

# Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Annual Report



# 2019



The Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith  
and Family



Arizona Human  
Trafficking Council

[EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](http://EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov)



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES  
DIRECTOR

December 18, 2019

Governor Doug A. Ducey  
1700 W Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor,

It is our pleasure to serve as co-chairs of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. We would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Council and its subcommittees over the past year. Their expertise, passion and dedication to address the issue of human trafficking across Arizona made this work possible. We are proud to share the outcomes and accomplishments of the Council along with our vision for future work.

During the past year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to victim services, law enforcement, and state and national responses to prevent and combat human trafficking. The various presentations and site visits have helped inform the Council's understanding of human trafficking and strategies for prevention and intervention. Since 2014, the Council has informed and trained over 37,000 people, including first responders; school nurses, counselors and administrators; forensic nurses; Department of Child Safety caseworkers; Tribal law enforcement; and juvenile probation officers. Each year we strive to spread awareness on this issue to all Arizonans and continue to identify ways to prevent it.

We would like to thank you for your commitment to the Council and being a true leader in this fight. It is our hope that our continued efforts and collaborative partnerships will increase prevention, improve the lives of victims, increase successful prosecutions of traffickers and better serve all of those that are affected by this heinous crime

Sincerely,

Cindy H. McCain  
Co-Chair  
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Gil Orrantia  
Co-Chair  
Arizona Human Trafficking Council



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Arizona Human  
Trafficking Council

## **COUNCIL PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE**

Governor Doug Ducey indefinitely renewed the Arizona Human Trafficking Council by signing Executive Order 2015-12 on December 22, 2015. The Council is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF). The Council is charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona; developing recommendations to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services; fostering greater collaboration among law enforcement, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the community at large; promoting public awareness about human trafficking, victim services, and prevention; and working to develop and facilitate training for first responders, law enforcement, and professions who serve the population. The following report captures the many accomplishments of the Council and its collaborative partnerships in six broad areas: training, outreach and awareness, victim services, policy, state and national collaboration, and research.

In addition to full Council meetings, the Council further develops its work through five subcommittees:

### **VICTIM SERVICES**

Through data collection, network mapping, and collaborative efforts, the Victim Services subcommittee enhances the network of services for human trafficking victims in Arizona. The subcommittee identifies gaps in care, engages new community partners, and ensures that victim services are survivor-informed, victim-centered, strengths-based and trauma-informed. Through a collaborative approach, the subcommittee works to identify and recommend solutions based on best practices in addressing lapses in victim services.

### **TRAINING/DATA & RESEARCH**

The Training/Data & Research Subcommittee develops and facilitates training on the identification of, and response to, trafficking victims across the state. Trainings provided by this subcommittee are informed by research and promote multidisciplinary collaboration, including: education on the warning signs of human trafficking; state and local response resources; the issue of demand; school based prevention education; and a study of Arizona specific trafficking cases. The subcommittee is also charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona. This research is conducted by academic partners from Arizona State University and has explored important research questions regarding the impact of the Super Bowl and large sporting events. Other research has included exploring human trafficking among homeless youth, juvenile probationers, adult probationers, and Arizona-specific sex and labor trafficking cases.

### **OUTREACH & AWARENESS**

The Outreach & Awareness Subcommittee works to expand public awareness and facilitate community engagement around the issue of human trafficking through community presentations, outreach materials, and dynamic public service announcements. Through a shared community understanding created by public

awareness efforts, every citizen can aid in the identification of potential trafficking situations to create safe and accepting avenues for victims to disclose abuse, and to connect victims to trauma-informed services to ensure healing.

## **POLICY**

The Policy Subcommittee strives to improve the quality and access to care received by victims to best meet victims' needs and ensure offender accountability by strengthening prosecution for traffickers and sex buyers. This subcommittee reviews current policy and develops recommendations on improving the quality of care for victims within state agencies, as well as strengthening prosecution for traffickers and purchasers. Policies regarding human trafficking include victim protections, state statutes and city codes impacting criminal records, language and terms used to define and describe human trafficking, enhancing tools for law enforcement and prosecutors to find buyers and traffickers, and developing necessary services through legislative action. The subcommittee strives to unmask myths related to victims' rights, educate all Arizona State Legislators, and identify areas where collaboration can be improved.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Executive Order 2015-12, the Council is comprised of individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at his pleasure without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council:

