

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



Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

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

County Administration Building

1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

4th Floor Room 402

Attendees: David Oates, Aron Pritchard, Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Trish Martinez, Anabel Luna, Bridget Henderson, Amy Sharpe, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Lianne Urada, Ami Carpenter, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt, Heather Carmody, Amanda Garcia

I. Chair welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Carolyn Matzger

II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference and proxy

- **Virtual:** David Oates, Aron Pritchard
- **In-person:** Ember Price, Yusef Miller, Trish Martinez, Anabel Luna, Bridget Henderson, Amy Sharpe, Jerrica Phillips, Carolyn Matzger, Lianne Urada, Ami Carpenter, Arturo Garcia, Marjorie Saylor, Melissa Haupt, Heather Carmody, Amanda Garcia (child and family well-being representative).

III. Approval of minutes

- One correction was noted: adding the name of the public commenter Isaac McKeithen, who presented on a diversion program at the April meeting.
- No additional corrections.
- April 2026 minutes were approved with the noted correction.

IV. Public comment on non-agenda items

- **Anna MacLean**
 - i. Anna MacLean from HT-Radar provided an update regarding Point Loma Nazarene University's prevention report. She announced that Chapters 1 and 2 had been published online and that Chapter 3, focusing on San Diego's prevention and education landscape, would be released soon.

V. Elections

- **Chair/Vice Chair**
 - i. The Council proceeded to elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Prior to departing the Council earlier in the year, former Chair Susan Munsey appointed Carolyn Matzger as Acting Chair and Melissa Haupt as Acting Vice Chair. Nominations for both positions were opened to the Council, but no new nominations were put forward. A vote was then held, during which both interim appointees were elected unanimously to serve in their respective positions for the remainder of the current term. Members offered congratulations to Carolyn and Melissa.

VI. Council business

- **Summit report**
 - i. The report has been shared with several County departments – including Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services, and the District Attorney's Office – to allow them to analyze operational and fiscal impacts of potential implementation. Departments are currently reviewing the recommendations to

assess staff, funding, and program implications, and their analysis is expected to conclude by early the following week. It was clarified that the report will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors as a memo rather than a board letter, giving the Board flexibility to review the recommendations and decide whether to initiate formal adoption processes.

- **Brown act requirements and teleconferencing rules**
 - i. The Council also received a refresher on Brown Act requirements and teleconferencing rules. Members were reminded that teleconference participation is limited to specific qualifying circumstances—such as illness, caregiving, or emergencies—and that each member may teleconference only twice per calendar year. Attendance requirements were also emphasized, with bylaws stipulating limits on unexcused absences. Members were encouraged to communicate upcoming absences to staff to ensure accurate documentation. County Counsel will attend the next meeting to provide additional guidance and answer questions.

VII. Presentations

- **Katharina Hammler, County of San Diego, Office of Evaluation, Performance & Analytics**
 - i. Shared information about a grant proposal recently submitted to the National Institute of Justice. In collaboration with Public Safety, the proposal seeks to conduct a mixed-methods evaluation of peer support navigation services for women survivors of human trafficking, particularly those leaving custody. Katharina explained the study's focus on survivor-defined recovery, self-identification processes, and program engagement mechanisms. She described planned research methods—including interviews, journey-mapping, photo-voice, and participatory sense-making workshops—and emphasized that all participation would be voluntary and subject to strict ethical protections. Questions from Council members explored issues of survivor inclusion, international survivors, publication plans, and photo privacy. Katharina and her team confirmed that the study includes academic publication, practical dissemination strategies, and survivor involvement through an advisory structure.
- **Allison Gill, Senior Associate Attorney, Haeggquist & Eck, LLP**
 - i. Allison introduced her firm's newly launched civil litigation practice focused on the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). She described how civil litigation can offer survivors opportunities for compensation, accountability, and empowerment, noting that civil cases often address harms not fully remedied in the criminal system. Allison explained that third-party facilitators—such as businesses that materially benefit from or enable trafficking—may be liable under the statute. She emphasized the importance of survivor readiness, stable housing, and supportive networks before initiating litigation. She also discussed challenges related to Section 230 immunity for social media companies and noted her firm's commitment to serving survivors nationally. Council members asked questions about referrals, online visibility, geographic scope, and how survivors typically access legal resources.

