

Proposal Cover Page

**Undergraduate Summer Research Programs:
USR&CAP, FYSRE, or Other**

Proposal (& Supporting Materials) Deadline: **February 29, 2008**

Name: <u>Lisa Marie Belton</u>		Date: <u>2/27/08</u>
Dept.: <u>Undecided</u>	College: <u>Undecided</u>	
Program: USR&CAP <input type="checkbox"/> FYSRE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> _____		
Project Title: <u>Child Sex Trafficking</u>		

Assurance of Compliance:

Does project involve the use of human subjects? yes no
 If yes, IRB submission or approval date: 2005-current

Does project involve the use of experimental animals? yes no
 If yes, IACUC submission or approval date: _____

Endorsements:

1. <u>Lisa Marie Belton</u>		<u>2/27/08</u>
Applicant (please type)	Signature	Date
2. _____		
Faculty Research Adviser (please type) <u>Celia Williamson, Ph.D.</u>	Signature	Date <u>2/27/08</u>

Please submit electronically your complete proposal, which includes: this cover page (filled out, but without signatures); the proposal body; and your transcript (unofficial is acceptable), on disk or as an email attachment to the Office of Undergraduate Research, undergradresearch@utoledo.edu by the February 29, 2008 deadline. The submitted proposal can be in MS Word, LaTeX, Wordperfect, or pdf (preferred) format.

In addition, one hard copy of your complete proposal, including this sheet WITH ORIGINAL SIGNATURES, must be submitted by the February 29, 2008 deadline. No additional print copies are needed.

Your Faculty Research Adviser support letter should be sent separately via email (preferred) by your adviser to the Office of Undergraduate Research by the February 29, 2008 deadline.

Summer Research Proposal

ABSTRACT

I am requesting financial support in the amount of \$2450 to conduct qualitative research on child sex trafficking with Dr. Celia Williamson from the Department of Social Work during the summer May 27th to August 1st, 2008. The purpose of this research is to understand the experiences of children who have been involved in domestic sex trafficking. Working closely with Dr. Williamson, I will be learning to use qualitative methods, including how to use open ended questions, audio tape record and transcribe data, be involved in prolonged engagement in the field with child survivors of trafficking, taking field notes, and analyzing data. In data analysis, I will be learning to code, categorize, create themes and link themes together in meaningful ways to create a qualitative report. Interviews will take place at the Juvenile Justice Center. In addition, I will be spending time with youth survivors at the Second Chance program, which is a program dedicated to helping prostituted women and trafficked children. Study respondents will be between the ages of 11-17. Interviews and engagement with victims will be in secured environments (Juvenile Detention and Second Chance). At the end of the project, I will prepare a report and power point presentation for the community on how we could help these trafficked children.

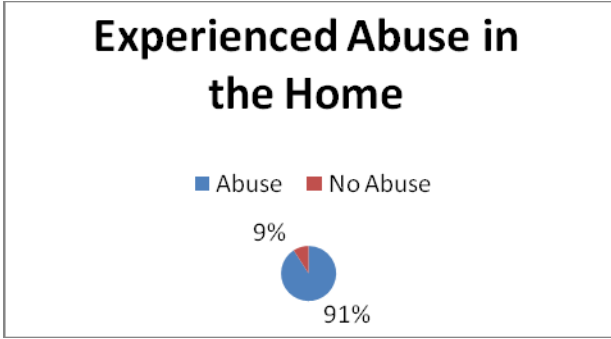
Even though my major is undecided I am committed to choosing a major that involves helping people. I am really interested in learning research methods that I can apply throughout my college experience and possibly throughout my career. Since Dr. Williamson is a nationally known expert on the subject of prostitution and human trafficking, her guidance will make this experience extremely useful toward my academic plan. My technical writing skills and research

skills could better me educationally, but also getting involved with Dr. Williamson and other students who are graduate students could teach me about upper education which I plan to pursue after my four years are completed.

