

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



Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.



Attendees: David Oates, Amanda Stephens, Eileen Quinn-O'Malley, Alicia Brav, Rebecca Boyce, Heather Nemour, Anabel Luna, Amy Sharpe, Bridget Henderson, Jason Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Jerrica Phillips, Kanani Titchen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Arturo Garcia, Melissa Haupt, Susan Munsey

I. Chair welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm

Chair opened the meeting with remarks on resilience and commitment, quoting Amelia Earhart: "The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity." She acknowledged the efforts of the Council through challenging times

II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference and proxy

- **Virtual:** David Oates, Anabel Luna, Bridget Henderson, Kanani Titchen, Melissa Haupt
- **Proxy:** Sgt. Schnautz in proxy of Geanie Franco and Majorie S. in proxy of Keelin Washington
- **In-person:** Amanda Stephens, Eileen Quinn-O'Malley, Alicia Brav, Rebecca Boyce, Heather Nemour, Amy Sharpe, Jason Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Jerrica Phillips, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Arturo Garcia, Susan Munsey
- The February 2025 minutes were approved.
- Motion to approve was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Public comment on non-agenda items

- No public comments

IV. Summit Update

- Summit feedback surveys were distributed, though only 13–15 responses have been received. Dr. Ami Carpenter is coordinating the draft of the letter to the Board of Supervisors. Of the nine volunteers who offered to contribute to the letter, she has spoken with five. The remainder will be contacted individually. Dr. Carpenter requested additional reviewers; Carolyn volunteered. The letter is currently five pages long and still in progress.

V. Elections Process

- Rebaz provided a summary of the upcoming Advisory Council election process. Each subcommittee is tasked with electing a Chair and Vice Chair ahead of the June meeting. These individuals will represent their subcommittees as new voting members of the Advisory Council. In June, the Council will elect its Chair and Vice Chair. The new Advisory Council will convene in August. Members requested an email summary of the process and a copy of the bylaws, which were shared via email after the meeting.

VI. 2-1-1 San Diego Presentation

- Jessica Peter, Vice President of External Affairs at 2-1-1 San Diego, gave an in-depth presentation on the services provided by the organization. She explained the history of 2-1-1, their expansive community resource database (6,000+ services), multilingual 24/7 call center, and role in disaster response. Key tools include the Community Calendar and the Community Information Exchange (CIE), which connects over 130 partners through secure data sharing. She also reviewed limitations around accessing real-time bed availability, housing placements, and mental health integration. Jessica emphasized that providers can add or update their services in the database at no cost, and non-profits can participate in the CIE for free. Council members discussed potential partnerships and system gaps, including referrals for minors, data tracking, and survivor-centered resource navigation. A copy of the presentation was sent to Council members via email along with a video demonstrating a walk-through of the resource database explaining how improvements of tags for services that directly serve those affected by human trafficking can be made. Jessica's contact information was shared.

