

2018

TEXAS JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ON
DOMESTIC CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING
EVALUATION
HOUSTON, TX
SEPTEMBER, 2018



Texas Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Houston, Texas

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) hosted the Texas Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking (TJIDCST) in Houston, Texas from September 18-19, 2018 for judges and other judicial officers. The purpose of the TJIDCST is to provide judicial officers with tools needed to develop or enhance their ability to handle the multifaceted and challenging aspects of cases involving domestic child sex trafficking. Pre- and post-Institute surveys are administered to assess the immediate impact of the training on participant knowledge acquisition, decision making, practice and attitude change, and satisfaction. The results below summarize the responses of Institute participants.

Participants

Of the 14 respondents who registered for the Institute, 29% indicated they were a judicial officer for 5-9 years and another 29% indicated 10-14 years. Similarly, 21% indicated 10-14 years and the remaining 21% indicated 15 or more years of experience. Most respondents (43%) indicated they hear general jurisdiction cases while 22% indicated they hear both Child Abuse/Neglect Cases & Juvenile Justice cases and 14% indicated they hear only Child Abuse and Neglect cases and 7% hear only Juvenile Justice cases. The remaining 14% indicated hearing other case types including criminal, probate and civil cases.

Change in Knowledge by Topic Area

Respondents were asked to rank their level of knowledge across 15 DCST topic areas, both before and after the Institute, using a four point scale. The pre and post average scores of the 12 participants that completed both the pre and post Institute surveys are displayed for each topic area along with the difference. T-Test analyses indicated that the change in average scores were significant for all 15 topics.

Topic Area	Pre-Avg	Post-Avg	Difference
How to integrate judicial leadership and collaboration into DCST response	1.75	3.25	1.50*
Strategizing effective placements for juvenile DCST victims	1.67	3.08	1.41*
The role of bias and cultural misinformation in DCST cases	1.92	3.17	1.25*
Major federal laws that relate to trafficking	2.00	3.17	1.17*
How historical trauma affects community and individual level risk	2.08	3.25	1.17*
Techniques for in-court engagement with youth affected by trauma	1.83	3.00	1.17*
Demographic information on buyers of child sex	1.83	2.92	1.09*
The core components of services for DCST victims	1.83	2.92	1.09*
Risk factors for entry into domestic child sex trafficking	2.42	3.50	1.08*
Power and control dynamics of child sex traffickers (pimps)	2.42	3.50	1.08*
Characteristics and demographics of DCST victims	2.33	3.33	1.00*
The effects of exploitation on DCST victims	2.33	3.25	0.92*
How victim trauma affects their decision-making and interaction with the justice system	2.25	3.17	0.92*
The core conditions of healing from trauma and victimization	1.92	2.83	0.91*
Emerging legislation that relates to DCST	2.00	2.83	0.83*

Note:4-point scale (4=great deal of knowledge, 3=fair amount of knowledge, 2=limited knowledge, and 1=no knowledge)

*Signifies statistical significance where p-value is less than 0.05.

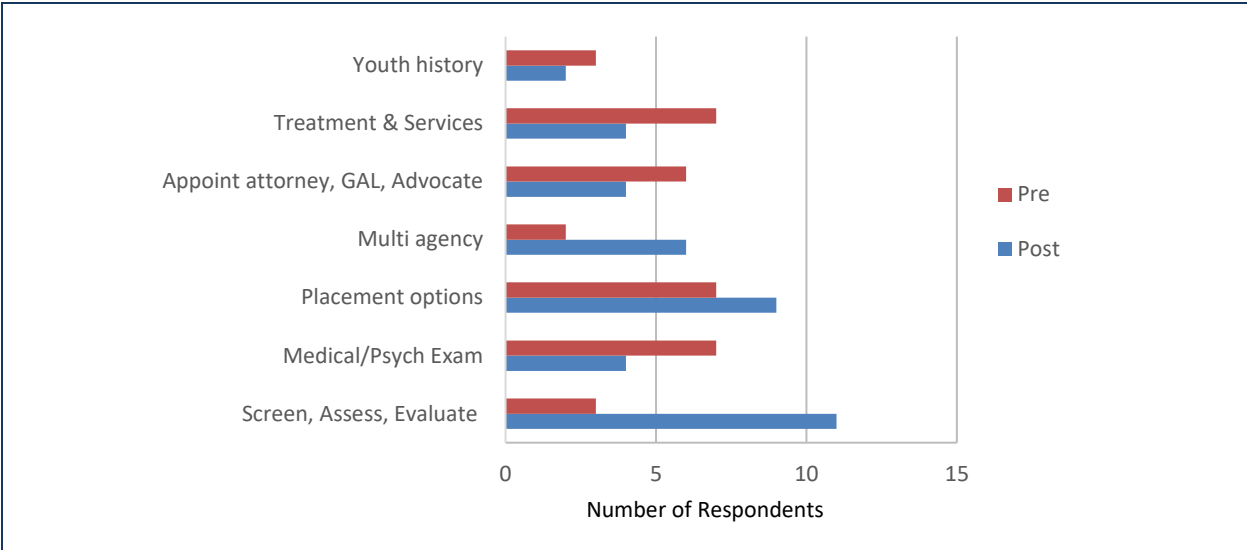
Identifying DCST Risk Factors

Respondents were given a case scenario both before and after the Institute in which they were asked to identify up to 10 DCST risk factors. On average, respondents identified 5.1 risk factors prior to the Institute and 6.4 risk factors after the Institute, which is a significant increase ($p=.05$). The table below displays the percentage of respondents who correctly identified each risk factor before and after the Institute and the percent change, ordered from the most change to the least. The age of the boyfriend, substance abuse, and runaway behavior were most commonly identified before the Institute while previous sexual assault, age of the boyfriend, run away behavior and child welfare history were most commonly identified after the Institute. Respondents increased their ability to identify five important risk factors after the Institute.

