

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



Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

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

County Administration Building

1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

3rd Floor Room 302

Attendees: Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Trish Martinez, Heather Nemour, Bridget Henderson, Amy Sharpe, Francisco Brambila, David Jarman, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger (Chair), Lianne Urada, Ami Carpenter, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt (Vice Chair), Heather Carmody, Amanda Garcia (child and family well-being representative)

I. Chair welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:34pm by Carolyn Matzger

II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference

- **Virtual:** Trish Martinez (caregiving), Amy Sharpe (contagious illness), Ami Carpenter (travel)
- **In-person:** Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Heather Nemour, Bridget Henderson, Francisco Brambila, David Jarman, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Lianne Urada, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt, Heather Carmody, Amanda Garcia (child and family well-being representative).

III. Approval of minutes

- Members were given the opportunity to review the minutes.
- No corrections or changes were offered.
- June 2026 minutes were approved.

IV. Public comment on non-agenda items

- No public comments(s)

V. Summit report update

- The Chair provided an update on the status of the summit report, noting that revisions had been completed and that the recommendations had been consolidated into eleven final items. The updated report was returned to County staff for final review. Pending no further corrections, Public Safety will brief the Chief Administrative Office and subsequently forward the report to the Board of Supervisors as a memo. Once reviewed by the Board, related workgroups will be formed to begin collaborative work on the recommendations. No questions were raised by members.

VI. Presentations

- **Brown Act Refresher: Mark Day, County Counsel**

- i. The first presentation of the meeting was delivered by County Counsel representative Mark Day, who provided a comprehensive refresher on the Brown Act. His presentation covered the definition of legislative bodies, what constitutes a meeting, and how serial meetings may occur through daisy-chain or hub-and-spoke communication patterns across email, social media, or messaging platforms. He reviewed agenda requirements, limits on non-agenda action, teleconferencing rules—including “just cause” participation limits—and the ability of bodies to manage disruptions. Mark also noted that proxy participation is only permitted if alternates are designated at the time of appointment under the current ordinance and that materials distributed to a majority of members must be made available to the public when requested. Members asked clarifying questions regarding proxies,

excused absences, and distribution requirements for presentation materials. The Chair and County Support Staff later confirmed that proxies are not permitted.

- **The NEW Human Trafficking Prevention Program: Protocols, Support & Resources. Presenters: Rickeena Boy-Kamei, San Diego Unified Human Trafficking Advocate. Carlos Rodriguez, San Diego Unified Internal Investigator. Farshad Talebi, San Diego Unified Executive Director of Investigations, Compliance, and Accountability**
 - i. The second presentation was provided by representatives from San Diego Unified School District. They introduced the district's new Human Trafficking Prevention Program, launched in January 2026, and described their team's professional backgrounds in investigations, anti-trafficking work, and school-based prevention. The presenters discussed the district's new reporting system, which emphasizes reporting observable red flags rather than requiring staff to determine whether a situation meets the definition of trafficking. They shared a case example in which separate reports across different schools allowed the district to identify and coordinate with the Human Trafficking Task Force regarding a single perpetrator. They also described the district's new website, which includes reporting tools, training request forms, and partnership vetting processes. Additional updates included efforts to implement prevention education, strengthen school staff training, expand community partnerships, and engage students through outreach projects such as informational materials placed on district buses. Members asked questions regarding protocol design, partnership processes, and funding considerations. San Diego Unified representatives encouraged partners to use the program's QR code to request training or propose curriculum.

VII. Roundtable Updates

- **Business**
 - i. Absent
- **Child and Family Well-Being**
 - i. Reported no policy updates and noted that Amanda Stephens would return from leave at the end of the month.
- **Community**
 - i. Held a cohort meeting featuring two presenters who spoke on identifying human trafficking indicators within real estate and housing settings. The presentation was described as highly informative and well done. The sector also tabled at Senator Blakespear's human trafficking panel on July 16, alongside representatives working on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP). The sector then provided an update on its annual Comic-Con outreach, noting that engagement was strong. Public interactions were generally positive, with only one minimally concerning encounter. Looking ahead, the sector hopes to secure space inside the Comic-Con venue, as previous requests were declined on the grounds that the subject matter was "not family friendly." The sector will seek support from the Advisory Council, the Board of Supervisors, and the District Attorney's Office to expand access in future years. They emphasized that they do not wish to discontinue their longstanding outdoor outreach—now in its tenth year—but rather to build upon it. Overall, the sector reported a highly successful outreach season.
- **Education**
 - i. Reported that it does not meet during the summer months because schools are not in session, and its next meeting will take place in September. Last year, the sector offered countywide parent webinars for the first time, beginning with elementary parents and then secondary parents, focusing on human trafficking awareness. The feedback was very positive and the webinars were considered successful. The sector plans to continue these offerings in the coming year. In the fall, two rounds of webinars will be provided for middle and high school parents, while the next elementary parent session is planned for the spring. The sector is also planning and coordinating staff trainings, including its annual multidisciplinary training, and is

exploring additional partnerships to expand training opportunities for school employees

