



Policy & Public Affairs
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Human Trafficking Commission Meeting Agenda

150 E. Gay St., 18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
December 10, 2012
2pm – 4pm

In Attendance:

Melinda Sykes, AGO
Veronica Paulson, AGO
Lili Reitz, Ohio State Dental Board
Teresa Fedor, Ohio House of Representatives
Marta Mudri, Office of State Representative Fedor
Ginger Richards, MERRC/Hope Outreach
Theresa Flores, DOMA/SOAP
Natalie Collins, CPD Radio
Debra Seltzer, Ohio Department of Health
Patricia Clements, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Chris Blake, WDNS
Scha Chia Murphy, Ohio Department of Health
Rema Ina, AGO
Karen Rainey, League of Women Voters Ohio and the American Assoc. of University Women
Kristen Rost, Ohio Children's Trust Fund/Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services
Kara Ulmer, Freedom Stones
Amanda Borders, National Association of Social Workers
Trisha Smouse, The Salvation Army
Michelle Hannan, The Salvation Army
Lilly Cavanaugh, Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Gene Jarvi, Department of Public Safety/Ohio State Highway Patrol
Crystal Allan Ward, Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Amy Deverson Roberts, Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
Jill Beeler, Office of the Ohio Public Defender
Katie Hanna, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Michelle Thourot, Ohio Investigative Unit
Patria Hoskins, AGO
Klodiana Tedesco, Roetzel & Andress LLC

On the phone:

Anne Victory, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Barbara Boone, Ohio Department of Education
Felicia King, AGO
Mindi Kuebler, Lorain County Sexual Assault Unit

Karen Walsh, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Luke Blocher, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Bill Leech
Bro. Bob
Heather Hill, Department of Justice
Anthony Talbott, University of Dayton/Abolition Ohio
Pete Swartz, Toledo Police Department
Marlene Carson, Rahab's Hideaway

Kara Ulmer – She introduced her organization, Freedom Stones, which works to fight human trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia through income generation opportunities for women. Kara recently started working in Akron after she began to notice that there are human trafficking victims in Ohio too.

- She has decided to stay and work in Akron. She has started a program with a small group of about 15 young girls in South Akron. They meet to do crafts and speak about human trafficking and women's empowerment.
- She is very interested in continuing to work with the commission and networking with others fighting against human trafficking in Ohio.

Kristen Rost – Updated the group on the Victim's Compensation Fund and the Governor's Task Force

- She said that currently there are no funds available for the victim fund set up by HB 262 because no assets have been seized.
- Michael Colbert, Director of ODJFS, has formed an internal working group to interpret the vague language of the bill and develop a process for seizing assets and contributing to the victim's compensation fund.
- The Governor's office is currently exploring ways to best provide prevention services for at risk youth. They are working to define the gaps in service before forming a multiagency plan.
- They are also hoping to contract with child advocacy centers next year to coordinate efforts statewide for youth treatment centers.
- The office also just finished creating a training program for foster care parents. The program will start up next year.
- She also announced a video contest for high school students to create a PSA to educate their fellow students on human trafficking. Entries will be due in April and more information will be available online starting in January.

Melinda Sykes – Updated the group on the BCI human trafficking data collection form and the palm card.

- The BCI human trafficking form has been edited after the last commission meeting and all comments were taken into consideration. The final version is now waiting for approval.
- The palm card will be used to educate on the common signs to look for to identify/recognize a trafficking victim. She asked the group for recommendations as to what signs they should include on the card. The groups recommendations are as follows:
 - o Include labor trafficking; Runaway minors with significantly older boyfriends; “branding” tattoos; physical scars; confused or unaware of where they are; won’t look you in the eye.
 - o They also suggested that there be a general trafficking section and an domestic minor trafficking section
- Rep. Fedor asked if it would be possible to put a sign with this kind of information and a help line up in the prisons. Women in jail for prostitution or solicitation may be looking for a way out.
- Melinda asked that everyone send any other comments or suggestions for the palm card to her via email.

Subcommittee Updates:

Debra Seltzer – Spoke to the group about the Demand Reduction subcommittee’s recent projects.

- The Johns schools report is still in progress. They have so far received feedback from schools in Columbus, Dayton and Toledo but still waiting to hear back from Cincinnati and Cleveland.
- They are also working on developing more training opportunities for the commission on demand reduction.
- They also had 4 new members at their last meeting and are planning a conference for nurses in June, 2013.

Crystal Ward Allen – Spoke to the group about the Education, Prevention and Awareness subcommittee’s recent projects.

- They just wrapped up the three webinars. They were extremely successful and produced a great list of questions and answers that they will post online.
- PCSAO just held a conference for lawyers and Tony Talbott presented.
- The child welfare community has expressed a lot of interest in this topic specifically in regards to the kids who are aging out of the system. Hoping to do more work in this particular area.

Rep. Teresa Fedor – Presented to the group on the recent projects of the Legislative subcommittee.

- She shared that the organization, Shared Hope, has just bumped Ohio's rating on action taken against human trafficking from a D to a C. She was hoping to get us to a B but insisted that we will get there.
- She also recently attended a meeting of the NCSL in D.C. where President Obama made human trafficking one of his top priorities.
- She then went on to identify the top 4 areas of the current legislation that they are focusing on:
 - o Increasing the statute of limitations to 20 years to match that of other similar offenses.
 - o Termination of parental rights for involvement in human trafficking
 - o Eliminating the importune age – they want to hold all Johns accountable whether or not they knew the girls actual age
 - o Changing the charge so that a John does not have to be charged with importuning before being charged with human trafficking if the youth is 16 or 17.
- Lastly, she invited everyone to attend Human Trafficking Awareness Day on Friday, January 11, 2013 in the Ohio State House. Linda Smith will be the key note speaker and there will also be a panel of human trafficking survivors.

Michelle Hannan and Ginger Richards – Updated the group on the development of coalitions across the state as well as the progress made on the peer review tool.

- So far there are 11 coalitions across the state. Some progress has recently been made in south east Ohio. Most recently, a coalition from Summit Co. just came forward to help in their efforts to spread coalitions across Ohio.
- They have also focused their efforts in central Ohio to “train the trainers” in order to create new leadership.
- Ginger pointed out that the coalition in Muskingum Co. has their first meeting on January 14, 2013. She will send out more details to the group as the date approaches.
- Michelle addressed the peer review tool. The tool has been recently passed around and reviewed by the coalitions. They are still in the training process but hoping to have it out early next year. She also asked that if anyone in the commission is interested in being a peer reviewer to please contact her for more info.

Debra Seltzer – Updated the group on recent program development in the health care industry around human trafficking awareness.

- They are working on tweaking the protocol in the emergency rooms in order to encourage physicians to look for signs of trafficking.
- They are also focusing on helping nurses learn how to properly collect forensic evidence for suspected trafficking cases.
- General medical providers also have to be made aware of the signs of human trafficking.

Theresa Flores – Announced that DOMA and the SOAP campaign will be hold the Ohio Liberator Awards.

- They are looking for nominations currently for individuals, businesses, organizations or civic groups, volunteers, students, elected officials or law enforcement who have had a strong, positive impact in the fight against human trafficking in Ohio.
- They asked that all nominations be sent to soap@domaconnection.org. Please include the name of the individual as well as a description of why they should win. Nominees will be announced on January 11th at the Human Trafficking Awareness Day and a ceremony will be held on MLK Jr. Day to announce the winner. Look for more information to come.

Next meeting of the commission will be on Monday, February 11, 2013 from 2:00-4:00pm.