



## ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

April 15, 2015

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 April 15, 2015 at 9:05 AM 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)	Zora Manjencich
Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)	Joseph Kelroy
Margery Ault	Sheila Polk
Allie Bones	Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Timothy Chung	Sarah Suggs
Jon Eliason	Brian Steele
Chuck Fitzgerald	Doug Coleman
Carolyn Jones	Tanya Cordor
Gary McCarthy	

### Members Absent

Chris Bray  
Debbie Johnson  
Paul Boyer

### Staff Present

Debbie Moak  
Debra Miller  
John Raeder

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Cindy McCain called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

#### 2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. McCain introduced and welcomed the following new members: Tanya Cordor, Zora Manjencich, Representative Paul Boyer, Representative Doug Coleman, and Gary McCarthy.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the February 18, 2015 minutes by unanimous vote.

**4. CITY OF PHOENIX PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Will Gonzales, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, stated that the Phoenix Prosecutor's Office has been active in prosecuting and providing outreach on human trafficking since 2003 when his office received a federal grant. He also stated that the Prosecutor's Office has limited jurisdiction and handles misdemeanor cases, and that the office places a strong emphasis on the victimology side of prosecution. Additional information was also provided on previous cases handled by the Office, the impact on community members who provided testimony at the trials, and the effects it had on the sentencing of the offenders.

Ms. Allie Bones asked if there were any baseline metrics from the 2003 grant.

Mr. Gonzales stated that the 2003 grant focused on labor issues and imported sex trafficking and that the Office relied on community outreach with individuals, he was not aware of any real metrics.

Mr. Gonzales concluded by stating his office is collaborating and networking with other groups nationally to provide a national template for use with future Super Bowls and sporting events.

Mrs. McCain commended the City of Phoenix for their work.

**5. MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PRESENTATION**

County Attorney Bill Montgomery thanked the Council for their hard work and commitment. He spoke of the challenges prosecutors face with the issue of sex trafficking of minors. He introduced Sara Micflikier, Assistant Bureau Chief-Sex Crimes East, from his office who then presented statistical and case study information on sex trafficking of minors.

Ms. Micflikier stated that since December of 2013, Maricopa County Attorney's Office has charged more than 100 cases involving "Johns". These defendants are pleading to jail time and sex offender terms. Additionally, Maricopa County Attorney's Office averages 10-15 cases involving "Pimps" and "Bottoms" at any given time. Due to these cases, Maricopa County Attorney's Office has between 10-20 victims of sex trafficking at any given time. Ms. Micflikier discussed three cases where by all three defendants received jail time for child prostitution and/or sex trafficking. Ms. Micflikier discussed legislative changes to sentencing which now allows prosecutors to use all prior convictions of offenders for sentencing. Ms. Micflikier also spoke of changes that allow including as an aggravating factor, recruitment from a shelter on sex trafficking cases to enhance sentencing.

Mrs. Margery Ault asked what role the County Attorney's Office plays in post-conviction with the victims.

Ms. Micflikier stated her office is involved with victims as much or as little as the victim wants. The office cannot force victims to use or engage the services provided.

Mrs. McCain asked Mr. Montgomery if his office has seen a difference in the levels of arrest since the inception of the Council.

Mr. Montgomery stated that there has been a shift in the last year in the number of prosecutions and investigations in the number of buyers, as well as, the expansion of

investigations valley-wide and trainings on the issue. He concluded by saying there is a need to focus on the “buyer” side of the equation.

## **6. US ATTORNEY’S OFFICE PRESENTATION**

Judge John Leonardo, US Attorney, District of Arizona, discussed the efforts by the Federal Government in addressing human trafficking in Arizona. He stated there is a long standing commitment to prosecute trafficking as evidenced by the over 800 federal cases prosecuted since 2009. His office takes a victim centered approach and since 2013, there have been 15 indicted cases in Arizona for both labor and human trafficking. He spoke of the collaboration between law enforcement agencies within the state and the creation of task forces to deal with the issue of trafficking. His office is developing a Southern Arizona Working Group to address trafficking, conduct trainings for awareness, with a focus on interstate and multi victim crimes. His Office is also developing Indian Nation awareness and trainings by providing conferences to be attended by tribal law enforcement and community members.

