



- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, called the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meeting to order at **9:08 a.m.** with 16 members and 6 staff and guests present. She then reviewed the procedures of the Council meeting and welcomed all those joining via Zoom and thanked them for their flexibility.

Tucson Airport Authority and Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign

- **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, introduced **Jessie Allen** of Tucson Airport Authority and **Michael Camal** of the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Jessie Allen** is the Director of Marketing, Communications, and External Relations for the Tucson Airport Authority, certificated operator of Tucson International Airport (TUS) and Ryan Airfield (RYN). Allen has been with the TAA for 7 years overseeing all internal and external communications, and marketing initiatives and led the airport's effort to become an official partner of the DHS Blue Lightning Initiative.
- **Michael Camal** currently serves as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Blue Campaign, the Department's national public awareness campaign to combat human trafficking. In this role, he leads the Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI) to address human trafficking within the aviation industry. Michael also supports the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), where he coordinates across 16 DHS Components to further support the Department's anti-trafficking mission.
- **Jessie Allen** started off the presentation by giving an overview of the airports within the Tucson Airport Authority realm. Tucson International Airport had over 2 million passengers through July, which is up 42% from 2021, with 55 daily departures, 23 nonstop destinations, and 7 airlines flying through. Also, Ryan Airfield located 12 miles west of Tucson operates out of their area which oversaw 104,000+ aircraft operations in 2021, has 20+ businesses, and has 300+ based aircraft.
- In the past Tucson Airport Authority worked with **Detective Crawford**, and Tucson Police Department and worked with [Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network](#) to install anti-human trafficking restroom mirror signage but these signs were continuously removed and/or stolen.
- In 2021, the decision was made to re-engage in an anti-human trafficking program. The Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) understands that educating people on human trafficking is worth the investment. The TAA chose to move forward with working the [Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign](#) after researching numerous organizations and reaching out to airport colleagues for best practices. Another factor
 - The Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.
- The Blue Light Initiative is a part of The Blue Campaign that focuses on aviation and made the most sense for TAA to move forward with it. There is an aviation-specific campaign within Blue Campaign, a direct partnership with DHS and its numerous agencies, and free collateral inventory that is for all industries. Local TSA leadership was an advocate of the partnership.
- TAA launched this campaign in January 2022, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that essentially allowed TAA to upload all training materials to get co-brand, any of the flyers and posters they are given. Signing the MOU allowed TAA to co-sign and put their logo on it, essentially making it your own brand as well.
 - TAA did invest a lot of money in this initiative to show investment in the Tucson airport community that Tucson International Airport is supporting anti-human trafficking initiatives.
- TAA purchased acrylic restroom signage that cannot be removed from the restaurants. If it tries to get removed, the TAA police will know, and the custodians will know as there's absolutely no way anyone is going to tear them down.
 - Custodians have a checklist, every single shift is to check if they've been removed or not, have not run into issues with them being removed in full but do notice that they're definitely being taken and used and torn down. But they're not being taken to the capacity that it was made from years ago.
- Also purchased lanyard cards, every single employee that receives the badge and there are 1,000+ badged employees between Tucson international and Ryan Airfield. They all have lanyard cards which essentially are small cards that have indicators, phone numbers, and the top signs that you should look at. This is a requirement as a minimum for the Tucson Airport Authority for employees to carry at all times.
- Made the Blue Campaign training video an absolute requirement for all badged employees of Tucson International Airport and Ryan Airfield along with all the security training on how and how not to enter the buildings securely. Since January TAA has more than 1500 people who have completed the training and

that does not include the additional training that the marketing communications staff has done. The police and fire departments have specialized training in human trafficking that they conduct. And the unique part of TAA is that they have its own police and fire department as well so it is not city-run. TAA did meet with Homeland Security Investigations and **Detective Crawford** with TPD to reestablish that relationship so that the anti-human trafficking effort is a focus.

