



Arizona Human
Trafficking Council

**Arizona Human Trafficking Council
February 18, 2021, 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting**

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council was convened on February 18, 2021 virtually, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (22)	Members Absent (4)
Cindy McCain, Co-Chair	David Curry
Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair	Rachel Mitchell
Brian Steele	Lois Lucas
Cara Christ	Marsha Calhoun
Debbie Johnson	
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz	
Doug Coleman	
Heather Carter	
Tony Mapp (Proxy for Heston Silbert)	
Jennifer Crawford	
Dave Saflar (Proxy for James Gallagher)	
Joseph Kelroy	
Maria Cristina Fuentes	
Michael Wisehart	
Keith Moffitt (Proxy for Mike Faust)	
Nathaniel Brown	
Sarah Beaumont	
Sarah Kent	
Sheila Polk	
Zora Manjencich	
Jill Rable	
Jim Waring	
Staff and Guests Present (9)	
Kim Brooks	Emily Uline-Olmstead
Vianney Careaga	Kate Wyatt
Kristin Sorensen	Stacie Blackburn
Claire Merkel	Mike DeLeon
Joanna Jauregui	

Call to Order

- **Director Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair**, called the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with 22 members and 9 staff and guests present. **Director Orrantia** reviewed the procedures of how the remote meeting would be facilitated.

Roll Call

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, conducted roll call of the Council and took note of Councilmember proxies.

Approval of Minutes

- **Mrs. Cindy McCain, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **December 1, 2020** meeting minutes.
 - **Joseph Kelroy** moved to accept the **December 1, 2020** minutes.
 - **Jennifer Crawford** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at 9:05 a.m.

STOP Investment Update

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Director Maria Fuentes** and **Emily Uline-Olmstead**, Program Administrator, of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) for an update on the STOP Investment funding. **Director Fuentes** provided background on GOYFF. GOYFF administers grant programs and administers nine Governor-appointed Councils and Commissions. The conversations that occur within these groups help inform GOYFF on where the needs and gaps are around the state. In turn, GOYFF tailors its programs and investments toward addressing these areas. Highlighted was also the increased investment over the last few years in the areas that touch human trafficking due to the Council's insight. One of these investments is the STOP (Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors) Grant Program.
- **Ms. Uline-Olmstead** provided an overview of this program. The STOP grant is authorized through the Violence Against Women Act and is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The goal of the funding is to foster partnerships between law enforcement, prosecutors, victim serving organizations, in addition to state, local, and tribal governments. Last fall, GOYFF competed and awarded approximately \$2.5 million in STOP grant funding. During the 12-month grant cycle, the 22 Arizona awardees will work to meet the needs of survivors including domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, dating violence, and stalking through multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and victim-centered approaches. Of the 22 organizations awarded, 16 stated that they serve Sex Trafficking victims.
- Through some of the direct contacts between GOYFF and its partners, additional focus is given to sex trafficking victims. The partners highlighted were the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County, the McCain Institute for International Leadership, and the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University (ASU STIR). With the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), their program will be housed within Comprehensive Medical Services (CMS). The program will focus on coordinating resources and a dedicated staff coordinator will support individuals suspected of, or at risk of, commercial sexual exploitation. This includes identifying and tracking these individuals, ages 11 to 20, for coordinated service engagement. The staff coordinator will also focus on expanding collaborative protocol to all Arizona counties along with supporting stakeholder engagement, training, and enhancing a service provider directory.
- The Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa currently has two judicial calendars dedicated to the needs of juveniles in both delinquency and dependency cases who have been victims of sex trafficking. Through this partnership, program staff will assist a multi-disciplinary team with case collaboration for the STRENGTH Court calendar participants in addition to service connection for dependency cases with children ages 11 to 18, where domestic violence is an allegation. Additionally, an education coordinator will assist the STRENGTH Court case collaboration to ensure educational needs are met for participants. There will also be an enhancement of service connection at the Domestic Violence Center to include on-site advocacy.

