

The San Diego Regional Human Trafficking – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Attendees: David Oates, Amanda Stephens, Emily Harlan, Alicia Brav, Violeta Mora, Bridget Henderson (Stephenson), Jason Phillips, Geanie Franco, Carolyn Matzger, Jerrica Phillips, Kanani Tichen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Keelin Washington

1. Chair Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Announcement of Members Participating by Teleconference and Proxy

- **Virtual:** David Oates, Geanie Franco, Violeta Mora
- **Proxy:** Violeta Mora for Charisma De Los Reyes
- **In-person:** Amanda Stephens, Emily Harlan, Alicia Brav, Bridget Henderson (Stephenson), Jason Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Jerrica Phillips, Kanani Tichen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Keelin Washington

3. Approval of May 2024 Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the May 2024 minutes.
- Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

- **Marisa Ugarte (BSCC):** Introduced Karla Duck as their new Peer Navigator, highlighting her role and contributions. Described BSCC's new contract with the County to serve survivors of HT that are justice-involved. This includes housing services. Over 32 referrals from Las Colinas have been interviewed, and 27 of them have been enrolled into the program.
- **Patrice Clark (Las Colinas Detention Facility):** Introduced herself and reported the positive experience her team has had working with BSCC, emphasizing the success of the referrals that have been made.
- **Katie Llams:** Introduced herself and provided an overview of the legal services offered by law firm Singleton Schreiber for survivors of sex trafficking, primarily working in the Civil justice system.
- **BSCC:** Also highlighted that their new contract with the County includes Section 8 housing vouchers, which so far has produced 15 successful referrals for permanent housing.

5. Meeting Frequency for the Advisory Council

- Discussion to reevaluate the meeting frequency was deferred until Susan returns to ensure her presence for the discussion.

6. Potential Addition of Cyber and Student Subcommittees

- The group discussed the potential and risks involved with establishing youth & young adult subcommittees, particularly with having minors involved.
- Kanani Tichen & Carli Richie-Zavaleta from PLNU reported that students have expressed interest in joining sub-subcommittees rather than the full subcommittees, focusing on research

and active involvement. The interest has a focus on developing a multi-university involved group, which includes UCSD, USD, SDSU, and PLNU.

- Proposal to establish a Young Adult Subcommittee separate from the Student Subcommittee to ensure youth voices are included. Further discussions about having youth voices should likely include San Diego Youth Services and organizations that work with this population,
- The council discussed concerns about involving minors on subcommittees, emphasizing mental health, confidentiality, and the need for parental approval. The group also discussed adherence to the Brown Act rules.
- It was suggested to invite students to attend meetings initially to gauge their interest and participation frequency.
- Further discussion on this topic was deferred to a future meeting before calling for formal action.
- Marisa Ugarte advocated for including youth voices in the council.
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7. Cross Committee Collaboration Work

- **American Sign Language Provisions for survivors and services after hours topic:**
 - Deferred until Susan returns.

8. Subcommittee Updates

- **Community:**
 - **Alicia Brav:** Thanked various individuals and organizations for fundraising and securing 26 backpacks containing clothing, materials, and other items for survivors. Provided updates on community engagement, trainings, and support activities. Informational materials for these events will be provided.
- **Research & Data:**
 - University student group meeting was held on June 6th, discussing ongoing projects and future initiatives.
 - Updates on the graphic novel project and internship opportunities were shared.
 - The next HT-RADAR biannual meeting is scheduled for the fall, focusing on cross-border issues. Spanish translators may be needed to assist with ongoing meetings.
 - Quarterly updates were sent out on May 10th.
 - Survey update: 52 participants have responded. Discussion on sharing the survey more broadly to include feedback from outside the council members. Other subcommittees agreed to send the survey link to the network.
 - The summit is scheduled for August 25th, and volunteers can attend for free.
- **Survivor Voices:**
 - Announced an upcoming webinar titled “Knowing Your Voice,” on June 17th, aimed at empowering survivors and enhancing their advocacy skills. A flyer will be distributed with more details.
- **Prosecution:**
 - No updates reported.
- **Law Enforcement:**
 - Updates on recent demand reduction operations were shared, highlighting the involvement of local sheriff’s offices and collaborative efforts to combat human trafficking.
- **Survivor Services:**
 - No updates reported.
- **Health:**
 - Recent subcommittee meeting focused on identifying gaps within the healthcare system, specifically how well providers are trauma-informed. Efforts to involve more service providers in the subcommittee were also discussed.

- Sharp Coronado Healthcare will be hosting a mandatory training for all staff to increase knowledge and awareness of trauma-informed care in September 2024.
- **Education:**
 - Updates on foster youth contacts and previous and future training events. Plans for a County Office event over the summer were provided. Emphasis was placed on incorporating human trafficking and bullying prevention into Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs.
- **Child and Family Well-being:**
 - Updates on the radio, social media, and transit poster campaigns aimed at raising awareness about CSEC.
 - A recording of the recent press conference has been posted on the County Facebook page.
 - Flyers and posters can be distributed to other organizations upon request.
 - The development of a community response guide was discussed, which will help direct appropriate reporting of incidents. The guide will be distributed once finalized.
 - An Interrater Reliability testing to be conducted and will require around 400 participants to be effective.
- **Business:**
 - **David Oates:** Provided an update on the development of a resource page for employers and businesses to get involved in combating human trafficking. The website is expected to launch by end of September. A web developer has been hired, and storyboarding is expected to be completed in about one month.
 - Discussed outreach efforts and invited members to tour “Talitha Coffee,” which provides employment opportunities to survivors. The tour is scheduled for July 15th.
 - The summit date has been officially moved to Friday, January 10, 2025, to allow for more preparation. The summit steering committee to meet in the next couple weeks.
 - There was a discussion on whether the summit should be more solution-focused, emphasizing the inclusion of topics related to labor trafficking alongside sex trafficking.
 - Members also emphasized the importance of addressing both sex trafficking and labor trafficking together due to their overlap, especially among youth.
 - David Oates reiterated that the summit should focus on presenting action plans rather than being a forum for debates and discussions.
 - Further discussion regarding this matter to be addressed upon Susan’s return.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024.