

December 17, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – December 17, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

C. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 28 to Recognize January 2025 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 28 as part of the regular County Board meeting on December 17, 2024; and further recommends that the County Board declare January 2025 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and calls on districts, schools and community organizations in Los Angeles County to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to increase awareness of this horrific crime and promote prevention education to help end human trafficking.

Board Resolution No. 28 shown on the following page.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this month and day with appropriate programs and activities.
- LACOE's Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HYTPE) Demonstration Program focuses on preventing the human trafficking of youth in Los Angeles County through skill-based prevention education for educators and students in grades 6 - 12. The goal is to implement the program at all 80 school districts in Los Angeles County.
- Utilize an informed public health approach to administer, facilitate and monitor the HTYPE Demonstration Program focused on defining human trafficking, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies and assuring widespread dissemination for human trafficking prevention and resources.
- To partner with County partners to build the capacity of schools to provide skills-based human trafficking prevention education for educators, other staff and students and share information and resources.
- To Continue participating in the Los Angeles County CSEC and Labor Trafficking Steering Committees to develop a new strategic plan to maximize safety for youth and
- To train qualified individuals employed by the local educational agencies to implement and replicate project activities throughout school districts within Los Angeles County.
- To partner with DCFS to support implementation of the Safe Zone Initiative campaign to provide designated safe spaces for youth seeking safety from abuse and access to resources.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 28: 2024-25

### **Human Trafficking Awareness Month**


(January 2025)

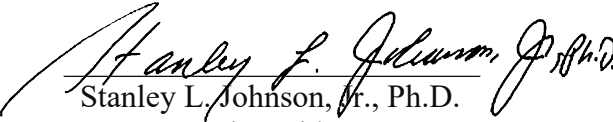
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking is a human rights violation and is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, sex acts, sale of body organs or slavery; and
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking is a \$150 billion-a-year global enterprise and over 100,000 children and youth are commercially sexually exploited and used for forced labor in the United States annually; and
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking also affects highly vulnerable populations, including but not limited to the economically vulnerable, persons with disabilities and runaway youth, with disproportionate vulnerability for youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender
- WHEREAS,** Race also has a profound impact on the risk of being trafficked, with Black youth representing more than 50% of all juvenile sex trafficking victims.
- WHEREAS,** schools serve as hubs for recruitment often targeting the most vulnerable, including youth experiencing high levels of trauma, low parent involvement, youth with special needs and youth in out-of-home placement; and
- WHEREAS,** Los Angeles County has been identified as one of the nation's high- intensity areas for human trafficking of youth, is one of the nation's most populous counties in the country and is also the site for large numbers of children and youth being victimized through commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking; and
- WHEREAS,** Children and youth represent a major population of trafficking victims in Los Angeles County that is estimated to be 30% of the total number or higher; and
- WHEREAS,** The Los Angeles County Office of Education is dedicated to supporting schools, districts and communities in Los Angeles County by providing training, technical assistance, best practices, legislative updates and resources to combat human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS,** National Human Trafficking Awareness Day will be recognized on January 11, 2025, and the month of January is recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month,
- WHEREAS,** LACOE will continue to collaborate with key partners and experts in this work, including the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Taskforce, Los Angeles County Probation

Department, Department of Children and Family Services, University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office - Victims of Crimes, MilionKids, STAR Court, Department of Mental Health and other local and community-based organizations that provide services and support for human trafficking survivors; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares January 2025 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and calls on districts, schools and community organizations in Los Angeles County to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to increase awareness of this horrific crime and promote prevention education to help end human trafficking.

**ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

  
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Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

  
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Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President