**Cindy H. McCain**

Co-Chair  
The McCain Institute for International Leadership

**Gil Orrantia**

Co-Chair  
Arizona Department of Homeland Security

**Sarah Beaumont**

Phoenix Children's Hospital

**Kate Brophy McGee**

Arizona State Senate

**Nathaniel Brown**

Navajo Nation Council

**Marsha Calhoun**

American Airlines

**Heather Carter**

Arizona State Senate

**Cara Christ**

Arizona Department of Health Service

**Doug Coleman**

Apache Junction Justice Court

**Mike Faust**

Arizona Department of Child Safety

**Maria Cristina Fuentes**

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

**Jim Gallagher**

Phoenix Police Department

**Debbie Johnson**

Arizona Department of Tourism

**Joseph Kelroy**

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Sarah Kent**

Maricopa Association of Governments

**Lois Lucas**

Catholic Charities

**Zora Manjencich**

Arizona Attorney General's Office

**Gary McCarthy**

Arizona Department of Transportation

**Frank Milstead**

Arizona Department of Public Safety

**Rachel Mitchell**

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

**Sheila Polk**

Yavapai County Attorney

**Jill Rable**

HonorHealth

**Dominique Roe-Sepowitz**

Arizona State University

**Brian Steele**

Phoenix Dream Center

**Jim Waring**

Phoenix City Council

## COUNCIL GOALS 2019

In 2019, the Council continued to expand public awareness on human trafficking; victim services and prevention; trainings; data analysis; and collaboration. To this end, the Council expanded its pool of qualified Human Trafficking trainers; supported studies of two victim services programs; and brought Arizona stakeholders together to improve Arizona's response to trafficking.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the past year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to victim services, law enforcement and national responses to combat human trafficking. The Council continued to learn about best practices and ways to increase collaboration at the state level. These presentations also highlighted the need for ongoing training and awareness of the issue. This understanding has helped facilitate the Council's efforts to ensure that Arizona remains a leader in combatting human trafficking. Presenters included:

- Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), a volunteer organization committed to supporting children who have experienced abuse through the provision of physical and emotional support. BACA presented on their organization and the work they have done with over 20,000 abused kids.
- The Honorable Donia Jessop, Mayor of Hildale, UT and Jena Jones, Executive Director of the Short Creek Dream Center, which serves the people of Colorado City, AZ and Hildale, UT. Mayor Jessop and Ms. Jones presented on the generations of systematic human trafficking and exploitation that have occurred in Colorado City "under the guise of religion," and how their communities are now taking control to change their futures.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), whose mission is to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization, provided an update on the legal landscape post-SESTA/FOSTA, as well the impacts on trafficking trends since the closure of backpage.com.
- Thorn, an organization dedicated to ending child sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children, gave a scatter shot of what the online commercial sexual exploitation of children looks like since Backpage shut down.
- The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking (USIAHT), a non-profit organization that identifies innovative ways to combat demand, raise awareness to this issue, and provide safe environments for survivors discussed their modular program, which includes demand suppression using innovative technology and a group home model that provides a safe place for male victims.
- The Council also invited human trafficking specific law enforcement units and regional human trafficking task forces and coalitions to provide updates on their work across the state to identify new opportunities for support and collaboration. In 2019, the council received updates from the Mesa and Phoenix Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEaT) Units, Yavapai County Task Force, Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking United Response Network (SAATURN), and the Coalition Against Human Trafficking - Northern Arizona (CAHT-NAZ).

A complete summary of council presentations can be found on our website:

<https://endsextrafficking.az.gov/human-trafficking/commission/arizona-human-trafficking-council>

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2019, Council members participated in a variety of activities that furthered the discussion on human trafficking. These events also provided learning opportunities for Council members and other stakeholders, and demonstrated how the Council's efforts are far reaching and applicable across the state and country.

### *The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States*

In 2018, Governor Ducey was appointed to The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. (NAC). The Committee is tasked with: developing interventions for children and youth who are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable to, or victims of, sex trafficking; making recommendations for administrative or legislative changes necessary to target government programs, properties, or other resources to provide safe housing for children and youth who are sex trafficking victims; and recommending and sharing best practices for states to follow in combating sex trafficking of children. In May 2019, the NAC hosted a field meeting in Phoenix. The NAC attended a meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, and participated in small group discussions on victim services, justice, and prevention and research. The Council was able to share its insight on best practices and the many ways that Arizona is leading the way in preventing human trafficking, educating its citizens, prosecuting traffickers and providing assistance to victims. The NAC also had a day to tour the Dream Center and Phoenix Starfish Place. These tours gave members of the NAC a firsthand look at how Arizona strives to ensure healing and well-being for victims of human trafficking through the delivery of victim-centered and trauma-informed services. The Council was honored to be given the opportunity to show how Arizona is leading the way in human trafficking prevention and education; prosecution of perpetrators, and wrap around services for victims that are trauma informed.

