



ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

May 27, 2014
9:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council was convened on May 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Council.

Members Present

Cindy McCain (Co-Chairperson)
Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)
Allie Bones
Chris Bray
Timothy Chung
Michael Derfus
Jon Eliason
Chuck Fitzgerald

Sheila Hoppe
Debbie Johnson
Carolyn Jones
Sheila Polk
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Sarah Suggs
Grant Woods

Members Absent

Margery Ault
Chad Campbell
Brian Steele

Staff Present

Tammy B. Paz-Combs
Leah Meyers
John Raeder

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Sarah Suggs moved to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2014 meeting as drafted by staff. Lieutenant Colonel Tim Chung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. POLARIS TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Mr. Gil Orrantia introduced Mr. Bradley Myles, Executive Director and CEO for the Polaris Project, who was joining the meeting via video conference.

Mr. Myles thanked the members of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council for the opportunity to present and commended the State of Arizona, the Governor and the Council for their leadership on the issue of human trafficking. Mr. Myles was joined by his colleague Ms. Alden Pinkham, Case Coordinator, National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Hotline. Mr. Myles provided information on the NHTRC, which is operated by the Polaris Project, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. He stated that having a centralized hotline was of particular value for three reasons: first, victims are often moved from state to state, so it is important to have the continuity of one number for the entire country; second, victims and members of the community may be more inclined to contact a non-governmental number; and third, a national hotline creates consistency across the United States to ensure that victims are receiving a consistent standard of care.

Mr. Myles explained that the NHTRC has been operating for six and a half years and provides the following services: national confidential crisis and tip line; national resource and technical assistance center; national referral and response network; and a national data hub. The Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by 42 employees. The Hotline refers calls locally based on reporting protocols developed with local stakeholders. The protocols are tailored and localized to each area in which the call is received and includes social and legal service providers, as well as local, state and/or federal law enforcement. Calls involving threat of imminent harm and/or endangered minors trigger an immediate report to 911. Arizona has two sets of protocols that encompass the state; one for Southern Arizona; and one protocol for Maricopa County and Northern Arizona. Mr. Myles encouraged the Council to examine the protocols. Mr. Myles also provided additional statistical information regarding categories of calls, venues, and trends.

Ms. Sarah Suggs thanked Mr. Myles and asked him to provide additional information regarding the Arizona Protocols from the colored map that was referenced during the presentation.

Mr. Myles explained that the map was generated using *Salesforce* and *Palantir* software and the colors corresponded to protocols for the respective regions. A call specialist at the Hotline can utilize the map by clicking on the colored regions in a state and the computer will generate information regarding available resources in the area and contact instructions. Mr. Myles also reiterated that the protocols for each region are created in collaboration with local actors.

Ms. Pinkham added that specific staff members are assigned to regions. Ms. Jenna Novak oversees the protocols for Arizona and creates a contact model for hotline call specialist. The call specialist representatives maintain contact with local stakeholders to ensure that the protocols are kept current. She also stated that Arizona is a single point-of-contact protocol model in which most calls are routed to a single person, Sgt. Chris Bray for Phoenix area and Northern Arizona. She also noted that Polaris was currently working with TRUST and Sgt. Bray to revise the protocol and divide the state into smaller areas. The revised protocol(s) may switch from single to a group protocol model in which calls are routed to multiple individuals including federal and local contacts. Tucson also operates under a single point-of-contact model in which all calls are sent to Agent Chris Brewer, Homeland

Security Investigations (HSI). The protocols include information about what organizations have emergency services and other available primary services providers.

Mr. Chuck Fitzgerald asked how service providers are added to the Hotline.

Mr. Myles explained that there are service providers who work solely on the issue of human trafficking and there are other victim service providers that work on domestic violence, sexual assault or legal services who are capable of serving a trafficking victim. Polaris set out on an ambitious mission to identify and map every service provider that can serve victims of human trafficking. Polaris is now expanding that effort to map service providers globally. Mr. Myles stated that Polaris makes contact with each of these agencies to determine if they want to be involved and what the services are provided.

Ms. Pinkham elaborated by saying that Polaris would be launching an online directory of anti-trafficking organizations in the United States. Polaris will re-tool the screening process for the website by asking interested providers to complete an online application. The application will not only inquire about available services but will also verify training, capacity, non-profit status, and licensure. Ms. Pinkham explained that there has been an increase in the rigor and quality of human trafficking services available but there is a desperate need in Arizona and around the country for additional services.

4. DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING COUNTS

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz and Dr. Christy Hickle provided a presentation on the *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Study*. The study is a result of a private public partnership between Arizona State University (ASU) and the McCain Institute. The study built on the methodology utilized by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and was designed to establish an incidence rate of the sexually exploited youth receiving delinquency residential or outpatient services in Arizona. The study aimed to address the following research questions:

1. What is the incidence rate of DMST victims served by the AZ delinquency system?
2. What characteristics are reported for DMST clients?
3. What treatment needs are identified for DMST clients?
4. What pathways into sex trafficking are identified among DMST clients?

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that a four-hour training was provided for all delinquency contact providers in Arizona; 105 agencies were invited; and 32 agencies sent representatives to the training. Three weeks later, an online survey was sent via email to the agencies. The survey questions explored:

- Number of total clients served;
- Number of DMST clients served; and
- Details about victims' service involvement, treatment needs, family composition, risk behavior, and sex trafficking involvement.

Twenty-six delinquency services providers responded to the survey and identified 161 DMST victims; 37 of which had a detailed DMST experience report. These youth were in the care of the service providers as a result of charges not related to sex trafficking. Of the 37 in which detailed information was obtained:

- 13 years old was the average age of entry;
- 43% are Caucasian;
- 95% are female; and

- 78% are involved with Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

The victims had the following experiences:

- 54% alcohol/drug addiction;
- 51% recruited by “boyfriend”;
- 66% diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- 68% history of running away;
- 84% history of sexual abuse; and
- 8% trafficked by a gang.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz emphasized that 78% of the youth identified were involved in multiple systems. This is of particular interest because both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system had an opportunity to identify youth but had failed to flag them as victims. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz also provided details on the complex needs of the youth and information regarding how victims are recruited. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz stated that the following conclusions could be drawn from the study:

- The youth identified in this study are involved in more than one system of service for youth.
- This study suggests missed opportunities in the past to identify or flag these youth.
- There is a clear need within delinquency services in Arizona to provide sex trafficking specific services.
- This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding DMST in Arizona.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz thanked the McCain Institute and the Administrative Office of the Court for their support of the study.

Mr. Dave Byers, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), stated that the courts were incredibly pleased to work with ASU on the study. He explained that the courts recognized that human trafficking was a serious issue; however, there was not much available data. Mr. Byers further expounded that the courts have designed a comprehensive plan for addressing human trafficking. He stated that the courts in Arizona have a very large “footprint” that will allow the courts to interact with victims in several different capacities.

Ms. Cindy McCain stated that the McCain Institute became involved in the study for many of the reasons delineated by Mr. Byers, in particular the acute need for substantive and informative data when approaching agencies across the state.

Mr. Orrantia inquired about the process for developing a system for “flagging” potentially trafficked youth.

Mr. Byers explained that the Courts have been working with ASU and the Center for Court Innovation to develop questions and formalize an assessment tool to identify youth. He also emphasized the importance of developing protocols, and providing training for different entry points into the justice system. Mr. Byers acknowledged that once a youth was identified as being trafficked, placement into appropriate services may be difficult given the limited number of providers.

Ms. Suggs thanked the McCain Institute and the Dr. Roe-Sepowitz for their work on the study and asked Dr. Roe-Sepowitz about the possibility of extrapolating the data in order to make an assumption about the percentage of youth that have been trafficked in the State.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that in her role as a researcher she was cautious about extrapolating data. She expressed that 161 youth was a very shocking number and illustrates the need for additional services in the State.

Mr. Grant Woods complemented Mr. Byers and the courts for their work in this area. He noted that the courts in Arizona are very innovative and are recognized as a leader in the Country. He also stated that he would like to have Mr. Byers present at a future Council meeting to further explain the AOC plan to address human trafficking.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz stated that unless there is an interested party within an organization, there is not a natural way in which to approach agencies about the issue. She hoped that eventually combating human trafficking would become ingrained into the culture which would provide opportunities to engage other agencies. She also mentioned that she would be providing training on human trafficking to all of adult probation because of the connections she had developed with the courts.

Mr. Orrantia discussed the importance of institutionalizing the achievements of the Council.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Data and Research

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz stated that the Committee met on May 19 and would like to offer the Council a collection of relevant research articles and/or publications on human trafficking. Additionally, the Committee will be working to develop a domestic minor sex trafficking assessment of the Department of Child Safety (DCS) similar the *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Study* that was just concluded.

Outreach and Awareness

Capt. Michael Derfus explained that the Committee met on May 20 and is recommending the Council use of the National Human Trafficking Hotline (800-888-373-7888) and 911 for outreach materials. He also stated that the Committee reviewed outreach and awareness campaigns from national organizations and other states to include the Polaris Project, Truckers Against Trafficking, Indiana, Washington, Ohio and Georgia. Capt. Derfus mentioned that funding for outreach and awareness materials could be a potential barrier. He also explained that the Committee was exploring opportunities for website development.

