



Policy & Public Affairs
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Human Trafficking Commission Meeting

150 E. Gay St, 18th Floor,
Columbus, Ohio
December 14, 2011
2:00pm – 4:00pm

In Attendance:

Gene Kelly – Clark County Sherriff
Anthony Talbot – Abolition Ohio/UD
Alex Kreidenweis – Abolition Ohio/UD
Tereasa Jamison – ODMH
Paul Herbert – Franklin County Municipal Court
Vicki Germann – AGO
Marta Murdri – OHR
Jeff Reynolds – OSP
SLT Gene Jarvi – OSP
Alice Robinson-Bond – AGO
Jill Beeler – OPD
Gerrie Cotter – ODJFS
Debra Seltzer – ODH
Erin Cain – Ohio Right to Life
Michelle Hannan – The Salvation Army
Trisha Smouse – The Salvation Army
Julie Clark – Doma/CATCH
Luke Blocher – National Underground RR Foundation Center
Jayson Arcos – OCHLA
Nancy Nexla
Mark Moretti – AGO
Nolan Stevens – OCHCA
Dr. Jeff barrows – Gracehaven
Heather Hill – USAO
Gary Cates – Board of Regents
Crystal Allen – PCSAO
Liz Tiemeier – NASW-OH
Lili Rietz -
Maggie Toal – Governor’s Office
Linda McNally- STOP Human Trafficking Dayton

Via Tele/Video Conferencing:

Karen Anderson, Bellefaire
Anne Victory, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Karen Walsh, Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
Michelle Gillcrist, Ohio Attorney General’s Office

Felicia King, Ohio Attorney General's Office
Nancy Sin
Krista Allison, Ohio Department of Education
Erin Cordle, Catholic Diocese
Linda Kramer, Daybreak
Mindi Keubler, Nord Center
David MacDonald
Connie Zimmelman, Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge

Melinda- General Announcements

- We need to try to focus our efforts on more short term “doable” projects rather than long term.
- Google gave \$12.5M to end human trafficking
 - 1/4th of the donation is to stay in the USA.
 - The two organizations that may receive funding include Polaris, and Slavery Footprint.

Alice Robinson-Bond- Chief of Crime Victims Section

- Crime Victims section provides grant funds to victims. Talk to Michael Sheline to find out about SVAA/VOCA grant funds.
- VOCA/SVAA provided the funds to The Salvation Army.
- Victim's compensation provides direct funds for the victims. These funds will only be used for everything that insurance does not cover.
- The money provided is for the individual's expenses.
- Disqualifiers are also in place.
 - Felony conviction will result in a denied claim.
 - Juveniles are ok.
 - Violent/Drug Trafficking will disqualify an applicant.
 - Make minor exceptions in special cases.
- For juveniles who are victims, how are we to provide money to help? → We can provide funds to agencies that specifically help juveniles. For example, we provided \$23,00 to Bellefaire for direct service to juvenile trafficking victims.

Jerry Miller asked whether solicitation would be a qualifying felony. Alice clarified that solicitation is not a felony, but being charged as a “john” would disqualify someone from receiving victim's compensation.

Victim Services and Safe Locations- Michelle Hannan

- During first meeting in November, the subcommittee looked at the recommendations and set broad goals:
 - Peer review process to review whether service providers to HT victims are using best practices
 - Focused on developing coalitions around the state (especially Southeast OH)
 - Offer training to help.
 - Help develop training for medical personnel.
 - Jeff Barrows – work with groups to make a medical procedures for how to work with trafficking victims. The process that he is working on should be up and running in 3-6 months.
 - Need to try to identify how many people have been trained across the state- need a way to map this
 - This will involve data collection and analysis- might be a longer-term goal

- Need to help develop protocols rather than just train people. Michelle has found that having protocols versus just training is the key to identifying human trafficking victims.
 - Question about extending protocols for other groups, such as the new casinos. Michelle shared that the Salvation Army met with the groups who will run the casino in Central Ohio.
- Database
 - There is currently no statewide database to track number of human trafficking victims served
 - Need a common spreadsheet that collects performance measures
 - CORRC collects data on victims served
- This subcommittee will meet again in January