- Launched this campaign alongside the Tucson Gem and Mineral show that's one of the largest shows in southern Arizona that bring in a multitude of international fliers that come through the airport. Working together with the Tucson Police chief, DHS, and DOT in a collaborative effort, TAA received more than \$500,000 worth of advertising on anti-human trafficking within southern Arizona.
- TAA has some additional Blue Campaign collateral in each of the employee-only hallways and offices as well for continuing education and recognition of the signs of Human trafficking. TAA employees are required on an annual basis to conduct anti-human trafficking training. Again, also with all of the TAA tenants and those that are contractors, anyone who needs a badge if it comes up for renewal, they are again required to take to the training again. TAA participates in quarterly and Saturday training with our local law enforcement partners and nonprofits.
- **Jessie Allen**, relayed that TAA in January is planning a full week of in-person training in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations and DHS. We are going to provide free in-person training for all of our airlines, tenants, concessionaires, board of directors, and anybody who is affiliated with or in the community of Tucson International Airport, they are going to have the opportunity to get training hands-on training from a DHS representative. Relayed their gratitude for **Michael Camal's** collaboration and willingness to work with TAA to get this into place. TAA wants to also bring these resources and training to Ryan Airfield as general aviation is happening there all the time. Signage is going to be installed in the pilots' lounge and at every single facility that is TAA owned and facility that we have a tenant within, they're going to be required to have that signage in there as well.
 - TAA will have increased signage and audio announcements during the Superbowl and Tucson gem and mineral show, as the facts show how much trafficking occurs when there was a large sporting event taking place.
- **Jessie Allen** asked the council that your city has a wing in your general aviation airports, it is highly recommended that they ask them to consider Blue Campaign as it's no cost at the signing of an MOU. These general aviation airports are going to be carrying these multimillion-dollar charters carrying these trafficking victims and cannot be forgotten. **Jessie Allen** and Danette Bewley, President and CEO Of TAA, gave a presentation at the [Arizona Airport Association](#) alongside DHS. Since then two airports have signed and TAA was the first in the state of Arizona.
- **Jessie Allen** handed over the presentation to **Micahel Camal**, Senior Advisor with the Department of Homeland Security, to further discuss the [Blue Lighting Initiative](#). This Initiative is a specific partnership that DHS does with the airlines, airport aviation associations, and different organizations that DHS partners with who could potentially see the behavioral indicators of human trafficking to provide online training. The main goal of the Blue Lighting Initiative is to provide 25-minute virtual training. On top of that, it also provides partners with additional awareness materials that they can use in the public screens or hand out to employees. DHS's Blue Lighting Initiative has had a lot of success with over 100 partners so far and trained over 200,000 personnel. Targeting not just commercial aviation but also general aviation by creating a partnership with the [National Air Transportation Association](#) to reach into all the private jet companies as well.
 - The Initiative is trying to break into everything aviation because it's not just the flight attendants and the airport staff that can see what's going on. It's the custodians and anyone who interacts with a member of the public so we're also partnering with the associations with the universities that have aviation departments so students are exposed to human trafficking awareness.
- **Michael Camal** stated **Jessie Allen** and Tucson International Airport is a great example of the airport being productive in anti-trafficking efforts. There are different levels of support that airlines and airports can provide such as public awareness, digital displays, restroom signage, and partnerships. The first partnership is with Non-governmental operations (NGO) and service provider partnerships. There is a way for airlines and airports to partner directly with the NGOs in the local community and provide support, whether it's

through whether it's financial support, or whether it's fighting for survivors of human trafficking, helping them get out of their situation, or returning to their families. Also, to encourage the private sector and the aviation industry that when they are going to consult with survivors, make sure that they're getting paid and then consider hiring survivors, because that can be a challenge for many survivors.

