

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



Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Attendees: David Oates, Emily Harlan, Susan Munsey, Alicia Brav, Charisma De Los Reyes, Jerrica Phillips, Mitch Jones, Annie Rodriguez, Bridget Henderson, Heather Nemour, Amy Sharpe, Carolyn Matzger, Amanda Stephens, Kanani Titchen

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, Emily Harlan, Bridget Henderson
- **Proxy:** Mitch Jones on behalf of Geanie Franco, Annie Rodriguez on behalf of Keelin Washington
- **In-person:** Susan Munsey, Alicia Brav, Charisma De Los Reyes, Jerrica Phillips, Mitch Jones, Annie Rodriguez, Heather Nemour, Amy Sharpe, Carolyn Matzger, Amanda Stephens, Kanani Titchen

3. Approval of May 2024 Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the June 2024 minutes after one adjustment clarifying that the mandatory training topic was related to Sharp Healthcare Coronado facility only.
- Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

- **Guidel Olivas (AHTII):** Requested the establishment of a new subcommittee focused on cyber intelligence, including dark web and darknet intelligence, and cryptocurrency tracking to follow the money used in human trafficking. He emphasized the importance of addressing cyber aspects in combating human trafficking.
 - Chair indicated that this subcommittee topic can be called for vote in the months to come.
 - A formal proposal with more details was requested, which Guidel agreed to provide for further consideration.
- **Marisa Ugarte (BSCC):** Introduced Maresha, a new peer support navigator for BSCC. Marisa emphasized the need to include labor trafficking in the council's discussions, highlighting the significant overlap with sex trafficking, especially involving minors. Reports having representatives from the Federal Labor Department and members of the DA, who are willing to provide a presentation.
 - Marisa to provide points of contact to Council members for further discussion.
- **Vanessa Ratliff (Singleton Schreiber):** Vanessa, a paralegal manager, reminded the council that their firm is accepting cases related to human trafficking, specifically civil litigation against hotels, companies, teachers, and coaches. They focus on holding these entities accountable for facilitating trafficking. The firm expressed interest in joining the committee to contribute legal expertise.

- **Emily Merrill (Generate Hope):** Announced the restart of the "Churches Against Trafficking" initiative, aiming to unify local churches in supporting trafficking survivors. She expressed interest in presenting more details in a future meeting.

5. Summit Updates

- **Susan:** Reminded the council that the summit has been moved to January 10, 2025, at Point Loma Liberty Station to allow more time for planning.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - **Structure:** The summit will include breakout groups for each subcommittee, with representatives present to discuss their specific areas. Each group will include a mix of subcommittee members and external experts.
 - **Speakers:** The summit will feature several survivor speakers and community leaders to share their experiences and insights.
 - **Summary of Findings:** At the end of the day, a summary of findings will be compiled and shared with the Board of Supervisors.
 - **Overlapping Topics:** Alicia inquired about the overlap of group meeting topics. It was decided that overlapping topics should be grouped to streamline discussions.
 - **Invitees:** Each subcommittee is tasked with providing a list of 10 expert invitees. This list is crucial for security purposes and to ensure a focused and productive summit.
 - **Save the Dates:** Will be sent out within the next month to ensure maximum attendance.
 - **Security Precautions:** Emphasis on the need for email addresses of attendees for security reasons due to the presence of high-profile individuals. Registration is needed to identify number of attendees. Agencies interested in having a booth at the event should email Susan Munsey OR Alvin Amar, with forwarding to Summit Committee.

6. Discussion of Council Meeting Every Other Month

- The council discussed the pros and cons of meeting every other month versus monthly. Points included:
 - **Brown Act Compliance:** Ensuring the council remains compliant with attendance and meeting requirements. While the Brown Act requires a minimum of five meetings per year, the bylaws would need to be updated to reflect any new changes.
 - **Exclusionary Months:** Discussed the benefits of a scheduled that excludes certain months, for example: excluding January, then attending February, April, June, August, October, and December.
 - **Special Meetings:** Discussed the potential and the concerns about the effectiveness of calling special meetings and potential attendance issues.
 - **2025 Start:** Suggested that any changes should begin in 2025, post-summit.
 - **Benefits:** Highlighted the benefits of cross-collaboration and increased stakeholder participation with less frequent but more meaningful meetings.
 - **Support Needs:** Attendees also stressed the importance of ongoing meetings to support and maintain committee direction, momentum, and effectiveness.
 - **Vote:** A vote on this item is scheduled for next month. Members to vote on:
 - Whether to meet monthly, every other month, or a modified schedule
 - When the change will begin

7. Subcommittee Updates

- **Business:**
 - **David Oates:** Reported that the website development for education and employment opportunities is on track. The content will be finalized in 5 days, with mockups ready in 2.5 weeks. The website is expected to be operational by early September. Outreach

efforts are ongoing to vet programs for human trafficking survivors, ensuring they meet the necessary standards for inclusion on the site.