- The program at the McCain Institute will focus on the development of human trafficking response protocol training materials to educate school personnel on human trafficking and protocols for a coordinated human trafficking response. Staff will provide training/technical assistance for the use of STARFISH curriculum to Title 1 schools. Each identified school coordinator will be provided a resource guide. Further expansion of the training curriculum for “The Collaborative” model will be developed and delivered with Human Trafficking prevention, identification and county-specific resources. These trainings will begin with both Mohave and Yavapai counties with additional counties to follow.
- In regards to ASU STIR, **Ms. Uline-Olmstead** reviewed previous contract outcomes and noted that GOYFF and ASU STIR are still working to develop additional bodies of work to provide training in critical sectors for the near future. Last year, through the team at ASU STIR, GOYFF supported four different bodies of work that focused on Special Education Training, the Maricopa County Child Sex Trafficking Collaborative (The Collaborative), STRENGTH Calendar Process Evaluation, and a Needs Assessment. The Special Education Training was a web-based training for different stakeholder groups that included bus drivers, school counselors, and para-professionals. With The Collaborative, ASU STIR helped develop training materials including a Sex Trafficking 101. They also conducted community training for partners of The Collaborative. For the STRENGTH Calendar Process Evaluation, ASU STIR conducted stakeholder interviews with staff and participants. The Needs Assessment was designed to determine service gaps. A variety of direct service organizations participated in the survey, including domestic violence providers and family advocacy centers.
- **Joseph Kelroy** asked if GOYFF, through the McCain Institute, would push out The Collaborative Model development that is being done in Mohave and Yavapai counties, to other counties in Arizona. **Director Fuentes** responded by first stating that with the limited funding available, GOYFF worked with its partners to assess where the greatest impact could occur and where the immediate need was, which resulted in the selection of Mohave and Yavapai counties. She went on to state that GOYFF will continue to work with its partners to make inroads to expand this offering to other counties in the future, so long as funding is available.

My Life My Choice

- **Mrs. McCain, Co-Chair**, introduced **Kate Wyatt**, Director of Human Trafficking Services at Northland Family Help Center, for a presentation on the My Life My Choice Program. **Ms. Wyatt** began her presentation by providing background information on Northland Family Help Center (NFHC). The center is located in Flagstaff, AZ with seven programs, including their Domestic Violence Shelter, Youth Shelter, and the Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT). The Domestic Violence Shelter is a 24-bed shelter that provides housing for up to four months for individuals who are experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. They accept people of all gender identities and children that they are guardians to. At the present, shelter space is limited because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the need for social distancing. However, NFHC still urges people to give them a call to inquire about bed space. NFHC provides regular information about space changes and availability. In regards to the Youth Shelter, it is a 15-bed shelter for runaway and homeless youth in the care of DCS and youth with juvenile probation. NFHC sees a lot of youth through these programs and youth who have experienced human trafficking. FIAT was started in 2017 and was initially focused on community education, driving down demand, and working with survivors. This work eventually led them to My Life My Choice as an acknowledgment of the need for prevention efforts to end human trafficking. NFHC applied for and received the Prevention Solution Fellowship from My Life My Choice.
- **Ms. Wyatt** then highlighted the key components of the fellowship including the training for staff, program development, and the delivery of curriculum to youth. She also noted the ongoing support that is provided by My Life My Choice. As part of NFHC’s implementation goals, they had originally intended to deliver the program and curriculum to youth in their Youth Shelter, but due to COVID-19, the number of youth in their shelter is low. As a result, NFHC engaged the juvenile probation department to engage more youth. NFHC is also considering expanding this offering to other counties since the program will be online. NFHC is

engaging in conversation with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, and other youth groups as well. The full presentation can be found at <https://govff.az.gov/meeting/htc/2021/02/18>.

