

Human
Trafficking
Awareness
Conference

bhssc.org/aware



Better Learning • Better Lives

This conference is hosted by Black Hills Special Services Cooperative through the National Farmworker Jobs Program





Agenda

Thursday, March 7

9:00 - 9:45 AM	Registration
9:45 - 9:55 AM	Welcome <i>SD Secretary of Labor and Regulation, Marcia Hultman</i>
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Governor of South Dakota, Kristi Noem
10:15 - 11:30 AM	Prevention versus Rescuing <i>Hollie Strand</i>
11:30 AM	Lunch Served
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Identifying and Working with Victims of Human Trafficking <i>Becky Rasmussen</i>
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Break
12:45 - 2:00 PM	Finding, Grooming and Purchasing – Nothing Happens without the Internet <i>Brent Gromer and Sarah Collins</i>
2:00 - 2:45 PM	Building a Sustainable Solution: Creating systems of care in rural South Dakota to end child maltreatment and to foster resilient families <i>Carrie Sanderson</i>
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Human Trafficking: The Big Picture <i>Tess Franzen</i>
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Trafficked in the Heartland (book sales following) <i>Kelly Patterson</i>

Friday, March 8

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 - 9:15 AM	Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking <i>Tifanie Petro</i>
9:15 - 10:15 AM	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) <i>Staci Jonson</i>
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Current Online Trends: Increasing Vulnerability with Our Youth - Boys and Girls <i>Hollie Strand</i>
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing/Questions/Comments <i>Hollie Strand</i>

About the Speakers



KRISTI NOEM
Governor of South Dakota

Kristi Noem was elected in November 2018 as the 33rd Governor of South Dakota. She is a wife, a mother, and a lifelong rancher, farmer and small business owner. Now bringing her experiences to Pierre, Kristi is improving education and workforce training, taking on the drug crisis, improving mental health, and increasing transparency - all without raising taxes or making government too big.

Before becoming governor, Kristi was South Dakota's sole representative in the United States House of Representatives. During her time in Congress, Kristi helped pass countless bills to create better policy for South Dakotans. In 2015, she championed the decade's most comprehensive anti-trafficking initiative that enhanced law enforcement tools, better supported intervention programs, and provided additional resources to survivors. Since that bill became law, she's pushed more bills to expand trafficking demand reduction programs, go after online actors who knowingly facilitate trafficking, and help survivors with housing and other needs.

As governor, Kristi has committed to getting tough on those who sell, buy, or market trafficking victims for sex, making sure the punishment fits the heinousness of the crimes. She is also working toward expanding intervention programs that train first responders and medical professionals.

When she is not in Pierre, Kristi continues to live on the farm and ranch with her husband, Bryon. They have three children: Kassidy, Kennedy, and Booker.



MARCIA HULTMAN
Cabinet Secretary - South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

Marcia Hultman was appointed the Cabinet Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) by Governor Dennis Daugaard in 2014 and in 2019 by Governor Kristi Noem. Prior to her appointment, she had served in a variety of leadership roles with DLR for 17 years.

Throughout her career, Marcia has been actively involved in the delivery of workforce training, employment, adult education and literacy, and unemployment insurance services funded by USDOL, as well as state specific wage and hour, workers' compensation, and human rights programs.

Marcia chairs the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, and serves on the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, Workforce Development Council, Governor's Workforce Cabinet, and the DOL Retirement Board. Additionally, Marcia is responsible for regulatory functions related to the banking, insurance, and securities industries, as well as occupational and professional licensing boards and commissions.

Marcia received a bachelor's degree from Black Hills State University and completed the Council of State Government Henry Toll Leadership program in 2016. She is a native of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Just as her grandmother and mother before her, she was trained to be a teacher. She taught school in Hot Springs, Custer, and Rapid City before relocating to Pierre and joining state government in 1997.

**HOLLIE STRAND****Computer Forensic Examiner - Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)
Pennington County Sheriff's Office**

Hollie has worked in the child sexual abuse field for 20 years and currently works as a Forensic Examiner for the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

She has worked the spectrum from counseling sex offenders in the prison system and outpatient treatment groups, to working adult and child sexual assault investigations as a police officer, to interviewing child victims as a forensic interviewer, and now directing her passion for child victims to the ICAC Task Force.