### *Tour of Dream Center in Colorado City, Arizona and Hildale, Utah*

In June, members of the Council traveled to Colorado City, AZ and Hildale, UT to tour the new Short Creek Dream Center and meet with local officials to learn about the history of this community. The site of the Short Creek Dream Center is the former compound of Warren Jeffs, President of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS), who is now serving a life prison sentence for child sexual assault. The Short Creek Dream Center, a property owned by Briell Decker, the 65th wife of Jeffs, has undergone extensive renovations to serve as a therapeutic home providing holistic services to the Colorado City and Hildale community at large. The Dream Center fills fundamental needs in an extremely poverty stricken community and serves a mostly unknown form of human trafficking suffered by the community. Council members toured Hildale and Colorado City, including stops at the new local food bank, and the FLDS Meeting House where 10,000 people used to gather for church services and religious meetings. The community is now looking to transform it into a much needed community center. Council members were honored to see firsthand efforts both are making to change their future.

### *STRENGTH Court*

The Council has worked collaboratively with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court to support the implementation of a specialized calendar that focuses on child victims of trafficking. The STRENGTH (Strength Through Resilience \* Empower New Growth Through Hope) Court became operational as a specialized court calendar in 2018.

- *Identification:* Cases sent to the STRENGTH Court are identified through the Arizona Department of Child Safety, Mesa or Phoenix Police Departments, Mercy Maricopa (the

Regional Behavioral Health Authority), juvenile corrections/detention, or juvenile probation. As of October 2019, 195 kids have been a part of the STRENGTH Court.

- *Approach:* The STRENGTH Court uses a therapeutic approach to its cases and tailors each case based on its unique needs. The judges build rapport and trust with each victim.
- *Services:* The Court works with professionals to ensure proper services are in place. The multidisciplinary teams that participate in the hearings include a Mercy Care representative, a sex-trafficked survivor/advocate, the case manager, and the attorneys assigned to each individual case. The Attorney General's Office Protective Services Section has two Assistant Attorneys General specifically assigned to the STRENGTH Court caseload.

Since the STRENGTH Court's inception, there has been a significant decline in the number of minor victims who have subsequently fled placement and returned to the streets. Additionally, at least two of the victims have assisted with the identification and prosecution of their traffickers.

In January, Arizona State University's Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) Office began an evaluation of the STRENGTH Court for the following purposes:

- to develop an evaluation plan in collaboration with the judges and the treatment team (survivor mentor, Mercy Maricopa staff, law enforcement, clinical providers); and.
- to implement evaluation tools for court clients.

### *The Collaborative*

Ensuring compliance with the federal mandates of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, the Maricopa County Juvenile Sex Trafficking Collaborative (The Collaborative) provides sex trafficked youth with immediate health and trauma-informed care across five service delivery phases: victim identification, assessment, treatment, placement, and tracking. Members of the Collaborative include law enforcement agencies throughout Maricopa County, Department of Child Safety (DCS), St. Luke's Behavioral Health, Mercy Care, and the service provider community. Key components of the Collaborative include:

- *Victim identification:* Victims are identified by law enforcement, DCS social workers, Behavioral Health Providers and clinicians, detention center staff, or through the STRENGTH Court. Once identified, victims are served through St. Luke's Medical Center's specialized and trauma-informed Observational Services for Children and Adolescents (OSCA) or Aurora Behavioral Hospital Tempe.
- *Victim Assessment & Treatment:* OSCA provides a comprehensive 23-hour psychiatric evaluation which assesses the child for danger to self and provides recommendations for ongoing services, which are started within 48 hours of release from OSCA or Aurora Behavioral Hospital Tempe.
- *Placement:* In situations where community placement is recommended, the Mercy Care Human Trafficking Coordinator works with the Maricopa County Placement Specialist (MCPS), and OSCA on the assessment recommendations, inclusive of DCS identified placement or back to the child's home, and determines appropriate placement. OSCA coordinates with the Qualified Service Provider (QSP) to ensure continuity of care and to provide treatment recommendations, and with local law enforcement or Guardian for transportation, depending on which party identified the potential victim. The Mercy Care Human Trafficking Coordinator coordinates with DCS/Guardian and the placement facility or the parent/guardian to ensure all necessary documents are sent and ensures

that all treatment recommendations are followed. Higher level of care intervention is dependent on medical care necessity. If a higher level of medical care necessity is not met, an Emergency Child and Family Team is convened to implement alternative community placement plans.

