



ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 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 (Council) was convened on November 17, 2014 at 9:10 AM 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)
Timothy Chung
Michael Derfus
Jon Eliason
Chuck Fitzgerald

Carolyn Jones
Debbie Johnson
Sheila Polk
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Sarah Suggs
Brian Steele

Members Absent

Margery Ault
Allie Bones
Chris Bray
Chad Campbell
Joseph Kelroy

Staff Present

Tammy Paz-Combs
Leah Meyers
John Raeder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Cindy McCain called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

2. SUPER BOWL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Ms. Jay Parry, President and CEO, Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, provided a background on the purpose of the Super Bowl Host Committee (Host Committee). The Host Committee plans and stages the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl and serves as a catalyst to galvanize local stakeholders in a united approach to maximize the positive impact on Arizona.

Ms. Parry stated that the Host Committee's goal, in regard to human trafficking, is to build awareness about the issue. Working in collaboration with the experts on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and others in the community, the Host Committee will use consistent messaging to capitalize on interest and engagement of fans. These efforts will include utilizing the National Human Trafficking Hotline number and providing training for 10,000 volunteers. Ms. Parry also stated that the Host Committee works in close collaboration with Greater Phoenix Area Human Trafficking Task Force to ensure a safe and enjoyable Super Bowl for all fans, media and sponsors.

Ms. Nan Alter, Senior Director, Hospitality and Volunteer Services, described the Host Committee's awareness plan. She stated that the Host Committee would be utilizing social media and the Host Committee's website to deliver consistent messaging regarding human trafficking. The Host Committee will also distribute materials at trainings and other high volume opportunities. Ms. Alter stated that the Host Committee would be working to leverage existing resources and highlighted partnerships with the Arizona Tourism and Lodging Association and the O' Connor House. She stated that the goal of the awareness plan is to maintain simple, consistent messaging across all touch points. Ms. Alter also expounded on the training curriculum for volunteers, which will include, "see something, say something" messaging. She explained that the Host Committee will partner with existing resources to deliver the trainings to volunteers which will be strategically located at transportation hubs, hotels and host committee events across the valley.

Ms. Alter also discussed the Host Committee's CEO Forum. 50 CEOs from across the country will attend a three-day forum which will highlight the positive business environment that Arizona has to offer. The Forum will also feature a panel on human trafficking facilitated by Mrs. McCain.

Ms. Lynn Music, Senior Director, Operations and Logistics, described the Host Committee's collaboration with the Greater Phoenix Area Human Trafficking Taskforce. The Taskforce is comprised of detectives from federal and local law enforcement agencies and will coordinate the following: Deterring would-be traffickers; increase enforcement; targeting both demand and supply; and game week focus on victim rescues and offenders.

Ms. Sarah Suggs asked how outreach materials will be distributed.

Ms. Parry responded that materials will be distributed to hotels, restaurants and other event venues. The materials will be offered primarily through volunteers and will be dependent on the willingness of individual businesses to display.

Mr. Chuck Fitzgerald asked if there was anything being done outside of Arizona regarding human trafficking.

Ms. Parry responded that the Host Committees planning is primarily focused on those traveling to Arizona.

Ms. Cindy McCain thanked the Host Committee for their efforts.

3. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRESENTATION

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Douglas Price, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), thanked the members of the Council and remarked on the outstanding collaboration and dedication from local law enforcement and non-profit organizations in Arizona.

He explained that law enforcement in Arizona has been working on human trafficking for several years, primarily in Phoenix. In 2013 the Greater Phoenix Area Human Trafficking Task Force (Taskforce) started with the City of Phoenix Police Department and the FBI using the Super Bowl as a catalyst. Since the creation of the Taskforce, Border Patrol, Scottsdale Police Department, Mesa Police Department, Chandler Police Department and Glendale Police Department have all joined.

SAC Price highlighted some local prosecutions; including 13 recent federal indictments for human trafficking, juvenile sex trafficking, sex tourism and labor trafficking. He also discussed efforts to develop techniques to identify perpetrators who are looking to kidnap and force victims into prostitution. Recent undercover operations have identified and arrested 25 traffickers attempting to lure vulnerable juveniles into prostitution.

SAC Price explained that in anticipation for the Super Bowl, the Taskforce has implemented an aggressive plan to pro-actively thwart and deter traffickers from coming to Arizona. The Taskforce is launching different operations every month to make Arizona unwelcome for traffickers. SAC Price highlighted the following operations:

- *Operation Cross Country* – The Arizona Taskforce recovered five (5) juvenile victims and 52 adult victims. The Taskforce also arrested 27 pimps and traffickers, and 40 persons soliciting commercial sex.
- *National “John’s” Week* – The Arizona Taskforce arrested 150 persons soliciting commercial sex, 496 were arrested nationally.
- *Operation Square Dance* - The Arizona Taskforce arrested 15 pimps and traffickers.
- *Operation Blue Wave* – Rescued three (3) juvenile victims and 25 adult victims and arrested six (6) pimps and traffickers, and seven arrested for soliciting sex with juveniles and 28 were arrested for soliciting sex.

