

# NEWS ADVISORY



Mahoning County  
**Children Services**

330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

**CONTACT:** Jennifer T. Kollar

Public Information Officer

**PHONE:** 330.941.8810

**EMAIL:** [Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 26, 2018

---

## Mahoning County Children Services Offers “Human Trafficking” Trainings for Child Welfare Professionals

**[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO]** --- In support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, Mahoning County Children Services in conjunction with the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center will host a series of two trainings for child welfare professionals focusing on Human Trafficking. Both trainings will take place at Mahoning County Children Services, 222 West Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503.

Millions of people are enslaved around the world today. Half are believed to be children. In the United States, 100,000 -300,000 U.S. born children are commercially and sexually exploited victims of domestic trafficking.

Police Officer Ken Lawson with the Columbus Division of Police, Columbus, Ohio, will present **“Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery”** on Wednesday, March 28. Officer Lawson has 27 years of law enforcement experience. He has led over 1300 sexual assault and kidnapping investigations. In 2003, Officer Lawson was introduced to human trafficking and was moved by its devastating impact on society. In order to raise consciousness about this crime, Officer Lawson has made it a professional priority to educate criminal justice and social service professionals about human trafficking and develop appropriate responses to human trafficking in Ohio. Officer Lawson is a renowned expert trainer on the topic of human trafficking. Officer Lawson will define human trafficking, explain why it’s an issue for Ohioans, offer tools to evaluate and recognize a trafficked person and emphasize the necessity of interagency cooperation.

### **“Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery”**

Presenter: Ken Lawson

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mahoning County Children Services  
222 West Federal Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Dr. Tanisha L. Knighton, will present **“Human Trafficking and Beyond for Caseworkers”** on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Knighton is an independent consultant and national trainer with over 15 years of experience as a Social Worker with Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services. She served over 4 years in the Missing Persons Unit for the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Department. Dr. Knighton is an active member of the Human Trafficking Task Force and works with other agencies that address issues that involve missing persons.

### **“Human Trafficking and Beyond for Caseworkers”**

Presenter: Dr. Tanisha Knighton

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mahoning County Children Services  
222 West Federal Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

###

---

**Mahoning County Children Services** is the public agency responsible for helping abused, neglected and dependent children in Mahoning County. The Agency is committed to providing a healthy, secure environment for each child in our care. If you suspect child abuse or neglect; report it to the Children Services Agency in your county. In Mahoning County, contact Mahoning County Children Services: 330.941.8888. Reports taken 24/hours and 7/days a week: 330.941.8888 [\[www.mahoningkids.com\]](http://www.mahoningkids.com)