Judge Leonardo introduced Krissa Lanham, Assistant US Attorney, who provided information on the following case studies prosecuted through their office:

- Malaysian website selling slaves; server located in Arizona; determined to be fraud scheme-FBI used as basis for undercover operation to locate individuals who were looking to purchase human slaves.
- US v. McReynolds – Flagstaff business used in Vietnamese human trafficking; over \$150,000.00 in restitution obtained for victims.

Judge Leonardo outlined areas of concern for his office; public awareness at the tribal level, improving victim services, and striving to build stronger ties with state and local government entities.

Ms. Sarah Suggs asked if the US Attorney’s Office currently had any human trafficking cases in Indian country.

Judge Leonardo stated there were currently no cases in Indian country. He stated that trafficking looks different in Indian county and the US Attorney’s Office is working with tribal officials to have a better understanding.

Mrs. McCain asked if the US Attorney’s Office had any dealings with the recent influx of immigrant children into Arizona and if his office has any investigations into where these children are.

Judge Leonardo said that Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is working with Border Patrol on the issue and that his office has had no human trafficking cases presented from this.

Mr. Gil Orrantia asked what are the determining factors in accepting a case at the Federal office.

Judge Leonardo stated his office determines if a case includes federal offenses and if there is evidence to support a case going forward.

Judge Leonardo concluded by stating that his office seeks to enhance training and increase public awareness in order to provide for a greater percentage of reporting and prosecution.

## 7. CITY OF PHOENIX “JOHN SCHOOL” PRESENTATION

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Arizona State University, Cathy Bauer, Catholic Charities, and Vicki Hill, City of Phoenix Prosecutor, provided a presentation on the Offender Program for Persons Who Solicit (OPPS). The one- day diversion program was provided through the Catholic Charities DIGNITY Program. The program was piloted in 2005 and became a permanent program in 2006. The program included elements that address the risks and effects of sexual addiction, how behaviors affect neighborhoods, relapse prevention, and the effects of soliciting on the offender and his/her family. The presentation included information on an evaluation from 2010 to April 2014, which explored the attitudes and beliefs of the 422 attendees regarding their sex buying behavior and their views on prostitution and prostituted persons, positive changes found on post surveys, the zero rate of recidivism for participants (Phoenix metro area only), and jail cost savings.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz provided a summary of the key findings;

- Positive changes were found on the majority of the survey questions from pre-survey to post-survey, indicating that the participants are shifting their attitudes and beliefs towards prostitution and their solicitation behavior.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz provided a summary of the implications;

- Participants appear to change their attitudes about the ‘wrongness’ of prostitution
- Participants seem to more clearly understand their role in the seriousness of prostitution
- Some attitudes and beliefs did not significantly change

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz concluded that this evaluation of the DIGNITY OPPS Program indicates that the participants’ attitudes and beliefs towards prostitution and their solicitation behavior significantly positively changed during their involvement in the one-day OPPS intervention.

Ms. Shelia Polk discussed the fact that words matter and that using the term “John” was not an effect term, as it did not describe the conduct and behavior as being unacceptable. She suggested that the term “John” stop being used and use terminology which accurately describes the behavior.

Dr. Row-Sepowitz agreed with Ms. Polk’s observation.

Mr. Orrantia asked how prevalent are these types of schools nationally.

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz stated that there were 58 or 59 schools nationally.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Outreach and Awareness Committee

Mr. Chuck Fitzgerald reported that the Committee’s outreach and awareness efforts will continue to distribute through a variety of mechanisms throughout the State the *Blue Campaign* posters. In particular, materials are provided to the community to be distributed at relevant events; provided by the Speaker’s Bureau at public presentations; and to our partners upon request. The Committee is continually exploring new opportunities to create partnerships in the community.