- **Sarah Kent** thanked **Ms. Wyatt** for the work of NFHC and FIAT, and their model to include individuals who are trans-identity or gender non-conforming in the services they provide.
- **Delegate Nathaniel Brown** thanked **Ms. Wyatt** for her work as well and stated that he hopes to tour their facilities in the future to gain a better understanding of the delivery of their model.
- **Lt. Dave Saflar** inquired about where NFHC and FIAT get their clientele from. **Ms. Wyatt** responded that the youth come mostly from juvenile probation, DCS, local law enforcement, and behavioral health specialists. In regards to adults, they directly contact the shelter. NFHC also has a partnership with other shelters and agencies that provide referrals, including the National Human Trafficking Hotline and the Domestic Violence Hotline. She also noted that they receive calls from neighboring tribal nations for referrals.

Pinal Alliance Against Trafficking Coalition

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Stacie Blackburn**, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor for Pinal County Juvenile Court Services, for an update from the Pinal Alliance Against Trafficking Coalition (PAAT). **Ms. Blackburn** began her presentation by discussing the risk factors associated with trafficked youth. While any child can be targeted by a trafficker, research has shown that traffickers often target children with increased vulnerabilities. When taking a look at the risk factors provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, she noted that many of the vulnerabilities listed are present in youth that cross the systems of DCS and juvenile probation. This points to the strong need for increased communication and collaboration between the multiple stakeholders involved in youth human trafficking victim cases, especially among DCS, juvenile probation, and law enforcement agencies. PAAT identified this need and developed a minor victims of sex trafficking checklist that serves as a screening tool. This tool helps ensure youth do not fall through the cracks as they are identified. PAAT has also shared this tool with other agencies which has resulted in improvements made to the checklist/assessment. Additionally, PAAT has also worked on preventative tools such as runaway prevention plans. In 2016, PAAT started collecting data to identify trends in at-risk youth, confirmed victims, and suspected victims of human trafficking. 67% of youth identified through this data are involved in DCS, 90% of the youth had reported at least one instance of running away, and the average age of the youth is 15. Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, PAAT meetings have shifted online on a bimonthly basis. The new format has helped increase meeting attendance. PAAT has put together many resources including a list of contacts and 101 training on human trafficking awareness. The coalition has also engaged in conversations with **Lisa Lucchesi** on lessons learned from The Collaborative so that they may create their own system in Pinal County. The full presentation can be found at <https://govff.az.gov/meeting/htc/2021/02/18>.
- **Joseph Kelroy** thanked **Ms. Blackburn** and PAAT for the hard work they put into making their resources more accessible. He was especially encouraged to hear about the collaboration with juvenile probation, DCS, and law enforcement.
- **Sheila Polk** echoed **Joseph Kelroy's** sentiments, adding that the public-private partnerships that have been developed have been extremely helpful in amplifying the work to address problems throughout the state. She added that the government alone cannot solve all the issues and that it takes collaboration, as exemplified in this presentation, to make an impact in these areas.

COVID-19 Update: Navajo Nation

- **Mrs. McCain, Co-Chair**, introduced **Delegate Nathaniel Brown** of the Navajo Nation for an update on the impact and activities within the Navajo Nation as the result of COVID-19. **Delegate Brown** began his presentation by describing the conditions within the Navajo Nation. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, human trafficking and other criminal investigations have taken a back seat. This was unfortunate, but with the limited resources available to them, the tribal government needed to focus its efforts to save as many lives as possible from COVID-19. Many of the service providers had been focused on delivering care packages, food, and vaccinations. **Delegate Brown** thanked all those who helped the Navajo Nations navigate this

difficult time including those in the Phoenix-area. The Navajo Nation recently passed a law aimed at human trafficking and the 24th Navajo Nation Council created the Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee. The law has helped inform U.S. Supreme Court Decisions which have made it possible for Native nations to prosecute non-Natives for committing offenses on Native lands. The law has also spurred efforts in the Navajo Nation to enact an Equality Act that is aimed at providing equal rights to individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ and addressing hate crimes. These strides towards combating human trafficking on the Navajo Nation are a result of the work of this Council and the collaborations that have developed because the Navajo Nation's involvement. The Navajo Nation recently received an award from the White House for their efforts to combat Human Trafficking. According to Navajo Nation Social Services, before COVID-19 they have three confirmed cases of human trafficking on the Navajo Nation. Since COVID-19, there have been three more confirmed cases. However, these numbers are underrepresented. He noted that this is due in large part to lack of training on human trafficking. **Delegate Brown** intends to provide human trafficking training to the cadets at the Navajo Nation Police Academy and asks that the Council help with the training.