Law Enforcement & Training Subgroup- Sheriff Gene Kelly

- Just met for the first time today
- Sheriff Kelly discussed the need for basic training for all 911 operators because they have no standard training
- Brent Currence discussed creating a working group of officers – to talk about sharing information.
 - Standardize this training so officers in multiple jurisdictions are on the same page.
 - Human trafficking cases are very specialized and there is no knowledge base on the local level
 - FBI tried to do a working group a few years ago and there was no much interest. Brent would like to restart this effort.
 - Also, these cases involve multiple jurisdictions, as they are seeing girls being taken around “circuits.”
 - Central Ohio is currently trying to create a task force and reach out to local agencies. They will meet twice this week and there will hopefully be more to report next time.

Jerry Miller discussed prosecutor training. His son is a prosecutor in NE Ohio and some there still think that human trafficking does not exist there.

- Brent said that the prosecutor training has always been left up to the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
- Anthony Talbott would like to have criminal justice majors do awareness presentations
 - Sheriff Kelly thinks that human trafficking should be a part of the curriculum for criminal justice students

Crystal Ward-Allen – Prevention

- Need to bring together child welfare and law enforcement to create a more victim-centered approach
- Brent presented on the Dallas High Risk Model to the PCSAO Executive Director’s meeting. This model focuses on child welfare/LE collaboration.
 - Brent Currence said that 81 kids in the Innocence Lost database from Ohio were reported lost 483 times. These are kids who are identified as human trafficking victims or it is highly suspected that they are involved in human trafficking.
 - The Dallas model involves flagging children in child protective services custody. If law enforcement picks this child up, there is a group of child welfare professionals on call who can help
 - Columbus Police Department and Franklin County Children’s Services met once and are planning additional meetings to discuss this.

- The Salvation Army of Central Ohio is trying to bring the Dallas people here to train us in Ohio.
- Krista Allison discussed educational activities
 - ODE would like to help facilitate webinars to be able to train and get information out. ODE would need help from the Human Trafficking Commission to put on webinars.
 - ODE will also be offering fact sheets on HT to community members and families
 - ODE communications department is working on this
 - Also considering online academy, an online training tool for professors.
- Maggie Toal- PSA piece should be done and ready to go by January. Also working with Alex from University of Dayton on Facebook/Twitter page

Debra Seltzer – Demand Reduction

- Only met 1 time, 14 members and most new.
- There are two pieces to demand reduction-
 - Primary prevention is keeping young men from ever participating in human trafficking
 - Intervention- this is intervention after a man has purchased sex to keep them from doing it again (e.g., John Schools)
- How are we to work with young men to keep them from participating in human trafficking? CORCC has a good program focused on primary intervention.
 - We should identify and share local community efforts and figure out how to support these efforts.
- On the intervention piece, the goal is to figure out what is going on with John schools and learn what lessons from these
- Also identified the need to look at high-end prostitution
- Debra acknowledge the challenge to distinguish prostitution from human trafficking
- Also would like to pay more attention to labor trafficking here.
- Would like to find out what research questions the subcommittee has, then maybe they could team up with a college or university to get questions answered.

Discussion on Fedor's Safe Harbor Bill

- Melinda mentioned potentially taking out the force fraud or coercion requirement and questioned whether this is truly a safe harbor law with these things in it.
- Crystal Ward Allen mentioned that if a parent is trafficking a child, this should be grounds for termination of parental rights. Need legislation here.
- Marta gave the status of the legislation. It is currently stuck in committee.
- Legal & legislative subcommittee will meet in January.
 - Greg from PCSAO is to join.
- Crystal Ward Allen expressed concerns about county public children's services agencies having to navigate international reunifications
 - Gerrie Cotter thought that ODJFS already handles international reunification issues.
- Michelle Hannan asked if prison is a common penalty for not posting a poster (as in the Safe Harbor Bill). No one really had an answer for this.

Meeting adjourned.