VIII. Roundtable Updates

- **Business**
 - i. No formal updates to share this month but reiterated its ongoing commitment to support the Council and partner sectors. The sector emphasized its availability as a resource for any committee seeking business mentorship, career development

guidance, or professional development opportunities for survivors. Members noted that even if the sector does not have an immediate contact for a specific request, it maintains networks within the business community and can help connect survivors to individuals who can provide training, career coaching, or mentorship. The sector encouraged Council members to reach out whenever workshops or development opportunities arise, particularly as survivors continue building skills and reclaiming stability in their personal and professional lives.

- **Child and Family Well-Being**

- i. No updates.

- **Community**

- i. Provided several updates regarding recent outreach and upcoming initiatives. Members reported that Pala Casino hosted a community event on May 21 focused on social services, human trafficking awareness, and strategies for protecting youth. The event generated productive dialogue, and organizers plan to continue the conversation with both the elders group—who expressed interest in learning more about technology risks—and with youth in separate sessions to allow for more open discussion. Plans are underway to partner with an additional organization to host a larger event in October or November, which will be open to the broader county community. The sector also welcomed Deputy District Attorney Adriana Ross, newly assigned as liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), who has begun attending related community meetings and dedicating significant time to MMIP-related issues. Looking ahead, the Community Sector is preparing for its annual outreach during Comic-Con in July. This event consistently brings high levels of engagement, including encounters with survivors and individuals seeking information, making it an important opportunity to distribute anti-human trafficking materials. Members also discussed adding a poster board with key information and a QR code to make access easier for attendees who prefer a digital option over physical materials. A flyer will be circulated soon to encourage Council members and partners to participate in outreach shifts, and the sector emphasized that volunteers—including families—are welcome. While the group has not yet secured placement inside the convention, discussions with venue organizers are ongoing in hopes of expanding access in the future. For now, outreach will continue outside the venue, with volunteers encouraged to bring water, folding chairs, and weather-appropriate supplies. Finally, the sector expressed interest in compiling a vetted resource list for legal support to assist survivors seeking help. Members noted that, because the Council is a county body, it cannot endorse specific attorneys; however, such a list could be maintained by community partners or nonprofits. One Safe Place was highlighted as a reliable hub where survivors can access legal assistance from vetted partner firms. The Community Sector will continue exploring appropriate ways to collect and share resource information while maintaining compliance with county guidelines

- **Education**

- i. Recently conducted a series of virtual parent and community sessions focused on human trafficking, framed within the broader topic of digital safety for children. This approach helped encourage participation by ensuring parents understood the relevance of online risks and the ways exploitation can occur digitally, even when families may feel confident that “it couldn’t happen to my child.” The sessions were well-received and generated significant engagement and questions from attendees. The sector is now developing its training calendar for the upcoming school year and refining its outreach strategies to improve promotion and accessibility. Because the sessions are hosted virtually, they are open to all families and relatives, regardless of school district, and parent feedback highlighted the importance of early notification and social media promotion. The sessions were recorded, and the sector is exploring options for sharing those recordings, noting that posting will depend on each district’s website policies. Once finalized, the sector will distribute flyers so Council

members and partner organizations can share them widely. The first session for the new school year is expected to take place in late August, after students return to school, and planning is underway to coordinate messaging and materials across district partners. The sector expressed optimism about continuing these offerings, recognizing the strong interest and benefit expressed by parents.