- **Joseph Kelroy** commented that he will reach out to **Delegate Brown** to collaborate further on an initiative he is working on with southwest tribal judges.
- **Mrs. McCain, Co-Chair**, offered the assistance of the McCain Institute in helping **Delegate Brown** the delivery of training.
- **Director Fuentes** commented that GOYFF is getting ready to compete out their sexual assault grant in March. She also noted that funding will be prioritized towards tribal nations and providers in rural communities in Arizona.

Workgroup Updates

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** for an update from the Data and Research Workgroup. **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz** informed the Council the Workgroup has already conducted four training events so far to begin the year. At the upcoming Council Meeting, the Workgroup intends to report out the findings of some of the studies they conducted last year including the Needs Assessment. The Workgroup is also collecting data on two new police interventions with the Phoenix Police Department and ten other organizations around Arizona. Next week is also the first street outreach event of the year, which is the COVID-19 modified version of the drop-in center.
- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Director Debbie Johnson** for an update from the Outreach and Awareness Workgroup. **Director Johnson** informed the Council the Workgroup met a few weeks ago. They are looking at what the Workgroup has done in the past in order to inform what to do moving forward. For certain, the Workgroup will focus on human trafficking training and public relations strategies for Arizona's mega-events. These events include annual events as well as the Super Bowl and Final Four.
- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Sheila Polk** for an update from the Policy Workgroup. **Ms. Polk** informed the Council that although the Workgroup has not met, they are still making headway on their goals. One of their goals is to identify and remove barriers that survivors face. Other goals of the Workgroup have found their way into Senate Bill 1660. The bill will change the term "child prostitution" to child trafficking in the Arizona Criminal Code. Additionally, the bill will remove the statute of limitations on child sex trafficking cases, prohibit the defendant (when they represent themselves in court) from directly questioning a trafficking victim, and provides for education and mandatory reporter training.
- **Director Fuentes** commented that in regards to the barrier of the fingerprint clearance cards, the Fingerprint Clearance Board received training from **Rachel Mitchell** this week. The training provided the Board with insight into the crime of sex trafficking so that the Board can make more informed decisions on waivers from sex trafficking victims for their fingerprint clearance cards. She also commented that S.B. 1660 was informed not only by this Workgroup but also based on the recommendations from the Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force.
- **Director Fuentes** highlighted the educational component of the bill that will require children 18 and over, who are placed in DCS care, to receive age-appropriate education on trafficking. **Heather Carter** noted that she appreciated the hard work that had been done to bring S.B. 1660 to the floor of the state legislature.

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Sarah Beaumont** for an update from the Victim Services Workgroup. **Dr. Beaumont** informed the Council that the Workgroup last met in December and is planning on meeting in two weeks. In the short-term, the Workgroup intends to work with **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz** to better understand the Needs Assessment and to apply it to the work of the Workgroup. The Workgroup intends to further develop screening tools, identify new organizations that work with youth victims, and continue to develop educational resources.

Special Announcement

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, announced that after 39 years in public safety, and after 11 years as the Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, he will be retiring in April 2021 from public service. This is his last meeting as the Co-Chair of the Council. **Director Orrantia** thanked the Governor, **Mrs. McCain**, Councilmembers, the McCain Institute, and the GOYFF Team for their friendship and support over the years. **Mrs. McCain, Co-Chair**, shared with **Director Orrantia** and the Council the special commendation issued from the Governor.
- **Mrs. McCain**, added her personal thanks and gratitude for all that **Director Orrantia** has done to advance the work of this Council.
- Several Council Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to **Director Orrantia**.
- **Director Orrantia**, thanked everyone for their kind words.

Adjournment

- **Director Orrantia, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and adjourned the meeting 10:36 a.m.

Dated 18 of February 2021
Arizona Human Trafficking Council
Respectfully Submitted By:
Vianney M. Careaga
GOYFF