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Human Trafficking Commission Meeting Agenda

150 E. Gay St., 18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 13, 2012
2pm – 4pm

In Attendance:

Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General
Melinda Sykes, AGO
Veronica Paulson, AGO
Jill Jackson, Ohio Department of Education
Amy Roberts, Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers
Jessica Murff, Rosemont Center
Paul Teasley, Hannah News
Tanhlia Freeman, Rosemont
Marlene Carson, Rosemont
Janel Woodford, Rosemont
Gene Kelly, Clark County Sheriff
Brent Currence, AGO-BCI
Julie Clark, Department of Mental Health
Lilly Cavanaugh, Ohio Latina Affairs
Roger Le, AGO
Debra Seltzer, Ohio Department of Health
Erin Meyer, End Slavery Cincinnati
Nicole Dehner, AGO-BCI
Lili Reitz, Ohio State Dental Board
Teresa Moorman-Jamison, ODMH
Stephanie Krider, Ohio Right to Life
Heather Hill, Department of Justice
Vicki Germann, AGO
Marta Mudri, Office of Rep. Fedor
Anna Syburg, Office of Rep. Fedor
Brittany Thompson, OPOTA
Alex Kreidenweis, Abolition Ohio
Cliff Evans, AGO-BCI
Lyndsay Nash, AGO
SLT Gene Jarvi, Ohio State Patrol
Greg Dalga, Department of Homeland Security
Aaron Dennis, Columbus Police
Scott Humphrey, Rahab's
Anthony Talbott, University of Dayton/Abolition Ohio
Jeff Barrows, Gracehaven

Heidi James, AGO
Michelle Hannon, The Salvation Army
Nancy Neylon, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Aaron Johnson, Cleveland State University
Natalie Quintana, AGO-HHS
Courtney Hagele, AGO-HHS
Toshia Kimbler, S.O.A.P outreach
Beau Eutobd, Ohio Chamber
Chrystal Alexander, ODPS
Charlyn Bohland, Ohio Public Defender
Trisha Smouse, The Salvation Army
Jai Chabria, Governor's Office
Maggie Toal, Governor's Office

Via Tele/Video Confernce:

Mindi Kuebler, Lorain County Sexual Assault Unit
Anne Victory, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Karen Walsh, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking

Attorney General Mike DeWine - Congratulated Rep. Fedor on the passage of Sub. HB 262 and thanked the Governor's office for the work that they have done. Also gave an update on the recent massage parlor busts.

- Implored the group to encourage their local police departments and sheriff's offices to allow their officers the time off they need in order to complete the courses we offer either in person or online. Our commitment is to take training to every department in the state.
- A local citizens group tipped the AG off about the parlors. The investigation in Trumbull County is still ongoing but they found positive evidence that sexual activity occurred in 8 out of the 10 massage parlors. This bust has taught us the importance of educating the public about trafficking.

Jai Chabria - Updated the group on the status of the Governor's report. The report is due by June 27 and several outside groups have been asked to critique it. The purpose of the report is to identify the gaps that exist in the current system and where government falls short. He emphasized the fact that this report and the Governor's taskforce are meant to be companion pieces to the commission.

Marlene Carson - Talked about the opening of Rahab's at Rosemont on June 14. The facility has 32 beds total in two cottages. Introduced Jessica Murff, the clinical director.

Commission Member question- Is the shelter just for girls from central Ohio?

Marlene- They take girls between the ages of 11 and 17 but can go up to 18. They accept girls from all over the country. Services will also be provided for girls outside the shelter through Jessica's outpatient service.

Tony Talbott question- What is the recommendation process?

Marlene – They take calls from all over the country and would like to be considered a first response team when a possible victim is found in Ohio.

Commission Member question – How is the organization being funded?

Marlene – Private donations and corporate sponsors.

Commission Member question – Where can information about the operating budget be found?

Marlene – Anyone can contact the CFO, Keith Lenner, for information on the operating budget.