Mr. Fitzgerald also highlighted the following Committee activities:

- The Committee is working to create a standardized *PowerPoint* presentation for the Speaker's Bureau. The Committee will review and finalize the *PowerPoint* in the next couple of weeks.
- You can now "like" the Arizona Human Trafficking Council on *Facebook*. The committee designed a new Facebook page that went live this morning. The **End Sex Trafficking AZ** page will serve as another avenue in which the Council can communicate with the public regarding upcoming events, training and opportunities and accomplishments.

Mr. Fitzgerald identified the next steps in addressing the Committee's assignments:

- Continue to distribute public awareness materials to educate the general public on sex trafficking issues.
- Continue with Speaker's Bureau presentations and the development of an interactive standardized *PowerPoint* presentation. A train-the-trainer will be provided to members of the Council on the new *PowerPoint* when it is completed in early May.

### **Training Committee**

Lt. Col. Tim Chung reported that the Training Committee continues to explore mechanisms and opportunities to provide human trafficking training to first responders and other key stakeholders throughout Arizona. To further this goal the Committee met with the Deputy Director Vicki Mayo, Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), to discuss the agency's human trafficking training efforts. DCS has partnered with Arizona State University and Dr. Dominique Roe-Speowitz to provide training for child welfare specialists and other key DCS staff on human trafficking. The trainings will also be open to key group home providers and court appointed special advocates. The Committee plans to continue to collaborate with DCS on specific policy development for identifying and serving trafficked youth. The Committee also offered to assist with development of sex trafficking runaway protocols and screening tools.

Lt. Col. Chung also identified the following next steps in addressing the Committee's assignments:

- Work with the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families to develop a fall Human Trafficking "Solutions Summit" conference.
- Continue to work and collaborate with the Department of Child Safety on training and policy development.
- Continue to work with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to assist in efforts to develop a high-risk runaway database. The database will allow DPS to identify youth which are a t high-risk of being trafficked and work directly with the investigating jurisdiction.

### **Victim Services Committee**

Ms. Polk reported that the Victim Service Committee continues to work on a coordinated and comprehensive plan to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services. She highlighted the following activities:

- A plan for the completion of the National Hotline Protocols for the State of Arizona. The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence will collect the necessary information for Polaris to complete the protocols as part of on-going efforts to establish Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) in each of Arizona's 15 counties.

- The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) cap has been increased from \$745 million to \$2.3 billion. The result is that Arizona's projected funding, which is administered by the Department of Public Safety, has increased from approximately \$9 million to \$40 million. The purpose of this VOCA is to provide funding to governmental and non-profit agencies that provide direct services to crime victims. The Committee recognized that this dramatic increase in federal funding serves as an opportunity to expand services for victims of human trafficking in Arizona. The Committee, in coordination with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and the Arizona Department of Public Safety will host a webinar to inform victim service providers about VOCA funding, including purposes, eligible services and allowable costs.

Ms. Polk also identified the following next steps in addressing the Committee's assignments:

- Work with Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz to develop a model protocol for the coordinated response to human trafficking.
- Work with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to complete the Polaris Protocol.

#### **9. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Angie Bayless, CEASE announced the next meeting for the organization will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 10:00am. The meeting will be held at the Phoenix Public Library and will cover the Sex Buyer Intervention Program.

Ms. Sharon Hettick, American Association of University Woman thanked council member Carolyn Jones and Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery for their testimony in favor of HB 2553, which was passed by the Legislature.

Ms. Rachel Curtis, International Rescue Committee stated that her organization is a service provider for Foreign National Labor Trafficking. She commented that labor trafficking cases are prevalent in Arizona and that half of the victims are from the Philippines. She commented that she would like to see labor trafficking included as part of the Council.

Dr. Tasha Spears, Pinal County Rescue and Restore Program stated her organization is finalizing the protocols for Pinal County and requested assistance with finding the most effective ways to measure outreach.

#### **10. ADJOURN**

Mr. Orrantia adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.