



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COUNCIL

Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 17th, 2017 at 6:30pm
Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Winchester Hall

Members present were Miles Ward, Frederick County Human Relations Department, Chief Ed Hargis and SGT Andrew Alcorn, Frederick City Police Department, Malcom Furgol, United Way, Heather Moreno, Heartly House, Jessica Fitzwater, Frederick County Council, Jessica Beall, Department of Social Services, Pamela Holtzinger, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Barbara Fink, Health Department, Lindsey Carpenter, State's Attorney's Office, Angela Spencer, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Annie Jones, Commission for Women, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Human Relations Commission, Michael O'Connor, Maryland Municipal League, and Karen Lewis Young, State Delegation.

Also present were guests Ayn Ducao, US Attorney's Office, Sydnee Sichert, Frederick County Council, Sara Kominers, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Matt Vilcek, FBI, Lyndon George and Amanda Stewart, Homeland Security Investigations

1. Guest Speaker, Ayn Ducao
Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force
United States Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, District of Maryland
 - a. Ms. Ducao is an Assistant US Attorney who handles human trafficking prosecutions in federal court. She spoke about challenges in HT enforcement, and the need for many additional services for victims. She provided a snapshot of the kinds of HT cases handled by the US Attorney's Office.
 - b. There is not a high volume of HT cases. From 2009-16 there were 5-13 indictments. Child sex trafficking is often seen in Baltimore.
 - c. Some cases are fine to stay at the local level but the advantage of federal cases is they often have mandatory minimum sentences
 - i. 15 years minimum if force, fraud or coercion is shown
 - ii. 10 year mandatory minimum (life is max) for child sex trafficking (15 if force, fraud or coercion also shown)
 - d. Gangs play a role; HT has less risk and is more lucrative than drug trafficking
 - e. All cases involved local law enforcement and require a multi-pronged approach; the best evidence is testimony of victim, which they only get when trust has been gained and needs are being met.
 - i. Gave case examples highlighting the importance of first responders knowing indicators, and the collaboration between local, state and federal agencies
 - f. Recommendations we collaborate with Maryland HTTF and utilize information compiled by its committees; talk with other county task forces
2. Questions for Ms. Ducao
 - a. Challenges in trafficking cases



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- i. In minor cases, they have to either prove the person knew they were a minor or were in reckless disregard
 - ii. Hard to prove force, fraud and coercion in cases
 - iii. Trafficking cases are very resource intensive
 - b. Geography of cases
 - i. Strong Asian massage parlor presence in Baltimore County
 - ii. MS13 gangs and brothels in PG County
 - c. Resource allocation – what argument can be made to funders?
 - i. Require demonstration of need- personal stories and numbers; this crime is very difficult to get accurate numbers for
 - ii. Amelia Rubenstien, Clinical Research Specialist with the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative at the University of Maryland – working on data collection statewide; great resource
 - iii. Contact local CPS for numbers of cases they are seeing.
 - iv. Housing is a major service gap.
 - d. Suggestion for focusing our task force so we're not duplicating work
 - i. Define our priority goals; find out from difference task forces their model (PG, Montgomery, Eastern Shore, Washington County, Baltimore City)
 - ii. Have a conduit for state task force; network
 - iii. Email Ms. Ducao to get on MDHTTF listserv
 - e. Information sharing among local, state and federal law enforcement
 - i. Law enforcement already reporting to MD Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) for resource gathering
 - ii. Need more information sharing across state lines. Chief Hargis mentioned Case Explorer, a law enforcement data system used in his department.
 - iii. May 2015 Statewide recommendations from MDHTTF is great resource
3. Approval of minutes: Chief Ed Hargis moved to approve the minutes and Marguerite Vacca-Keye seconded the motion. Minutes from Meeting held March 6th, 2017 were approved.
4. Discussion of Human Trafficking Survey
 - a. No changes suggested; Jessica suggested sending out tomorrow April 18th.
 - b. Barbara and Pam have list of all survey recipients; everyone agreed on also forwarding the survey link to any other applicable persons not listed.
 - c. Will send from humantrafficking@frederickcountymd.gov email list administrated by Caroline and Sydnee; suggested adding Heather as an administrator as well.
 - d. Lynn or Miles will send intro paragraph to put into body of the email.
 - e. Michelle is administrator of survey and will check response rate midway; suggested adding Heather as an administrator as well.
 - f. Agreed on making a clear end date of May 2nd with a reminder email sent on April 25th
5. Sub-Committee Updates
 - a. **Legislative:**



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- i. Delegate Young will share an update on Maryland Human Trafficking laws at our next meeting.
 - ii. Discussed posting Human Trafficking hotline info; Anne Arundel County recently passed local law requiring certain businesses to post. We will look at future legislation to do something similar in Frederick County.
 - b. **Community Response & Protocol:**
 - i. Shared current draft assessment tool and resource guide
 - ii. Sgt. Alcorn shared his screening adapted from Lethality Assessment Protocol; he wants to keep it simple because law enforcement is good at conducting LAPs already. He will adapt it as needed based on screening tool DJS uses for potential child victims and add phone numbers.
 - iii. Suggestion of adding the question “Do they always live in the same place?”
 - iv. Discussed future goal of creating a county wide protocol to put together screenings and how to utilize them in various agencies.
 - c. **Data and Scope:**
 - i. No additional information to report
 - ii. Researching other task forces; mentioned Truckers Against Trafficking, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Polaris Project Trauma-Informed Screenings, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Medical Protocol
 - d. **Training:**
 - i. Pam will talk with Amanda Rodriguez about what MDHTTF can offer and arrange for hospital based training; mentioned Rapid Screening Tool from Chicago and “Red Flags” screening tool.
 - ii. Discussed value in multi-disciplinary training rather than “silos” of training; perhaps a large training with breakout sessions specific to various service providers .
6. **Collective Group Recommendations:**
 - a. Next meeting will be held on May 1st at 6:30pm.
 - b. Jessica suggested each sub-committee will bring a timeline with deadlines to hold us accountable; she will look into solution for Google Drive
 - c. Heather will give brief discussion on Maryland Crime Victims’ Rights Conference
 - d. Final report needs to be done by February; we need to set a draft date.
 - e. Every other meeting will have a speaker (as needed); every other will be a working meeting.
7. **Public Comment:**
 - a. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was mentioned as a data source. One in six endangered runaways reported to it in 2016 were likely sex trafficking victims; most were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing.
 - b. FBI’s Operation Cross Country keeps statistics (since 2001); FBI Victim Witness Program (Renee Murrell) is an excellent resource
 - c. Maryland Judicial Task Force (contact: Judge Sandy) – will do judge training this summer



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8. Adjournment