- *Tracking:* Youth considered to be at high-risk for trafficking as well as those that are confirmed victims of trafficking, have a longer term of case management. The Collaborative members ensure that appropriate levels of placement and recommended behavioral health interventions are provided.

Since the Collaborative's inception, 89% of youth served through the protocol have successfully avoided re-victimization. Prior to the organic development of the Collaborative, the run-away rate for trafficked victims in placements was over 80%. The increase in stable housing provides the opportunity for more targeted, holistic, and multi-disciplinary interventions to help victims exit their sex trafficking situations.

In 2019, Arizona State University's STIR Office began an evaluation of the Collaborative in order to:

- Perform a process evaluation of the collaborative including interviews with eight partners representing law enforcement, clinical providers, and residential program staff, as well as eight youth who received services;
- Develop a commonly utilized data collection tool to standardize client information shared across collaborative members;
- Analyze and report on Collaborative utilization, descriptions of clients served, and the trends and changes that have occurred during the two years the program has been implemented (2017 to 2019); and
- Create a program manual (including policy and process procedures) that will allow for replication of the model as well as continued program success.

#### *Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium*

In January, the Council hosted its first annual Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium in partnership with the McCain Institute and the City of Phoenix. The Symposium was attended by over 100 individuals representing statewide and local human trafficking task forces and coalitions, county attorneys, law enforcement, service providers and other stakeholders from across the state. The goal of the Symposium was to provide a dedicated time for agencies and nonprofits to learn and work collaboratively to improve Arizona's response to trafficking.

The event provided a broad networking platform and unique opportunity for comprehensive approaches to coordination, education, and victim service provision. The event featured seven panels, covering: human trafficking data; education and prevention; law enforcement intervention; victim focused trauma-informed care; victim services; and the role of the Judiciary. Key takeaways and areas of focus for the state moving forward included working on expanding human trafficking prevention education in schools and examining ways to change policies that adversely affect victims during trial.

## COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Four subcommittees convene to further develop the work of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. Subcommittee accomplishments for 2019 include.

- Bringing awareness and training to over 6,200 stakeholders and community members, including Arizona state legislators; and,
- Hosting three Train the Trainers seminars in order to increase the number of community members that have the knowledge and resources to help raise awareness about human trafficking and know where to turn if identified.

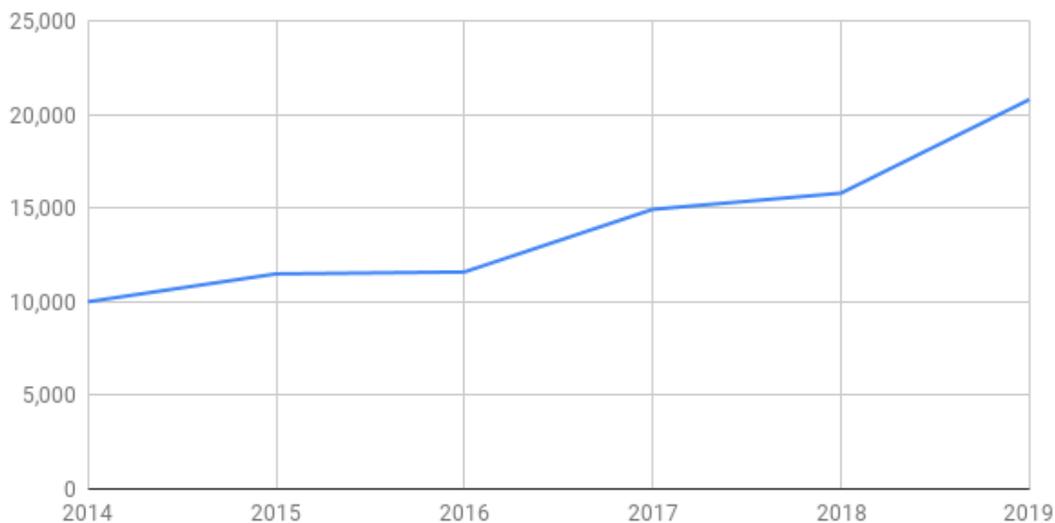
### Outreach & Awareness Subcommittee

Chaired by Chief Gary McCarthy, the Outreach & Awareness Subcommittee promotes public awareness of human trafficking, victim services and trafficking prevention. The subcommittee works to identify new relationships for distribution of human trafficking awareness materials, offers Human Trafficking 101 training, and shares human trafficking awareness and prevention resources to community partners.