Hollie received her BS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Psychology from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, MS in Agency Counseling from South Dakota State University and MS in Forensic Science from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**BECKY RASMUSSEN****Executive Director - Call to Freedom**

Becky Rasmussen is a public speaker, social advocate and minister. In 2015, she helped establish Call to Freedom, an anti-human trafficking organization based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Call to Freedom offers services to ensure the safety and well-being of women victimized by human trafficking. Becky draws on her experience of over 10 years working with non-profits and ministries as well as her 12 years in main stream media, television and marketing to help Call to Freedom create a safe haven for victims and to build awareness of the grim reality of human trafficking.

Becky currently is working hard to help establish and strengthen local and state laws to better protect children and women survivors while traveling the US to build awareness of the grim reality of human trafficking. She has received several awards for her passionate advocacy and was humbled to be honored on the cover and featured in *Sioux Falls Woman Magazine*.

BRENT GROMER**Supervisory Special Agent - Internet Crimes Against Children, SD Division of Criminal Investigation**

Supervisory Special Agent Brent Gromer has over 20 years Law Enforcement experience. SSA Gromer started his career with the Rapid City Police Department in 1996. In 1999 SSA Gromer began his career with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation where he has worked Narcotics Investigations, General Criminal Investigations, and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC).

SSA Gromer began working with ICAC in 2010. During his tenure with the ICAC Task Force SSA Gromer has worked numerous cases involving Digital Evidence. SSA Gromer is a Computer Forensic Examiner and has testified as an expert in Computer Forensics and Digital Investigations in both State and Federal Court. SSA Gromer is currently assigned as the ICAC Commander for the South Dakota ICAC Task Force.

About the Speakers (continued)

SARAH COLLINS

Assistant United States Attorney - United States Attorney's Office, District of South Dakota

Sarah Collins is an Assistant United States Attorney and is also Senior Litigation Counsel for the District of South Dakota. Sarah started her prosecution career in 2001 with the Adams County District Attorney's Office in Colorado where she was first a Deputy District Attorney then a Senior Deputy District Attorney and eventually she became a Chief Trial Deputy. Sarah joined the United States Attorney's Office in 2010. Sarah prosecutes Project Safe Childhood cases, including human trafficking and child pornography. She also prosecutes violent crimes occurring within the boundaries of the Pine Ridge reservation and white collar crimes.



CARRIE G. SANDERSON

Director - Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Ms. Sanderson has her Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Administration degrees and is a licensed attorney in South Dakota. She most recently practiced as a federal prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Office, District of South Dakota. Ms. Sanderson's federal prosecution activities focused on violent crimes in central South Dakota. Through her role as a federal prosecutor, Ms. Sanderson witnessed the massive impact trauma can have on the life of a child and how trauma continues to impact victims, family members and communities throughout one's lifespan. Ms. Sanderson became familiar with the difficulties South Dakota rural communities face when trying to respond to instances of violence and harm, and committed her career to making a positive impact on South Dakota's response systems.



TESS FRANZEN

Executive Director - Freedom's Journey

Tess Franzen is the Founder and Executive Director of Freedom's Journey, Inc., which is a nonprofit organization in Western South Dakota assisting survivors of all forms of human trafficking as they navigate their journey from slavery to freedom. The mission of Freedom's Journey is survivor-focused, relationship-based, and teamwork-driven.

Tess received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and History from Black Hills State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and as Highest-Ranking Graduate. She also earned her Master of Science Degree in Strategic Leadership from Black Hills State University. Tess is a Licensed Minister with the Assemblies of God, and a Missionary Associate with the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions tasked with serving those who have been exploited through human trafficking.

Franzen is the Founder and past Chair of South Dakota's West River Human Trafficking Task Force, where she continues to serve as an active member and as Chair of the Law and Policy Committee.

**KELLY PATTERSON****Survivor and Author of the book, *From Trafficked to Treasured***

While shame and pain kept her quiet for years, Kelly's journey of healing and freedom from sexual exploitation are giving her a loud voice today. Believing that unity is key, she enjoys collaborating with others to wage war against sex slavery.

