



Policy & Public Affairs
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Human Trafficking Commission
Meeting Minutes
150 E. Gay St., 18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
April 14, 2014
2pm – 4pm

In Attendance:

Melinda Haggerty – AGO
Veronica Paulson – AGO
Brent Currence – BCI
Representative Teresa Fedor – Ohio House of Representatives
Tony Johnson – Ohio Department of Mental Health Services
Jill Jackson – Ohio Department of Education
Adreana Tartt – Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services
Karen Rainey – AAUW Ohio
David Schermerhorn – She Has a Name
K. Scarry – She Has a Name
Kathleen Lowery – Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Nicole Harper – Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Kayla Smith – ORTC
Shay Parsley – Catch Court
Nolan Stevens – Ohio Latino Affairs Commission
Erin Meyer – Salvation Army
Debra Seltzer – Ohio Department of Health
Keturah Scott – Doma
Brance Johnson – BCI
Gwynn Kinsel – AGO
Lilly Cavanaugh – OCHLA
Jeff Barrows – Abolition International
Ryan Chrysler – AGO
Kimm Hrdlicka-Tigges
Antoine Spriggs – Lighthouse Youth Services
Cindy Peterman – BCI
Brant Cook – BCI
Ginger Richards – Hope Outreach
John Keuffer – Lighthouse Youth Services
Matt Hilbert – AGO
Larry McLoy – BCI
Brent Currence – BCI
Elizabeth Ranade Janis – ODPS
Ryan Scheiderer – BCI

Via Teleconference/Video:

Lizzy Goodwin – AGO
Michelle Gillcrist – AGO
Tony Talbott – Abolition Ohio
Celia Williamson – University of Toledo
Maggie Billings – Lucas Co. Human Trafficking Coalition
Linda McNally – Stop Human Trafficking Dayton
Craig Tame – Department of Justice
Karen Cortal
Amy Roberts – Ohio Network of Childrens Advocacy Centers
Tanya Peterson

Melinda Haggerty – Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Brent Currence, Missing Person Unit Outreach and Education Coordinator, BCI.

Brent Currence – Presented PowerPoint with information from the Ohio Attorney General’s Missing Persons Unit. The presentation addressed the AGO response to runaway teenagers in Ohio.

- ORC 2901.30 Missing Child Report requires law enforcement to take every missing child report and enter information into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as soon as possible. Reports are not to be turned down for any reason (have to wait 24 hours, etc.)
 - 18,000-20,000 children in Ohio entered into NCIC per year. There are 723 active entries entered into one of four categories: runaway/throwaway, stranger abduction, family abduction, and lost, injured, otherwise missing.
 - BCI provides help to local law enforcement in finding missing children by allowing them access to all BCI units and coordinating other resources.
 - o The internet crimes unit often helps follow the child’s electronic trail (social media, etc.)
 - The Missing Persons Unit provides training for local law enforcement and also runs the Ohio AMBER Alert system.
 - Many resources are utilized when searching for a missing child, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
 - 3 types of alerts are issued:
 - o AMBER Alert: Reserved specifically for “abducted” children.
 - Ohio has issued 150 since 2002.
 - o Endangered Missing Child Alert: Child is still “at risk” but does not meet AMBER criteria.
 - o Local Press Release: If child is believed to be in the local area agencies will release information.
 - The commission expressed an interest in getting multicultural media sources more involved in issuing alerts.
- *Complete PowerPoint presentation was emailed to the group.*

Dayton PD –Updated the group on the efforts being taken by their Street Crimes Unit to fight prostitution and sex trafficking in Montgomery County.

- Changes in technology and a greater awareness of human trafficking has caused them to shift their focus to internet crimes and arresting Johns.
 - o Backpage.com has been used to set up sting operations. For example, during March Madness NCAA tournament in Dayton, over 100 calls were received leading to 13 Johns arrested.

- They are also noticing an increased trend in advertisements for younger and younger girls.
- Participated in national day for arresting John's in January 2014. Led to the arrest of 28 Johns, 4 for promoting prostitution and 1 for human trafficking.
- The commission asked why they have not had more human trafficking arrests lead to convictions.
 - The officer said that most girls brought in for interviews do not believe that they are victims and do not want to testify against their trafficker. It is also difficult to build a case unless there are multiple girls willing to testify against a single trafficker.
 - Also, cases are often taken over by the FBI.

Rep. Teresa Fedor – Gave an update on House Bill 130, The End Demand Act.

- The bill eliminates the need to prove compulsion for an underage human trafficking victim.
- Increases the penalties for Johns for trafficking minors to a 3rd degree felony for victims under 16 and a 5th degree felony for 16 and 17.
- Representative Fedor asked law enforcement present questions about the new penalties and thanked them for their feedback and support of the bill.

Debra Selzter – Provided the group with copies of several documents produced by the Demand Reduction Subcommittee including a conversation piece and a white paper on human trafficking.

- They asked the group to look over the documents and offer feedback before they move to publish them.

Subcommittee updates – The list of subcommittee updates was attached to the original email sent out.

Melinda Haggerty – Offered closing statements and thanked the Dayton PD and Brent Currence for joining the meeting. She will send out more info on the next meeting in June at a later date.