**2014 SUMMIT**

TOGETHER LET'S STOP TRAFFICK

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IPTI

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## Benjamin Greer

**Staff Counsel
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# PRESENTATION TRANSCRIPT

Benjamin:

First I want to thank everyone for coming out. I want to thank IPTI and AMU for giving this opportunity to come together; network, see old friends and meet new friends as well. Grace and I just to give you a little bit of background, in 2011-2012, we were a part of the California Attorney General's Human Trafficking Special Projects Team. One of our primary tasks was to update the statewide report. The previous report had been issued by the state legislature in 2008. It was still a very new crime in the state of California it only became a felony in 2006, so they were still very new in the understanding what trafficking is. They were still dealing and struggling a lot with the definitional issues; how to investigate and prosecute a number of these crimes.

So part of our task was to look back over the previous four or five years to see what California had learned and some of the information in data that we had collected over the time. We helped publish the 2012 report; it's available on the California Attorney General's website. One of the things that we wanted to do is being that it was the second attempt to really dig into this topic was to really try to get reliable concrete statistical data, because we all know that's a huge challenge when it comes to understanding human trafficking, everything from the victims where they come from, the traffickers and how they exploit their victims.

So one of the things that Grace really spearheaded was coming up with an analytical system to crunch a lot of narrative data that we find in reports, whether it be the U.S. State Department Report, or Polaris Reports; there's a number of different organizations both domestically and worldwide that produce annual reports.

We wanted to try to find and come up with a way to illustrate human trafficking routes, but not just routes worldwide; there is a number of very good maps, and you'll see examples once we get into the slide show of some of the different samples of mapping techniques that are out there, but we wanted to take it specifically to California and route, a term that we coined or I believe we coined "point source mapping," and so specifically what--where are the victims that we would find in California; where are they coming from?

What routes are they taking in order--how are they being exploited and winding up in San Francisco in, northern California, or Los Angeles in southern California? Those two routes may be very different, and understanding the path that the victims take better allows law enforcement to react and respond to those threats, and then also better informs the victim service community on the types of services that they're likely to need to provide, so without further ado, Grace Cotulla.

**Grace Cotulla**

California Department of State Hospitals

Grace:

So I know we're running a little behind right now so I'll just try to clip through it but still make sure it's comprehensive. I don't like just reading a slide and I'm assuming that you can read, so this is kind of our overall definition for Point Source Mapping; it is a technique that is used that we've kind of come up with as Ben said, taking a large narrative and giving it a visual kind of presence and putting it on a map trying to make sure that you can actually see the flow of routes to see where trafficking is happening, how it's moving.

We are by no means experts on maps, but we definitely have studied enough to give this presentation and tell you a little bit about it. So why we need this, so first off visuals are extremely powerful, you know not everyone wants to read thousands of pages of a document, and it can be a tedious and long process, and visuals are very striking as you saw from that first picture of the slide, that picture of the kid with the map on his face. A very striking image, I am a big fan of visuals I think they're very important to making sure that we get messages across especially with the public that may not have the time or energy to read large amounts of narratives on this

topic, and this is an important topic so anything we can do to make this easier or more digestible it's always at a good point. We cannot work to fix these human trafficking problems that we have if we can't understand how they change and their movements; that's very important. So one of our current mapping efforts; there are quite a few maps out there as Ben said, and they are very good they have certain aspects of them that really benefit.

Any maps are extremely helpful, but there's always something we can do, something we can do more to move it forward to take those ideas further, and that's kind of what we're going to talk about is you know we Ben and I, you know we want to take that next step. We want to make sure that we can make it more comprehensive for the future, and we hope that you guys will jump on board and want to do that with us. There is a lot of difficulty with--as people who have done human trafficking research and writing know that there's very little reliable statistical data out there. There're issues with people admitting that they were trafficked or responders or first identifiers actually identifying them as human trafficking victims.

