

Centering Lived Experiences of Human Trafficking Survivors to Close Wraparound Service Gaps

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Background

About the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking (the “Collaborative”) equips organizations and individuals with the knowledge, tools, and resources to address the public health issue of human trafficking in Cuyahoga County by increasing public awareness, delivering tailored training, and facilitating multi-disciplinary collaboration. The Collaborative serves as the backbone organization of a 70+ member anti-human trafficking coalition known as the Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking, which includes government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and more.

Practicum Goals

- Enhance macro social work and public health leadership skills.
- Apply knowledge of human trafficking in tangible ways.
- Engage in community collaboration efforts.

Population

The Collaborative serves Cuyahoga County and its 70+ coalition members, leading multi-disciplinary groups with a shared interest in addressing human trafficking in the community.

Learning Objectives

Bloom’s Taxonomy

Remember: Enhance knowledge of human trafficking to be able to define human trafficking and list different types of human trafficking that exist.

Understand: Recognize the real signs of human trafficking, identify motives and vulnerabilities in human trafficking, explain the ways in which individuals enter and exit human trafficking, comprehend the complexities of human trafficking and how the human trafficking industry operates, and describe why human trafficking survivors must be involved in processes and decision-making in all anti-human trafficking efforts.

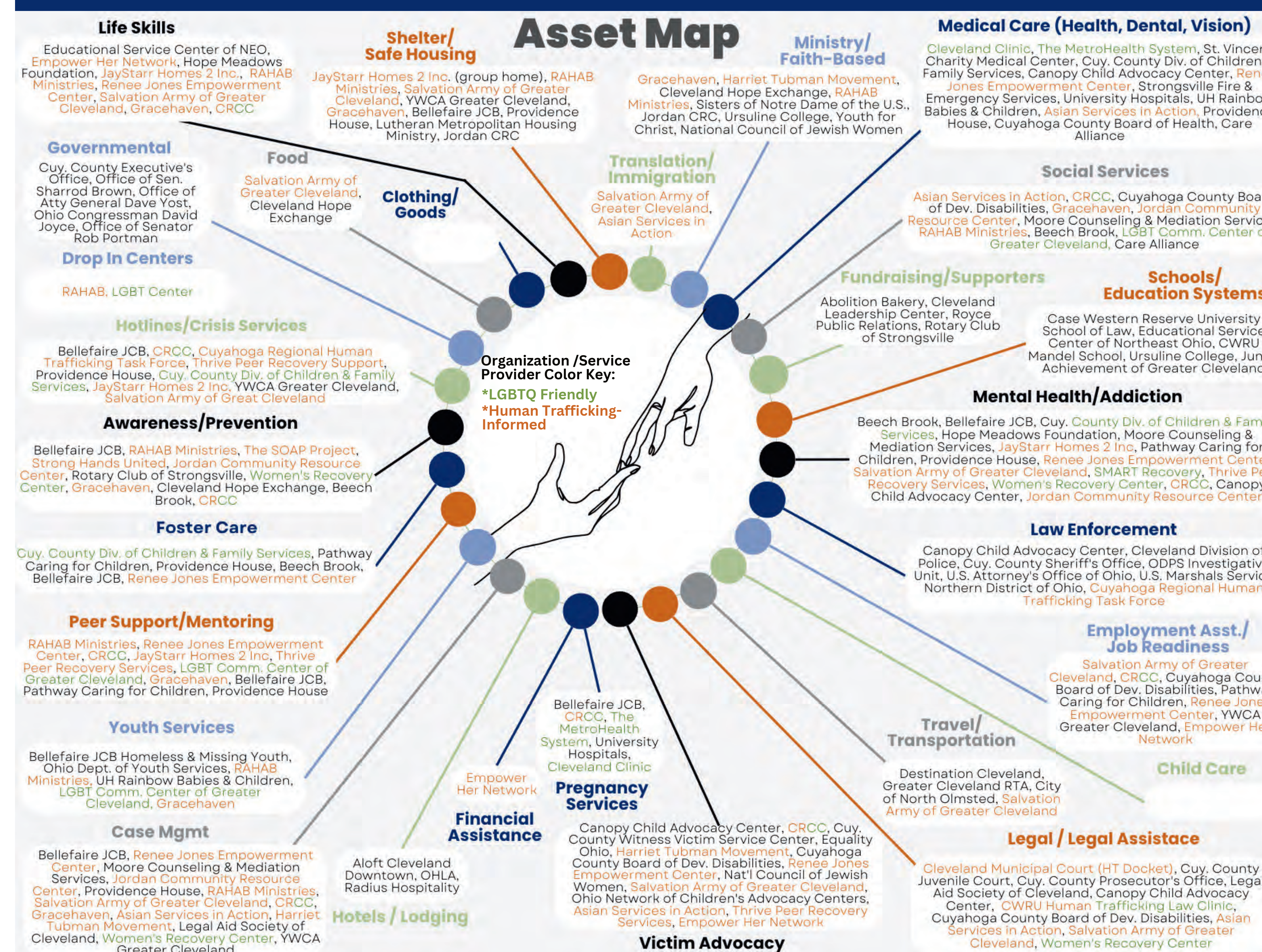
Apply: Demonstrate ideas and concepts at Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking meetings. Use curiosity to ask difficult but necessary questions and employ creativity to innovate ways to address human trafficking.

