



For Immediate Distribution

Press Release

Contacts: Kristy dosReis
Director of Communications
Day One
kdosreis@dayoneri.org
401-421-4100 x109
401-450-5305

Day One announces plans for task force to address sex trafficking in Rhode Island

Recognizing the need for a more formal approach to dealing with the rising issue of sex trafficking in the state, Day One convenes new task force to develop best practices and make recommendations

Providence, RI – November 25, 2013 – Day One, the only agency in the state organized specifically to deal with the issue of sexual assault as a community concern, has assembled a core team to address the issue of sex trafficking in Rhode Island. Recently, the state has been inundated with these cases and there is no cohesive process for effectively dealing with them.

“We are dedicated to bringing this topic to the forefront,” says Peg Langhammer, Day One executive director. “Sex trafficking is a statewide issue, and we know we can’t fight it alone. The task force will provide a forum for us to collaborate with all the right stakeholders to determine the best approach.”

The goals of the task force are to:

- Review existing policies and protocols used in investigation, prosecution and victim advocacy
- Provide crisis intervention training to law enforcement, social services, medical treatment providers and schools
- Educate the community about warning signs and how to report suspected cases
- Generate a process for what happens to victims after the crime has been identified
- Develop a best practices model, through team collaboration, to effectively address this crime

The initial team, which includes representatives from federal, state and local law enforcement, the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF), healthcare providers and more; will develop



goals and divide efforts among strategic subcommittees focused on victim services, education and training, and best practices for investigating and prosecuting these cases.

The issue of sex trafficking has been a key part of Day One’s training curriculum for more than five years. Law enforcement, social services, medical staff and educators are trained to recognize warning signs of sex trafficking victims, how to talk to victims, specific questions to ask, and the unique dynamics of these sensitive cases.

“The goal is to reach beyond the agencies that go through regular training sessions to the community at large, teachers, doctors, neighbors, – the people who see these victims every day and can recognize the red flags,” says Langhammer. “It’s clear the time has come for a formalized approach.”

About Day One

Established as the RI Rape Crisis Center in 1973, Day One is the only agency in Rhode Island organized specifically to deal with issues of sexual assault as a community concern. Day One’s mission is to reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse and violence and to support and advocate for those affected by it. For more information, visit www.dayoneri.org.

####