



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #205

Services for Victims of Sex Trafficking (Children and Families - Children and Families)

[LFB 2015-17 Budget Summary: Page 95, #7]

CURRENT LAW

Under Wisconsin law, human trafficking includes recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining an individual (or attempting to do any of the same). Human trafficking of a child is a class C felony if done for the purposes of commercial sex acts or sexually explicit performance. Human trafficking for the purposes of commercial sex acts is a class D felony if accomplished by certain means, including bodily harm, restraints, extortion, debt bondage, and financial harm.

In 2014-15, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Lad Lake, a nonprofit organization serving at-risk youth, are conducting an out-of-home residential treatment pilot program to serve the needs of victims of sex trafficking. The Lad Lake program offers a safe, therapeutic, and trauma-sensitive environment that removes victimized young girls from human trafficking, while helping to build self-esteem. The program utilizes trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy designed to treat posttraumatic stress and related emotional and behavioral problems.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$2,000,000 GPR in 2016-17 to purchase or provide both residential and community-based services for children who are victims of sex trafficking. Require DCF to ensure that treatment and services are available to children in all geographic areas of the state, including both urban and rural communities.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. A survey of more than 1,300 sexual assault service providers, domestic violence providers, law enforcement officers, and district attorneys conducted by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance between 2000 and 2007 identified more than 200 individuals as potential victims of trafficking. Approximately 15% of encountered victims were child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Victims were identified in more than half of Wisconsin counties in both rural and urban counties.

2. A study conducted by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission examined Milwaukee police incident reports from August 1, 2010, to August 1, 2012, in order to estimate the number of youth trafficked. During the two-year period, 77 youth were identified as having been sex trafficked. Of these youth, 25 were between the ages of twelve and 15 and the remaining 52 were either 16 or 17 years old. More than 92% were female.

3. In July, 2013, a nationwide investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation rescued 10 children in Wisconsin and arrested 100 suspects for child trafficking. The investigation targeted Madison, Wisconsin Dells, and the Fox Valley. During a similar investigation in 2012, six children were recovered and 60 suspects were arrested in Wisconsin.

4. As noted in the Office of Justice Assistance's Wisconsin Human Trafficking and Resource Manual, victims of human trafficking need a complex and comprehensive set of services that require sensitivity and specialized training. However, the state lacks a sustainable network of service providers specifically trained in the dynamics of human trafficking and funded to provide services to trafficking victims.

5. Under the current pilot program, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) contracts with Lad Lake to provide treatment for those in out-of-home care in Milwaukee who are identified as victims of sex trafficking. The treatment center is located 35 miles from Milwaukee in Dousman, Wisconsin. Each participant is placed with Lad Lake and receives treatment for an average of seven months. The program ends with reintegration into the home.

6. The BMCW contract reserves care capacity for seven individuals at Lad Lake for the entire year at a cost of \$125,000 per bed (\$875,000 overall). If calculated on an individual basis, treatment would cost approximately \$345 per day per individual.

7. The need for treatment services for victims of sex trafficking far exceeds the capacity of the Lad Lake program. The Lad Lake program has capacity for only seven individuals. On average, the program treats five individuals per day.

8. Additional funding for treatment and services for victims of sex trafficking would allow the pilot program to expand and provide services in areas throughout the state. The proposed \$2,000,000 GPR could potentially fund services similar to those offered by Lad Lake in other areas as well as provide other residential and community-based services.

9. Assuming that a cost structure equal to that used at Lad Lake could be applied at

similar programs at other locations throughout 2016-17, the proposed funding could support the reservation of treatment capacity for up to 16 additional beds or, if provided on an individual basis, support up to 5,800 additional days of treatment for individuals.

10. Alternatively, the Committee could provide funding for fewer or more beds than recommended by the Governor: (a) eight beds, \$1,000,000; (b) 12 beds, \$1,500,000; (c) 20 beds, \$2,500,000; or (d) 24 beds, \$3,000,000.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to increase funding for services for victims of sex trafficking by \$2,000,000 GPR in 2016-17.

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to increase funding in 2016-17 for services for victims of sex trafficking:

ALT 2	Change to Bill
	GPR
a. 8 beds	- \$1,000,000
b. 12 beds	- 500,000
c. 20 beds	500,000
d. 24 beds	1,000,000

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to Bill
GPR	- \$2,000,000

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