- **Michael Camal** relayed a story of Human trafficking from the Superbowl 2020 in Miami where a trafficker emotionally, psychologically, and financially coerced them into soliciting customers with plans of taking them to the NBA All-Star Game, New Orleans, and Las Vegas to sexually exploit them if he was not convicted.
 - Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation goes on year round but the trafficker knew that he could take advantage of these big events. He wants to recognize that it's not the Super Bowl itself that is bringing the human trafficking, it is the traffickers that are taking advantage of the influx of people, and it shouldn't be ignored. The state, industries, and service providers can be proactive to raise awareness during the Super Bowl and then can continue those efforts throughout the entire year.
- The Blue Campaign is the national public awareness campaign to combat human trafficking for the Department of Homeland Security. Raise awareness, not just among aviation, but also in a variety of different sectors that include the private sector and includes NGOs, and law enforcement, teaching them how to use the victim-centered approach, and also working with youth and adults that work with youth. Setting up partnerships that will provide awareness resources, and achieving the campaign's two main goals of prevention and protection.
 - To help further this mission, The Blue Campaign works together with its DHS partners through the [Center for Countering Human Trafficking](#). This is a brand new center that the department launched about a year and a half ago, and the Blue Campaign is a part of the main actors. Its partners include Customs and Border Protection, TSA, Homeland Security Investigations, and Citizenship and Immigration Services, providing immigration only the much-needed immigration relief. And now all of these efforts are co-located at one center. This allows for full collaboration to take place across all areas under DHS and across departments to stop Human-trafficking.
- **Michael Camal** stated one of the biggest assets that the Blue Campaign can provide is public awareness materials which include posters and indicator card toolkits tailoring the resources for specific target audiences. Taking into account what most or may not resonate with one community versus another community. The campaigns make sure that the resources are in plain language and easily understood by the general public.
 - One example of this is translating posters and materials to reflect the language and culture of the large Afghan community that has settled in the US as one of the valid concerns is that they would be exploited by human traffickers. Also, make sure the posters and materials are survivor-informed and not alarmist in nature as victims of human trafficking can look like everyone.
- **Michael Camal** recommends that if you haven't visited the campaign's [website](#), please do as have tailored resources for different audiences. The campaign has guides for adults that work with youth, and posters for the youth. Just recently launched a Campus Law Enforcement guide to give campus law enforcement indicator cards. Also, the Campaign has a separate guide specifically for college students so that they can create awareness campaigns on their campus, and guides for faith-based and community organizations. There is also a video for first responders and specifically disaster response personnel because a lot of times the traffickers will take advantage of that as well. There is a guide for convenience retail employees that has a lot of videos that go along with the training. The campaign is updating its transportation guide and hospitality guide for hotels which will be updated on the website in a couple of weeks. This is all free and available to download directly from the site and a lot of it can be shipped free of charge nationwide.
- Discussed "Wear Blue Day" which takes place on January 11 and is the campaign's largest awareness initiative of the year is the easiest way to participate in the campaign. All you need to do is just wear it will, take a picture of yourself or your company wearing blue, and post it on social media. Some of the public awareness milestones that the campaign achieved in 2021 were 956 calls generated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and Homeland Security Investigations tip line via digital ads, +700,000 printed materials delivered, and 31,000 materials downloaded in 33 available languages. **Michael Camal** stated he is already

working with the Arizona governor's office to develop cooperative resources specifically in advance of the Super Bowl 2022.

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, said she is very grateful for the leadership of Tucson airport, taking the initiative to connect with DHS, and the deployment of this campaign across all of TAA. **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair** asked what are the other two airports that have signed on to this campaign.
 - **Jessie Allen** stated both Yuma International and Domestic Airport have signed on to the campaign as well as Mesa Airport.
- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, stated it's absolutely necessary when flying all over the country and there's not one major airport that has not taken this on and so you're taking that leadership role, and that initiative here in Arizona is something that is highly valued. The hot highly encourages all airports and transportation hubs to take advantage of these tremendous partnerships. The Human Trafficking Council has taken advantage of the great work of the Blue Campaign and the US Department of Homeland Security through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family but also the Human Trafficking Council has entered into a partnership with them as well. Also, the Department of Economic Security, Department of Child Safety, Department of Health, Tourism, and Lottery are all coming together alongside this Council to fund a statewide media campaign with Blue Campaign materials launching in December and that will be co-branded to the council. **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, stated that one voice, one message united in Arizona and will not tolerate this. Arizona victim services and support for victims are really important. Again she thanked both of them for their hard work and passion for all that they do.
- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, relayed the Council is working with and is grateful to the Department of Tourism, the Tourism Association hotels, and restaurants. Arizona has received a lot of boxes from the Department of Homeland Security full of materials.
 - Working on cobranding so you're going to see a lot of the Human Trafficking Council and Department of Homeland Security pushing out the Blue Campaign December through the Superbowl but it's not a Super Bowl-specific campaign.
- **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, stated that the Blue Campaign has allowed the Council to build on what they were already planning on doing and funding for the Superbowl around Arizona. They had a week of ads, brochures, posters, shoe cards, and indicator cards which are co-branded with the Council and will be distributed out. These materials were very intentionally made sure that what the Council was doing was not tied to the Super Bowl specifically.
 - **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, thanked **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, and her partners for taking what was going to be a week-long Blue campaign and extending it into four months of a very targeted campaign.
 - **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair** inquired about the acrylic signs that they are not as easily removable and would love to talk more about that with **Jessie Allen**.

