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The PATH (Partners Against Trafficking in Humans) Project: Development of the PATH Model

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The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2017 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Nov. 8-10, 2017, Dayton, Ohio

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Research Panel: Human Rights Practice

Presenter: Fanell Williams, University of Toledo

Title: The PATH (Partners Against Trafficking in Humans) Project: Development of the PATH Model

Abstract:

The University of Toledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute is conducting the PATH (Partners Against Trafficking in Humans) Project to develop the PATH Model. The PATH Project is a community-wide, coordinated, and data-driven response to human trafficking. PATH applies the structure and techniques from a successful and focused healthcare model called the Pathways Model. The vision is for the PATH Model to become an evidence-based model expanded throughout the United States.

PATH coordinates existing services to create a transparent, accountable, and comprehensive system to move clients along the continuum of care. Through PATH documenting and analyzing client movement while involved in services, themes related to the effectiveness of services and programming will be developed, as well as the barriers to and absence of services.

With a general understanding of human trafficking, we understand that abuse, force, and the loss of one's identity, dignity, and humanness are all connected. The experience of human trafficking has long-term effects on the individual. The individual not only needs to be identified, but put on a path of recovery, restoration, and healing.

While "rescue" falls within the purview of law enforcement, recovery, restoration, and healing are the job of legal, health, and social service agencies. These move the client beyond engagement, creating opportunities to restore individuals to mental, emotional, and physical well-being and economic stability.

Attendees will learn the origin of the PATH Project, its beginning stages, the process of developing the PATH Model, and some of the findings.

About the presenter:

Fanell Williams is the Project Coordinator for the PATH (Partners Against Trafficking in Humans) Project at the University of Toledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute. Ms. Williams received her Master of Social Work from the University of Toledo and is licensed as a social worker. Her research focuses on improving service delivery and moving victims to survivors and survivors to thrivers through the PATH Project. An active member of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and the Lucas County Trauma-Informed Care Coalition, Ms. Williams has trained more than 800 professionals on the PATH Model, human trafficking, and/or trauma-informed care. Ms. Williams has presented and volunteered at the annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference at the University of Toledo since 2014.