VII. Subcommittee updates

- **Education:** Provided updates on ongoing efforts to support trafficking prevention and awareness in K–12 schools across San Diego County. The subcommittee is currently developing a Human Trafficking Prevention Policy and Practice Toolkit designed specifically for middle and high schools. The toolkit is in its final graphic design phase and is expected to be completed by next month. The subcommittee is simultaneously working on an outreach plan to ensure that the toolkit reaches all school districts and charter schools within the county. Plans include hosting a series of one-hour webinars to provide an overview of the toolkit, in addition to making it available online through the county's web portal. The goal is to equip schools with clear, practical guidance to meet legislative mandates and implement best practices around trafficking prevention. Recently presented at the HT-RADAR Summit, where they offered a high-level overview of past, current, and future anti-trafficking initiatives taking place across local school systems. The presentation was followed by meaningful discussions with attendees, helping to align shared goals and highlight the ongoing commitment to prevention in educational settings. The subcommittee is also prioritizing efforts to increase parent-focused education and training, recognizing that families play a critical role in prevention. One of the immediate steps includes distributing the flyer for the “Trafficking Amongst Peers” training to all districts and charters, targeting both parents and youth-serving professionals. The next subcommittee meeting will take place in May, during which members will finalize the toolkit outreach plan for the upcoming school year.
- **Business:** Provided updates on recent efforts to expand the Survivor Support Network, which connects survivors of trafficking with workforce development opportunities. The subcommittee is actively pursuing partnerships with San Diego Workforce Partnership and the Cyber Center of Excellence to enhance training and job placement resources for survivors. The Cyber Center of Excellence offers free cybersecurity training and has already begun collaborating with survivor-focused organizations such as GenerateHope and North County Lifeline. Plans are underway to formalize participation and explore integration into the network. Meanwhile, David is scheduled to meet with the Programs Chair of San Diego Workforce Partnership to discuss pathways for survivors who are job-ready to enter pre-employment training and job placement programs, building on existing models like those offered through Goodwill. These efforts reflect growing momentum, with the subcommittee noting that interest in the Survivor Support Network is increasing since its launch six months ago. The team is also working to generate opportunities for survivors to access internships and other workplace development experiences through local business engagement. The subcommittee thanked members and partner organizations for their continued support and collaboration as these initiatives evolve.
- **Child and Family Well-Being:** Welcomed new Interim Co-Chair Eileen O’Malley, following Emily Harlan’s departure. Eileen introduced herself as a representative of Behavioral Health Services, where she oversees the iCare contract, a program providing mental health support and drop-in services for minors at risk for commercial sexual exploitation. In March, the subcommittee recognized Social Work Month, encouraging members to express appreciation for social workers in their lives. During the last subcommittee meeting, members focused on finalizing internal bylaws, which had not yet been formalized. The goal is to complete this process before the upcoming subcommittee elections in July. In observance of Child Abuse Awareness Month, the subcommittee highlighted several events and campaigns. Members were encouraged to participate in “Wear Blue for Kids Day” and post photos using the hashtag #WearBlueForKids throughout April. Additional events include a Flag Raising Ceremony on April 25 at the Polinsky Children’s Center, and a “Pinwheels for Prevention” press conference on April 29. The pinwheel campaign is part of a national effort to raise awareness about child abuse prevention, with pinwheels available for purchase as a fundraising and symbolic gesture. The subcommittee is also sharing two upcoming virtual training opportunities: “Trafficking Amongst Peers: Recruitment, Resistance, and Resiliency”, a caregiver and youth-serving professional training hosted by the California Department of Social Services, will be held on April 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration is available via the PACT Project's statewide training calendar. A Child Sex Trafficking Trends and Response webinar hosted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is scheduled for April 24 at 10:00 a.m. Registration for this training is available via SurveyMonkey (link to be distributed via flyer).

Flyers for both events were sent out to the full Advisory Council distribution list.