During 2019, the subcommittee reached over 5,000 new stakeholders, including medical professionals, AZ Department of Child Safety staff, law enforcement, college students, parents and youth. Some highlights of the work include:

- Subcommittee members participated in the 2019 Biometric Conference in Scottsdale;
- Chief McCarthy participated as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking;
- Members of the subcommittee participated at the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Conference; and,
- A subcommittee member was interviewed on the “Law Matters” radio show on KVOI AM the Voice in Tucson. This station reaches an audience of over 2,000 people.

Outreach & Awareness Committee: Number of Individuals Reached



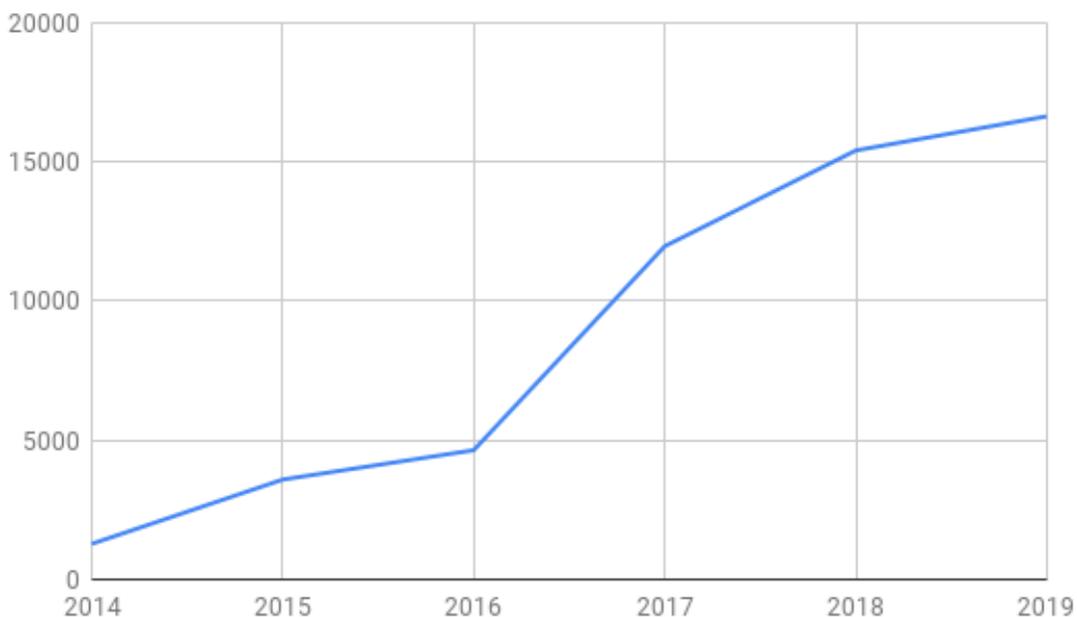
It is the mission of this subcommittee to bring attention to the issue of human trafficking to all Arizona communities and it will continue to do so throughout 2020. The subcommittee began working on a Spanish version of the Human Trafficking 101 training in 2019 and hopes to complete it early in 2020. The subcommittee is also preparing to roll out an online Human Trafficking 101 training to all Arizona Department of Transportation employees. The subcommittee will work to establish relationships to continue to bring awareness to Arizonans.

### Training/Data & Research Subcommittee

Through the leadership of Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, the Training/Data & Research Subcommittee develops and facilitates trainings for professionals engaged in combating human trafficking in Arizona. Members of the subcommittee hosted 35 sex trafficking trainings for a total of 1,228 individuals. Training audiences were made up of social service agency staff, behavioral health staff, teachers, corrections officers, hospital residents and emergency room personnel, clinical providers, community college students and the community at-large. Human trafficking trainings included:

- A two-day labor trafficking summit in Phoenix with a focus on creating a community coalition to focus on labor trafficking and labor exploitation.
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections staff were trained to provide clinical services targeted to sex trafficking victims.
- Community medical and mental health providers were trained in Maryvale.
- Behavioral health technicians and clinical staff were trained at multiple residential treatment programs for youth in Maricopa County.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) were trained to work with sex trafficked minors.
- Special education teachers and administrators were trained to identify and support students who have experienced child sex trafficking.

