



ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

June 7, 2017

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 June 7, 2017 at 9:03 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

Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)	Frank Milstead
Nathaniel Brown (via phone)	Zora Manjencich
Heather Carter	Gary McCarthy
Cara Christ	Greg McKay
Vinny Chulani (via phone)	Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Robert Conrad	Brian Steele
Jon Eliason	Jim Waring
Debbie Johnson	
Joseph Kelroy	

Members Absent

Cindy McCain (Co-Chairperson)
Allie Bones
Doug Coleman
Tanya Cordor
Carolyn Jones
Sheila Polk

Staff Present

John Raeder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gil Orrantia called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

Minutes for the meeting held March 22, 2017 were reviewed. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz motioned to approve the March 22, 2017 minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Debbie Johnson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. ARIZONA BROADCASTER ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Art Brooks, Arizona Broadcasters Association, presented on the role of the Arizona Broadcasters Association (ABA) and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council's sex trafficking awareness public service announcement (PSA). Mr. Brooks stated that the ABA is the official trade association serving all free-over-the-air radio and television stations in Arizona, with a mission to serve, educate and advocate. Mr. Brooks explained that the ABA was able to work with broadcasters around the state to air the sex trafficking awareness PSA during the NCAA Final Four. Between March 29 and April 3 the PSA aired 474 times on eight different stations.

Mr. Brooks concluded by offering to work with the Council's Outreach and Awareness Committee on future opportunities.

5. FINAL FOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

Lt. Robert Conrad, Phoenix Police Department, presented on the Phoenix Police Department's Vice Unit's NCAA Final Four operations. Lt. Conrad explained that due to finite resources, the Vice Unit worked on operations that targeted out-of-town buyers and victims. The operations consisted of street sweeps, customer apprehension programs, internet disruption operations and internet undercover operations. Lt. Conrad also stated that a "SuperJam" internet disruption operation was conducted with 45 officers from 12 different agencies. The officers interceded/contacted 301 prostituted people and 380 buyers via phone and computer.

6. VICTIM-CENTERED HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTION STRATEGIES

Mr. Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, presented on accommodations and considerations to be made by prosecutors to reduce and limit trauma to victims in court. He stated that a trauma informed approach is an essential element in a prosecution. One of the most traumatic events for a victim results from testimony and cross-examination in court. This is challenging to overcome for prosecutors because the confrontation rights of the defendant are guaranteed by the sixth and fourteenth amendment in the constitution.

Mr. Eliason explained that state statute does offer some options for prosecutors to consider, including the use of victim advocates, courthouse dogs, hearsay exceptions, depositions and closed circuit testimony (CCTV). Mr. Eliason explained that depositions can only be used in cases when witness cannot appear, but the defendant shall have the right to be present. He also explained that ARS § 13-4253 allows the court, on motion of the prosecution, for the testimony of a minor be taken in a room other than the courtroom and be televised by closed circuit equipment in the courtroom. The defendant can observe the testimony of the victim, but the minor does not see the defendant. The CCTV offers many advantages but it is not as effective as live testimony due to inadequate portrayal of emotion and body language. Trial courts have considerable discretion determining whether a victim has a sufficient level of trauma to testify through CCTV. Mr. Eliason concluded by suggesting that prosecutors utilize a "tool box" approach to limiting trauma to victims which takes into consideration the victims experience and unique elements of each case.

7. SEX TRAFFICKING SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

Dr. Roe-Sepowitz, Ms. Kristen Bracy and Ms. Natalie Neer Hart presented the Starfish School Prevention Program. Arizona State University, with support from the McCain Institute, utilized former teachers and researchers to create a core curriculum on human trafficking awareness for educational settings. The web based program is created specifically for school social workers, teachers, nurses and administrators. The tool provides a safe and age appropriate way to educate middle and high school students on the issue of sex trafficking. The curriculum is not a sex education curriculum, rather purely a human trafficking awareness program for educators. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz stated that the goal is for schools to become "Starfish" certified.

8. CEASE DEMAND REDUCTION UPDATE

Ms. Angie Bayless, CEASE Arizona, stated that eight cities are current partners with CEASE to reducing sex-buying by 20 percent. The mission of CEASE Arizona is to eradicate sex trafficking in the State of Arizona by focusing on the demand for paid sex. Ms. Bayless stated that the key to change is to increase perception of risk for the buyer. To accomplish this goal, CEASE launched the "Not Worth It" Facebook campaign to target buyers. The campaign included several short videos developed to impact buyer behavior. Over a 25 day period, the Campaign had 392,968 total impressions, 14,276 buyer impressions, 2,555 clicks to website and 43,136 people "talking about it".

Ms. Bayless also stated that CEASE is working on the workplace response to sex trafficking. The program consists of online trainings for employers and the creation of job openings for survivors. Hensley Beverage Company is the first business implementing the program.

9. JUVENILE PROBATION COUNTY TRAFFICKING SPECIALISTS RECOGNITION

Mr. Joe Kelroy, Administrative Office of the Courts, recognized the work of the county probation trafficking specialists. These sex trafficking probation specialists have experience and expertise in human trafficking cases and are a resource for their respective counties and the state.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Gil Orrantia stated that the committee reports would be tabled for a future meeting due to time constraints.

11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jeff Gibbs stated that he had developed a human trafficking educational program for the medical community and is in the accreditation process for obtaining continuing medical education (CME) for the course.

Ms. Estrella Fitch, Healing Journey, stated that her organization was working on responding to human trafficking in Yuma and stated that she would be interested in working with the Council.

Ms. Linda Hartzler, Street Light, mentioned Street Light's new grant funded victim advocates were providing support to trafficking victims.

Ms. Brenda Gifford, R.A.T. Race, suggested that the Council examine the connection between pornography and sex trafficking.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.