



## DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



Joette Katz  
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
July 6, 2016

Contact: Gary Kleeblatt  
Office: 860-550-6305  
Cell: 860-622-9824

**Victims Of Child Sex Trafficking To Receive New Survivor Care Services Statewide**  
*Department of Children and Families And Office Of Victim Services*  
*To Fund Expansion of Individual Care Plans Through Non-Profit Provider*

HARTFORD – Department of Children and Families Commissioner Joette Katz and Office of Victim Services Director Linda J. Cimino announced today new individualized care plans, treatment and case management for survivors of child sex trafficking. Available statewide due to expanded services funded jointly by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Office of Victim Services (OVS), which is part of the Judicial Branch, youth will receive assistance for a minimum of nine months, including direct services for the youth and family to achieve care-plan objectives and work with other service providers and systems to integrate treatment and support. Care staff will be available 24/7 to respond to youth emergencies. The services will be provided by the non-profit group Love146.

“We have worked to strengthen protections for victims of child sex trafficking, and establishing support services to assist victims is critical,” Governor Dannel P. Malloy said. “We are very fortunate to have valued partners in this effort – working together is important.”

It is expected that 50 to 60 survivors will receive services during the State Fiscal Year 2017. Last fiscal year, these services were only offered in the Bridgeport area (DCF’s Region 1) and helped 10 survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). The joint funding of \$841,629 comes as the number of referrals for CSEC and DMST to the DCF Careline is dramatically increasing. In 2014, the Department received 94 unique referrals. In 2015, there were 133 referrals. During the first quarter of 2016, there were 53 referrals. While girls are most commonly victimized, boys are victimized as well, with nearly a dozen male victims and one transgender youth in 2015.

DCF Commissioner Joette Katz said that the development of services is a necessary step in the state’s evolving response to child sex trafficking. The last several years, DCF partnered with law enforcement, service providers and others to raise awareness of DMST. With that has come increased reporting of exploitation. “With more victims being identified, responsive and effective services are an absolute requirement,” Commissioner Katz said. “The need is great, and so we are very fortunate to have committed partners including Love146 and the Office of Victim Service.”

OVS Director Linda J. Cimino said, “We are pleased to be a part of the expanded safety net of services available to victims of child sex trafficking. The grant funds awarded to Love146 will help

provide essential services to previously hidden and invisible vulnerable victims. OVS is able to provide this funding due to an increase in the federal Victims of Crime Act funding." Love146, a private non-profit organization dedicated to ending child exploitation and trafficking, hopes to further expand services through additional private fund raising.

"This funding is an inspiring example of the power of public-private partnerships." said Rob Morris, president and co-founder of Love146. "These children would not be able to receive the critical services they need without the support of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and the Connecticut Office of Victim Services, and without the generosity of private individuals who say with their actions: 'Not in our communities. Not our children.'"

--end--