

# Women's *on Alcohol and Drug Issues* Commission *of Oregon*

WWW.WCADIO.ORG SPRING-SUMMER 2014

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— See last page for membership application —

### WCADIO's Mission

To increase public awareness of women's alcohol and drug abuse issues and to promote services related to women throughout the state of Oregon. This means ALL women who are affected by their own alcohol or drug use or that of their family or friends.

Visit us at [www.wcadio.org](http://www.wcadio.org)

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### WCADIO 2014 Board Meetings

July 18 & October 24  
@ NARA

*Dates are subject to change.  
Check with a board member for info.*



## Staggering Report Exposes U.S. Sex Trafficking

By Trymaine Lee

*Reprinted from www.msnbc.com*

When Kery Rodriguez was arrested earlier this year during a drug sting in Florida, law enforcement agents discovered that heroine wasn't the only thing that Rodriguez and his crew were trafficking.

According to detectives and informants, Rodriguez also sold young women whom he referred to as "fresh meat."

"If you want them young, normally those we have to take by force," Rodriguez said, according to an affidavit obtained by the Orlando Sentinel. "The key is to keep them drugged, and locked up, and have [them] at gunpoint."

Agents conducting a drug investigation in April were tipped off that Rodriguez was running a suspected human trafficking ring out of an Orlando apartment, where agents say several young women were being offered up for sale.

Earlier this week, authorities announced that 16 additional arrest warrants were issued for members of Rodriguez's crew. And by Thursday morning most of the suspected players in the case had been arrested, according to reports.

The Rodriguez case is not an isolated one, and according to organizations that fight human trafficking, Florida ranks among the states with the highest number of potential cases. Many of the victims are runaways, migrant workers and society's most vulnerable.

"Human trafficking is a crime that reaps high profits at low risk for traffickers," said Bradley Myles, CEO of Polaris Project, which operates The National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Myles says human trafficking is nothing more than modern-day slavery.

On Thursday, the Polaris Project released a report that highlights just how staggering a problem human trafficking remains in the United States.

According to the report, the NHTRC has recorded more than 9,000 cases of potential human trafficking between 2007 and 2012. The suspected victims include women and men alike, many of whom are domestic, farm or sex workers. The top three victim nationalities are Mexican, Chinese and Filipino.

The NHTRC hotline has experienced a 259% increase in calls reporting trafficking cases since 2008.

"With hundreds of thousands of people forced to provide labor or commercial sex right here in the U.S., we are fundamentally working

*(See Sex Trafficking... continued on page 2)*



*Author's Note: I have used the female gender in this article because this is the sector of the population most affected, and not to discount the male population who has faced the same issues.*

## A New Look at the World's Oldest Oppression

Part 1 of a 2 Part Story

By **Valarie Rea**

Submitted by DePaul Treatment Ctr



Prostitution is often referred to as: The World's Oldest Profession. In actuality Agriculture and Slave Trading are the oldest professions— so, if one is referring to prostitution as being tantamount to slavery, then I would agree. Prostitution is equal to slavery, and as such, it is really: The World's Oldest Oppression.

Being a survivor of prostitution myself, I take offense when it is called a "profession" or sex "work." Prostitution was not a job to me—it was sexual assault on a daily basis. I did not get, upon my retirement, a gold watch or a pension. I wasn't given worker's comp or disability pay for the injuries incurred while "working." The injuries were many and all were life altering. As a survivor, I argue that prostitution is, in and of itself, a form of sexual violence. It seems, at long last, the government is slowly joining my side of this issue.

The 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act indicated a tangible shift in the paradigm of how prostitution is viewed by society. This shift began with a handful of people who really understood what prostitution is and culminated in laws that adequately defined the dynamics involved in the exchange of money for sex. Legally defining the crime as "Sex Trafficking," rather than prostitution, named the truth of victims' experiences, and created an integral change in how women feel about themselves and what has happened to them.

