



Arizona Human  
Trafficking Council

**Arizona Human Trafficking Council  
Policy Committee  
October 17, 2018  
10:00 AM**

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council's Policy Committee was convened on October 18, 2018, at 10:00 AM 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (4)	
Sheila Polk, Chairperson	
Doug Coleman	
Heather Carter	
Maria Fuentes	
Staff/Guests Present (2)	Members Absent (1)
Nikki Green	Jim Waring
Joanna Jauregui	

**Call to Order**

- **Ms. Sheila Polk, Chair**, called the Policy Committee meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. with four members and two staff and guests present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- **Ms. Polk, Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **No minutes for approval**

**Review and discussion of current committee projects**

- **Ms. Sheila Polk** provided an overview of the chair position change within the Victim Service and Policy Subcommittees. She asked for a review and discussion of current projects to get a better sense of what the Policy Subcommittee should continue to work on. Members of the committee also clarified that while the subcommittee or council cannot propose legislation, they can conduct legislative reviews to recommend policy and statutory changes. **Ms. Heather Carter** stated that part of the subcommittee's previous work included collaborating with the City of Phoenix Task Force to mandate human trafficking awareness in different organizations. An example being the inclusion of human trafficking information as part of continuing education coursework for teachers.

- The subcommittee also discussed increasing awareness on the issue after the 2018 election. By creating a clearly articulated awareness plan for new legislators at the beginning of next year they would ensure that human trafficking continues to be part of the conversation. **Ms. Carter** stated that the date should be booked as soon as possible in the Capitol Legislative Calendar, and would need to be conducted during the lunch hour. She also suggested having standing tours available at victim service centers for anyone who may be interested.

### Discussion of future projects

- **Ms. Maria Fuentes** shared that a policy issue the subcommittee may want to consider is data and data sharing and the ways in which it impacts the population. She stated that there will be statutory or agency policies that create barriers to data sharing. She further stated that when we look at current data, there is a possibility that victims are being double or triple counted from different service providers. A current goal may be to bring different agencies together to discuss current data sets that they have and discussing perceived and real barriers to sharing that data. **Ms. Polk** stated that previously committee members looked at creating legislation for a central repository of data collection but were unable to create a concrete answer of what that would look like. Many of the current data is based on incidents of self-reporting, but a gap of information exists in those that are not being reported, are not documented and that is not being proven in court. **Ms. Carter** asked if the subcommittee could conduct an analysis of what prohibits agencies from sharing data? **Ms. Fuentes** stated that it may require getting the agencies together to determine what data sets they have and what barriers exist. **Ms. Polk** stated that this a good issue to work with another committee on. **Ms. Fuentes** asked whether or not the subcommittee should learn about agency policies on human trafficking and victim identification. **Ms. Carter** asked if there was a best practices assessment tool? **Ms. Polk** stated that the topic of the best practices is something that has been talked about for a while. **Ms. Fuentes** recommended creating a survey to better understand state agency protocols and perhaps creating statewide recommendations for implementing a victim identification policy.
- **Ms. Carter** motioned creating a survey for state agencies on their policy and procedure as it relates to screening for victims of human trafficking
  - **Mr. Doug Coleman** seconded the motion.
  - The motioned passed with no dissenting votes.
- **Ms. Polk** shared that she had the opportunity to meet with a survivor who was currently attending a state university. Because the survivor had felony convictions related to her trafficking experience, she was unable to live on campus. Likewise, Ms. Polk was informed that victims may not qualify for Section 8 housing due to convictions. Ms. Polk asked if this is statute and is something the subcommittee could address? **Mr. Coleman** stated that he had also heard that victims are unable to work as counselors or with children for the same reason. **Ms. Carter** stated that a bill had been passed for those with substance abuse related charges being exempt, but that it would be worth researching further. **Ms. Polk** continued that she followed up with a client service coordinator, and they were unaware that a sex trafficking victims record could be expunged. She then asked if it would be beneficial to create a document addressing perceived barriers, and separating myth from

fact for victims. **Ms. Fuentes** also asked that it include the fact the child prostitution does not exist, and that the phrase should not be used.

- **Ms. Carter** motioned to create an infographic to be distributed during Human Trafficking Prevention Month that outlined myths and facts of victims rights and legal obstacles.
  - **Ms. Fuentes** seconded the motion
  - The motioned passed with no dissenting votes

#### **Other business**

- The committee members confirmed that they would set a date and site visits for legislator training and tours.

#### **Next Meeting**

- **Ms. Polk** stated that another meeting would be set after the full council meeting in December.

#### **Call to the Public**

- No public members wished to address the subcommittee

#### **Adjourn**

- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** called for adjournment at 11:09 a.m.

Dated October 18, 2018  
Arizona Human Trafficking Council Policy Committee  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nikki Green  
Program Administrator, GOYFF