- **Health:** Held its most recent meeting in partnership with Child and Family Well-Being Services, featuring a presentation on mandated reporting responsibilities for healthcare professionals. The session was well-received and aligned with the subcommittee's ongoing efforts to strengthen systemwide responses to human trafficking through education and policy alignment. Reported on a significant upcoming initiative at Sharp HealthCare, where the team is updating internal policies and procedures in compliance with SB-963, California's new human trafficking law that impacts healthcare systems. As part of this rollout, a simulation-based training will be offered to Sharp staff on May 22–23 at the Sharp Simulation Center. The training will feature live case studies designed to build trauma-informed responses and is eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for nurses and social service professionals. The training was developed in collaboration with No More, who assisted in recruiting trained actors for the simulation scenarios. While the event is currently limited to Sharp staff, Bridget welcomed future discussions around broader system collaboration or replication in other healthcare settings. Highlighted additional educational efforts that will be conducting live presentations for Physician Assistant (PA) students and multidisciplinary clinical rounds in May at a Level II trauma center. Will be co-presenting with a registered nurse from Sharp who previously completed the simulation training and has since emerged as a leader in trauma-informed care education. The subcommittee also announced plans for an upcoming training on non-fatal strangulation, a critical issue in trafficking and abuse cases. Final details are still being confirmed, and the training announcement will be shared through the Advisory Council listserv once finalized. These initiatives reflect the subcommittee's commitment to advancing evidence-based, trauma-informed care for trafficking survivors and ensuring that healthcare professionals across San Diego County are equipped with the tools and knowledge to identify and respond appropriately.
- **Law Enforcement:** The Law Enforcement Subcommittee provided a comprehensive report on recent operations and ongoing challenges in the region. Officer Jason Phillips shared that the San Diego Police Department has had an extremely busy first quarter of 2025. Between January and March, law enforcement handled 44 complaints, made 23 arrests, and recovered 43 victims, including 27 juveniles—a significant and concerning increase from previous years. Officer Phillips noted that San Diego is becoming a regional hub for juvenile sex trafficking, a trend corroborated by survivor interviews and field intelligence. Factors contributing to this include the city's accessibility, the high concentration of short-term rentals and hotels, and San Diego's reputation for proactive policing. While these efforts are commendable, the increasing volume of cases is placing a strain on limited law enforcement resources. Currently, a small team of approximately a dozen detectives is managing the full scope of local and federal trafficking investigations. He also highlighted recent participation in the Citizens of Courage Award Ceremony, where a survivor was honored for bravely assisting in the prosecution of her trafficker. Two detectives from the task force had worked closely on her case, and the ceremony served as a moving reminder of the importance of survivor-centered investigative work. In terms of community collaboration, Officer Phillips shared a positive experience collecting hygiene donations organized by Alicia and the Community Subcommittee at the Boys & Girls Club. These contributions will support survivors through the backpack initiative, although additional donations—particularly clothing items—are still needed. During the meeting, concerns were raised about systemic barriers in juvenile placement and service coordination. Officer Phillips explained that interventions are limited when survivors lack cooperative or supportive family structures. The response often hinges on the willingness of the survivor to engage, and housing availability continues to be a major obstacle. In response to questions from members, Officer Phillips confirmed that law enforcement is actively working with the County's Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) team and partner agencies such as HSI, which has recently joined the local task force and provides valuable language and immigration resources. However, significant challenges remain around staffing, housing availability, and long-term coordination. Dr. Kanani Titchen raised the issue of data collection and the need for better tracking of survivor touchpoints, including schools, emergency departments (adult and pediatric), psychiatric services, and public transportation. Officer Phillips acknowledged these gaps and committed to working with CFWB staff to explore what data is currently available regarding survivor interactions with public systems and what further

tracking could support early intervention. The subcommittee reiterated that the needs identified during the Human Trafficking Summit—including the need for housing solutions, survivor stabilization, buyer accountability, and more investigative support—remain urgent but complex. While there is strong collaboration among agencies, sustained resources and systemic change are needed to adequately meet the growing demand.

- **Prosecution:** Nothing to share publicly at the moment.
- **Research and Data:** Reported the final publication of a new Open Access multi-method study examining the healthcare experiences of youth survivors of labor and sex trafficking in San Diego. The study was co-authored by Dr. Titchen, Jessica Kim, Ellora Nyhan, Liz Chang (Emergency Medicine, Rady Children's), and Dr. Makini Chisholm-Straker (formerly of Mount Sinai). The study surveyed 24 youth and conducted 9 interviews, highlighting key barriers to care—such as the belief that youth cannot seek emergency medical attention without insurance or a guardian, and the impact of previous negative interactions with healthcare providers. Dr. Titchen emphasized the importance of trauma-informed training for healthcare professionals and encouraged members to share the publication widely to amplify survivor voices. The article will be included in the next Council newsletter. Carli provided a comprehensive update on the subcommittee's ongoing initiatives. The HT-RADAR Biannual Meeting, held on March 20, was a success, featuring presentations from county representatives, education agencies, and nonprofit leaders in human trafficking prevention. Topics focused on policy, prevention, and education, and presenters included directors from multiple youth-focused programs such as Science Safe, Protect, and No More. The event was recorded, and the roundtable discussion will be shared with Council members. The quarterly Research and Data Subcommittee meeting, held in February, featured a student researcher completing a business degree who presented her project on barriers and support systems for survivors pursuing entrepreneurship. Carli has served on the student's advisory committee and noted the value of integrating survivor-centered business research into Council priorities. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 8 at the University of San Diego campus and will focus on evidence-based policymaking and interdisciplinary data collaboration. Dr. Titchen will lead the meeting, which aims to strengthen connections between prevention education, cybersecurity research, and survivor services. Carli also shared that the second installment of a two-part research brief on online exploitation is being finalized. While the first brief addressed general trends, the second delves deeper into how online platforms serve as both exploitation tools and prevention/awareness mechanisms. Interviews with survivors emphasized the importance of using digital platforms not only for education and outreach, but also for recovery and exit strategies. This brief will be distributed through mailing lists and the upcoming Council newsletter. The subcommittee's quarterly newsletter is scheduled for release next week and will feature highlights, event announcements, grant opportunities, and links to recent research. Members are encouraged to submit content for future editions through the newsletter's Google form submission link. Lastly, the subcommittee is concluding Phase One of its contracted research project, which focuses on prevention efforts over the past four years—particularly those targeting youth. Carli invited any subcommittees that have collected relevant data on primary prevention efforts to share their findings so they can be included in the final report, which is expected to be published by the end of the fiscal year or early summer.
- **Survivor Services:** Subcommittee reconvened in February to review gaps identified during the recent Human Trafficking Summit and discuss potential focus areas for action. Members agreed that while there were several priorities to explore, the topic that gained the most traction was how to better support survivors in the workplace—both in general employment and in roles related to anti-trafficking advocacy. The discussion included the need for workplace skills and creating pathways for survivors interested in advocacy roles. The subcommittee also met with David Oates from the Business Subcommittee to align efforts and avoid duplication, fostering a collaborative approach moving forward. During the March meeting, members shared a range of ideas and connections, including workforce development resources and trainings such as trauma-informed care and CPR certification, which could help