This shift first began outside the U.S. with the Nordic Model, so called because it was first adopted in Sweden with other Nordic countries quickly following. This model decriminalizes the supply side: the women (or men) who are being purchased like products, and it criminalizes the demand side: the buyer—the Trick or John. If caught the buyers are prosecuted, but the women (or men), who are being bought and sold like slaves, are treated as victims and offered the same services given to victims of sexual assault.

The U.S. is slowly gaining ground with new laws around prostitution. When the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was first brought to legislation

in 2000, we took the first steps towards what, I am hopeful, will be equal to the Nordic Model. The TVPA allows trafficking offenses to be prosecuted as federal crimes with severe penalties attached. (In Portland over the last two years, we have seen Pimps given 25 year sentences and at least one life sentence!!!). The TVPA was then extended resulting in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPARA) of 2003—2005—2008—and added to in depth each time. Most recently, the TVPARA of 2013 was also passed as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act. Here's a quick breakdown of what this means in terms of prostitution.

The TVPA of 2000 defines Domestic Sex Trafficking as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation (which is no longer defined as transporting across State lines, like in The Mann Act—this can now be as slight a movement as from one side of town to the other), provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act." The TVPA goes on to say "severe forms of [sex] trafficking in persons" is legally defined as:

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion (all of which are typical pimp and John practices) or in which the person induced to perform the act has not attained 18 years of age. (Note the "OR"—not ALL these things need to be in place).

Under the definition of "fraud" in the TVPA is "preying on desperation or poverty." As this article is being written for the Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drugs, I would present the argument that women who are exchanging sex for money to procure drugs are:

- Doing so out of desperation.
- Often homeless—which fulfills the poverty aspect.
- Not able to give consent—A person under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot legally give consent. It is a prosecutable offense to engage in sex with a person who cannot give consent.

With the changes in law the very language used with prostitution has changed. Women, once labeled "Prostitutes," are now called "Sex Trafficking Victims" and what was once "Prostitution" is now "Domestic Sex Trafficking." Outside of the U.S. it is "International Sex Trafficking." As a survivor who now works with women attempting to exit from that world, I can attest to how important this shift is—not just the laws, but the language. The "P" word, for

(See **Oppression Part 1...** continued on next page)

## Oppression Part 1... *(Continued from page 3)*

many of us, conjures up images of shame—of someone who has been used and thrown away.

The adaptation of the term “Sex Trafficking Victim” brings with it a different image. Just as “Labor Trafficking” has an integral connection to force and slavery, “Sex Trafficking,” too, is connected to force and slavery. The “Victim” added to the end—removes culpability for those exchanging sex for money. Prostitution is no longer something SHE DID—it is something that has BEEN DONE TO HER. This supports my belief that prostitution is a form of sexual violence. It is absolutely something that has been done to these women—not something they have chosen to do.

It is common for prostitutes to be made the butt of insulting jokes. We have been caricatured, stigmatized—berated and bereft. But, as Sex Trafficking Victims I see new things on the horizon. I can see a different future for this group of women who were once overlooked and ignored. We are becoming a visible and counted part of the world. We are regaining our power and finding our voice. As we go from victim to victor we will no longer be swept under the rug. ❖

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## Women’s Residential Provider Work Group

Board Members Ann, Judy, and Diane attended a work group in Eugene on February 20, 2014 at Willamette Family Treatment Services. The group was brought together by the State office to discuss various problems relating to new policies and procedures between alcohol and drug agencies and Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). The meeting is to be discussed in more detail at our next board meeting on Friday, April 25, 2014.

Concerns were raised about the current impact of the new method of contracting for residential services for women, their children and girls. The problems ranged across the following areas:

- a. Unpaid billings for services for the CCO’s members with some ranging up to four months in arrears.
- b. Empty beds in programs that previously received referrals from counties outside their own county.
- c. Prior authorization problems including approval for only 25 days of treatment and then refusal to pay for additional days.

