

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



**Meeting Minutes**

June 11, 2025

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



**Attendees:** David Oates, Amanda Stephens, Alicia Brav, Anabel Luna, Amy Sharpe, Bridget Henderson, Jason Phillips, Geanie Franco, Carolyn Matzger, Kanani Titchen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Arturo Garcia, Melissa Haupt, Keelin Washington, Ember Price, Natasha Robertson, Annie Rodriguez, Heather Nemour,

**I. Chair welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 1:38pm

Vice Chair opened the meeting with a brief reflection on fostering positive environments and the importance of the Council's work in combatting human trafficking

**II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference and proxy**

- **Virtual:** David Oates, Anabel Luna, Keelin Washington, Heather Nemour, Annie Rodriguez
- **Proxy:** Ember Price in proxy of Eileen Quinn-O'Malley, Natasha Robertson in proxy of Jerica Phillips, and Annie Rodriguez in proxy of Susan
- **In-person:** Amanda Stephens, Ember Price, Alicia Brav, Amy Sharpe, Heather Nemour, Anabel Luna, Amy Sharpe, Bridget Henderson, Jason Phillips, Geanie Franco, Carolyn Matzger, Natasha Robertson, Kanani Titchen, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Arturo Garcia, and Melissa Haupt

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from the previous meeting (April 2025) were reviewed
- Minor spelling corrections were noted:
  - i. Research and Data Subcommittee names corrected
- Motion to approve minutes with corrections was made, seconded, and approved unanimously

**IV. Public comment on non-agenda items**

- Marjorie (One Safe Place)
  - i. Shared flyers for a Summer Awareness Event and weekly support groups
  - ii. Provided updates on Assembly Bill AB379 regarding human trafficking awareness and business poster requirements
  - iii. Concerns raised about:
    - 1. Limited hotline coverage for sex trafficking survivors
    - 2. Potential removal of the loitering provision from the bill
    - 3. Need for survivor-focused language in legislation
- No additional public comments.

**V. Elections**

- Subcommittees presented their election results for Chair and Co-Chair positions:

Subcommittee	Chair	Vice Chair
Business	David Oates	Erin Pritchard
Child & Family Well-Being	Amanda Stephens	Ember Price
Community	Yusef Miller	Trish Martinez
Education	Anabel Luna	Heather Nemour
Health	Bridget Henderson	Amy Sharpe
Law Enforcement	Jason Phillips	David Jarman
Prosecution	Jerica Phillips	Carolyn Matzger
Research & Data	Kanani Titchen	Ami Carpenter
Survivor Services	Melissa Haupt	Susan Munsey
Survivor Voices	Arturo Garcia	Marjorie Saylor

- Council Chair and Vice Chair elections will take place August 2025 with new members seated

## VI. Presentation

- Ed Howard, Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego
- Topic: Social media, child exploitation, and AI implications:
- Key points:
  - i. Social Media and CSEC
    - 1. Platforms like Meta/Instagram and TikTok are primary facilitators of CSAM (child sexual abuse material) and trafficking.
    - 2. Wall Street Journal investigation exposed Meta's "See Results Anyway" culture
  - ii. AI Risks
    - 1. AI will increase efficiency of predator targeting and CSAM distribution
    - 2. Chatbots have encouraged self-harm and simulate grooming behaviors
  - iii. Legal Landscape
    - 1. AB 1394 (CA law) allows survivors to report CAM and seek financial penalties (\$125k-\$250k)
    - 2. Foster/SESTA federal path strengthened with "deemed knowledge" provisions after 4 consecutive reports
  - iv. Call to Action
    - 1. Local governments can adopt ordinances to strengthen survivor protection
    - 2. Encouraged partnerships with survivor services for reporting and enforcement

## VII. Subcommittee updates

- **Business:** Reported continued progress in building partnerships with survivor support organizations, including Alabaster Jar Project, where plans are underway to host résumé writing workshops and job training sessions onsite. The subcommittee is also coordinating with CalCoast Credit Union and other partners to offer financial literacy programs to survivors. David Oates encouraged Council members and attendees to reach out if they know of survivor support groups in need of job training, education, or interview skills assistance, emphasizing that the subcommittee can facilitate trauma-informed business connections.
- **Child & Family Well-Being:** Shared updates on its recent outreach initiatives. The team participated in multiple awareness events with tribal communities in April and May, which were very well received. Upcoming efforts include hosting a booth and distributing awareness materials, including cards with the task force QR code, at Pride and other summer events. The subcommittee also recognized Melissa Romero, a social worker honored at the Freedom Luncheon and Unity Awards for her outstanding work supporting trafficked youth and collaborating with community partners. Additionally, a storytelling workshop for individuals in recovery, hosted by Behavioral Health Services, was promoted as a tool for healing and empowerment.
- **Community:** Reported a successful donation drive on May 16, 2025, at One Safe Place, collecting 113 backpacks for survivors. Although the contents varied between backpacks, the initiative met its goal of providing immediate support to trafficked individuals. The subcommittee plans to continue the drive in collaboration with GenerateHope, Churches Against Trafficking, and other partners. Organizations have also begun reaching out to request human trafficking trainings, including specialized sessions on trafficking awareness during emergency responses, which are being planned.
- **Education:** Focused on finalizing its subcommittee report for the Board of Supervisors and continued discussions about enhancing parent trainings in primary and secondary schools, an area identified as a key need during the recent summit. Members reviewed the Human Trafficking Policy to Practice guide, currently awaiting graphics, and provided feedback to ensure it is practical for schools. The subcommittee also emphasized the importance of sharing best practices and highlighting effective programs and organizations that successfully connect students and families to prevention and support services.
- **Health:** Will send their update via email.
- **Law Enforcement:** Reported 11 arrests year-to-date, including five for demand reduction and six trafficking-related cases, as well as the recovery of 32 juveniles through May 2025,

underscoring San Diego's continued prominence as a trafficking hub. Members expressed gratitude for community donations, particularly backpacks, which provide immediate comfort to survivors. The Sheriff's Department also hosted a Young Women's Academy to introduce young women (ages 14–17) to law enforcement careers, featuring presentations from survivors and task force officers. Geanie Franco announced her step-down as Co-Chair but will continue to support the task force, while David Jarman will serve as the new Co-Chair.

- **Prosecution:** No updates at this time
- **Research & Data:** Preparing for its next quarterly meeting on August 7, 2025, at the Mesa College campus, and is planning the biannual HTC Radar meeting, which will explore the intersection of the justice system, human trafficking, and restorative justice approaches. Members invited presentations and poster submissions from students and researchers, with the deadline set for June 15. The subcommittee also highlighted its two-part research brief on social media and trafficking, which explores both the risks and prevention opportunities of online platforms.
- **Survivor Voices:** Recently held elections and discussed their goals for the next two years, including partnerships with organizations with more details to come.
- **Survivor Services:** Reported continued work to identify and compile community resources to support survivors in securing and retaining employment. Efforts include mapping available training programs, workplace supports, and reentry services, with a finalized resource list expected after the next subcommittee meeting.
- **Health:** Elections were held, resulting in Bridget Henderson being selected as Chair and Amy Sharpe as Co-Chair. The group is planning a nonfatal strangulation training in partnership with Palomar Health and CCFMTC. Additionally, planning is underway for the 2025–2027 term, including collaboration trainings such as a presentation with the AACN San Diego Chapter.

#### VIII. Summit Report

- Deadline for feedback extended
- Substantive revisions are in progress and will be recirculated for final review

The meeting concluded at 3:01PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025.