- **Education:**
 - **Training:** An upcoming training in collaboration with the San Diego Unified Police Force is scheduled for July 24th. The training, facilitated by the Human Trafficking Task Force, will cover protocols and procedures for handling human trafficking cases.
 - **Lakeside Union School District:** Highlighted their commitment to preventing human trafficking by training 197 staff members in a reporting protocol and presenting to over 700 7th- and 8th-grade students on how to stay safe online during the summer.
- **Community:**
 - **Comic-Con Outreach:** Scheduled for July 26th. Volunteers will distribute materials to raise awareness about human trafficking, including hotline numbers and resources. Collaboration with businesses in downtown San Diego to distribute trafficking information alongside receipts was also discussed.
 - **Speaker Series:** Collaboration with Survivor Services faced logistical challenges. The series will continue privately, with a focus on policy discussions regarding forced criminality.
 - **September 13th Event:** A speaker from Shared Hope International will address policy and implications for forced criminality.
- **Health:**
 - **Community Health Needs Assessment:** Ongoing, with a focus on hearing from service providers and survivors about gaps in healthcare services. The assessment aims to document and address these gaps to expand programming.
 - **Simulation Lab:** Sharp Coronado Healthcare will host a healthcare simulation lab training on September 4th and 5th, aiming for national impact. This will be a mandatory training for Sharp Coronado Emergency Department RNs and HCPs.
- **Child and Family Well-being:**
 - **Community Response Guide:** Surveys launched to gather feedback on the guide, which helps determine whether incidents should be reported to child welfare services. The goal is to shift from mandated reporting to mandated supporting.
 - **Online Mandated Reporting:** System launched for non-urgent cases. Registration requires a pre-approved domain, and hospitals and medical providers were the first to be included.
 - **Radio Ad Campaign:** Ongoing through August 31st. Collaboration with law enforcement and survivor services to create radio ads and podcasts. Participation in the San Diego Pride Festival to raise awareness and promote foster and adoptive resources.
- **Law Enforcement:**
 - **Task Force Efforts:** Continued focus on education, prevention, enforcement, and recovery. Recent outreach included a presentation to 300 Airbnb owners. Successful recovery of a juvenile trafficking victim from Las Vegas.
 - **Future Operations:** Planning for operations during upcoming conventions, including Comic-Con.
- **Prosecution:**
 - **New Deputy DA:** Ian Fells joined the Human Trafficking Task Force and the Sex Crimes division. He is eager to participate in training and case collaborations.
 - **Judges' Training:** Participating in a remote training session on vacature and affirmative defenses, with 50-60 judges from various court backgrounds.
- **Research and Data:**

- **Qualitative Study:** A study on youth survivor voices has been accepted for publication. The goal is to share survivor experiences with the broader community.
- **New Research Brief:** Published on the challenges and support needed for the reintegration of human trafficking survivors. The brief emphasizes survivor-centered, trauma-informed approaches.
- **HT-RADAR Biannual Meeting:** Scheduled for October 16th, featuring researchers from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, Mexico, to discuss border issues and vulnerabilities of migrant youth and families.
- **Survivor Voices:**
 - **SB1414 Update:** The Senate Public Safety Committee forced amendments that weakened SB1414, excluding 16 and 17-year-olds from protection. Marjorie Sailor, a Survivor Voice leader, returned to Sacramento to advocate for the original form.
 - **Community Events:** Announced a free event on July 29th at One Safe Place with speakers including Summer Stephan and Jim Desmond. Private appointments for tattoo removal, scar revisions, and reconstructive surgeries for trafficking survivors are also available. Flyers to be provided.
- **Survivor Services:**
 - No updates.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2024.