So with the lack of identifying human trafficking victims and human trafficking victims identifying themselves that creates a problem for actually finding our whose being trafficked and then the second step of where they're even going; where their destination is, so it's difficult to map if we don't have data. And there's not a lot of overlap right now between the people who have that data and that information and the people that have the ability to do comprehensive good maps, so I'm trying to encourage a collective effort to try to find that overlap for us to work together to try to create something better for the future.

So there are a lot more if you do any research on mapping you'll find that there are a lot more European maps available out there than there are United States, and as we found California maps to as well, so I try to ask questions of why this is. You know is it a statistical thing; is it that they're ahead of us? You know what is the problem, and for me, I found that a possible answer that I've come up with is it's only been

fairly recently that we've admitted that human trafficking is a problem in the United States and that in itself is a huge problem. And again that lends itself to not having enough statistical data in the United States.

Yes, we're a destination country, but that does not mean that we don't have it internally and that there's not human trafficking rides internally happening, and that's what I want to--I want to see that data so that we can do something about it at home here, so it's something you always think about. So I'm going to give you some examples of different kinds of maps that are out there right now; all these maps, again wonderful maps, super excited for anything that I find. I just wanted to point out you know good and bad things about all of them including our own.

So this map for example, it does show the movement it has arrows it's showing where these routes are going. The original country that trafficking is happening from and the destination country as you can see the United States, a very destination country. It's from a study; I'm huge on reliable information. One thing that Ben and I have tried to work on with the maps that we do is with Point Source mapping it's talking about locations, specific instances of trafficking that's not just U.S., but you know Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C.; specific places because when we can find specific areas of human trafficking instances we can actually pinpoint our efforts better so when you have a general melee of the United States, you know that's hard for us within the United States to really pinpoint where that's happening and that's what we want to try to get to and that's why we've kind of worked on specific locations.

So glad I could rely on information, again, it's showing a lot of different countries, but it is very Eurocentric, and it's women children focused; a lot of people--I talk about all the time if there are things I want people to know about human trafficking is that labor traffic, there's more labor trafficking than sex trafficking, and within labor trafficking there is more men that are labor trafficked than women and children, so if you look at statistically in the world actually more men are human

trafficked than anything else. And there's a huge focus on women and children because sex trafficking is more covered; it's more exciting to cover for a lot of people. It really sticks in people's minds, but you have to remember that labor trafficking is a huge problem and it is very present in our world.

So a different kind of map it's a Heat Map; it is very--I like the fact that it shows the U.S., again you know we have a lot of years use finding those kinds of maps. I like that it shows more pinpointed locations, you can see okay that's where Los Angeles is. Okay that, you know this isn't happening in this area and it's the entire country not just you know certain capital points or anything like that. It's an extremely impressive map that way and it has those heat spots; it focuses their efforts. The issue with this is that because it talks about potential human trafficking, again, you have issue with you know what do we mean by potential does it mean that we just there might be a human trafficking instance or that it wasn't--we weren't able to convict anyone? What does that really mean and how does it apply to people, and how can we move this forward? How can we see more from this map?

It doesn't show movements and routes; I'm very big on I want to know the flow of how these people are trafficked. Human trafficking is not static; it doesn't require movement in the definition of human trafficking. It does not require movement beyond borders; however it is very fluid, it is constantly moving, and that it's very important to show and understand. This is a Concentration Map so it's talking about countries of origin, countries of destinations, and the high amount of human trafficking in the low omitted. You know this is by UNODC and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, and they do have this based on factual information and reliable information, again very important. But what does the average person see from that? What do they get from that? How can we as legislatures, law enforcement, legal; how can we take that information and apply it? Again, being Eurocentric when you look at the United States you go yeah, its high destination now; what do we do with that?

I want to take us to that next level of figuring out specific points; where is this going, again, the lacking of the routes, I want to see it. I want to see all these things. There's no reason why all these things couldn't be combined in one. How we can make it more interactive, more informative to the public. So this is a Transition mat, I'm a huge fan of transition maps; I love seeing things through time. So this is particular one is talking about state laws for about three years, and it is important because, again, visual cues very important you get three visual cues in one, so it's a great transition.

