

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



Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

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



Attendees: David Oates, Aron Pritchard, Amanda Stephens, Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Trish Martinez, Anabel Luna, Bridget Henderson, Jason Phillips, David Jarman, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Kanani Titchen, Ami Carpenter, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt, Susan Munsey, Charlene Robbins in Proxy of Amy Sharpe

I. Chair welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:32pm

II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference and proxy

- **Virtual:** David Oates
- **Proxy:** Charlene Robbins in proxy of Amy Sharpe
- **In-person:** Aron Pritchard, Amanda Stephens, Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Trish Martinez, Anabel Luna, Bridget Henderson, Jason Phillips, David Jarman, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Kanani Titchen, Ami Carpenter, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt, Susan Munsey

III. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting (June 2025) were reviewed and approved unanimously

IV. Public comment on non-agenda items

- Announcement the upcoming “Out of the Shadows” Human Trafficking Conference, which will be held on October 16, 2025, at the San Diego Central Library. The event is free to attend and will feature keynote speaker District Attorney Summer Stephan along with presentations on money laundering, demand reduction, and federal partnerships addressing trafficking. Concerns were also raised about proposed federal restrictions on benefits for undocumented human trafficking survivors, which could impact access to essential services such as food and medical care. She requested the Council’s support in advocating for these victims.
- Dr. Christine Cecil, Director of Student Health at Santa Ana College, joined virtually to express concern about Assembly Bill 495, noting its potential to increase risks of exploitation among minors. In response, Marjorie Saylor of the California Survivor Coalition shared that her organization is currently in discussion with the bill’s authors and sponsors to address misinformation and close potential loopholes. Ms. Saylor assured members that the coalition is working to ensure the bill includes strong protective measures for children

V. Chair announcement

- Chair provided an overview of the Brown Act compliance requirements, reminding members that all discussion and action items must be publicly posted on the meeting agenda at least seventy-two hours in advance. She cautioned against serial communications, post-meeting deliberations, or gatherings that could constitute decision-making outside of official meetings. Members were encouraged to contact the Chair or Vice Chair to propose topics for future agendas.
- Chair then reported that the 2025 Human Trafficking Summit Report had been finalized and approved for submission to the County Board of Supervisors. She extended gratitude to Ami Carpenter and Carolyn Matzger for their significant work in developing and editing the report, noting its value in highlighting the Council’s achievements and recommendations.

VI. Elections for chair and vice chair

- Council elections were facilitated by Rebaz Taha from the County of San Diego. Susan Munsey was nominated and unanimously re-elected as Chair, and Carolyn Matzger was nominated and unanimously elected as Vice Chair. Members expressed appreciation for their

leadership and continued service to the Council.

VII. Presentation

- **Deona “Dee” Dorsey, Director of Population-Specific Programs, San Diego Workforce Partnership**
 - i. The presentation provided an overview of workforce development initiatives aimed at supporting survivors, veterans, justice-involved individuals, and youth in achieving meaningful employment. The San Diego Workforce Partnership operates a network of Career Centers across San Diego County that offer job readiness workshops, résumé assistance, and access to technology and training resources. The presentation also highlighted specialized funding and support services available to help participants pursue education, skills training, and stable employment. The Workforce Partnership provides mobile and trauma-informed services designed to meet individuals where they are, offering flexible assistance for needs such as housing, childcare, transportation, and digital access. Subcommittees were encouraged to collaborate with the Workforce Partnership to connect survivors to employment and educational pathways that promote long-term stability and independence.

