

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



Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2025

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

County of San Diego Administration Building
1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101
4th Floor, Room 402A

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

I. Chair welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:36pm

II. Announcement of members participating by teleconference and proxy

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

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Public comment on non-agenda items

- No public comments

V. Presentations

• **Advisory Council: Upcoming administrative actions, Sarah Gordon**

- i. Sarah Gordon from the County of San Diego Public Safety Executive Office provided an update on the County's ongoing effort to bring the Human Trafficking and CSEC Advisory Council into full compliance with County Boards and Commissions policies (A-74). She explained that a new ordinance is being prepared for presentation to the County Board of Supervisors, which would formally reaffirm and structure the Council as an official County advisory body. The ordinance will define required membership structures, appointment processes, and the Council's operating authorities.
- ii. Sarah clarified that although subcommittees have historically guided much of the Council's work, the term "subcommittee" carries Brown Act implications. To ensure compliance, these groups will transition to "working groups," which will continue to lead research and recommendations within their focus areas. The Council will retain its current membership structure of twenty seats across sector categories, and existing members will continue in their roles. Going forward, the County will manage applications and appointments as vacancies occur. She emphasized that the working groups will maintain influence in shaping recommendations and that the transition will support transparency and consistency. As the ordinance gets adopted, the Council's bylaws will need to be updated accordingly.
- iii. Members asked questions about the appointment process, the future of working group autonomy, and how expertise will continue to inform recommendations.

Sarah expressed commitment to designing a collaborative review process that preserves subject-matter input.

- **Cyber Concerns, Guidel Olivas**
 - i. Representatives Guidel Olivas and Brian Alvara presented a proposal to establish a cyber intelligence strategy aimed at combating human trafficking through the ethical use of advanced technologies. Their presentation highlighted tools such as artificial intelligence–based image analysis, deepfake detection, cryptocurrency tracing, social media monitoring, and capabilities for dark-web assessment. They explained that such tools could support prevention, community education, survivor advocacy, and enhanced situational awareness.
 - ii. Council members and law enforcement raised concerns about legal limitations, particularly regarding access to controlled information and the handling of CSAM, which cannot be shared under any circumstances. Law enforcement also emphasized that operational data cannot be made available outside investigative channels. Additionally, because the Council cannot issue product endorsements or generate revenue, members requested clearer definitions of scope and expectations. The presenters were asked to submit a refined written proposal that outlines specific requests, feasibility considerations, legal requirements, costs, and potential areas for pilot collaboration.

VI. Roundtable updates

- **Business:**
 - i. Business reported that GenerateHope requested support for rental literacy workshops and participation in upcoming career fairs. They continue to encourage engagement from local businesses to expand employment pathways for survivors.
- **Child and Family Well-Being:**
 - i. Child and Family Well-Being highlighted the upcoming annual Resource Family Picnic scheduled for October 25. They are in their early stages of transitioning the CSEC identification tool online and it will make pulling data much easier and hopefully be able to improve the use and utilization of the tool. Liaisons attended the preventing and addressing child trafficking network convening in Sacramento and a large focus on that convening was on labor trafficking and forced criminality of youth, so CFWB will be looking at incorporating more that into their policies as well. Right now, it's been incorporated into their training for caregivers and for new workers but the next steps will be for identifying youth who are potentially being trafficked and what to do. Orange County is going to be hosting their Know More Do Better conference on January 23rd and is open to anyone from any county to attend. CFWB asked if the Council is aware of any volunteer opportunities and how they can retrieve that information so they can direct those volunteers on where they may be able to volunteer. Council mentioned that they DA's Office has a public website that has a list of resources including a section on how to get involved, so if any Council members want to send anything regarding volunteer opportunities, send them to Carolyn so she can get the website updated. Community group is in the process of updating their Facebook page that has their calendars and flyers posted and is a good source for this time as they get their website finished.
- **Community:**
 - i. Reported that on August 14, members participated in a "Wellness Through Cultural and Care" event hosted by Paula through the Missing and Murdered Indigenous (MMI) program and the tribal substance abuse program. Community presented information on both substance abuse and the heightened vulnerabilities of Indigenous youth in the foster care system, particularly those affected by the Indian Child Welfare Act. The presentation was well received by attendees. They also announced an upcoming event on Monday, October 27, which will bring together community members from all 17 tribes, tribal leadership, local fire departments, and law enforcement agencies to discuss substance abuse challenges across the county and within Native communities. Attendees will also hear from families impacted by local missing and murdered Indigenous persons cases. Members shared that the "Chai and Chat" series, facilitated by Summer, began

