



Policy & Public Affairs
Office 614-466-4320
Fax 614-644-6135

30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Human Trafficking Commission
Meeting Minutes
150 E. Gay St., 18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
August 8, 2012
2pm – 4pm

In Attendance:

Melinda Sykes – OAG
Veronica Paulson - OAG
Theresa Flores – SOAP Campaign
Crystal Allan Ward – Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Maggie Toal – Governor’s office
Karen Raing – LWVO and AAUW Ohio
Patricia Clements – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Lili Reitz – Ohio State Dental Board
Rocky Nelson – Ohio Organize Crime Investigations Commission
Mark Lang - Ohio Organize Crime Investigations Commission
Jackie Bachardt – Dayton Daily News
Kelly Carnahan – Ohio Latino Affairs
Nicole Grigg – ABC 22/ Fox 45
Gene Kelley – Clark Co. Sheriff
Victoria Keslar – IJM Waynesburg
Heidi James – OAG
Anthony Talbott – UD/Abolition Ohio
Teresa Fedor – State Representative
K. Scarry – IJM Waynesburg
Lyndsay Nash – OAG
Deborah Nixon-Hughes – Ohio Department of Mental Health
Heath Hill – USAO
Julie Clark – doma
Rachel Buccicone – Gongwer
BJ Potter – concerned citizen
Debra Seltzer – Ohio Department of Health
Tasha Perdue – University of Toledo
Shane Stegmiller – Hannah News
Amy Roberts – Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers
Rema Ina – IJM
Katie Hanna – Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Aubre Jones – Gladden
Michelle Hannan – The Salvation Army
Jeff Barrows – Gracehaven
Lauryn Page – Ohio Right to Life
Stephanie Krider – Ohio Right to Life
Danielle Sciarrino – National Association of Social Workers

Charlyn Bohland – Ohio Public Defender
Celia Williamson – University of Toledo
Trisha Smouse – TSA
Mark Lang – Columbus Police Department

Via Tele/Video Conference:

Mindi Kuebler - Lorain County Sexual Assault Unit
Aaron Johnson - Cleveland State University
Karen Walsh - Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Luke Belcher - Freedom Center of Cincinnati

Lt. Mark Lang – Updated the commission on the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission’s Human Trafficking Taskforce. He emphasized that the taskforce is made up of law enforcement and agents from all over the state and the country.

- They just had their first big case and indictment. Lang said that they arrested 3 suspects from Chillicothe who have since been charged with rape, kidnapping, trafficking, and prostitution. Lt. Lang went on to say that their biggest challenge to date has been getting victims to identify themselves as victims.

Rep. Fedor asked Lt. Lang what the reaction has been from the citizens of Chillicothe after learning that trafficking was taking place in their hometown. Lt. Lang said that he could not speak for the citizens but that local law enforcement has been very helpful and compliant.

Jeff Barrows asked about the other two suspects that the press release initially said were still missing. Lt. Lang said that these two suspects have since been apprehended.

Celia Williamson – Introduced to the commission the Research and Analysis Report and Recommendations.

- Celia first went over some of the basic demographic information from the report. They gathered information from 5 cities in Ohio (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and Toledo). There were over 300 participants in the survey. The survey was made to look like a “coupon” and was spread to participants easily this way. The survey was first given to two women who then passed it along. During the study, a staff person was made available in case any of the participants needed help or wanted access to services. Celia said that all participants were 16 years of age or older.
- Celia then went over each recommendation individually and discussed the statistically significant findings from the survey. For example, they found that an alarming number of those in prostitution were runaways. This prompted one recommendation to better intervene with runaways to keep them from becoming trafficking victims. They also found that there is still a stigma against victims and this needs to be addressed.

Commission member question – Were these women all conducting their services in Ohio?

Celia – Yes they were.

Aaron Johnson – How did the respondents know what profession their clients belonged to?

Celia – Many of them have regular clients and have learned about them over time.

Teresa Flores – Were all of the respondents female?

Celia – No. The report shows that 52% were straight females, 22% were bi-sexual females, 3.5% were lesbian, 16.5% were straight males, 4.3% were bi-sexual males, and 0.9% were gay males.

Commission member question – Did you ask for an age range for respondents who said they were raped?

Celia – No. We only asked for those who had been raped under the age of 18.

Commission member question – What sources were used for the data in the report?

Celia – We referenced the Ohio Child Welfare Report.

Commission member question – What is your opinion on the fact that a large number of respondents said their clients included law enforcement and government employees?

Celia – It's not surprising. These are people in positions of power who also may often come into contact with this industry.

Celia Williamson – She introduced the certificate program that she is developing with the University of Toledo. There was a handout passed around detailing the 4 new human trafficking courses offered in the program: Human Trafficking 101, Sex Trafficking, Labor Trafficking, and the Capstone Project. All classes are offered either on person or online. There is also a 21 day Summer Academy for those seeking certification.

- In the same PowerPoint she also discussed the Human Trafficking Webinars. Groups can either choose between standardized webinars lasting between 1-3 hours or work with Celia to customize a webinar. Costs vary and are listed in the handout. Celia asked the commission to support the University in becoming the leaders in education on this topic by serving as a pool of available experts for information and assistance.

Celia Williamson – Finally, Celia introduced the Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sex Work 2012 workshop taking place Thursday, September 27 and Friday, September 28 at the University of Toledo. Continuing Education credit will be granted for attendees. For more information and to register you can go to <http://www.prostitutionconference.com/>.

Representative Fedor – Updated the commission on the progress of the Legal and Legislative Subcommittee. She talked about the subcommittee's efforts to collaborate with other states to learn

about their Safe Harbor legislation. This will help us learn how to strengthen our own legislation and properly implement our own Safe Harbor bill by learning from their mistakes and successes. She also addressed Celia and the new report saying that it will help with setting the focus on victims. It has already identified the gaps (ex: runaways). She added that she is proud of the work that is being done and that the Polaris Project just identified Ohio as one of the most improved states as far as improving legislation.

Crystal Ward Allen – Updated the commission on the progress of the Prevention, Education and Outreach subcommittee. They are ready to launch their series of webinars. Tony Talbott will be moderating the first one on August 16 for teachers. Already 89 educators have signed up for this first one.

Victims Services updated the commission on their progress. They are making progress on starting coalitions in Southeast Ohio. Looking specifically to form a group in either Athens or Fayette County.