Problem to be Addressed through the FYSRE

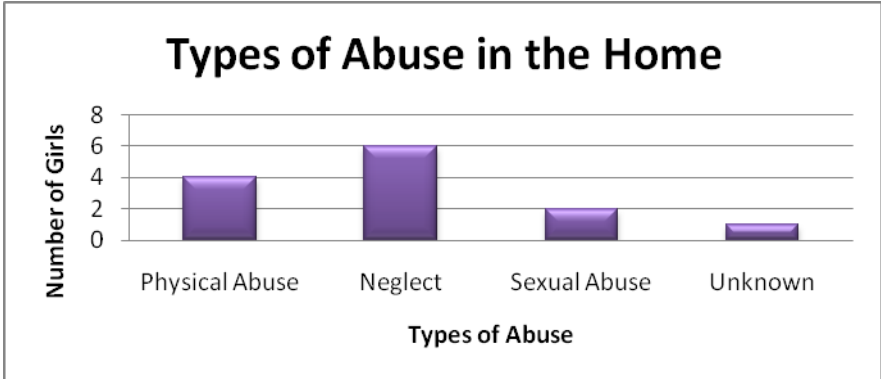
According to the the FBI and National Center for missing and exploited children ,Toledo is a major hub for child sex trafficking. These children are being abused, raped and forced into “modern day slavery” (Davis, 2006). Very little is known about the experiences of trafficking victims and even less is known about the experiences of domestically trafficked victims (victims born in the U.S. and trafficked in the U.S.). Therefore the purpose of my research project is to understand the experiences of children who have been involved in domestic sex trafficking. Dr. Williamson has been working on this unfunded research since 2006 and has been unable to complete it. She has received 23 referrals from the juvenile court to interview youth, and has only been able to complete 14 interviews and to analyze data on 11 of them. She has asked me to assist her in completing the project.

Below is a sample of some of the early findings of this ongoing study. From her research on the 11 young people trafficking from Toledo so far, 91% have been abused by someone living in their home or outside of their home.



Williamson, C. (2008) Preliminary Data on Children Trafficked from Lucas County

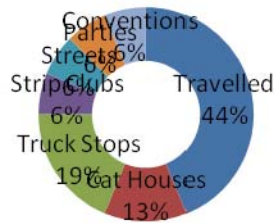
These youth are typically run aways and are approached by traffickers while on the run. Trafficked children experience a number of different abuses. I was surprised to find out that there was a higher rate of neglect among these 11 children than any other type of abuse.



Williamson, C. (2008) Preliminary Data on Children Trafficked from Lucas County

Most of the girls interviewed were recruited in Toledo and forced to prostitute themselves in other cities. Children are being recruited as young as eleven years old. Truck stops were the most popular places traffickers forced their victims to work. This is followed by cat houses (houses set up in various cities for prostitution), parties, streets, conventions and strip clubs.

Places Where Girls Prostituted While Involved with Trafficker



Research Methodology –(Data Collection and Analysis) and My Role on the Project

Very little is known about victims, in general, and even less is known about victims from the victim's perspective (Williamson, 2008). Therefore, during the summer project, I will be learning to use qualitative methods. I will be shadowing Dr. Williamson and learning how to interview and engage victims. I will be reading literature about qualitative research methods and about human trafficking. I will learn how to conduct research interviews using open ended questions. The interviews will be audio tape recorded and I will be transcribing all of the data collected. After transcribing the data word for word, I will learn to analyze the data, which consists of coding, categorizing, creating themes and linking themes together in meaningful ways. Dr. Williamson has already received permission from the University of Toledo and the Lucas County Juvenile Court to interview children. This is an ongoing study where eleven children have already been interviewed. Our goal is to interview another ten children, between the ages of 11-17, during the course of the summer. The interviews will be about two hours each. We expect to get twenty hours of data, which should give us about two hundred pages of transcribed data to analyze. As a qualitative research assistant I will be expected to spend a considerable amount of time in the field (in juvenile detention and at the second chance office- a

program specifically for trafficking women and children) building trust and relationships and further learning about the experience of child survivors. I will be expected to keep field notes about the experiences of the survivors as well as my experience as a research assistant.

I am going to use open ended questions to ask girls about their experiences with violence, condom use, emotional and physical health, substance use, home life and street life and experiences with local social service and criminal justice systems. These interviews will give us a better understanding on how are community could help these children. Not only will I be in an interview environment, I will also be spending time with these children. At the end of the project I will be developing a research report and a power point presentation for the social service community.