A New Life Center

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Myriah Mhoon** and **Rubeena Malik** of the New Life Center.
- **Myriah Mhoon** is currently the CEO of Arizona's largest domestic violence shelter, [New Life Center](#). For the past 14 years, Mhoon has dedicated her professional life to working with the most vulnerable populations. Mhoon had the privilege of overseeing the Arizona Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women and has worked with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence on statewide initiatives. During her three-year tenure in the Governor's Office, Mhoon led the domestic violence awareness campaign, Lighting Arizona Purple. In 2016, Mhoon sat on Arizona's Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force, guiding the Governor's Office with recommendations to combat the backlog of rape kits in the state. Mhoon currently is appointed to the Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy, as a matter expert in Human Trafficking. She also sits on the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofit board and the Valley of the Sun Waldorf Education Association School Board.

- **Rubeena Malik** is the Human Trafficking Project Coordinator at New Life Center. After completing her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology at ASU, she started working with unaccompanied minors at Southwest Key Programs. It was during this time that she developed a passion to serve victims of human trafficking, as her work assignments increased with this specific population. She was able to increase her experience in human trafficking while working in Los Angeles with a specialized human trafficking agency called CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and End Trafficking). Rubeena has over 7 years of experience working with victims of sex and labor trafficking, both domestic and foreign nationals. Since 2020, she has been working at New Life Center in capacity building, partnerships, and program implementation for the human trafficking program, while still maintaining a small caseload in efforts to continue active victim engagement.
- **Myrhiah Mhoon** started off the presentation by saying that New Life Center has been around since 1991. It is currently the largest domestic violence shelter in the state of Arizona and has 104 beds, one of the largest in the country. She has been there 5 years and in 2019 it became a dual service provider serving not only victims of domestic violence, but also sexual violence and human trafficking victims. They have Casitas, which can house up to 12 people on campus for the victims and their families, including pets, so they can have autonomy and space for healing. **Myrhiah Mhoon** stated the mission of New Life Center is helping to eliminate domestic and sexual violence through supportive services, and education expertise. The vision is to create an Arizona where all live free from domestic violence and sexual violence. The values are compassion, resilience, equity, and community.
- **Myrhiah Mhoon** discussed the programs offered at New Life Center which are around Residential, Outreach, Training, Prevention, and Hope's Closet. Residential is the casitas offered to the victims and families for them to heal. The Outreach program is a champion of human trafficking response at New Life Center... The Training program has been three years in the field of training, sexual assault investigation training programs. New Life Center is AZ post accredited, we have to date trained over 800 law enforcement throughout the states and are willing to come anywhere and everywhere in the states to train our most rural populations and counties. New Life Center will go and train detectives because the impact of those direct training opportunities in those rural communities is really important for the state of Arizona. The Prevention program and organization Katie's Way was a nonprofit on its own for the last 13 years. New Life Center acquired Katie's Way at the beginning of this year and is championing an evidence-based curriculum starting next January to go out and train. It is hard since the curriculum is set for preteens. When one gets to the teenagers, it's too late. A lot of that healthy relationship now stems from the preteen so that is what the curriculum is based on and they will be going out to schools to issue that evidence-based curriculum. Hope's Closet is a thrift store that is in the West Valley. It not only serves the community but it serves all survivors. When they enter new licensure they're able to shop for free in the midst of their stay with New Life Center and then most importantly once they establish housing theory are given furniture, house goods, and mattresses.
- **Myrhiah Mhoon** relayed the success they have had over the years: 1,062 Individuals served throughout NLC programming, 27,849 Meals served to individuals in a shelter, 9,503 Hours of advocacy offered, and 17,950 Safe bed nights. These numbers are a little lower due to the pandemic and the barriers it created. Each person who receives meals get three a day with two snacks.
- Sunshine Healing Services which is a part of New Life Center includes 24/7 hotline support/response, Advocacy/case management, Court and medical accompaniment, group and holistic healing, and Trauma Treatment plus more.
- Opened the state's first rape crisis center in downtown Phoenix, it is on Third Street and Indian School. This is an incredible step forward for the definition of a rape crisis center as an entry point to services, whether that service is law enforcement medical, but their partnership with honor health or a self-identified journey. New Life Center has a therapist and advocates but it is a true entry point to services.
- **Myrhiah Mhoon** handed off the presentation to **Rubeena Malik** who discussed the Human Services Center, which opened in May of this year. They are able to serve primary and secondary victims of sexual violence including sex trafficking victims and over the age of 18. Survivors can receive services without having to report to law enforcement. All services are voluntary and are available to survivors at any point during their lifespan.