SAC Price stated that the Taskforce will continue these efforts in the coming months. He also stated that identifying and providing services to victims is a significant challenge. He emphasized the importance of non-profits and other non-governmental services to assist the Taskforce in providing victim services. SAC Price also identified the following areas which the Council should focus on:

- 1) Raise awareness statewide;
- 2) Increase and leverage available victim services; and
- 3) Create a greater dialog to reduce demand.

Mr. Orrantia thanked SAC Price and stated that the Council would like to continue to collaborate with the Taskforce and identify potential areas to work together. He also asked how human trafficking compares in terms of priority to other areas of investigation within the FBI.

SAC Price explained that human trafficking has risen significantly in priority nationally, but is still behind areas like counter terrorism and cybercrimes. He also noted that each FBI division had the capability to assess the threats within their geographic location and allocate additional resources as needed. In Arizona, the focus on human trafficking has risen considerably.

Mr. Brian Steele inquired about resourcing needs, and asked SAC Price to estimate or project how much would be needed to serve 100% of victims.

SAC Price said that he was unable to answer, but he did note that the demand on services was increasing and there is a need to expand to other areas of the State.

Ms. Suggs stated that based on the statistics provided on the "John's Week Operation", 30% of all arrests nationally occurred in Arizona, and asked if it was an indication of higher levels of demand in Arizona.

SAC Price responded that the FBI had not analyzed the data, but indicated that the higher levels of arrests in Arizona could be the result of the effectiveness of the Taskforce and not necessarily indicative of higher levels of demand.

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz noted that ASU had recently begun a project with Demand Abolition which includes statistical baselines on demand in the Phoenix-metro area. She noted that attention on demand is limited to law enforcement who are trained and communities that make it a priority.

Mrs. McCain asked if the pimps and traffickers that had been arrested had been prosecuted and if any of the charges had been reduced.

SAC Price explained that because the arrests are the result of a Taskforce, the prosecutions are handled by different jurisdictions at the county, state and federal level. He indicated that all of the cases were being prosecuted but could not respond to whether any of the initial charges had been reduced.

Mrs. McCain followed up by asking if the victims in these cases had been arrested.

SAC Price stated that juvenile victims are never arrested and adult victims are only rarely arrested given certain circumstances.

4. YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY (YES) PROJECT

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz presented on the Youth Experience Survey (YES): Exploring sex trafficking experiences of Arizona's homeless and runaway young adults. The study was completed by Arizona State University, Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research in collaboration with the Tumbleweed Center. The study is focused on chronically or intermittently homeless, living in transitional shelter or temporary situations such as 'couch

surfing', living in hotels, or on the streets, abandoned houses or other unsafe/ unstable housing situations.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that through groups offered at Tumbleweed, staff knew anecdotally that many of the youth had experienced sex trafficking; however, no one was explicitly asking the question or tracking the data. The YES Survey is designed to address this deficiency and to identify:

- 1) What is the prevalence of sex trafficking experiences reported by homeless young adults in Arizona?
- 2) Do differences exist on demographic and life experience characteristics of young adults who report sex trafficking experiences when compared with the young adults who do not report sex trafficking experiences?
- 3) Do sex trafficked homeless young adults have unique service and intervention needs?

The survey was distributed during a 10 day data collection period in July 2014 through transitional housing, drop-in centers, and street outreach. They gathered 246 completed surveys from three (3) agencies in Arizona serving homeless young adults (ages 18-25 years old). The survey was completed by a wide range of ethnicities and had the following results:

- In response to a question about self-harming behaviors, 109 (44.3%) reported a history of self-harm.
- A current mental health issue was identified by 67 (27.2%) participants; 63 (94%) reporting they had received treatment for their mental health issues.
- A history of a suicide attempt was reported by 75 participants (30.5%).
- Medical problems were identified by 114 (46.3%) of the participants.
- 63 (25.6%) of the participants reported a sex trafficking experience during their lifetime.
- Only 51 identified their age when they were first sex trafficked ranging from age five to 23 years old ($M = 15.2$, $SD = 3.76$).
- Of the 119 males in the sample, 26 (21.8%) reported a sex trafficking experience.
- Of the 102 females in the sample, 25 (24.8%) reported a sex trafficking experience.
- LGBTQ young adults were significantly more likely to report sex trafficking experiences (33, 38.4%) than heterosexual young adults (23, 19.7%).
- 40 (63.5%) participants reported having a trafficker.
- Nine (17.6%) participants reported having a trafficker at the time of the study.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz explained that the sex trafficked group reported significantly higher rates of negative childhood experiences, negative school experiences, and childhood abuse experiences than the non-sex trafficked group. The sex trafficked group also were significantly more likely to report drug and alcohol use and addiction, self-harm behaviors, when compared to the non-sex trafficked group. The sex trafficked group reported significantly higher rates of mental health problems and a history of suicide attempts, physical health problems, contact with the juvenile justice system and negative interactions with law enforcement, and a history of working in the adult entertainment industry than the non-sex trafficked group.