## Welcome Our New Board Members

**Tanya Pritt** of Family Recovery Nonprofit, Inc. and **Susie Day** of Willamette Family Treatment Services

Tanya M Pritt, CADCI has been the director of Family Recovery Nonprofit, Inc. (Milestones Women’s Program and YES House Adolescent Program) located in Corvallis for over 20 years. She began her commitment to the field of substance abuse treatment working with veterans and adolescents in Seattle Washington. Her education began at Seattle University; host too many well-known authors and teachers on trauma, addiction, and recovery. In her 30+ years working with addiction, she has provided training in client record management, ASAM, and a variety of subjects important to treatment delivery. Tanya has had the privilege of presenting her work in the development of the Milestones Women’s Program at a state conference as well as a national conference.

In the past two years the programs of Family Recovery Nonprofit, Inc. earned their Minority Program designation working closely with Native American and Spanish-speaking populations.

Tanya is also the mother of four men, all veterans, the two youngest having served their country in Afghanistan at the same time. ❖

- d. Difficulties in getting paid for services provided during the transition time between Open Card and CCO’s. Some CCO’s require pre authorization for services and only pay from the authorization date and open card payments stop when the client is assigned a CCO.

Note: These particular problems should be referred to Dana who is helping programs to receive payments thru DMAP.

A result of the discussion it seems that some CCO’s are more knowledgeable and understand A&D issues for women, their children and adolescent girls needing treatment. Those CCO’s that have limited knowledge are creating stumbling blocks during this transition and contributing to destabilizing services for this population. There seems to be a lack of knowledge that limiting services to this population will result in higher medical costs and poor medical outcomes.

Overall, the meeting was productive in sorting out the difficulties that programs are experiencing. The state plans to continue the meetings on a quarterly basis with the next work group will be May 21<sup>st</sup> in Eugene from 10-3pm Location will be announced soon. WFTC did an outstanding job in hosting the work group. ❖

## Moms Who Drink: How Much Is Too Much?

by **Stefanie Wilder-Taylor**  
*Reprinted from [www.today.com](http://www.today.com)*

It's four in the afternoon and I'm at a play date with all three of my kids at the home of "a fun mom" I haven't hung out with in quite a long time. A couple of other moms and their kids are here trying to burn off the long march from late afternoon to bedtime known by parents as "the witching hour." When the inevitable bottles of chilled white wine come out, they're met with audible groans of relief. I pass, with a smile and a simple, "Not today, thanks," like I'm just not in the mood.

I'm a mom who doesn't drink anymore. And although I've been quite public about it, none of these ladies seem to know I'm in recovery.

One of the moms gives me a sideways glance as I sip my Diet Coke — which I completely understand. Five years ago, this was totally my scene! A couple of kids and a bottle of wine sounded like the perfect recipe for fun, and I had no trouble finding other mothers who shared my enthusiasm for better parenting through Chardonnay.

Drinking worked for me. It worked to lessen the anxiety, the fear, and yes, the boredom I felt as a new mother. It also helped me bond with other parents

**Life Works** is building a center that brings together a proven residential drug and alcohol treatment program, permanent substance-free family housing and a supportive broader community! That is what LifeWorks NW and Home Forward have partnered to build in Northeast Portland — The Center for Hope and Recovery.

LifeWorks NW is creating a best-in-class treatment facility dedicated to providing addiction and mental health services that break the cycle of addiction and help families transition to productive lives in recovery. Home Forward promotes, operates, and develops affordable housing that increases stability, self-sufficiency, self-respect and pride in its residents.

The new facility is located on the corner of Beech and Mallory. The cost of the treatment facility is \$8.1 million. LifeWorks NW is responsible for raising \$2.8 million in private funding. The LifeWorks NW Board of Directors launched the fundraising with a donation of \$250,000 to cover initial costs and through the generous support of others, they have raised \$2,197,246 to date! A Program Related Investment from Meyer Memorial Trust allowed for a groundbreaking ceremony in June of 2013. ❖

who still, thankfully, enjoyed an adult pastime like wine. But now that I don't drink anymore and a whole lotta moms still do, I have found myself on the outside of the trend a few times.

