

**RESOLUTION NO. 272 -2018, DIRECTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO DEVELOP
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO
AID HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the inducement, recruitment, harboring or transportation persons by force, fraud or coercion to provide labor or sexual services; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs throughout the world, with a large number of trafficking victims entering the United States from other countries; and

WHEREAS, despite the prevalence of international human trafficking, domestic human trafficking is also a widespread problem, which typically targets teenage children for sex work; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20% of children who run away from their homes are trafficked into sex work in the United States, at an average age of thirteen at the time of their first being trafficked; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 study found that 88% of trafficking survivors had contact with medical professionals while they were being trafficked; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 survey of trafficking survivors conducted by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking found that 64% of the survivors accessed healthcare services at least one time during their trafficking ordeal; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers are consistently on the front line of combating both physical ailments and societal problems, referring patients to services when a need is identified or dangerous living conditions are suspected; and

WHEREAS, while medical professionals in the United States are trained in identifying a wide variety of ailments and are mandatory reporters for suspected child abuse, the vast majority of medical professionals are not trained to identify human trafficking or assist in obtaining services for victims; and

WHEREAS, given the high rate at which trafficking victims use healthcare services during their captivity, it is critical that healthcare professionals be educated on human trafficking, the ways to identify an individual who is being trafficked or is at risk of same, and the services available to help individuals who have been trafficked; and

WHEREAS, to assist in the dissemination of this critical information, the Department of Health Services should develop and distribute materials aimed at educating healthcare professionals on the basics of human trafficking, the identification of potential victims and the services available to victims; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Health Services is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to develop educational materials for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals which provides information on human trafficking, questions to ask

individuals who are suspected of being at risk for human trafficking and the resources available to assist victims; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Department of Health Services shall make its best efforts to offer these educational materials to every registered medical practice, urgent care facility and hospital located within Suffolk County; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the materials shall be developed and distributed within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: April 24, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 2, 2018