- **Rubeena Malik** gave an overview of the transitional housing program offered. It includes services for both adults and their children, up to full rental subsidy, covers all initial move-in costs, Initial utility costs, and ranges from 6-24 months with about 3-5 clients per year. There are also case management programs that offer case plans, accompaniments, resources/referrals, lay legal/general advocacy, 24/7 Hotline: (623) 215-8072, and therapy through the partnership with [La Frontera-EMPACT](#).
- New Life Center uses a multidisciplinary response of all the wonderful organizations that they work with to improve as there is no work better work than teamwork. Relayed examples of working with partners like [Starfish Place](#), [ALWAYS](#), [International Rescue Committee](#), [Mexican Consulate](#), [Chicanos Por La Causa](#), and the [Phoenix Dream Center](#)
- **Rubeena Malik** stated they are funded through the [Office of Victims of Crimes](#) which in 2020 served 9, 854 clients served under OVC grantees which 78% were adults while 22% were minors. Since 2020 New Life Center has provided direct services for 35 clients-case management despite the pandemic and other barriers. **Rubeena Malik** encourages continued support so they can continue their mission.
 - **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, stated she had the pleasure to visit the rape crisis center and it's a really beautiful space. She is happy to see this new type of center and place for victims of sex crimes to go to, in addition to the wonderful work of the family advocacy centers, and to see how they can have different types of doors entries into the care system. She thinks it really demonstrates that Arizona can have different types of services that all work together to meet victims where they are.
- **Pastor Brian Steele** expressed his gratitude and thanks for all the incredible services they provide for victims and survivors and for creating an excellent reputation within the community.

Approval of Minutes

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **June 1, 2022** meeting minutes.
 - **Director Tim Roemer** moved to accept the **June 1, 2022** minutes.
 - **Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** seconded the motion.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:02 a.m.**

Update on DEMA Funds

- **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, introduced **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management.
- **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** has 23 years of State service with the Arizona Department of Emergency & Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management (DEMA), and in January 2017 was promoted to the Grant Administration Assistant Director position overseeing all the financial aspects of federal and state grant programs within the Division to include the Emergency Management Performance Grant, Public Assistance, Mitigation (HMGP, PDM, BRIC), State Homeland Security Training grants, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, Emergency Management Assistance Compact, State Search & Rescue, the Governor's Emergency Fund and the Border Security Fund. Darlene serves as the Finance & Administration Section Chief during Emergency Operations Center activations and she continues to provide assistance and direction to state, county, and local agencies and volunteer organizations to assure prompt and accurate reimbursement to communities affected by disaster.
- **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** started off her presentation by expressing the shifts that needed to happen in thinking for DEMA as they deal with floods, fires, hurricanes, and natural disasters to this new invasion at the southern border and the amount of money that comes with this. **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** is hoping that with this funding that's available for anti-human trafficking that it can be put to good use and that will rely on a lot of the subject matter experts on this council in creating programs that would be beneficial and sustainable for the coming years. Needs help as the stakeholders get to build it, there was no outline just a few sentences of what the funds can be used for.
- The Governor's office appropriated an initial \$55 million in 2021 and established an oversight committee, made up of the DEM Director, Susan Dzbanko with the Arizona Office of Homeland Security, and Phillip

Case with the Department of Public Safety. This first appropriation is geared toward the National Guard and local law enforcement agencies.

