Huemanity Marketing

Getting Started

We are excited to begin work on our app-delivered training to teach key personnel in rural areas to identify and report child sex trafficking and exploitation. For this first phase of the project we're developing two prototype training modules specifically for frontline staff at WV county health departments. Rural healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to come in direct contact with a child being trafficked. Many West Virginians receive healthcare services at their local health departments, and our aim is to provide staff including providers, front-desk staff, and WIC staff with the skills needed to spot sex trafficking in children and to seek help.

Meet the Team



Tamara Kuhn, MA: Tamara is a Research Scientist and Vice President of **dfusion**, and is the lead Principal Investigator. Her expertise is in designing and programming health and behavioral science-related technology.



Pamela Anderson, PhD: Pam is a Senior Research Associate with **ETR Associates** and is a Co-Principal Investigator. She specializes in adolescent development with particular expertise in sexual exploitation.



Amie Ashcraft, PhD, MPH: Amie is a Research Assistant Professor at West Virginia University and is a Co-Principal Investigator. Her work is in adolescent sexual health and risk reduction.

Project Timeline

Our project year runs from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020.

MONTH 🕨	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
▼TASK	'19	'19	'19	'20	'20	'20						
Formative												
Research												
Training												
Curriculum												
Development												
Resource												
Center												
Technology												
Development												
Usability												
Testing												
Pilot												
Evaluation												
Analysis and												
Reporting												

Project Partners

Training content will be created in consultation with:

- **Angie Conn** a trafficking survivor and an advocate for trafficked children and children at risk for trafficking
- **Deborah Pembrook** conducts community outreach and education on human trafficking for the Monterrey County Rape Crisis Center (CA)
- **Cortney Simmons** an educational outreach specialist who co-chairs the training committee for the WV Human Trafficking Task Force
- **Justin Parker** educational support manager with Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program in Monterrey County, CA

Video Content created in consultation with:

WVU LaunchLab

Usability and pilot testing in partnership with the following WV county health departments:

Randolph-Elkins Health

Cabell-Huntington

Mid-Ohio Valley

(serving Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties)



Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Facts:

- Trafficking is a type of modern slavery.
- In the U.S. it is estimated that between 100,000 to 150,000 people—mainly women and children—are kept in slavery.
- Sex trafficking is the most common form of human trafficking in the U.S.

(Source: Trafficking in Persons Report, 2012)

Contact Us

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Questions? Comments? Contact Dr. Amie Ashcraft: amashcraft@hsc.wvu.edu