There was the awkward situation when I found out I hadn't been invited to a get-together of moms from my daughter's school. The host of the event called to explain: "The thing is, we're getting together just to drink margaritas and since I know you don't drink, I didn't want you to feel uncomfortable." That stung. I mean, we're fellow moms, not sorority sisters, right? Just because I don't drink doesn't mean I'm a drag! I still know how to have conversations! I knew the truth was not that they didn't want me to feel uncomfortable but that they didn't want to feel uncomfortable, which played right into one of my fears about quitting. My sobriety made some people uneasy. I was "the sober mom," a literal buzz kill. I had become the mom I thought of as boring when I was a drinker.

But thankfully, this is the exception rather than the rule. In recovery I have made so many new friends who share my straight-up enthusiasm for not drinking. We have an easy companionship, never having to explain. Not drinking bonds us in a way I never thought possible. I feel like the member of a secret society. I belong. We laugh a lot.

And then I have my mom friends who were there from the beginning but were never big drinkers in the first place. I can relax with them now, without persuading them to join me in a glass of wine or explaining why I'm so eager to pop a cork.

So yes, drinking worked for me but now not drinking is what works for me. Not drinking is what quiets my anxiety, keeps me even and in control and gives me the knowledge that I am a great mom and I'm enough. And when it comes to socializing, I agree with a mom from my online support group who said, "I don't feel left out, I feel enlightened!" Yeah! I'll drink to that! Sparkling water OK? ❖

### About the Author



Stefanie Wilder-Taylor is the mother of three and author of four books, including "Sippy Cups Are Not for Chardonnay: And Other Things I Had to Learn as a New Mom" and her most recent, "I'm Kind of a Big Deal: And Other Delusions of Adequacy."

Her books can be purchased online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



# Almost One-Fourth of Pregnant Women on Medicaid Filled Opioid Prescriptions

By **Join Together Staff**

Reprinted from [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

Almost one-quarter of pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid in 2007 filled a prescription for opioids, a new study finds. The risks of opioids to a developing fetus are largely unknown, The New York Times reports.

An estimated 1.1 million pregnant women were enrolled in Medicaid in 2007. The program covers medical expenses for 45 percent of births in the United States, according to the newspaper. The study, published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, found the rate of opioid prescribing is on the rise—18.5 percent of pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid in 2000 filled opioid prescriptions, compared with 23 percent in 2007.

“To hear that there’s such a high use of narcotics in pregnancy when I see so many women who worry about a cup of coffee seems incongruous,” Dr. Joshua A. Copel, a professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the Yale School of Medicine, told The New York Times.

The reason for the increase in opioid prescribing for pregnant women is unclear, but may be partly due to back pain.

An article published earlier this year in *Anesthesiology*, which included 500,000 privately insured women, found 14 percent were given opioid painkillers at least once during their pregnancy. Both studies found codeine and hydrocodone were the most commonly prescribed opioids during pregnancy. Most of the women took the drugs for a week or less.

The Medicaid study found stark regional differences in opioid prescribing. Among pregnant women in Utah, 41.6 percent were prescribed opioids, compared with 35.6 percent in Idaho, 9.6 percent in New York and 9.5 percent in Oregon. “The regional variation really concerned me the most,” said Dr. Pamela Flood, a professor of anesthesiology and pain medicine at Stanford University. “It’s hard to imagine that pregnant women in the South have all that much more pain than pregnant women in the Northeast.” ❖

[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

A nonprofit organization working toward a vision where all teens and young people will be able to live their lives free of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

## Open Invitation to Join WCADIO

**WCADIO’s Mission** is to increase public awareness of women’s alcohol and drug abuse issues and to promote services related to women throughout the State of Oregon. This means to ALL women who are affected by their own alcohol or drug use or that of their family or friends.

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