- In the fiscal year 2023, DEMA was appropriated an additional \$533 million which around \$350 million was specified for funding geared towards the barriers along the border. It has been used for additional equipment surveillance information and local law enforcement support. So we did get \$300 million, that of the 500 and that was broken into about 13 different funding opportunities geared towards additional funding for barriers, additional funding for local law enforcement, and National Guard for their time down at the border. There was a small portion of \$10 million that went to anti-human trafficking. \$2,000,000 of that goes to the department of public safety Arizona counter-terrorism information center for antihuman trafficking operations that comply with the requirements prescribed in section 26-106, ARS. And the other \$8,000,000 in award grants to city, town, and county law enforcement agencies, in an amount of not more than \$500,000 per agency which allows funding for around 16 agencies, for programs that reduce human trafficking and that comply with the requirements prescribed in section 26-106, ARS. They are able to spend the money over a 3-5 year timeline.
- This House Bill 2860, established the anti-human trafficking grants fund under our agency because it was nowhere within its previous description and is a shift in their department's mission. It established the fund which consisted of monies appropriated by the legislature, to the Department of Emergency and military affairs, and it'll go towards programs to reduce human trafficking and to be eligible for grant money for programs to do the following. This means they must reduce human trafficking by providing assistance and analytical services to law enforcement agencies, providing services to victims, and training law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and the public on preventing and identifying human trafficking. **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** again is saying that is out of the norm for DEMA so she is looking for the help of the council. There are many different contractors that are all vying for state contracts due to this new influx of funds and are looking for the advice of the council to help best appropriate the funds to the correct vendors. Would like to tailor kind of around if they would like any of the agencies would like to hire human trafficking-focused law enforcement personnel and give the options of training programs for airport personnel, custodial crews, and other workers who see more than assumed.
- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, stated there is a weekly call on the group that works on the fund at large on behalf of the council. She's been invited to participate in those calls where **Darlene** already reached out for our thoughts and the expertise of the council in shaping those funds. Advocating for the importance or prioritization or looking for victim-centered approaches to understanding how to respond to and react to and engage victims not just helps the victims and survivors but also aids investigations and prosecutions.
 - The goal is to make sure that this money has the most impact and the most change it has the ability or hopefully the ability to really transform the way that the council can amplify and evolve how to respond to human trafficking in Arizona in a way that demonstrates the results and ultimately can demonstrate a need for additional funds or additional funding towards combating this in the future. Gathered a number of questions from members of the council all of which have been placed onto an FAQ that **Darlene, Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, and **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair** have been working on. **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair** stated that should be given back answers to the questions by the end of September.
- **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** stated that not all the money has to be focused on southern border issues and can be used with statewide partners combatting Human trafficking.
 - **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair** stated this border is a catalyst, it is one possibility but it is not the sum total of trafficking in the state. The grant proposals that are going to be the most useful are those that are multi-disciplinary do cross cross-organization and increase the ability of particular cities and towns to work with community resources that exist in a more efficient and effective way.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** wants to make sure **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** has all the research necessary to make this money be as beneficial as possible. One example used is about 22% of our sex trafficked individuals in Arizona have been in special education during their lifetime. Making sure that people are considering that as they apply to prevention or victim-centeredness. It is known that certain

victims are identified at the border and there are issues about non you know, foreign-born victims, but the vast majority of the victims that are served in Arizona are Arizona residents, both children, and adults.

- o Found in places like detention group homes, schools, special education classrooms, and of course, in jail, we recognize victims and traffickers who are working using the jail systems and the prison systems as conduits.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** asked **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** if they are always going to require it to always have a social service agency or some sort of a formula for the application.
 - o **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** stated that yes they are requiring a formal application, budget, narrative, and others. Needs the assistance of the council a working group to help go through some of that documentation in the application to make sure that it's legitimate, that what they're saying that they're going to accomplish is accomplishable and that they are going to be using the funds for its intended purpose.
- **Jennifer Crawford** asked if smaller agencies are allowed to write proposals through umbrella organizations for the grant, and the smaller agencies use the funds themselves.
 - o **Assistant Director Darlene Quihuis** stated they can do it either way. So if each entity wants to apply on their own, then they can kind of just make that connection or they can apply under a bigger organization as long as it is benefiting the everyone within it while combating human trafficking.