VIII. Subcommittee updates

- **Business:**
 - i. Reported ongoing collaboration with partners including the San Diego Workforce Partnership and Goodwill Industries to connect survivors with job placement, financial literacy, résumé writing, and job training opportunities. Members were reminded that these organizations have programs and resources ready to serve survivors seeking employment support. Goodwill Industries shared that it operates a mobile employment center, an RV outfitted with technology that allows individuals to apply for jobs, access listings, and receive employment assistance. The mobile center partners with the San Diego Food Bank and regularly travels to various community locations, with availability for additional site visits. The subcommittee expressed appreciation for continued cross-agency collaboration and emphasized the importance of expanding access to employment and training services for survivors throughout the county.
- **Child and Family Well-Being:**
 - i. Reported that during San Diego Pride Month, members hosted an outreach booth at the festival and engaged with 579 attendees, distributing Human Trafficking Task Force awareness cards and showcasing the subcommittee’s CSEC awareness poster board featuring a QR code for resources. All awareness materials were distributed, with strong engagement from school staff, therapists, medical providers, and drop-in center representatives interested in sharing resources at their sites. The subcommittee also highlighted Olive Crest’s new youth drop-in center, which opened on August 4, 2025, following its open house on July 31. Collaboration continues with Olive Crest to enhance coordinated care for youth. Members shared updates on The Cool Aunt Series, which is offering a “Crash for Kiddos” incentive program through August 16 to encourage youth participation in family well-being activities. The subcommittee noted that this year’s CSEC awareness campaign is operating on a smaller budget but continues to utilize digital outreach through LinkedIn, Facebook, X, Google, and Meta platforms. Finally, members announced an upcoming no-cost UC Davis webinar on August 20, 2025, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., titled *“Human Trafficking Awareness: The Impact on Young Men and Boys (Part 2),”* and encouraged members to share the resource broadly across agencies and social service networks.
- **Community:**
 - i. Reported successful participation in Comic-Con 2025, where members collaborated with Lifeline, Together Against Trafficking, MOSS Against Trafficking, Youth Empowerment, and other community partners to raise awareness and engage the public. The subcommittee emphasized its commitment to promoting inclusivity by highlighting how human trafficking affects diverse communities across San Diego, including Asian, Latin, Indigenous, and immigrant populations. Upcoming efforts will include community education events addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous

Persons (MMIP), with an event planned at the Pala Reservation, featuring storytelling and outreach supported by new mobile substance-use and health services. The subcommittee is also planning programs to engage fathers and men in prevention efforts and expanding partnerships with refugee communities in East County, including Kurdish and Iranian families, through a new “Chai and Chat” series launching in October. These sessions will include interpreters and presentations from law enforcement, education, and social services partners. Additional events are being planned for the fall, and the subcommittee will continue outreach to survivors and families in need of support, in coordination with other Council subcommittees. Members also raised a question regarding the current availability of T visas for trafficking survivors and requested updates from partners familiar with recent federal developments.

- **Education:**

- i. Reported ongoing coordination to schedule its next meetings and continue collaborative planning with education partners. The County of San Diego has completed its Human Trafficking Toolkit, which will be presented to all school districts to strengthen awareness and prevention efforts. The subcommittee is developing a webinar calendar to ensure that all Local District Superintendents (LDS) can participate and promote the toolkit within their respective communities. Members are also working to align countywide parent trainings to avoid overlap among multiple initiatives and ensure consistency of messaging across schools. Based on feedback from last year’s outreach events, the subcommittee emphasized the importance of improving coordination among education partners and fostering two-way communication with parents, ensuring information sharing is collaborative rather than one-directional. The group aims to strengthen connections with community resources that can better engage parents and students based on the unique needs of each school district.

- **Health:**

- i. Reported that on August 11, Palomar Health, in partnership with the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center (CCFMTC), hosted a non-fatal strangulation training that was attended by approximately 80 participants. The subcommittee also presented a human trafficking awareness session at the Association of Critical Care Nurses conference, where members shared a PowerPoint presentation and established new professional connections to strengthen community collaboration. Building on the success of previous simulation trainings, the subcommittee is exploring opportunities to expand community training offerings in the coming year. Additionally, efforts are underway to restructure the subcommittee’s meeting format by transitioning to Microsoft Teams and establishing a recurring meeting schedule to enhance participation and cross-sector collaboration within the healthcare field.

- **Law Enforcement:**

- i. Reported that during Comic-Con 2025, the Human Trafficking Task Force conducted an operation that resulted in 13 arrests, targeting both trafficking-related and demand-reduction offenses. Several of these cases will be reviewed by the District Attorney’s Office and the City Attorney’s Office, with charging decisions expected in early September. The Sheriff’s Department and Department of Justice released coordinated press materials and social media updates highlighting the operation’s results and public awareness efforts. Although outreach numbers were slightly lower than in previous years, the team emphasized that the educational impact—supported by the distribution of 2,800 awareness fans—remained strong. The subcommittee also held several training sessions, including a hospitality industry training co-led by the District Attorney’s Office and additional internal law enforcement trainings to strengthen cross-agency coordination. The group recognized Geannie Franco, former Task Force Commander, on her promotion to Special Agent in Charge, and welcomed Chris Rice as the new Task Force Commander, reaffirming the Task Force’s continued commitment to reducing demand and improving collaboration across jurisdictions.