I think transition maps are really helpful, especially for talking about routes when we talk about specific locations in the maps that we try to work on, and we would love to have--we don't actually have the technology for us right now. Anyone out there want to help us with that of making these transitional maps with routes. I think that that would be really informative because often times what happens is traffickers will--there will be a change in law. You know California had their law that was changed and amplified for human trafficking and what happens is the traffickers adjust, and to be able to see not only hey the state law changed, but here's how the traffickers reacted to that change instead of you know now they have a task force that goes along this particular route where the trafficking was occurring and so now what happens is you can actually see that they'll change their routes.

So being able to visually see those kinds of cues along with this information could really be beneficial for the future, again, for law enforcement for lawmakers to understand what's happening and to see that flow it's not a static process. So again, this is the U.S., I really appreciate the fact that it is not Eurocentric it is about here. So this is one of our early point source map prototypes and it was from the Tip Report and if you've ever read the Tip Report I have read the entire thing, and it is very long, and I wouldn't recommend everyone reading thousands and thousands of pages. I actually did this on Paint; it took a long time.

The point is that when I did this, I was trying to see every time the Tip Report mentioned a specific location and talked about another specific location trying to map it and pin point it and to see that movement happening. I wanted to know what is going on, how is this moving, because people don't understand that just because someone is trafficked from Mexico does not mean that they are Mexican. Actually a lot of European traffic victims and the Pac Rim [phonetic spelling] you know traffic victim move through--you know through Mexico, through South America, and many of them have other routes that go through Canada down into California. And understanding that that again, these things are happening, they do have movement, and I want to move towards a world where we can have maps for that move, and you can see it.

This is another one. This one was about Pac Rim specifically; it may look messy I apologize for that. So this again was also based on a Tip Report, and I wanted to see--I was noticing that in California, specifically for us since we are from California that there was routes that were going through the Pac Rim countries and then through California, and they were going to specific ports, and I wanted to know what was happening. You know the people that you know were coming from you know Japan. Where--how are they getting there? Where were they also from? These are not just Japanese; where are they from? And again if we can locate pinpoint what's happening, where these people are coming from we could help assist them, we could help try to make things better.

These are some additional reports and articles that we already--we saw some maps from Polaris and Tip Report, UNODC; these are some other articles and reports of other narratives that are out there that I think could really be applied to some maps and would help us again in this process that we're all trying to work on. And can they be mapped? I believe that honestly anything could probably be mapped. You know Ben and I worked on this technique, and I think we could do it. I'd like the chance to try so you know that's what we're kind of working towards. What I would like to see in a map? I mentioned previously all the examples of maps; I would love

to see transition through time of routes moving. Arrows that not only show the routes, and they're going through countries and states, but also be able to click on them, find--you know say you click on an arrow, and you can see an article about a particular case. You could see a conviction rating about that. You could see a state law if you're talking about a specific state.

You could get more in-depth information; it could have a link to another article to another site to another organization. Again, you know we talk about here at the summit of us working together and working as a unit. I love the full puzzle piece thing, so I want us to be able to connect and overlap and work together on this and find specific locations that I think that our technique, for example, really hones in on. I just want a more interactive overall map for us to work on in the future, and be able to maybe verify it on different levels in the future, so things like maybe a map that has a different layer to it that's just for law enforcement for law enforcement to be able to see what specific areas or regions they're having issues with.

Again, anything that helps the law enforcement also helps legislature. You know Ben and I have our legal background; we're all for changes in state law and something that makes the world better. Law is slow and trafficking is fast, so just to make sure that we're developing and changing. As I said before all maps that you've seen here, everything helps, everything is a wonderful addition to all the efforts that we're all trying to make here, and it helps human trafficking victims. It helps everyone as I've mentioned, and we have to always remember this is not a static world, so we have to make sure that we're adjusting and moving with the times.

This is just a quote that I love, "Somewhere there is a map and how it can be done." I just think that anything that we can do is only going to make this world a little better, so I appreciate you listening to the presentation. Thank you.