



## ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

August 18, 2014  
1:00 PM

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

A meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council was convened on August 18, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)	Chuck Fitzgerald
Allie Bones	Sheila Polk
Chris Bray	Debbie Johnson
Chad Campbell	Carolyn Jones
Timothy Chung	Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Michael Derfus	Sarah Suggs
Jon Eliason	Brian Steele

### Members Absent

Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)  
Margery Ault  
Grant Woods

### Staff Present

Tammy Paz-Combs  
Leah Meyers  
John Raeder

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

#### 2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Cindy McCain requested that the members introduce themselves.

### **3. PRESENTATION FROM THE NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada Attorney General, provided a presentation on Nevada's efforts to address human trafficking. Her presentation included a brief overview of the dynamics of human trafficking and statistics that had been collected by the Las Vegas Metro Police Department.

Attorney General Masto also discussed Nevada's omnibus trafficking bill and focused on the importance of collaboration. The trafficking bill established the following:

- Creates the crime of sex trafficking in Nevada;
- Increases penalties by one sentencing level;
- Requires those convicted to register as a sex offender;
- Requires mandatory restitution;
- Allows for the preservation of testimony during a preliminary hearing;
- Consent of victim is not a defense;
- Defines physical injury, serious harm and sexual abuse; and
- Defines holding a minor in involuntary servitude.

Attorney General Masto stated the omnibus bill passed last year with broad community support. Even with the passing of the bill Nevada, still faces many challenges. Attorney General Masto elaborated on the need to expand the capacity to deliver treatment to victims and the process for record expungement.

Attorney General Masto also stated that prevention and awareness are vital in developing community understanding of human trafficking. Collaboration is important when creating an awareness campaign because messaging must be consistent. In Nevada the awareness campaign included: billboards; public service announcements; partnering with school districts to deliver materials to youth through health classes; and training for first responders, health care providers, judges, law enforcement and prosecutors.

Attorney General Masto also emphasized that survivors cannot be discounted. Collaborative efforts must engage survivors in order to understand what works and what does not. She explained that what victims are usually looking for was someone to save them, and have the expectation that law enforcement is going to rescue them, but instead often times they are treated as criminals.

Attorney General Masto also discussed a Sex Trafficking Solutions Summit (Summit) hosted by the Nevada Attorney General's Office. During the Summit, points of entry, assessments, available resources, and data collection were all discussed. A final report for the Summit will be released in the fall of 2014.

County Attorney Sheila Polk asked about the process for building awareness around the Polaris Hotline and Polaris Hotline Protocol.

Attorney General Masto responded by emphasizing the importance of collaboration so that everyone agrees to use the Hotline when developing and producing outreach materials. In Nevada outreach materials were most effective when displayed at bus stops and at the airport.

Mr. Jon Eliason inquired about the timeframe for requesting a preliminary hearing.

Attorney General Masto responded that there was no timeframe as to when you could request a preliminary hearing in Nevada.

Mr. Brian Steele asked about best practices for mobilizing the faith based community.

Attorney General Masto explained that the Nevada faith based coalition formed on their own and were solidified through the hiring an executive director. The coalition decided what issues were most important and then they reached out to Nevada's elected leaders.

Mr. Chad Campbell inquired about Nevada's process for obtaining data from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Attorney General Masto acknowledged that there is often a disconnect between child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Nevada attempted to overcome this disconnect by bringing juvenile justice and child welfare systems together through coalition building and through mandated reporting issues.

Sgt. Chris Bray asked if expungement for victims had gained any traction, and whether it was for juveniles and adults.

Attorney General Masto explained that the effort had not gained traction yet because the law is still so new. She stated that expungement in Nevada currently includes crimes of prostitution but the state is working to add theft and other property crimes that may have occurred while a victim was being trafficked.

Ms. Sarah Suggs asked for additional information regarding how Nevada was investigating trafficking on the internet.

Attorney General Masto stated that it is known that girls are being sold on the internet at sites like *Backpage* and *Redbook*, however, states are preempted by the Communications Decency Act which protects internet service providers from prosecution. Currently a new law has been introduced in Congress called the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE Act) which will criminalize the advertisement of trafficking victims. She also noted that prosecutors are currently working in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to develop mechanisms to go after websites who advertise victims of sex trafficking.

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz noted that Nevada's online advertisements are more sophisticated and applauded the work of the Las Vegas Metro Vice Unit. She also inquired about the process for tracking data without adding an additional burden to law enforcement.

Attorney General Masto provided members with an entry map for their review, and emphasized the need to train the various systems that interact with victims whom are also mandatory reporters and already report information to the state data repositories.

Ms. Carolyn Jones thanked Attorney General Masto and stated that she appreciated her comments. She stated that she was one of the survivors looking for someone to recognize that something was wrong. She also reiterated the importance of incorporating survivors in the collaborative process.

Attorney General Masto stated that survivors are the most courageous and thanked Ms. Jones.

#### **4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Lyvier Conss, Mesa Community College, stated that human trafficking training also needs to encompass juvenile corrections so that trafficked youth whom are currently incarcerated can successfully transition from confinement.

Mr. Paul Penzone, AZ MAN (the Men's Anti-violence Network), thanked the members of the Council and stated that it was his organizations mission to ensure that law enforcement receives training to understand the trafficking issue and he hoped they could learn from Nevada's experience.

Mr. Nathan Porterfield, Unite-4-Freedom, explained that this organization wanted to address the issue through technology by creating an App called Freedom Generation. He encouraged members to download the app which provides resources to identify and respond to cases of human trafficking.

Ms. Andrea Evans, Run Against Trafficking (RAT) Race, announced that registration is currently open for the RAT Race and encouraged members and organizations to attend.

#### **5. ADJOURN**

Mrs. McCain adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.