strengthen survivor resumes and career readiness. Subcommittee members are currently following up on these ideas, and the group anticipates compiling a shared resource list that can be distributed to interested survivors & agencies. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 17, where updates and progress on this initiative will be discussed

- **Survivor Voices:** Marjorie Saylor provided a brief update on behalf of Keelin Washington and the Survivor Voices Subcommittee. Although not originally planning to present, she shared important information regarding SB 379—the Survivor Support and Demand Reduction Act. This proposed state legislation seeks to strengthen protections for trafficking victims and increase accountability for buyers. The bill would create a Victim Services Support Fund administered through Cal OES and would expand protections to individuals under 18, addressing gaps in existing laws such as SB 1414, which currently offer protections only to those 15 and younger. Marjorie emphasized that the bill is supported by survivors and is a step toward meaningful policy reform. She noted that a detailed informational email outlining SB 379, including a support letter template and guidance for organizations interested in endorsing the bill, has been distributed by Art to the Council. Survivor Voice Subcommittee members and other stakeholders are encouraged to review the material and share their support if aligned. Additionally, opportunities exist for survivors to speak in support of the bill at committee hearings, and financial assistance for travel may be available. Marjorie cautioned, however, that organizations should carefully assess a survivor's readiness before encouraging participation in legislative advocacy due to the potentially triggering nature of the proceedings. Referrals for survivor advocates can be directed to her directly via the contact information included in the distributed email.
- **Community:** The Community Subcommittee announced a virtual training scheduled for April 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. The session will focus on the sex trafficking and exploitation of children and will cover 2024 data trends, key observations, lessons learned, and available resources for professionals working with youth and families. All are encouraged to register and attend. The subcommittee continues to lead efforts on the Survivor Backpack Initiative, which has successfully met its goal for hygiene item and backpack donations thanks to generous support from Your Safe Place Foundation, GenerateHope, and the Rotary Clubs of Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego, and Southeast San Diego. The current request is focused on clothing donations—specifically women's sizes M–XL, men's sizes S–XL, small throw blankets, and flip flops. Those interested in contributing financially toward clothing purchases can scan the Soroptimist International of San Diego donation QR code featured on the campaign flyer. Soroptimist is serving as a fiduciary sponsor for the initiative, helping to ensure transparency and accountability for all contributions. A coordinated donation drop-off event will take place on May 16, 2025, at One Safe Place in San Marcos. Community members may drop off items throughout the day. From 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., a welcome and brief overview of the Task Force will be shared, including how donations align with the 4P's framework for combatting human trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships. Additionally, the subcommittee relayed a request from Sharia's Closet, which is seeking volunteers to help organize donations and serve as personal stylists, offering styling guidance to individuals receiving clothing support. Flyers and additional details were shared with Advisory Council members.

The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025.