



**ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 13, 2017
9:00 AM**

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

Notice having been duly given, a meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council (Council) convened on **December 13, 2017**, at 9:00 AM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Attendance of Council members was as follows:

Members Present

Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)	Zora Manjencich
Allie Bones	Greg McKay
Nathaniel Brown	Frank Milstead
Heather Carter (phone)	Sheila Polk
Vinny Chulani	Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Tanya Cordor (phone)	Brian Steele
Doug Coleman	
Michael Cowan	

Members Absent

Cindy McCain (Co-Chairperson)
Cara Christ
Debbie Johnson
Joseph Kelroy
Gary McCarthy
Jim Waring

Staff and Guests Present

Maria Fuentes
John Raeder
Samuel Burba
Amanda Webb

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gil Orrantia called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Orrantia welcomed those in attendance and asked members to briefly introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

The October 25, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz moved to approve the minutes as drafted, Ms. Allie Bones seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. OPERATION CROSS COUNTRY

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Michael DeLeon, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), presented on Operation Cross Country (OCC). OCC is a national FBI led effort that involves FBI field offices, state and local task forces, and hundreds of law enforcement partners. OCC staged operations in hotels, casinos, and truck stops, as well as on street corners, and internet websites to identify traffickers and victims. In Arizona, state, local, and federal officials rescued four (4) juveniles and arrested seven (7) alleged traffickers as part of the operations based out of the FBI Phoenix Field Office. 86 adult victims were also contacted and offered services as part of the operation. The youngest victim recovered during the national operation was three (3) months old, and the average age of victims recovered during the operation was 15 years old. Minors recovered during OCC are offered assistance from state protective services and the FBI's Victim Services Division. Depending on the level of need, victims are offered medical and mental health counseling, and other supportive services.

Delegate Nathaniel Brown noted the importance of working with the FBI and other federal partners to investigate trafficking in Indian country, and suggested additional coordination and collaboration with tribal communities.

5. THORN SPOTLIGHT TOOL UPDATE

Ms. Kristin Boorse, Thorn, updated the Council on Thorn's Spotlight Tool. Thorn's mission is to build technology to defend children from sexual abuse. Thorn works with technology companies, anti-trafficking organizations, survivors, and law enforcement agencies to combat child sexual exploitation through victim identification and support, deterring predatory behavior, and making online platforms more hostile to abuse.

Ms. Boorse explained that the Thorn Spotlight tool reviews and analyzes large amounts of online data and converts it into usable information for law enforcement. The objective of Spotlight is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of domestic sex trafficking investigations, and increase the number of victims who are identified and connected with resources. Ms. Boorse explained that Spotlight improves investigative efficiency by 65% daily, allowing officers to focus additional time on investigation. From October 2014 to December 2017, Spotlight has collected 174 million online ads, three million unique phone numbers, and 34 million images. Over the past two years, Spotlight has assisted in identifying over 6,500 traffickers, 12,000 adult victims, and 5,791 juvenile victims.

Ms. Boorse also discussed Thorn's sextortion campaign. Sextortion involves threats to expose a sexual image in order to coerce or force a person to do something. Perpetrators are often current, former or would-be romantic or sexual partners attempting to harass, embarrass, and control victims. Thorn's sextortion campaign aims to educate youth regarding the dangers of sextortion in order to prevent future or continued exploitation.

6. INFORMATION SHARING AND PLACEMENT PROTOCOL FOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH

Ms. Shalom Jacobs, Department of Child Safety (DCS), Lt. Robert Conrad, Phoenix Police Department, and Ms. Lisa Luchasi, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MCIC), presented on the information sharing and placement protocol for trafficked youth. This protocol is designed to coordinate a collaborative process where sex trafficking victims in DCS custody are evaluated and placed in a safe and healthy environment.

The protocol establishes a process in which Phoenix Police will transport recovered trafficking victims to Saint Luke's Hospital for a 23 hour specialized psychiatric assessment. After the assessment, the youth will be placed at Desert Lily Academy, or a different DCS licensed placement identified by the DCS Maricopa County Placement Coordinator. Services are provided to the youth by a MMIC contracted provider as is clinically necessary.

The collaborative protocol was launched on October 1, 2017. Seven (7) DCS children have been served using the collaborative protocol. Four (4) children remained placed at Desert Lily Academy, two (2) children were detained at the time of identification, and one (1) child placed at Desert Lily Academy and ran-away. All four (4) of the children at Desert Lily Academy are participating in certification/vocational programs in addition to pursuing their respective academic milestones.

Ms. Jacobs also stated that on July 30, 2016, DCS added additional data tracking mechanisms for trafficking victims in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System. On June 2, 2017, the DCS implemented a tracking characteristic for all communication types received by the hotline that contain allegations of sex trafficking.

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz asked about the 23-hour specialized psychiatric assessment St. Luke's Hospital.

7. ASU SCHOOL NURSES TRAINING PROJECT

Ms. Megan Phillips, Ms. Krishnaa Pradhan, and Ms. Savanah Staffordly presented on the Arizona State University (ASU) School Nurses Training Project. As part of their class at ASU they partnered with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family, Arizona Human Trafficking Council, and the McCain Institute, to create training for school nurses. 34 school nurses attended the training facilitated by Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz and Dr. Veenod Chulani at Mesa Public School Saturday, December 9, 2017. The goal of this interactive training was to better equip school nurses to understand the signs of trafficking and ways that they can safely intervene.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Awareness Committee

Mr. John Raeder updated the Council on a recent training and partnership with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Mr. Brown stated that January 10-12, the entire casino staff Navajo Nation would be trained on human trafficking.

Policy Committee

Mr. Brian Steele thanked and lauded the DCS, Phoenix Police Department, and MCIC for the work on the collaborative protocol for responding to trafficking youth.

Training Committee

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz updated the Council on the Human Trafficking Drop-In Center event which was on Saturday, December 2nd at the Helen Drake Senior Center. During the event, 34 trafficked victims and eight (8) children received services. The Drop-In Center is a bi-annual, one-day event designed to provide wraparound services to individuals currently or historically involved in prostitution/sex trafficking. Over 20 different agencies participate in the Drop-In Center and provide resources to victims, including basic necessities, connections to housing, advocacy, and therapeutic and social services. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz also updated the Council that Phoenix Starfish Place is up and running. Currently there are four (4) families and children currently living in the housing with two (2) applications in process.

Victim Services Committee

Mr. Raeder stated that the Council, in partnership with the Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council, will host a day-long training focused on addressing sex trafficking in Arizona. The training curriculum is designed to assist prosecutors, law enforcement, and advocates respond to sex trafficking victims, and hold offenders accountable. The training features a keynote luncheon speech by Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, and remarks by Attorney General Mark Brnovich. This training will be on January 26, 2018 in the Maricopa County Security Building.

9. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Orrantia made a call to the public. No public members wished to address the Council.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Orrantia adjourned the meeting at 10:37 AM.