Grant Woods stated that messaging to the victims needs to be appropriate and encouraged the Committee to examine what messaging is most effective to reach victims.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that there are two different types of trafficking circuits; open and closed. Open circuit sex trafficking is viewable both online and on the street, closed circuits are only accessible through certain networks that law enforcement or social services may not be able to connect. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that a number of organizations currently doing online outreach and utilizing *ArisePhoenix*. The email outreach to victims was designed with language specifically developed to reach victims.

Sgt. Chris Bray explained that the Committee should examine non-traditional ways to reach victims through fast food restaurants, convenience stores, Wal-Mart's, Walgreens, or other commercial locations that victims and buyers are likely to patron. He continued by saying locations that sell Green Dot and/or condoms should be targets for outreach materials in restrooms, registers or on condom displays.

Ms. McCain asked if any of the corporations mentioned had offered to help. Sgt. Bray responded that he was unsure if anyone had approached them about helping but suggested engaging corporate entities for a marketing commitment because both victims and users will be in contact with the businesses.

Ms. Sarah Suggs stated that it is important for the Committee to identify the various constituencies for the outreach materials: victims, general public, or perpetrators. Ms. Suggs also highlighted the importance of informing the general public that human trafficking is an issue for our children, within our shores. Ms. Suggs added that Circle K has been very responsive on domestic violence and suggested that the Council may want to contact them.

Ms. Carolyn Jones stated that different girls will use different information in different ways. She expressed that many girls will not understand what the term "human trafficking" means and stressed the need to developed materials utilizing language that victims will understand.

Mr. Orrantia added that the term "human trafficking" is often misconstrued to mean smuggling.

Training Committee

Lt. Col. Chung explained that the Training Committee met on May 23rd. The Committee is charged with developing training for first responders, law enforcement, and professions engaged in human trafficking issues. The first task the Committee examined was to establish and incorporate Arizona Peace Officer and Standards Training Board certified training on human trafficking as a basic curriculum requirement for new officer training at Arizona police academies. Ms. Lynn Howe, Training Specialist from Arizona Peace Officer and Standards Training Board (AzPOST), presented to the Committee and reported that the basic academy currently contains information about trafficking in the curriculum; however, it is not included in the performance objectives. AzPOST is creating the performance objectives on this material including test questions based on these objectives for the basic academy. AzPOST is also creating an eight hour in-service training to provide statewide and in the process of creating a one and a half hour human trafficking DVD.

Lt. Colonel Chung stated that the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) will provide training to each officer on human trafficking. The goal is to create a paradigm shift in how officers think about and address the issue. He also stated that DPS is taking steps to analyze and address runaways differently. The Committee also discussed the importance of getting top-down buy-in for human trafficking training and implementation and agreed that training is needed in many areas of society and ports of entry; however, it will need to be tailored to each discipline. Moving forward the Committee will be working with Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police, Arizona Conference of Police and Sheriffs, and Arizona Prosecuting Attorney Advisory Council.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz provided a handout to the Council regarding available training for health professionals.

Mr. Orrantia thanked Lyle Mann and Lynn Howe at AzPOST for their work on the issue.

Ms. Allie Bones stated that there was a need for training for service providers. She explained that the domestic violence community is being called upon to work with victims of human trafficking, however they are often not equipped and do not have the training to serve the population. The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) is currently working to identify partnerships and will be offering training at the upcoming ACESDV Conference.

Sgt. Bray announced that Fox Valley would be offering a third training in Arizona, July 28-August 2.

Victim Services Committee

Ms. Polk reported that the Victim Services Committee was tasked with developing a coordinated and comprehensive plan to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services. The Committee prioritized the following two recommendations:

- Provide assistance, create a victim services plan, or enhance funding for programs that help victims of human trafficking.
- Recognize sex trafficked individuals as victims of a crime in need of protection and services and consider diverting the child from juvenile delinquency proceedings and/or instead directing them to child welfare services.

Ms. Polk explained that the Victims Services Committee set a goal to create a point of entry map to identify all the possible places in the community where a victim may be identified. This information can be used to help with training, identifying trafficking victims, enhancing victim services and how to increase a collaborative response.

6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Hugh Hallman stated that this issue of sex trafficking was personal due to the fact that his niece had been kidnapped and sex trafficked which ultimately lead to her death. He explained that there is information available which demonstrates a significant link between substance addiction and sex trafficking and he hopes the Council could help develop stronger connections between service providers.

Mr. Hallman also stated that it may take six or seven efforts to reach a victim and echoed the earlier comments by the Council members that messaging was important and suggested a future research study regarding the most effective communication methods.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. McCain stated that the Chairs felt that there was a need for a June meeting. The members seemed amenable to the idea and Mr. Orrantia asked staff to follow-up and confirm a date for a June meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Mr. Orrantia adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.