last week in Alpine. The series is aimed at refugee communities and includes interpreter support. Future sessions will involve the Human Trafficking Task Force, Child Advocacy Center (CAC), and the Department of Labor, with additional topics still in development. They announced that they will host a community meeting via Zoom on November 20 featuring Gabriel Contreras, who will speak from a father's perspective about his daughter's trafficking experience through the online platform Roblox. He will share what steps he took to recover his daughter and the gaps he encountered in aftercare services. Additionally, Yusef will be tabling at a local mosque on October 19 to provide community education and resources. They are also preparing for a special event on November 13 in recognition of both Veterans Day and Native American Heritage Month. The event will include an honoring ceremony, and the first 100 veterans in attendance will receive medicine bags crafted by a community member. MMI program representatives will participate to share stories and experiences from families navigating medical systems, social services, law enforcement, and juvenile probation, highlighting the vulnerabilities associated with each. They noted that several additional initiatives are in development and will be shared at a later time. A member asked whether the Chai and Chat gatherings were open to the public. It was clarified that the sessions are closed and intended specifically for refugee communities, though guest speakers may be invited, and interpreter services are provided.

- **Education:**

- i. Education reported that it is developing a series of parent-focused webinars in response to requests from K–12 partners. Based on trends observed by the San Diego County Office of Education, the group agreed that the webinars should be held virtually to increase parent participation and eliminate transportation barriers. They plan to create separate sessions for elementary-aged students and for middle and high school students, recognizing that the needs and risk factors differ across age groups. These webinars will be developed in coordination with SDCOE and made available to all school districts. Members also discussed aligning the webinars with other existing initiatives to increase parent engagement. They noted that when human trafficking is presented as a standalone topic, many parents assume the issue does not apply to their own children. To address this, they will incorporate related themes such as social media safety, parenting strategies, substance use awareness, and the ways these behaviors intersect with vulnerability to trafficking. As the webinars are created, careful attention will be given to messaging and outreach to ensure that human trafficking education is embedded in content that resonates more broadly with families. Education further reported its intention to strengthen collaborations with community organizations. Lifeline was identified as a key partner, and the group plans to meet with them to explore how their expertise and resources can support school districts and complement the upcoming webinar series. Additional updates will be shared as the County finalizes and disseminates the materials.

- **Health:**

- i. Health reported that it recently participated in a human trafficking clinical simulation workshop, which continues to serve as an important component of training and accreditation efforts within healthcare settings. Members noted that the simulation model has been well received and provides valuable hands-on experience for clinicians in recognizing and responding to potential trafficking situations. They are also exploring opportunities to expand this training to additional hospital departments and community healthcare providers to strengthen countywide clinical awareness. Members also shared that they presented a human trafficking awareness session at a recent professional conference, where they delivered a detailed presentation and established new partnerships that will support future educational initiatives. In addition, they are also considering restructuring their meeting format to improve participation, including transitioning to a consistent meeting platform and schedule. These adjustments are intended to enhance cross-sector collaboration across the medical community and increase engagement in upcoming training and outreach activities.