- **Health**

- i. Reported steady progress on several initiatives aimed at improving the capacity of healthcare professionals to recognize and respond to human trafficking. The sector is developing new training opportunities tailored specifically for nurses, with an emphasis on practical, survivor-informed approaches that can be integrated into clinical settings. Although the work has moved more slowly due to competing priorities, the sector continues to build a foundation for broader healthcare engagement and hopes to expand these efforts in the coming months. In addition, early planning is underway for a community-wide training designed to reach a wider group of healthcare providers. The sector is exploring the possibility of hosting this event at One Safe Place, which would offer space for conducting simulation-based exercises originally developed as part of earlier training models. As these plans continue to take shape, the sector will share updates and participation opportunities with the Council.

- **Law Enforcement**

- i. Absent

- **Prosecution**

- i. Provided an update on recent enforcement activity and ongoing coordination with law enforcement partners. Since the new statute targeting buyers took effect on January 1, the City Attorney's Office has received 116 cases referred by the Human Trafficking Task Force and SDPD's Vice Unit, with the District Attorney's Office expected to have received a comparable volume. These cases stem from both hotel-based operations and street-level enforcement, reflecting a sustained and active effort by law enforcement to implement the new law. In addition, representatives from the Prosecution Sector, including staff from the City Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and federal partners, recently met with the Mexican Consulate and ambassadorial staff at the invitation of community partners. The Consulate requested information about human trafficking prevention efforts planned for the upcoming World Cup. The Prosecution Sector confirmed that law enforcement agencies have been preparing for months and will conduct heightened operations during the event, complementing routine investigations.

- **Research and Data**

- i. Provided a comprehensive update, noting several active grant proposals and research initiatives underway. The sector has submitted a major three-year National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant proposal focused on evaluating the long-term outcomes of the peer support program operated at Las Colinas Detention Facility. This program engages justice-involved survivors of human trafficking while in custody, providing counseling, direct referrals, and reentry support. The proposed study aims to examine the program's impact on mental health, stabilization, housing continuity, employment, and other indicators of survivor well-being. The application is scheduled for submission next week, with anticipated notification from NIJ in August, and the projected grant period beginning in January. In addition to the primary grant proposal, the sector has been collaborating with the cybersecurity working group to develop three NIJ concept papers. If selected, each concept paper will be invited to move forward as a full proposal. The first concept focuses on developing a detection toolkit tailored for trafficking investigations, evaluating an emerging survivor-centered privacy platform for non-consensual image abuse, and analyzing the prevalence and patterns of AI-facilitated exploitation in San Diego County. The second concept proposes an AI-enabled intelligence fusion platform designed specifically for the Human Trafficking Task Force, allowing investigators

across agencies to overcome siloed information systems, automatically identify cross-jurisdiction connections between cases, and generate unified operational insights for enforcement planning. The third concept explores adding multi-layered analytical AI capabilities to existing camera infrastructure, including deployments at high-risk MTS transit hubs and hospitality locations known to align with trafficking routes. The sector also reported on an additional NIJ proposal related to the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, prepared in partnership with the Three Strands Global Foundation. This work aligns with larger statewide and national discussions about survivor support, wraparound services, and legal relief mechanisms. Furthermore, the sector shared updates on significant legislative progress: Assemblywoman Maggie Crow has agreed to sponsor new legislation addressing human trafficking among college students. This bill has already passed the Assembly and is advancing through Senate committees. Although the proposal initially faced questions about fiscal impact, further data analysis revealed substantial trafficking risks among college populations, prompting renewed legislative interest. The sector is also planning to pilot prevention-focused interventions on several college campuses as part of a foundation-funded effort. Additional projects, including potential film collaborations, are emerging as part of broader work to elevate awareness of trafficking among postsecondary students—a population identified as more vulnerable than previously understood. The sector concluded by noting ongoing coordination with USC and other higher-education partners, reflecting growing momentum around research, prevention, and legislative engagement.

