
SAULT STE. MARIE

Community Engagement Session Report

Sault Ste. Marie Community Engagement Session October 4, 2017

Number in Attendance:

37

Indigenous participants ~

7

Participants with Lived experience: 0

Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: Unknown

Types of organizations:

Victim Services (Algoma),
Women's Shelters
(Pauline's Place,
Mississauga Women's
Shelter, Women in Crisis),
John Howard Society of
SSM, Family Shelter (Nimkii
Naebkawegan Family
Crisis Shelter), Board
Member Women in Crisis,
PACT Grandmothers,
Ontario Native Women's
Association (ONWA),
Corporation of the City of
Sault Ste. Marie,
Communities Partnership,
Social Services (SSM).

Summary:

The flip chart discussion and the dotmocracy had similar important themes. Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration, gaps in resources and education. Discussions on collaboration focused on partnerships between service providers and the need for coordinated services including service mapping and common intake forms. Community collaboration was discussed in two distinct ways. Participants discussed the need for connections between service providers and communities, as well as the need for partnerships within their own communities. The importance of collaborating with government and police services was also mentioned.

Gaps in resources focused on deficiencies in education, collaboration, available safe spaces and fulfilling the needs of trafficked persons. The inadequacy of long term supports was noted, with participants citing the need for stable housing and more resources for continual assistance. For education, participants advocated for awareness in the general public and school children populations. The importance of training of first responders, people in professional sectors, and service providers was also discussed. Participants discussed the importance of reaching out to trafficked people to educate survivors about community resources and safety planning. Immigrants and newcomers were identified as another important population to educate to increase awareness of human trafficking. Other themes mentioned frequently were indicators and identifying, training, policing and the legal system and housing.

In the Dotmocracy, the top three themes voted for were collaboration, education and training. Collaboration included votes for service providers to partner with each other, for service providers to partner with communities, and for communities to create their own centralized plans and responses. Votes for education focused on general public awareness. The theme of

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Social Services (SSM).

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (from Michigan, USA), Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Metis Nation of Ontario, Probation, Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

NORAHT Team: Brenda, Elder Donna, Jenny, Kat, Rebecca, Rosemary

training concentrated on educating service providers and first responders.

Top Three Themes of Discussion:

1. Collaboration:

- i. Agency/service provider collaboration: coordinated services, same entry form, network, safety planning with survivors
- ii. Community collaboration: community contact with service provider human trafficking coalition that will be established, support systems, safe access, multi-disciplinary wrap-around approaches, schools, neighbourhood walks, relationship building programs, community response plan, service sector workers and neighbourhood resource centres as points of contact
- iii. Government collaboration
- iv. Police collaboration: police/CAS/ER in hospitals, access information already out there (SSMPS, OPP, VWAP, APS)

2. Gaps in Services:

- i. Education: programming and training for communities, agencies, and families, trauma informed staff, learn about red flags
- ii. Collaboration: community response plans, coordinated entry into the system (same forms, one stop shop), one community contact-coordinator, regional coalition, provincial partnerships, service mapping, partner with the HOPE Alliance, multi-disciplinary wrap around car
- iii. Safe spaces: safe house dedicated to human trafficking, safe and affordable housing
- iv. Needs of a trafficked person: Long term supports for survivors, better policies, need accurate data collection and best practices research, more accountability in the justice system/medical system, portable/mobile services, and a dedicated emergency number

3. Education:

- i. General Public: billboards, posters, discussion
- ii. School children education: sex education in schools
- iii. First responders: education on red flags (verbal and non-verbal)

- iv. Survivors: safety planning, teach independence, education of community resources
- v. Professionals (judges, doctors, lawyers, etc): mandated education
- vi. Service provider training
- vii. Immigration/newcomer awareness

Dotmocracy Top Three Results:

1. Collaboration (33)

- i. Involvement of other community members - not just service providers (15). Example: hotel owners, cab drivers, survivors
- ii. Get HOPE Alliance out to service providers and victims (5)
- iii. Community commitment (6)
- iv. Coordinate and identify service protocols between agencies (long-term service) (4)
- v. Community response plan - other community plans, need to be connected (network) (1)
- vi. Law enforcement (police, judicial, mayors, city council, education) - complete inclusion in the development of all this (1)
- vii. Coordination of services within the region (1)

2. Education (10)

- i. Increase education about sex trafficking to the public (2)
- ii. Community presentations (2)
- iii. Neighbourhood resource centre - point of contact (2)
- iv. Continued awareness/education (2)
- v. Online billboards (1)

3. Training (8)

- i. Worker training in screening / appropriate responses (7)
- ii. Educate first responders on symptoms (verbal and non-verbal), educate future first responders (police foundations and nursing students) (1)