### Training Committee: Number of Individuals Trained



The Training/Data & Research Subcommittee is also charged with identifying and coordinating research on the issue of human trafficking as it occurs in Arizona and across the United States. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz, the Director of the Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) Office based in the Arizona State University School of Social Work collects and publishes local and national data that is used to inform training; coordinate victim identification and services; and, inform a coordinated response to victims by stakeholders such as law enforcement, social services, and health care professionals.

In 2019, the subcommittee published several studies. These included:

- 2018 Youth Experience Survey
- Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery Group (STAR) at Estrella Jail Report
- CAUSE Task Force report
- Child Sex Trafficking Survivor Roundtable Report

The subcommittee is working with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office on two projects. The first is to train correctional/detention officers to identify victims of human trafficking, and once identified, develop a policy on how to respond. The second project is to provide and research a psycho-education group for female inmates in the MOSAIC program at the Estrella Jail. To date, 30 incarcerated women have attended the STAR group and 24 women have completed the group. The evaluation of the group found that the participants' life histories were filled with violence and traumatic experiences. Participation in the STAR group led to decreased trauma symptoms.

A project with special education teachers has led to two focus groups and two Sex Trafficking 101 trainings. The project has developed special red flags and vulnerabilities found among special education students who have been sex trafficked along with policies for schools to follow if a victim is detected in their special education programs.

During 2019, the Arizona State University STIR Office, in collaboration with Our Family Services in Tucson, Native American Connections, one-n-ten and UMOM, conducted the sixth annual Youth Experiences Survey (YES) and received 161 responses. This study demonstrated the need for mental health, housing and trauma treatment for homeless and runaway young adults who have experienced sex trafficking.

In 2020, the subcommittee plans to target the following groups for Sex Trafficking 101 development and training:

- special education teachers through a statewide webinar;
- bus drivers;
- all classroom support staff/paraprofessionals; and,
- the Arizona School Board Association to develop policy statements for responding to sex trafficking in a school setting.

The subcommittee also provided four "Train the Trainer: An Introduction to Human Trafficking" trainings across the state to equip agency and organizational personnel to train community members on the issue of human trafficking. Over 50 community partners in Arizona attended trainings that took place in Sierra Vista, Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff. The subcommittee plans to develop new research in the planned evaluation of the following projects: the newly developed juvenile sex trafficking court and the Maricopa County Sex Trafficking Collaborative.

The subcommittee will also continue administering the Youth Experiences Survey, evaluating the Phoenix 1st Step Pop Up Drop in Center, and other research related to sex and labor trafficking cases in Arizona.

### Policy Subcommittee

Chaired by Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk, the Policy Subcommittee was formed to address the ways in which public and private policy could be improved to better support victims of human trafficking. Members review current policy and practices to determine where prevention methods, victim support, and prosecution of traffickers and purchasers could be strengthened. In 2019, the subcommittee hosted Human Trafficking 101 for legislators and is looking to continue this during the 2020 session. The subcommittee is also looking into continuing education for teachers following a Human Trafficking 101 training. Members know that education is an important step in prevention and by raising awareness among policy makers and educators, the subcommittee hopes change will continue. The subcommittee began the process of collecting data from agencies to see where gaps exist among those that work with victims of human trafficking. In 2020 the subcommittee plans to continue to refine and interpret collected data.

### Victim Services Subcommittee

In 2019, Brian Steele stepped down as chair of the Victim Services Subcommittee and Dr. Sarah Beaumont and Dr. Angela Salomon were named co-chairs. The mission of the subcommittee is to develop a coordinated and comprehensive plan to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate and consistent services. With the change in leadership, the new co-chairs tasked the subcommittee to refresh its goals. The subcommittee has refocused efforts to:

- Gather information to evaluate access and financial barriers to housing, behavioral health, and medical services
- Evaluate validated tools to:
  - assist in identifying victims of sex and labor trafficking
  - capture data that will help inform victim services
- Integrate YES Survey data and other empirical data and empirically supported systems and interventions into victim services
- Identify LGBTQIA+ youth-specific needs as they pertain to human trafficking through informed questioning/surveying
- Further support faith-based providers
- Identify gaps in services for labor trafficking

In 2020, the subcommittee hopes to complete a needs assessment of service providers in Arizona. This assessment will help the subcommittee, the Council and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family understand where gaps in services exist and where efforts and funds are best placed. By collecting this information, the subcommittee plans to deliver a list of providers, along with their needs, to the Council by the end of 2020.