Kelly desires to be an aid in freeing those wounded from the effects of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. Coming from the perspective of one who has walked the long road out, Kelly has a dynamic style and ability to relate to her audience. As a speaker, she is engaging and unafraid to tell it like it is. Withholding the hard truths is not a road she has chosen to take.

Kelly was trafficked within the state of South Dakota and into several surrounding states. Her experiential knowledge of how trafficking operates in the Midwest is incredibly valuable to those hoping to make a difference in this very real war. She details her captivity in the dark world of sex trafficking and the journey out in her book *From Trafficked to Treasured*. Kelly is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is also a lead pastor, speaker, consultant, and an active advocate in freeing those wounded from the effects of sexual crimes such as abuse, assault, and trafficking.

**TIFANIE PETRO****Director of Advocacy and Prevention - Children's Home Society of South Dakota**

Tifanie Petro, MS, serves as the Director of Advocacy and Prevention, overseeing the Children's Home Child Advocacy Center and multiple statewide awareness and education campaigns. In addition to overseeing collaborative investigations of child abuse cases, Tifanie provides forensic interviews for local, state, federal, and tribal jurisdictions and comprehensive trainings rooted in understanding trauma and recognizing and responding to child abuse.

Tifanie believes that by empowering children we can create resilient families and communities. In support of this belief, she has spent her career in this field supporting individuals and families in recognizing their distinct strengths. Tifanie received her BS degree in Psychology from BHSU, and her MS in Public Health and MS in Human Services from Capella University, MN.

**STACI JONSON****Senior Director of Children and Youth Services - Lutheran Social Services**

Staci Jonson, CSW-PIP, has over ten years of experience working with youth, families, and communities. A majority of this work has been spent working with youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. She has a deep passion for helping find the 'good' in individuals, families, and communities and to further develop these qualities. When Staci thinks about why she does this work, she indicated that it boils down to having witnessed firsthand the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences. "We spend so much time trying to 'fix' things and this work provides both an explanation and a solution. The solution is the hope that keeps me going, knowing that people are doing the best they can. If we surround our children, families, and communities with information to help them cultivate their strengths, the possibilities are endless!"

Thursday 9:45-10:15 AM

Welcome & Introduction

*Presented by SD Secretary of Labor and Regulation, Marcia Hultman
followed by the Governor of South Dakota, Kristi Noem*

Notes:

Thursday 10:15-11:30 AM

Prevention Versus Rescuing

Presented by Hollie Strand

This training covers the complex dynamics of child sexual abuse and how those dynamics lend themselves to make child sexual abuse victims a large percent of sex trafficking victims. It includes in-depth information about child sexual abuse and takes it a step further to show attendees the risks of sex trafficking to child sexual abuse victims.

This training is meant to motivate people to address sex trafficking where it starts rather than chasing a solution after the trafficking has already occurred.

Notes:

11:45 AM-12:30 PM

Identifying and Working with Victims of Human Trafficking

Presented by Becky Rasmussen

Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Knowing the signs to look for and the right responses to provide are key in helping to identify victims. This session will help first responders recognize potential human trafficking situations and learn how to provide information incorporating a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach.

Understanding the impact of complex trauma on those affected is an important first step in becoming a compassionate and supportive resource to victims of human trafficking.

Notes:

12:45-2:00 PM

Finding, Grooming and Purchasing - Nothing Happens without the Internet

Presented by Brent Gromer and Sarah Collins

Locating and grooming children for the purpose of exploitation has never been easier than with the use of the internet. The internet also provides the perfect mechanism for people looking to purchase sex with a child, for people to sell children, and provides a variety of online currency options to make transactions less conspicuous. Additionally, the growth in the number of children with access to internet-accessible devices has made connecting predators with prey easier than it has ever been.

Notes:

2:00-2:45 PM

Building a Sustainable Solution: Creating systems of care in rural South Dakota to end child maltreatment and to foster resilient families

Presented by Carrie Sanderson

South Dakota is facing the detrimental outcomes of adverse childhood experiences. In unprecedented collaboration, with the support of the state Legislature, the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment was created to lead South Dakota's workforce through a 10-year strategic plan designed to combat child sexual abuse and maltreatment, to build resilient families, and to create trauma informed communities. Learn how agency partners are overcoming roadblocks caused by the rural nature of the state, minimal funding for prevention services, and a historically siloed workforce to create innovative solutions to end sexual violence and maltreatment against South Dakota's children.