- **Prosecution:**
 - i. Provided updates on recent legislative developments, including Assembly Bill 379, which was signed by the Governor and will take effect on January 1, 2026. The legislation clarifies penalties for adults who engage in sexual acts or solicitation involving minors, distinguishing between misdemeanor and felony charges. A misdemeanor applies in cases where the offender did not know the individual's age, while a felony applies when the buyer knew or reasonably should have known that the victim was a minor—particularly under the age of sixteen or under eighteen and trafficked. The bill also establishes a Survivor Fund, supported by fines imposed for these offenses, to be administered through the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) and the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Discussion among members noted ongoing challenges in proving “knowledge of age” but emphasized the law’s significance as a step toward victim-centered accountability and stronger protections for exploited youth.
- **Research & Data:**
 - i. Met to set new priorities focused on increasing participation from all regions of the county and aligning research with the recommendations outlined in the recent Summit Report. Members discussed identifying data needs that would best support partner agencies and survivor-serving organizations. Upcoming presentations include research by Dr. Liz Chang, Ellora Nyhan, Jessica Kim, and Dr. Kanani Titchen titled “*Youth Survivors of Human Trafficking: Improving Healthcare Access and Treatment*,” to be presented at the IVAT Summit on August 19, 2025, in San Diego. Dr. Carpenter will also present on “*Gaps and Responses in Services for Trafficking Survivors*,” alongside Mikayla Simerol (Shared Hope) and Carissa Phelps (Runaway Girl). Save the Date: The Fall 2025 Bi-Annual HT RADAR Meeting will be held on October 24, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with details forthcoming. Dr. Titchen also shared updates on a student-led trafficking prevention curriculum being developed with UCSF Fresno and Fresno Unified School District, seeking survivor leaders to advise on content and evaluation. Additionally, Rady Children’s Health will begin screening for human trafficking in its psychiatric emergency department and welcomes input on useful de-identified data points for community and law enforcement use. Finally, the subcommittee heard a presentation from Guidel Olivas on the new Cyber Intelligence Working Group, which focuses on dark web monitoring and collaboration with law enforcement to identify trafficking activity.
- **Survivor Services:**
 - i. Reported that work continues on finalizing the comprehensive resource list that has been in development over the past several months. The list focuses on employment resources for survivors who are entering the workforce for the first time or reentering after time away. Partnerships with the San Diego Workforce Partnership and Goodwill Industries have supported this effort. The resource list also includes opportunities for survivors interested in pursuing advocacy and leadership roles within the anti-trafficking field. The subcommittee noted that its next steps will include revisiting several recommendations from the Education Summit—particularly those that were not prioritized for Board presentation but remain relevant to survivor support. These items will be reviewed at the next subcommittee meeting to determine actionable areas for follow-up and implementation.
- **Survivor Voices:**
 - i. Announced plans to host a meet-and-greet for prospective members at the end of September, with details on the date and location forthcoming. The event aims to expand survivor representation within the Council by engaging more survivor leaders currently active in the community. The subcommittee will also hold an informational webinar on September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., focused on the Backpage Restitution Program recently announced by the U.S. Department of Justice, which established a \$200 million restitution fund for individuals exploited on online platforms between 2004 and 2020, with an application deadline of February 2, 2026. Because the

application process requires extensive documentation, including medical, mental health, and legal records, the subcommittee is coordinating countywide mobile clinics to help survivors access necessary support and submit complete applications. Partnerships have already been established with One Safe Place in downtown San Diego and the new South Bay One Safe Place location opening in October, along with regional healthcare and legal partners. Members emphasized the urgency of outreach to ensure that all eligible survivors are informed and supported through the restitution process, and invited collaboration from other subcommittees to help expand access and awareness across the county.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 3:00PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025.