

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



Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Attendees: David Oates, Amanda Stephens, Alicia Brav, Heather Nemour, Amy Sharpe, Stephanie Phann, Jason Phillips, Geanie Franco, Dan Owens, Natasha Robertson, Kanani Titchen, Carli Ritchie-Zavaleta, Keelin Washington, Arturo Garcia, Melissa Haupt, Susan Munsey

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
- **Proxy:** Stephanie Phann on behalf of Bridget Henderson (Health Subcommittee), Dan Owens on behalf of Carolyn Matzger (Prosecution Subcommittee, Chair), Natasha Robertson on behalf of Jerrica Phillips (Prosecution Subcommittee, Co-Chair)
- **In-person:** Amanda Stephens, Alicia Brav, Heather Nemour, Amy Sharpe, Jason Phillips, Geanie Franco, Kanani Titchen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Keelin Washington, Arturo Garcia, Melissa Haupt, Susan Munsey

3. Approval of July 2024 Minutes

- The July 2024 minutes were approved without further changes.
- Motion to approve was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

- **Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility Representative:** Highlighted a success story of a woman who, after working with the BSCC, is now attending college, working at a bakery, and recently received an award for her outstanding work.
- **Guidel Olivas (AHTII):** Proposed the creation of a new "Cyber Digital and AI Threats Subcommittee" under the Research and Data Subcommittee. He suggested inviting Tommy Martin from the Tim Tebow Foundation as a speaker for the January summit and proposed including speakers from the Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Initiative (AHTII).
 - **Follow-up Discussion:** Chair requested a formal written proposal to be submitted to Alvin Amar before the next meeting for further discussion.

5. Presentation: Safe Shelter Collaborative

- **Melissa Haupt and Mary Ellen (Lifeline Community Services & Generate Hope):** Provided a detailed presentation on the Safe Shelter Collaborative, a platform that facilitates housing for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.
 - **Key Points:**
 - The platform allows organizations to quickly locate available shelter beds using a de-identified intake form.
 - As of August 2024, 45 agencies in San Diego County are participating, offering 401 beds.

- The platform has a median response time of one minute, with an average first response time of 30 minutes.
- Monthly steering committee meetings are held to review trends and address any issues with the platform.
- **Discussion:** There were questions about the process, including how to select multiple options on the intake form, the involvement of case management, and the eligibility of survivors for various shelter types. It was clarified that users can select multiple answers on the intake form to broaden the search and increase shelter options. While the platform focuses on locating shelter, the service provider should assist the survivor throughout the process, including making calls and advocating on their behalf. Regarding eligibility, final placement depends on communication between the shelter and service provider to ensure a suitable fit for the survivor, based on the specific criteria of each shelter.

6. Vote on Council Meeting Frequency

- The council voted on whether to continue meeting monthly, switch to bi-monthly, or adopt a modified schedule.
- **Decision:**
 - The council voted to meet every other month, starting immediately. The next meeting will be in October of 2024.

7. Subcommittee Updates

- **Business Subcommittee:** David Oates shared the success of the Comic-Con outreach, where over 700 people were engaged and materials on human trafficking were distributed. He highlighted that the event was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and connect with the public.
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - A virtual summit on human trafficking as a financial crime, hosted by the Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Initiative, is scheduled for September 4-6, 2024. Participants can attend online for free.
 - The International Summit on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma will be held from August 25-29, 2024. Volunteers are needed for August 27-28, with those donating five hours of their time receiving one-day free registration to the conference. This event provides a multidisciplinary platform for those interested in prevention, intervention, and research related to violence and trauma.
- **Education Subcommittee:** The subcommittee solidified its members for the new school year, ensuring broad representation from schools, districts, charter schools, and specialists in student services. They are currently preparing for multidisciplinary trainings scheduled for the fall and spring, which will be promoted across the 172 liaisons in the county. Additionally, the subcommittee is finalizing a digital toolkit titled "Policy to Practice for Preventing Human Trafficking and Reporting in Schools," which is expected to be completed within the next two months. Once finalized, the toolkit will be promoted to all schools and districts, with plans to conduct walkthroughs to ensure its effective implementation. The subcommittee will continue providing ongoing technical assistance and support to districts and charters to meet legislative requirements and implement best practices.
- **Health Subcommittee:** The subcommittee provided updates on ongoing trainings, including a recent training on chronic stress responses, which covered lesser-known trauma responses such as "befriending" and "folding." The subcommittee plans to upload the training materials to their YouTube channel, along with notes and links to additional resources. Additionally, they introduced a new initiative: a nurse's evidence-based project at Sharp Coronado, which will utilize a simulation lab to train healthcare providers on interacting with trafficking survivors. This project involves simulated patient interactions with actors portraying

survivors, providing healthcare providers with a realistic and effective training experience. The subcommittee is also exploring the use of a digital resource called "Hive Plus," which offers instructional videos on wellness topics like yoga, self-defense, and mindfulness, tailored for K-12 students and public libraries. The trial for this resource ends on December 1st, and the subcommittee encourages interested parties to explore its potential benefits.

- **Research and Data Subcommittee:** The subcommittee discussed the recent publication of their research, which included analysis from the "No More" program and the ongoing challenges of interpreting data on healthcare professionals' understanding of human trafficking pre- and post-pandemic due to high turnover. Additionally, they are planning the HT-RADAR Biannual Meeting on October 16, 2024, which will feature speakers from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, focusing on US-Mexico border issues, particularly related to sexual and gender violence and the vulnerabilities of immigrants. The meeting aims to provide valuable insights into these critical issues, with a special emphasis on the Spanish-speaking community and their unique challenges. The subcommittee is also continuing its efforts to gather more demographic data for their ongoing projects, aiming to ensure that their research and initiatives are as inclusive and representative as possible.
- **Survivor Voices:** In addition to announcing the token of appreciation (custom mugs and bookmarks) for Advisory Council members, it was highlighted that these tokens are a gesture of gratitude for the members' ongoing dedication to combating trafficking. Those who participate virtually were encouraged to inform the group when they would be available in person to receive their tokens.
- **Survivor Services:** The subcommittee emphasized the importance of supporting service providers who are engaged in challenging work related to trafficking. The upcoming meeting scheduled for the next day will focus on developing strategies for self-care and mutual support among service providers. The subcommittee is prioritizing the well-being of those in the field to ensure they can continue their work effectively and sustainably.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024.