Notes:

3:00-4:00 PM

Human Trafficking: The Big Picture

Presented by Tess Franzen

This presentation will take a bird's eye look at human trafficking and the cultural environment where human trafficking occurs, and where it has become the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today. This is a comprehensive look at the issue of human trafficking, its' causes and how it intersects with other cultural maladies to create the growing epidemic it is today. Information will include how our culture fosters exploitation and how each of us can be part of the remedy.

Notes:

4:00-5:00 PM

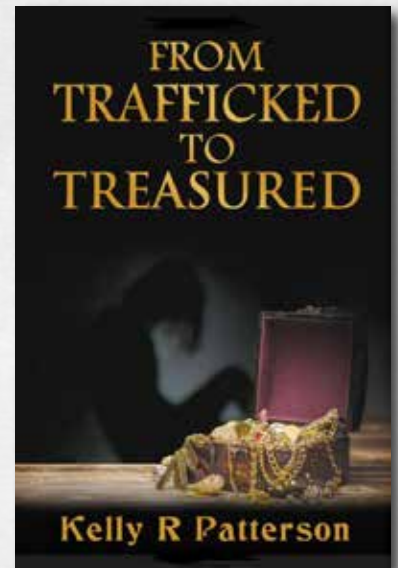
Trafficked in the Heartland

Presented by Kelly Patterson

This presentation will offer insight into some of the distinctions between sex trafficking in the Midwest versus larger populated areas. Kelly Patterson will give her first-hand account of being trafficked in and around South Dakota. Along with sharing her personal history, the presenter will share the unique ways in which ring trafficking operates. Finally, the presentation will encourage the audience to challenge societal perceptions of sex trafficking and offer ideas to make a difference for all survivors.

Kelly will offer her book, *From Trafficked to Treasured*, for sale following her presentation for \$22 including tax. Cash, checks and credit cards welcome.

Notes:



Friday 8:00-9:15 AM

Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking

Presented by Tifanie Petro

This presentation is designed to discuss how to recognize signs of human trafficking. Participants will learn more about child sexual abuse and the risks of human trafficking. Human trafficking patterns specific to South Dakota. Participants will learn how to respond appropriately to disclosures of abuse and respond to possible issues of human trafficking.

Notes:

9:15-10:15 AM

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Understanding Trauma and Building Self-Healing Communities

Presented by Staci Jonson

This training is to ensure the participants understand the dynamics that trauma has on an individual and at the community level. Not only does this training include the ACEs study, but also dives into understanding the brain development and epigenetics of a person who has experienced trauma. We will help explain the connection between brain development and adaptive behaviors in people who have experienced trauma. This training will also discuss resiliency and how to build these individuals. Each participant will leave with a better understanding of their role in building self-healing communities.

Notes:

10:30-11:45 AM

Current Online Trends: Increasing Vulnerability with Our Youth - Boys and Girls

Presented by Hollie Strand

This training is meant to expose vulnerabilities, which occur when children and teens use electronics. We will cover digital footprints, social media, cyber stalking, sextortion, child pornography, child exploitation, sexting, online threats, and cyber-bullying.

Notes:

Human Trafficking Resources

Busing on the Lookout (BOTL)

<https://www.truckersagainstrafficking.org/bus-training>

BOTL's mission is to empower the busing industry with information and equip its members with the tools they need to fight human trafficking. We know that traffickers recruit at bus terminals and truck stops, using buses for their transportation.

Call to Freedom. Heal. Restore. Empower

<http://calltofreedom.org/human-trafficking> 605-221-4857

Call to Freedom provides supportive services for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, network of frontline providers who offer safe housing, mental health counseling, medical assistance, chemical dependency, transportation and other supportive services.

Children's Home Society

<https://chssd.org>

This organization's mission is to empower children, adults, families and communities to be resilient, safe, healthy and strong. Has local chapters across South Dakota.

Covenant House Screening Tool

<https://www.covenanthouse.org> 1-800-388-3888

This is a resource for homeless teens and children at risk in the human trafficking cycle, supporting them, getting them off the street, powering human rights in 31 cities and 6 countries.

