

## **WPD Briefing on Human Sex Trafficking**

**9/21/11**

### **I. Definitions**

- a. Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) – involves children under 18 involved in sex acts for money (prostituting children for money)
- b. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) – an act of sexually abusing a child for economic gains. A child is sexually abused by an adult for remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. This is inclusive of manufacturing, trading and selling child pornography.

### **II. Local Statistics – documented WPD cases last 5 years**

- a. 2006 – 11 cases
- b. 2007 – 10 cases
- c. 2008 – 9 cases
- d. 2009 – 17 cases
- e. 2010 – 22 cases
- f. ytd 2011 – 28 cases

The “typical” WPD/Sedgwick County case involves a local Wichita girl who is committing sex acts for money. Very few “interstate” types of trafficking cases seen locally in the last 5 years.

#### **Why the increase?**

- increased use of internet connections with juveniles and inexpensive internet advertisements
- increased demand = more supply
- increased reporting due to public awareness and “focusing of definitions”
- improved methods of criminal investigation

### **III. Difficulty with Investigations**

- a. Victims often uncooperative
  - i. Do not see themselves as victims
  - ii. Feel it is their “choice”
  - iii. Often have “boyfriend” relationship with the pimp
- b. Lack of evidence (witnesses no cooperative)
- c. Jurisdictional boundaries (local law enforcement bears the brunt)
- d. Lack of data regarding the crime

### **IV. Local Proactive Measures**

- a. Already have an established city/county/SRS investigative group – Exploited and Missing Child Unit (EMCU) – operational since the early 1990’s
- b. Rapid education for law enforcement
  - i. Attended training offered by GEMS (Girls educational and mentoring services)
  - ii. Conference Case studies (Nevada and Missouri)
- c. Selected as a “mid-size” study site for a study by Northeastern University Institute on Race and Justice
- d. Share information with other jurisdictions across the country and the National Center of Exploited and Missing Children
- e. Beginning to understand nexus between other abuse issues, online exploitation and runaway with human trafficking
- f. Reviewing local ordinances
- g. Aggressively charge cases using State and Federal charges
- h. Look at the possibility of joining a regional task force to multiply forces
- i. Continue education of citizens and our young girls