

## **Anti-Trafficking Coalition Holding Healthcare Conference to Educate on Importance of Compassion and a Safe Environment for Survivors**

The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT) will be holding a trauma informed and survivor inclusive virtual Healthcare Conference October 22. This innovative event intends to educate individuals on how to create an emotionally and physically safe environment for patients who may be impacted by abuse, neglect or violence, such as human trafficking; providing a setting that can promote sharing their own experiences, ultimately accepting services and support.

The conference titled: *What Makes a Safer NJ? You do! A Trauma Responsive Approach*, is a full day of training by subject matter experts, including many with lived experience of human trafficking. The conference offers continuing education credits for healthcare professionals, but is open to anyone eager to learn more about the compassion and knowledge required to assist victims of human trafficking. It is presented in collaboration with Saint Elizabeth University and the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants.

The conference was made possible by an initial grant from Capital Health's Capital Women in Philanthropy. Other generous sponsors include:

- Gold Sponsor: Atlantic Health
- Silver Sponsor: RWJBarnabas Health
- Bronze Sponsors: Bergen New Bridge Medical Center; Montclair State University – College of Humanities & Social Sciences; New Beginnings OB/GYN; Rutgers – School of Nursing – Camden; The Honey Bee Foundation

Gina Cavallo is the Survivor Consultant for the NJCAHT, who also has 30 years of experience in Healthcare as a Human Resources Director and advocate. She said: "I understand and recognize the importance and need for continuing education, improved safe space, and respect and dignity for all. This Healthcare Conference will allow participants to gain a greater understanding of the impact trauma has on individuals when they face a crisis, including victims of human trafficking. It will provide healthcare workers with tools to help make their services trauma-informed and more effective in supporting survivors."

Ms. Cavallo added: "From my personal experience as a survivor of childhood trauma and sex trafficking, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of those in healthcare to survivors, since they are often a first point of contact. Healthcare workers are in a position to change the trajectory of a survivor's life by providing a respectful, compassionate and safe space. I am very excited to be part of this incredible survivor inclusive conference, it's not to be missed!"

Diana Starace is the Injury Prevention Program Coordinator at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. She said: "As a member of the Conference Planning Team and a long standing NJCAHT member, I am thrilled to see this event come to fruition! We have worked hard to bring together a variety of subject matter experts and topics to empower healthcare

employees with the tools and resources they need to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable patients.”

Another key member of the Conference Planning Team, Joylyn Martinez-Davis an Administrative Nursing Coordinator at Capital Health, said: “As a Registered Nurse of 25 years that has worked primarily in Acute Care Hospitals in Urban Centers, I have seen the need grow for resources and education in human trafficking amongst my peers. I have learned so much being part of the NJCAHT’s Healthcare Committee, but realize, there is so much more to learn on how to better identify, manage, and support victims of trafficking. “

Conference registration can be found online at:

<https://pheedloop.com/register/NJCAHTHealthcare2022/attendee/?> The NJCAHT has applied for CHES, MSW, CNE, CME, EMS, and NJ Dept. of Education contact hours. Registration is \$25 which automatically includes continuing education access. Scholarships are available; please contact [info@safernj.org](mailto:info@safernj.org) for more information.

### **About the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking**

The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT) is a volunteer-run 501c3 nonprofit founded in 2011 that coordinates statewide community efforts to end sex and labor trafficking in New Jersey. Comprising over 150 volunteers and more than 200 affiliates including nonprofits, faith-based organizations, academics, law enforcement, and direct service providers it works to empower communities with the knowledge of what human trafficking is, how to prevent it, and how to support those affected by it. The NJCAHT Healthcare Committee brings together anyone working in the health field to help educate those inside and outside of the profession on how to identify and respond to a possible trafficked person. For more information go to <https://www.safernj.org/raise-awareness-in-healthcare>