F.R.E.E. International

<http://freeinternational.org> National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888

Find. Restore. Embrace. Empower. F.R.E.E. works to abolish modern day slavery in the form of sex and labor trafficking primarily in the U.S. with innovative collaborations through public and private partnerships. They support, fundraise, raise awareness for victims and are another outlet/resource for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Freedom's Journey

1-805-380-8009 <https://freedomsjourney.us>

Freedom's Journey is a nonprofit corporation committed to providing better options for victims and survivors of all forms of human trafficking in western South Dakota and the surrounding area. We help them navigate the challenges they encounter in their security issues, transportation, physical, medical, emotional and mental health care needs.

Free the Black Hills

605-642-0585 freetheblackhills@teamcountryside.com

A non-profit group of citizens whose mission is to create community awareness of the human trafficking problem and solutions, support the efforts of other ministries who are already being part of the solution and to help establish a working network of solution in Western SD.

HEAL Trafficking

<http://www.humantraffickinged.com>

A website offering assessments, pocket guides, education, articles, etc. It is a phenomenal resource for this at-risk population! A united group of multidisciplinary professionals dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors, from a public health perspective.

Life Treasures LLC

605-381-4867 lifetreasures7@gmail.com

This organization provides survivor-led support groups; survivor-to-survivor mentoring; survivor consultants and advocates. They also provide community education through their survivor speakers and resources.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<http://www.missingkids.org/home> 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

Provides family support, education for kids, training and case resources for professionals, information on everything on abductions to spotting/working with victims, and fundraising.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org> Call hotline 1-888-373-7888, TTY: 711

This organization is a major hub of information, support, hotlines, education, outreach, reports, statistics on every state and more. It is operated by The Polaris project.

Office of Victims of Crime, Technical and Training Assistance

www.ovcttac.gov 1-866-OVC-TTAC (1-866-682-8822) TTY: 1-866-682-8880 Email: TTAC@ovcttac.org

The Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center is a component of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice providing resources, customized technical training, National Victims Assistance Academy, speaker support and scholarships to train/support the victim support providers.

Pathfinder Center: Protecting and Finding Purpose for Victims of Human Trafficking

<http://www.pathfindercenter.org> thepathfindercenter@gmail.com wiconi@midstatesd.net 605-234-1540

To provide a place of refuge for victims of human trafficking from all over South Dakota. To promote the growth and development of those we serve by empowering them to experience healing and wholeness, while ensuring that each woman gains a sense of self-worth and the capacity to achieve their full potential.

Rebecca Bender Initiative

<https://rebeccabender.org/>

This site has a "school" for survivors, walking them through their healing journey at no cost to the survivors, provide life coaches, and equip survivors to move out in business, authoring, speaking, etc. They are recognized and recommended by THORN. Additionally, equip Responders, law enforcement, tons of resources, and more.

SD Coalition Ending Domestic & Sexual Violence

<https://sdcedsv.org> Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224

This Coalition works for major social changes necessary to eliminate both personal and societal violence against all women and their children, providing support, hotlines, links and more.

SD West River Human Trafficking Task Force

<http://rallyforthechallenge.com> NATIONAL HOTLINE at 1-888-373-7888

This task force is a collaboration of diverse organizations and individuals who have connected to combat the issue of trafficking in persons, by raising awareness, providing information and education, advocating for prosecution of offenders, and supporting human trafficking victims and survivors.

Shared Hope International

<https://sharedhope.org> 1-866-HER-LIFE

This organization's mission is to educate all walks of life, train law enforcement, legislate to bring justice, and expand shelters and services.

The Polaris Project

<https://polarisproject.org> Polaris BeFree Textline Text "BeFree" (233733)

Polaris Project is a major player in all areas of supporting the fight against Human Trafficking. They lobby, fundraise, partner with a major airline (Delta), provide education in a multitude of languages/flyers/videos/facts/definitions of how to join them by raising awareness.

Truckers Against Trafficking

www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org

Mission is to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and busing industries to combat human trafficking by saturating the trucking and busing industries with TAT materials, partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking, and marshal our resources together to combat this heinous crime.

Vera Institute of Justice - Screening Tool

<http://www.vera.org> 212-334-1300 (New York)

The Vera Institute combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance providing tools to government and civil society to improve the systems people of all ages rely on for justice and safety.

