

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Meaghan Collier, meaghan.collier@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 681-6274

Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health at TTUHSC to Host Sixth Annual Human Sex Trafficking Symposium

Health care professionals are often on the front lines of treating victims and survivors of human sex trafficking, as the majority of trafficked persons access health care while being trafficked.

In an effort to support the continuing education of the local health care community, the [Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health](#), in partnership with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) [School of Medicine](#) and Northwest Texas Healthcare System, will host "They are Not for Sale: Human Sex Trafficking Symposium," from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 24 at the Happy State Bank Auditorium inside the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine, located at 7671 Evans Drive.

The physical effects of sex trafficking and exploitation can include injury, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy and complications, substance abuse and untreated chronic disease. Mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, hostility and high-risk behaviors also can arise. Health care providers play a critical role in survivorship by empowering their patients, offering treatment options, encouraging questions and focusing on each individual's strengths as a survivor.

"Our goal is to ensure health care professionals have the tools and confidence to recognize and respond to potential trafficking situations," said Angela Knapp Eggers, senior director of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health. "Through education, simulation exercises and open discussion, we're helping providers deliver compassionate, trauma-informed care that could truly change or even save a life."

Event speakers and topics will include:

- **Brian Weis, M.D.:** "Trafficking in the Panhandle and in Our Clinics"
- **Rachel Anderson, M.D.:** "A Clinician's Perspective"
- **Special Agent Kendall Styles:** "The Focused Side of Law Enforcement and the Protection of a Vulnerable Population"

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- **Amy Stark, M.D.:** “Hidden Scars: The Psychiatric Impact of Human Trafficking”
- **Rhonda Kuykendall:** “A Survivor’s Story from the Trenches”

“After past symposiums, attendees have shared that even with decades of experience, they hadn’t realized the full scope of information presented,” Eggers said. “They left feeling better prepared to recognize trafficking indicators and respond appropriately. We’re proud to see this event making an immediate difference across our region.”

In support of improving patient care, TTUHSC is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, and the American Nurses Credentialing Center, to provide continuing education for the health care team.

Registration is \$25 if you are seeking CME credit. If you are not seeking credit or certificate, there is no charge. To register, visit <https://cmetracker.net/TTUHSC/Publisher?page=pubOpen&nc=1008789299#/register>. For additional information, please contact the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health at (806) 414-9941.