Analyze: Examine state-by-state human trafficking report cards to illustrate strengths and weaknesses in state policies related to human trafficking.

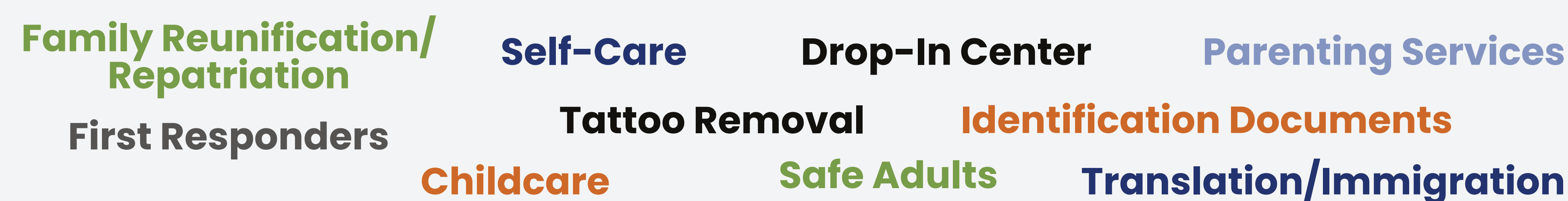
Evaluate. Assess needs and gaps in the community response to human trafficking.

Create. Design a human trafficking response community asset map and produce a synthesized report for How to End Human Trafficking of Youths in Cuyahoga County.

Survivors know best what survivors need most.



Human trafficking survivors describe what’s still missing in wraparound care and services