Taskforce Update: Project ALTO

- **Claire Sechler-Merkel, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** who is speaking on Project ALTO and specifically Labor trafficking. There have been only two prosecutions of labor trafficking in the state of Arizona one in 2011 and one in 2016. There's a disconnect between the awareness of people who are experiencing labor trafficking and the knowledge of the police and prosecutors, which is actually very high of what they were tracking and have prosecuted, but somehow those two things are not leading very well. **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** states one of the most vulnerable populations for labor trafficking is foreign-born day laborers. They're hired for short-term manual labor jobs who've been in the plumbing, landscaping, and roofing yard work, and sometimes they're undocumented mostly have limited English and sometimes are limited means, and are isolated from friends or family.
- Relayed stories of people **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** met when she went with the [McCain Institute](#) and had a discussion with the consulate of Mexico, and the consulate of Guatemala and how creating a personal connection with those that are facing labor trafficking is very powerful for both individual and herself. During this time they spoke with many people who are in need of hygiene products and clothes while discussing The current situation is there in and if it is a part of labor trafficking.
- It's during this time that they were able to talk to over 200 people in an outreach event asking them what their needs are while looking in places such as Home Depot or Circle K's during this outreach event they handed out voter rights materials in both Spanish and English from the McCain Institute and made sure each group had multiple Spanish speakers so that they're able to communicate easily in conversation and through the handouts discuss the many different methodologies and demographics studied during this outreach event where they were able to gain data on people truly being impacted by labor trafficking. One and three of the people that were interacted with reported that they did work and the payment was different than what was expected and promised. Over and over they heard burglaries and robberies of people who fit the category of day laborers have experienced physical and sexual assault in the workplace. Whether it is wage theft, job site conditions, abandonment at job sites, and factors that is thought to increase the likelihood of victimization if that person is alone. Gave the recommendation of creating a card that allows for dry erase conversations to take place to create less confusion during a work agreement.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** is collaborating with many states and universities across the US that are studying the same thing; creating the labor trafficking outreach in a box so they can just send it to another agency or another community and they can replicate it. Also, **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** discussed that the work needs to be done in tangent with law enforcement since either side cannot do it alone.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** then gave a presentation on the work she is doing with the Sex Trafficking STOP grant with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. They are creating trainings that are accessible to the communities with the goal of this year training 600 People through any type of Municipality

agency and creating a video that will be easily accessible specifically for service providers. They are also working with Heather Bohnet of [Arizona Victim's Compensation](#) to train 15 Compensation boards across 15 counties. Have completed two trainings so far, one at the Arizona Courts Conference and the other being Yavapai County Human Trafficking Task Force. Working specifically in Pima County there doing trainings with Pima County Juvenile Court, clinical providers for high risk juveniles (private practices, general agencies, and youth-serving organizations), and homeless youth service providers.

- Working closely with the Maricopa county sheriff's office and the Arizona Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Reentry on a corrections project. One of them being the Tablet Pilot Project in Estrella Jail with female inmates who were asked 5 questions that help determine if they're at risk for being trafficked or have been trafficked. This led to 26 inmates flagged and now they are working with different agencies to make sure that through the jail system, they can then provide services upon release. Also, created a corrections training brochure for adult and juvenile corrections that has trafficking screening test on it. Again working with Arizona Department of Rehabilitation and Reentry for trainings on Sex Trafficking and Trauma with abuse counselors. And for the Intelligence and Investigators developing a training on finding incarcerated people who have been trafficked, the potential of being trafficked, or people who are trafficking from behind bars. The final training project of working with Adverse childhood experiences and resilience helping to train the social workers who help the 100,000+ people who live in public housing to learn the sign of sex trafficking within their clients.

Workgroup Updates

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** for an update from the Data and Research Workgroup. **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz** stated working to help build teams for DEMA, using that evidence based work to try to push forward some of the things that are known about the unique features of sex trafficking in Arizona. Working with the City of Phoenix to train 60% of state of the city for users and just did their financial department. Developing a potential new project with kids from detention going back into schools and their traffickers playing a role in their school attendance.
- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, provided an update from the Outreach and Awareness Workgroup, sharing that they have teamed up with the NFL Super Bowl Committee and will be training all NFL volunteers during Super Bowl. Reviewed and thanked all the sister agencies that are making the media campaign with US Department of Homeland Security continue on past the Super Bowl.
- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Sarah Chung** to provide the report for the Victim Service Workgroup.
- **Jeramia Garcia Ramadan (Proxy for Michael Wisehart)**, stated that they received inquiries through the division programmatic teams and through the public records teams regarding data that might help support efforts as we get to the Super Bowl and anti-human trafficking pieces. As they need to make sure that they're doing any sort of data sharing in line with federal law federal and state law and regulation.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, reminded Councilmembers to mark their calendars for the next Council meeting on October 19, 2022, at 9 a.m. And on December 8, 2022 at 8 a.m for an extended meeting in lieu of a symposium. The meeting will be held in person at the Executive Tower.

Adjournment

- **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting.
 - The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Dated 26 of September 2022
Arizona Human Trafficking Council
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kainoa Spenser

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