- **Health**

- i. Reported ongoing efforts to create more tangible opportunities for healthcare professionals to support survivors. In July, a nurse from the sector facilitated a session with participants at GenerateHope, focusing on basic healthcare knowledge, women's health, preventive care, and what to expect during medical visits. The session was well received, and the participants invited her to return in September for a follow up conversation on women's health. The sector expressed interest in developing basic curriculum materials so that similar sessions can be offered more broadly to other healthcare professionals and survivor service programs. The sector is also preparing a larger healthcare community training focused on best practices for identifying and supporting patients who may be experiencing trafficking. Although the training was initially planned for One Safe Place, the event will now take place at the Sharp Healthcare simulation center and will be open to the broader healthcare community with support from an executive sponsor. The training will occur on November 24 and will use live simulation, with participants rotating through case scenarios. The sector is seeking volunteer actors who have familiarity with human trafficking issues and will provide them with scenario preparation. A survivor consultant will assist in developing and facilitating the simulations. Community organizations will also be invited to attend in order to support networking among participants. The event will accommodate up to 110 healthcare professionals across two sessions.

- **Law Enforcement**

- i. Provided an update from the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force. As of July, the Task Force reported 206 arrests for the year. They also reported 38 adult recoveries and 27 juvenile recoveries. A question was raised regarding whether any of the juveniles were repeat recoveries. Staff noted that the available statistics come through the Department of Justice and do not include that level of detail, although at least one repeat juvenile recovery was known. Members also briefly discussed a recent case involving three juveniles, approximately ages twelve, thirteen, and fifteen, who were being trafficked by the same individual.

- **Prosecution**

- i. Reported that both the City Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office have been extremely busy processing the high number of arrests generated by the Human Trafficking Task Force. They also continue to receive cases from SDPD's Vice Unit, which has been actively enforcing the new loitering law that went into effect earlier this year. In addition to the 206 arrests reported by the Task Force, Vice has made an estimated 80 to 90 arrests of sex buyers, resulting in a significant increase in case filings. The sector also recently conducted a session of the Sex Trafficking Education and Prevention Program for individuals arrested for buying sex. The class was fully attended with 30 participants, and the next session, scheduled for later in the year, is already halfway full. Despite the high volume of activity, operations and court processes continue to run smoothly.

- **Research and Data**

- i. Provided several updates. Members participated in the July 16 forum hosted by Senator Blakespear, where Dr. Urada presented on human trafficking among college students. The sector is preparing to pilot an intervention on several college campuses, with a particular focus on first year students who are considered the most at risk during their initial six weeks on campus. It was noted that during a recent orientation at CSU San Marcos, discussions of safety risks, including human trafficking, generated strong emotional reactions among students. The sector plans to continue coordinating with partners, including Dr. Carpenter and others, to refine approaches for college based prevention. Additional updates included the completion of group sessions with women experiencing homelessness at the

Downtown Central Library, where trafficking risk and awareness were addressed. The sector identified this population as particularly vulnerable and plans to explore future collaborations and programming. The next Research and Data meeting will be held on September 11. A brief announcement was then provided by Carli Richie. She shared information about the upcoming biannual meeting scheduled for October 13, which will focus on labor trafficking. Attendees will receive a research brief aligned with the meeting's topic, intended to support policy and practice. The sector encouraged Council members and partners to attend.

- **Survivor Services**

- i. Reported that its last meeting took place on July 15 and featured a training led by Tim Ruiz of the Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition. The training focused on working effectively with Native victims and survivors and included an in depth discussion of generational trauma and institutional violence that continue to affect tribal communities. The presentation also addressed culturally appropriate approaches and the unique needs of Native American survivors. The sector's next meeting is scheduled for August 20, and trainings will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Potential upcoming topics include the intersection of the LGBTQ community and human trafficking, as well as vicarious trauma among service providers. Although no training has been finalized for the August meeting, the sector has several discussion topics planned, including evaluating the continued use of the National Human Trafficking Hotline and considering whether additional or alternative reporting resources may be more effective. The sector also intends to gather feedback from members on future training priorities. Survivor service providers are continually encouraged to attend sector meetings to participate in discussions, offer input, and benefit from ongoing training opportunities.

- **Survivor Voices**

- i. Announced that a survivor-focused mental health therapist is now offering telehealth counseling for adults and couples through TherapyClarity.com. She accepts Community Health Group, Molina Healthcare, and Medi-Cal, and uses a holistic and trauma-informed approach with specialization in rehabilitation, addiction, and family and relationship challenges. Contact information for Therapy Clarity was made available to members so survivors can be referred directly. The sector is also hosting a survivor leader meet and greet. This gathering is open only to individuals with lived experience. In October, the sector will begin planning a survivor-led conference scheduled for January. The event will be a half-day conference centered entirely on survivor voice, and the sector is currently searching for a suitable venue. Legislative updates were also shared, including a new executive order signed by the governor requiring relevant government agencies to identify organizational gaps related to CSEC within a short reporting window. Members also reported that several survivors recently joined a delegation to the Capitol to share the California Survivor Coalition's policy priorities for the 2026–2027 legislative cycle. In addition, the sector highlighted a new federal bill introduced in May, HR 1943, the Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act. The bill proposes revisions to the TIP Report requirements to include measures on how countries criminalize and educate against demand for trafficking. Members noted that this could have significant national implications and that survivor advocates gathered more than 200 signatures of support from 26 countries within two weeks, reflecting broad bipartisan momentum behind the proposal.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.
- Next meeting: October 14, 2026.