Commission Member question – Does Rahab’s work with other child protection agencies?

Marlene – Yes. They are meeting with Franklin County child services to discuss collaboration to ensure that girls who are suspected victims of trafficking are referred to them.

Mindi Kuebler – Gave an update on the S.O.A.P. Campaign. About a month ago 60-70 volunteers came out and hit over 50 hotels with 4000 bars of soap. They are working with Kelly Liberti from the FBI on the case of the two girls who have been missing several months and were found in the hotels.

Melinda Sykes – Is this campaign an ongoing discussion with major hotel chains?

Mindi Kuebler – The hotels they visited were very compliant and want to continue the relationship. It was an unofficial gathering but still had an amazing turnout of volunteers. Teresa Flores is definitely interested in pursuing larger hotel chains and businesses possibly nationwide. Perhaps the AG can help connect them and get a patent.

Nicole Dehner – Gave an overview of the Crimes Against Children Unit. Ultimately it will consist of 15 staff members at the London BCI location.

- Agents will focus on fighting child pornography file sharing. They are hoping to branch out and become a resource for local investigators trying to crack down on child pornography in their region by maintaining law enforcement databases. They are also loaning out laptops to local agencies to use for online patrolling.

Marta Murdi – Gave an update on Sub. HB 262 and provided the commission with a summary of the bill. The bill has passed both the house and the senate and is now awaiting the governor’s signature. The summary is included in the packet of documents or the email.

- Main points include the increased penalty for traffickers, expungement of victim’s records, creation of posters with the national and possible statewide hotline listed, the creation of a fund for victims filled by the assets detained from traffickers and the required registration of convicted traffickers as sex offenders.

- An emergency clause was added so the bill goes into effect immediately after the governor's signature.

Commission Member question – What is the language in the bill concerning Johns?

Marta – This is the weakest part of the bill and also the hardest aspect of trafficking to combat.

Commission Member question – What is the compensation for those victims over the age of 18 who have prostitution charges on their records?

Marta – The bill addresses the VOCA by saying that any charge that is related to the victim being trafficked should not keep the victim from receiving funds. If a person is treated as a victim from the beginning receiving funds will be easier in the end.

Melinda – There is some wiggle room in the bill on the question of getting felony charges dismissed and having VOCA funding be made available.

Michelle Hannon – Gave an update on the Victim's Services subcommittee. Progress is being made on the protocol development and they are focusing on filling in the gaps in the coalitions around the state.

Melinda – The Northeastern counties are interested in forming a coalition and Canton is already in the process of forming one.

Gene Kelly – Gave an update on the Law Enforcement subcommittee. They just had their first summit the weekend of May 10 and 11. They had 47 investigators attend and a total of 64 participants. They are hoping to encourage greater interaction between cities to ensure that more cases are reported. He wants to look more into labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking in Ohio. He also said the subcommittee wants to reach out to the Latino community more.

Melinda – Would it be possible for Law Enforcement to take the lead on the issue of labor trafficking?

Gene – Yes, especially with the fracking industry coming to Ohio. He is concerned that we may see the rise of work camps and thus an increase in labor trafficking. We need to see what other states are doing to combat this.

Melinda – Gave an update for the Prevention, Education and Awareness subcommittee. They are starting on the webinars with the AG and Superintendent at ODE doing the first podcast to introduce the series. The webinar schedule is as follows: August 16-webinar for educators, September 20-for parents and families, October 18- teachers. There is also a fact sheet included in the packet on human trafficking for school personnel.

Debra Seltzer – Gave an update on the progress of the Demand Reduction Subcommittee. They are exploring the impact that the opening of the casinos will have and evaluating how they can reduce that demand. They emphasized the importance of engaging more men in the discussion.

Maggie Billings – distributed a survey to collect information from across the state and country on how the Johns schools operate.

Melinda – Reminded everyone to attend and participate in the Walk a Mile event for Gracehaven on Saturday. The flyer is in the packet.

Closing remarks.