- **Law Enforcement:**

- i. Law Enforcement reported that the Human Trafficking Task Force has made significant progress for the year to date. As of this meeting, the Task Force has completed 78 arrests, recovered 55 adult victims, and recovered 48 juvenile victims. This marks an increase in juvenile recoveries compared to the previous year, which totaled 47, indicating a notable rise in the number of youth being identified and assisted. They also expressed appreciation to Lifeline and BSCC for their support during recent late-night callouts, acknowledging their responsiveness and essential partnership in victim services. Members highlighted that several Task Force Officers recently received the Pursuit of Justice Award from the United States Attorney's Office for cases that resulted in substantial sentences, including those exceeding ten years. An additional case was filed earlier this week involving the arrest of a defendant in his mid-forties and a 13-year-old victim. The defendant is now facing multiple felony charges related to trafficking and sexual offenses and could receive a potential life sentence. Law Enforcement emphasized that this case reflects the ongoing dedication and diligent investigative work of the Task Force. An update was also provided regarding leadership. Jason Phillips, who previously served as Chair of the Law Enforcement group, has been promoted and will no longer serve on the Council. Members congratulated him on his achievement. Frank Brambila will take on the role. He was unable to attend this meeting due to Sergeant School obligations but is expected to participate at the next meeting.

- **Prosecution:**

- i. Prosecution reported that the City Attorney's Office recently conducted another session of its Sex Trafficking Education and Prevention (STEP) Program, which serves first-time offenders who have purchased sex. The full-day program is held quarterly and is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the harms associated with commercial sexual exploitation. The session began with free HIV testing, followed by a series of presentations throughout the day. Law enforcement representatives offered insight into the investigative process and emphasized that purchasing sex is not a victimless crime. A survivor panel shared personal experiences to highlight the real-life impact of exploitation, and a presentation on sexually transmitted infections provided additional health education. The program also included representatives from Sex Addicts Anonymous and concluded with a therapeutic session facilitated by a new therapist from GenerateHope, who stepped in after the program's previous therapist was no longer available. A total of 28 individuals completed this session of the STEP Program, making it one of the larger groups in recent cycles. They anticipate that the next session will take place in January, noting that additional participants from recent Comic-Con-related cases are expected to enroll.

- **Research and Data:**

- i. Research and Data reported updates on ongoing outreach and educational initiatives. Challenges in accessing schools for program implementation were highlighted, including limited availability and administrative barriers, despite a \$3,000,000 grant allocated for outreach. Staff have been assigned full-time to school engagement, and superintendents were identified as critical gatekeepers for new curricula, prompting efforts to involve them directly in the process. The group also discussed the development and distribution of educational graphic novels funded through a \$10,000 community grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics. These materials focus on youth labor trafficking, particularly in illicit drug sales, and include QR codes linking to relevant resources. Plans were outlined to expand the program to include reproductive health education. To accelerate evaluation and feedback, the team intends to implement a quality improvement IRB, allowing input from youth with lived or at-risk experiences of trafficking, avoiding the lengthy Department of Education IRB process. Collaboration opportunities were identified to integrate these materials with existing school-based trafficking prevention services. They emphasized the importance of continuing outreach, data collection, and program evaluation to inform future interventions.

- **Survivor Services:**

- i. Survivor Services reported that last month's meeting focused on bringing in Marjorie to discuss the compensation available to survivors. The discussion aimed to inform service providers on how to support survivors navigating this time-intensive process within a limited timeline. Providers were encouraged to attend to ensure survivors receive comprehensive assistance, with the understanding that multiple informational sessions will be held before the February due date. Survivor Services next meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, the 23rd, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The agenda will include finalizing resources for education and employment for survivors and discussing future program directions.
- **Survivor Voices:**
 - i. Survivor Voices provided updates on the Backpage remission process and ongoing legislative initiatives. Marjorie reported that informational sessions for survivors are being held monthly through February, with the next session scheduled for November 3rd, and flyers being distributed to increase participation across the county. Efforts are underway to support survivors in completing compensation applications, including developing treatment guidelines for medical and mental health clinics to streamline the process. By the end of November, active clinics throughout the county are expected to accept referrals for treatment plans, and monthly workshops will be conducted in South County to assist survivors directly. In addition to Backpage-related efforts, legislative updates were shared, including AB 1375, which grants judges discretion in family law cases involving traffickers or victims of trafficking, expected to be implemented January 1st. Survivor Voices plans to develop an informational sheet with recommendations for implementing new laws and is actively engaging with legislators on approximately 10 initiatives, with four major initiatives prioritized for the coming year. Regular communication and updates will continue to ensure stakeholders are informed of progress and next steps.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 3:00PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025 with a presentation from Mariah Rief who will speak about the Girls Do Porn federal case and website.