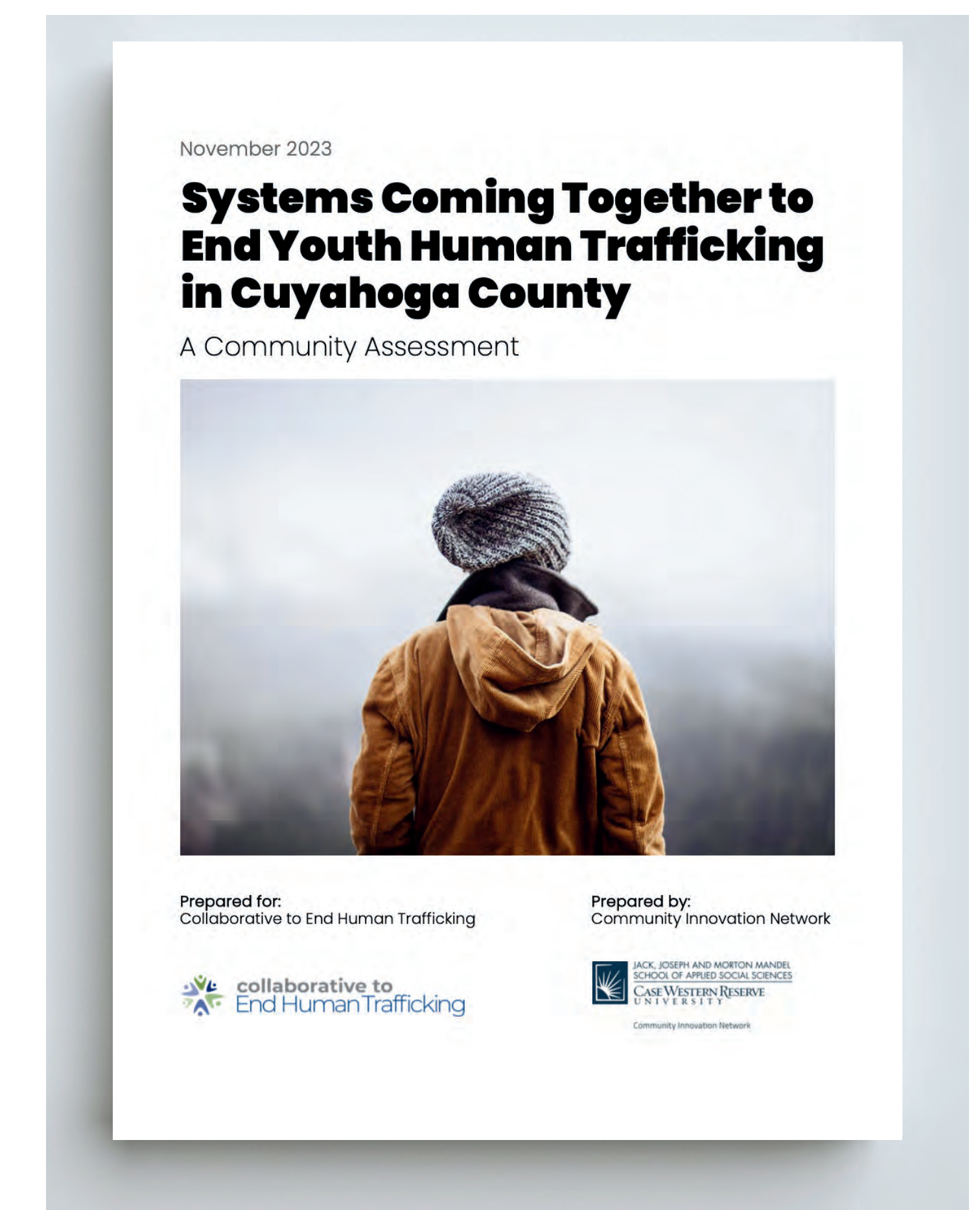
Activities

Day-to-day activities required continual learning about the complexities of human trafficking. To gain the most comprehensive understanding possible of this public health and human rights issue, daily activities included an array of activities, such as:

- Attending interprofessional meetings, presentations, and conferences as a learner, observer, and/or participant
- Performing keyword research and applying search engine optimization (SEO) marketing expertise to optimize website content
- Listening to numerous human trafficking survivor stories
- Researching various interventions and policies and engaging in policy advocacy
- Studying trauma-informed approaches and interventions
- Gaining firsthand insight into why human trafficking survivors must be centered and involved in every step of anti-human trafficking work
- Shadowing key stakeholders and professionals who work with human trafficking victims
- Investigating community assets in wraparound services
- Reading about historic and systemic issues in the past and present that uphold the ability for human trafficking to thrive
- Studying how the media and society perpetuate myths and use harmful language to call people in when myths and harmful language are used in real-time
- Engaging with and learning from human trafficking survivors on the Survivor Advisory Council and in the community to learn about specific issues and barriers to comprehensive services

Deliverables

- Survivor-centered asset map to close wraparound service gaps
- A 40-page synthesized report: *Systems Coming Together to End Youth Human Trafficking in Cuyahoga County*



Lessons Learned

This practicum experience challenged me in the best ways possible: it afforded me numerous opportunities to use my curiosity to explore the complexities of human trafficking from various perspectives; it demanded creativity and thinking outside of the box; and it reaffirmed the adage of remaining a forever student.

Public Health Implications

The impact and consequences of human trafficking are costly and detrimental to individual and community well-being. Responding to human trafficking requires colossal amounts of funding capital, human capital, and intellectual capital. Instead, a public health approach should be adopted in anti-human trafficking initiatives as a public health approach seeks to inform, intervene, and prevent human trafficking along with removing barriers to receiving wraparound services.

Acknowledgments

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