Topic Area	Pre-%	Post-%	% Change
Current Living Status with Older Boyfriend	10%	20%	100%
Multiple Placement	30	55	83
Child Welfare History	40	65	63
Previous Sexual Assault	55	80	45
Runaway Behavior	60	65	8
Katrina's Age	20	20	0
Age of Boyfriend	80	75	-6
Termination of Mother's Rights	50	40	-20
Substance Abuse/Use	70	55	-21
Group Home	30	0	-100

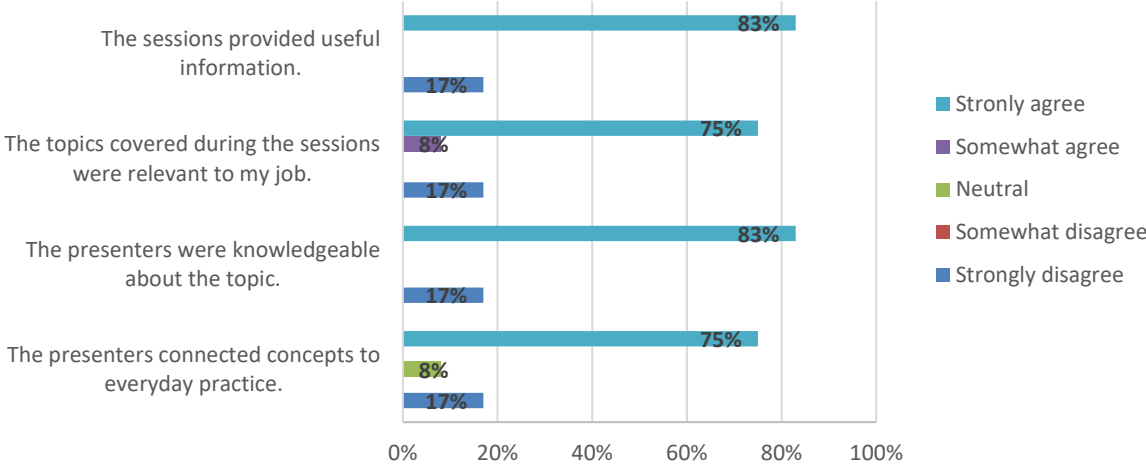
Creating Judicial Orders

Participants were asked before and after the Institute to identify what they would put in their judicial orders following a first/initial hearing. Pre- and post-Institute answers were analyzed for common themes. Seven main themes were identified including: 1) gather youth's history, 2) provide treatment/services, 3) appoint child advocate, GAL, and/or attorney, 4) have multi-agency representation 5) consider placement options, 6) order medical or psychological exams, and 7) screen/assess/evaluate. After the Institute, there was an increase in the number of respondents who indicated they would request multi-agency representation at hearings, explore appropriate placement options and screen, assess and evaluate youth. Fewer respondents indicated they would request youth's history, order treatment or services, appoint an attorney or advocate or order a medical or psychological exam after the Institute.



Satisfaction with Institute

Participants were asked to rate their agreement (selecting from five responses ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with four statements regarding components of the Institute. The results below indicate most attendees strongly agreed with each statement, however a small percentage (17%) strongly disagreed with each statement. Participants were also asked “Overall, how satisfied were you with the training”. Most indicated they were very satisfied (92%) or satisfied (8%) with the training.



Applying Knowledge

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they are to apply what they learned in the Institute to inform decisions in their future work. Over 90% of respondents indicated they were “likely” (11%) or “very likely” (83%) to use what they learned in their future work. Six percent of respondents indicated they were somewhat likely to apply TJIDCST knowledge to their future work.

Participant Comments

Most Beneficial to Future Work. Respondents were asked to identify something they learned that will be the most beneficial to their future work. Respondents indicated the following were most beneficial:

- Identifying DCST victims through screening/assessment tools
- Identifying resources available for DCST victims
- Understanding historical trauma, implicit bias, cultural differences
- Hearing about Gov. Abbott's efforts and plans for combating DCST.

Least Beneficial to Future Work. Respondents were asked to identify something from the Institute that they liked the least or would be least beneficial to their future work. Respondents indicated the following:

- Lack of Texas specific data
- Trauma discussion was confusing
- Prefer more speakers with varied backgrounds

Institute Improvements. Respondents were asked to share any ideas or suggestions that might help future Institutes. Respondents indicated the following:

- Possible list of contacts for community resources
- State specific data
- Have more speakers that represent real life roles (victim, perpetrator, therapist, lawyer, judge)
- More case scenarios/role playing
- The role playing session was not useful to me.
- I need more help coming up with a strategic plan.