How research fits in my academic plan

Even though my major is undecided, I am committed to choose a major which involves helping people. I am really interested in learning research methods that I can apply throughout my college experience and possibly throughout my career. Since Dr. Williamson is a nationally known expert on the subject of prostitution and human trafficking, her guidance will make this experience extremely useful toward my academic plan. I will learn research from beginning to end. I will hopefully learn what Dr. Williamson has mastered and that is making these children feel comfortable enough to open up about things that they are ashamed or afraid of. I will also be learning technical writing, data collection and analysis and how to engage vulnerable populations. These skills would be valuable to any type of helping related major that I choose. This research project will help bring to life my university experience. Since I am an African American woman who came from a middle class family, I feel that it is very important to give back and help others, especially children. After finding out just a small overview of what these children have gone through, I find it impossible not to do something that would aid them. Learning that Toledo is a major recruiting place for child trafficking sickens me and should bother

everyone in our community. I hope I can be a part of learning research and using research to educate my community. I can learn valuable skills and help my community at the same time. The education and life experience I could get from this research project is immeasurable. Just being around these children and hearing their stories will mean so much to me, and aid my growth as a person. This could be a huge learning experience for me that could better my performance at the University of Toledo. My technical writing skills and research skills could better me educationally, but also getting involved with Dr. Williamson and other students who are graduate students could teach me about upper education which I plan to do after my four years are completed.

References

Davis, K (2006) Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery in Ohio

Williamson, C. (2008) Preliminary Data on Children Trafficked from Lucas County

UT Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR-UT)

Standard Budget Proposal Form

Name	Lisa Marie Belton
Program	FYSRE
Date	May 27– Aug 1, 2008
Stipend (If available and amount)	\$2450
Stipend Anticipated Amount	30 hours per week X10 weeks X \$8 hr = \$2400
Supplies – Copies	.10 copy X 500 =\$50
Total Request	\$2450

Budget Justification

Qualitative ethnography requires prolonged engagement in the field. Lisa Belton will be spending 30 hours per week involved in research and engaging trafficking youth. A budget is needed for copying data to analyze @ a total of \$50.

Timeline

Monday through Friday from 10-4

- Week 1 Spend time observing and getting acquainted with new children involved in Second Chance – (4 hours at Second Chance), Take field notes immediately after – 1 hour. 10 hours reading materials on qualitative research and on domestic child sex trafficking. Transcribe data from previous interviews (10 hours). 4 hours conducting literature searches on the latest research articles on human trafficking. 1 hour debriefing with professor. Total 30 hrs.
- Week 2 Shadow UT Researcher/Professor to detention to meet staff and youth (2 hours). Spend time at Second Chance interacting with trafficked youth (4 hours). Take field notes immediately after interaction – 1 hour. Read materials on qualitative research and domestic child sex trafficking (10 hours) 5 hours conducting literature searches on human trafficking articles. 7 hours transcribing data. 1 hour debriefing with professor. Work with researcher analyzing data. Total 30 hours
- Week 3 Shadow Researcher to detention to observe two interviews (4 hours). Spend time at Second Chance observing and interacting with youth (4 hrs). Field notes – 1 hr. Transcribe data (5 hours). Read articles from literature searches and highlight critical information for professor (10 hours). 1 hour debriefing with professor. Work with researcher analyzing data – 5 hrs. Total 30 hrs.

- Week 4 Shadow Researcher to detention to observe two interviews (4 hours). Spend time at Second Chance observing and interacting with youth (4 hrs). Field Notes- 1 hour. Transcribe data (5 hours). Read articles from literature searches and highlight critical information for professor (10 hours). 1 hour debriefing with professor. Work with researcher analyzing data- 5 hrs..
- Week 5 Conduct two interviews (4 hours), shadowed by researcher to detention. Debrief with researcher (2 hours), Transcribe data (10 hours), Spend time at Second Chance interacting with trafficking victims (4 hours). Take field notes (1 hour). Work with researcher analyzing data (9 hours). Total 30 hrs
- Week 6 Conduct an Interview, shadowed by researcher to detention. Debrief with researcher, Transcribe data, Spend time at Second Chance interacting with trafficking victims. Take field notes. Work with researcher analyzing data. Total 30 hrs.
- Week 7 Conduct an Interview. Debrief with researcher, Transcribe data, Spend time at Second Chance interacting with trafficking victims. Take field notes. Work with researcher analyzing data. Total 30 hrs.
- Week 8 Conduct an Interview. Debrief with researcher, Transcribe data, Spend time at Second Chance interacting with trafficking victims. Take field notes. Work with researcher analyzing data. Total 30 hrs
- Week 9 Data analysis (5 hours). Engage with researcher in Verification (Trustworthiness and Authenticity) – qualitative techniques used to establish the validity of the findings (10 hours). Draft of Report including preliminary findings and literature (10 hours). Disengage from respondents at Second Chance (5 hours) total 30 hrs
- Week 10 Complete analysis (8 hours) and finish report writing (6 hrs), prepare powerpoint presentation (2 hours), plan and present findings to the community (4 hrs). Cataloging and categorizing data on the computer, copies, and index cards to be stored away (10 hours)