- **Survivor Services**

- i. Hosted a presentation from Kristi Wells of the Safe House Project, who provided an overview of the organization's national initiatives and demonstrated the Simply Report app, an emerging tool designed to streamline trafficking identification and reporting. In May, the sector welcomed Paul Chang from the U.S. Department of Labor, who shared his perspective on labor trafficking through the enterprise-model lens and highlighted key trends and vulnerabilities relevant to service providers. These presentations support the sector's priorities, established earlier in the year, which focus on expanding the knowledge, skills, and readiness of all service providers who work with survivors. To further that goal, the sector is continuing to schedule trainings that build capacity across agencies and disciplines. Due to scheduling conflicts, the sector's June meeting has been canceled. Regular meetings will resume on July 16, when the Stronger Native Women's Coalition will present on best practices for supporting tribal and indigenous survivors, along with a focused discussion on serving male victims—both areas identified as priority gaps. This session will be open to all Council members and partner organizations. The sector expressed hopes for broad attendance and committed to circulating meeting invitations and materials well in advance to encourage strong participation in these upcoming training opportunities.

- **Survivor Voices**

- i. The sector recently met with *The Network*, a Virginia-based organization that conducts culturally appropriate outreach to illicit massage businesses across the United States. The Network has provided training to law enforcement and engaged in direct survivor outreach, and its preliminary data indicate that San Diego has a particularly high concentration of illicit massage businesses. Survivor Voices will coordinate a connection between The Network and the Community Sector and hopes to have the organization present at a future Advisory Council meeting. Sector representatives also reported participation in several ongoing research efforts. One member is currently involved in a study examining migration patterns across the Mexican border and their relationship to trafficking vulnerabilities, conducted through the International Rescue Committee; recruitment of additional survivor participants is still underway. Another active project focuses on the intersection of

drug trafficking and sex trafficking in San Diego County. The study aims to reach 30 survivor participants and is close to meeting that goal, with a call for roughly ten more individuals to participate. The sector announced that preliminary conversations have begun around planning a survivor-centered summit for January, with more details forthcoming as planning progresses. Legislative advocacy also remains active. Of six state bills supported by sector members, several have advanced with encouraging momentum. Assembly Bill 1845 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee, marking the halfway point in the process. Additionally, Assembly Bill 1766—a K-12 education measure—passed the Assembly on consent and is now moving through Senate committees. Although AB 1845 initially raised concerns among some universities regarding staff liability, those issues were resolved through clarifying amendments. Two other bills—the buyer diversion bill and a proposed amendment to loitering language in AB 379—did not advance past appropriations or initial committee review. Meanwhile, the California Multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking Task Force bill is progressing through the Legislature and would create a robust statewide task force with designated survivor seats representing familial trafficking, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking. On the federal side, the sector shared updates on the NCII (non-consensual intimate imagery) bill authored by survivor member Mariah Rief, which stalled in state appropriations due to cost concerns related to housing image data within the Department of Justice. Work is now underway to explore non-profit or contracted alternatives for data management. Following a visit to Washington, D.C., sector members also engaged with federal representatives, including the author of the Take It Down Act, to explore advancing NCII protections at the national level. Finally, the sector noted several partnership and outreach opportunities. The DJR Center for Justice and Reconciliation is seeking an administrative coordinator, and the Grace Program (Girls Rising Above Child Exploitation) continues to need volunteers to transport clients. Additional cross-border collaboration is developing with organizations working in orphanages in Mexico, and further information will be shared as those partnerships progress.

- **Additional comment**

- i. Before concluding, the Community Sector shared reflections on a recent Mother's Day event held at the Las Colinas Detention Facility. The event featured musical performances, a comedian, and a motivational speaker, and was attended by more than 100 women in the facility's communal space. The sector expressed interest in coordinating with the Advisory Council to contribute to the program next year, noting that participation from Council members—particularly those in community-focused sectors—could help extend encouragement and support to a wide audience. Members also shared that planning is underway to create similar engagement opportunities for Father's Day at other detention sites. Further information will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.
- Next meeting: August 12, 2026.