Ms. Cynthia Schuler, CEO, Tumbleweed Center, stated that the results of the study confirmed what many already suspected. She explained that due to the compounding trauma experienced by sex trafficked youth, traditional case management will not sufficiently meet their needs. She explained that Tumbleweed is implementing several different programs and interventions to address the trafficked population, but more resources are needed for innovative programming and evaluation services so providers can demonstrate what works and what doesn't.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz closed by stating that the next step will be to examine the various pathways which youth become trafficked so that systems can intervene earlier. She also emphasized the need for innovative treatments for sex trafficked youth, but noted the difficulty of evaluating effectiveness of programming given the moral dilemma of identifying control groups of youth.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Awareness Committee

Cmdr. Michael Durfus reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (USDHS) Blue Campaign for statewide outreach and awareness efforts has been executed. Resources that will be available include: PSAs/videos, posters, indicator cards, pamphlets, fact sheets, shoe cards and tear cards. Several of these items, with the exception the PSAs/videos, will be co-branded with the *End Sex Trafficking AZ* logo. The USDHS will provide the materials with the co-branding and the Council/Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families will be responsible for the cost of printing and distribution. He also explained that the *End Sex Trafficking AZ* website has been updated to include an Outreach and Awareness tab which will include all Blue Campaign resources and launched on November 17.

Mr. Chuck Fitzgerald reviewed the new outreach materials contained on the *End Sex Trafficking AZ* website.

Training Committee

Lt. Col. Chung reported that the Arizona Human Trafficking Council has partnered with the Arizona Department of Public Safety to host the Texas Department of Public Safety's Interdiction for the Protection of Children. This two-day course emphasizes a multi-disciplinary approach on interdiction and investigative techniques to identify missing, exploited or at-risk children, as well as techniques to identify potential suspects who may be a high risk threat to children. This training opportunity will be offered to over 500 representing law enforcement and social services on December 2-3 in Tucson and December 4-5 in Phoenix.

He also stated that the members of the Training Committee are working in collaboration with AZPOST, the Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force, the Attorney General's Office and the Hickey Foundation to host a human trafficking training at the Phoenix Country Club for Arizona's Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs and other command level law enforcement officers.

Lt. Col. Chung also noted that the Arizona State Board of Nursing Regulatory Journal is scheduled to be released this week. The publication will be available on the Nursing Board's website and the hard copies will be mailed to about 115,000 licensed nurses, certificate holders and members of the legislature. Copies will also be provided to the members of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council.

Victim Services Committee

Ms. Sheila Polk provided an update on the Shared Hope International JuST Conference she attended in Washington, D.C. TRUST sponsored 54 participants from Arizona to attend the conference. This full group plans to meet at a later date and talk about potential impact and changes they can bring forward from what they learned.

She also explained that Committee members discussed and provided updates for the Victim Services Committee Strategic Planning document. Ms. Polk reported that while in Washington, D.C. she and Katie Resendiz met with Jenna Novak from Polaris about the hotline protocols. Ms. Polk stated that she will work with Polaris and Savannah Sanders to help identify contacts for each region.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to approve the October 2, 2014 minutes. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Angie Bayless, ASU/Demand Abolition, announced that Phoenix-metro area has been invited by Demand Abolition to reduce demand for paid commercial sex by 20% in two years. She stated that the effort would be data driven and will hold buyers accountable and reduce the demand for paid commercial sex.

Ms. Sharon Hettick, American Association of University Woman, announced that the American Association of University Woman is in the process of developing legislation to vacate convictions of human trafficking victims in Arizona.

Ms. Brenda Gifford, RAT Race Arizona, announced that the Arizona RAT Race was the second most successful, first time event in Arizona for number in attendance. She also explained that the Super Bowl does not cause sex trafficking, but serves as a catalyst for a conversation and the RAT Race served as a spring-board for non-profits to begin that conversation in Arizona. 56 teams ran in the RAT Race on-behalf of 21 non-profits who raised \$11,000 for their organizations.

Ms. Lynda Hertzlez, Streetlight, emphasized the continued need for outreach and announced that Streetlight was working with Pamela Alderman, ArtPrize, to bring her Scarlet Cord exhibit to Arizona. The exhibit features sex trafficking related art inside a 40-foot storage container. She also announced that Streetlight was beginning a \$20 million dollar campaign to expand Streetlight's holistic approach to sex trafficking.

Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, announced that the City's Human Trafficking Task Force was partnering with ASU's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research (STIR) to host a 12-hour drop-in center on January 17 to assist victims of sex trafficking.

Erin Schulte, All Walks Project, explained that the All Walks Project is comprised of ASU students working to inform and mobilize the student body. The All Walks Project will be hosting a human trafficking awareness week and will be partnering with the McCain Institute to raise awareness about the issue.

Katie Resendiz, TRUST, discussed the specific and urgent need to establish a fund to provide victims of sex trafficking with resources in “outlier” situations not covered by existing funding sources. She provided examples of relocation efforts, medical support or an emergency hotel stay.

8. ADJOURN

Mr. Orrantia adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.