



Arizona Human
Trafficking Council

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April 9, 2019, 9:00 AM

Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council was convened on April 9, 2019 at the Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (22)	Members Absent (4)
Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair	Cara Christ
Cindy McCain, Co-Chair	Lois Lucas
Barb Trella by phone	Debbie Johnson
Sarah Beaumont	Joseph Kelroy
Gary McCarthy	
Rachel Mitchell	
Brian Freudenthal	
Malcolm Hightower (representing Maria Fuentes)	
Doug Coleman	
Sheila Polk by phone	
Zora Manjencich	
Magdalena Jorquez (representing Greg McKay)	
Frank Milstead	
Nathaniel Brown	
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz	
Brian Steele	
Michael Traylor	
James Waring	
Sarah Kent	
Jennifer Crawford	
Kate Brophy-McGee	
Heather Carter by phone	
Staff and Guests Present (23)	
Nikki Green	Michelle Rucker
Stephanie DiVerde	Belen Konesky
Gina Godbehere	Sarah Way
Barb Garden	Khue Paige
Kristen Bracy	Nancy Balden
Sarah Young	Wendi Malmgren

Nick Lien	Rachel de la Torre
Dominique Sterlin	Peggy Perlmeta
Nikki Griffin	Jerri Hutson
Spike	Raquel Perez
Grumpy	Marie Sullivan
Speedy	Erin McCarty
Beth Beringe	

Call to Order

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair**, called the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with 22 members and 25 staff and guests present.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Mr. Orrantia, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone again and asked all members to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- **Mr. Orrantia, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **February 19, 2019** meeting minutes.
 - **Frank Milstead** motioned to accept the **February 19, 2019** minutes.
 - **Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

DPS Update

- **Rachel de la Torre** presented to the Council on the work of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sex Trafficking operations. She highlighted a case where a victim-centered approach and relationships made it successful. When a juvenile being trafficked was rescued by DPS, the collaboration, with many services gave her the care she needed, including a home at StreetLightUSA. Next, Ms. de la Torre highlighted the HT Intel Network and a case where it was successful. An ASU detective in undercover capacity had contact with an adult male who was a registered sex offender. The adult male was booked for luring a minor for sexual exploitation and a sexual offender registration violation. This case was another example of collaboration working. Ms. de la Torre noted that there are over 13,000 registered sex offenders in AZ, and many of them are not compliant with registering on-line identifiers. Next, Ms. de la Torre talked about Crimes Against Children (CAC) Patrol Operation. This is a three day event in April that increases troopers' awareness of trafficking at trafficking stops. Each trooper receives an indicator card that will help them identify potential victims. DPS also has a colored card for parents that has stats and indicators of trafficking. DPS also does an Interdiction for the Protection of Children which is a 2 day course available to victim advocates, AGs, etc. The course goes over case studies and indicators and participants receive a sex trafficking manual. Participants learn what questions to ask, terms and phrases for report writing, and hands on tools for when they have an interdiction. It is a question of when, not if, that these cases will happen. Ms. de la Torre said that help is available 24/7 and Ms. de la Torre said she makes connections everywhere she goes so she has a network of victim advocates to call when needed
- Prescott, mesa, tempe, phx, carol gandolfo (helped write manual) -- all helped her make this program possible
- **Col. Frank Milstead** said Ms. de la Torre's position was created 7 months ago and in order for it to be successful you have to have someone who is passionate about it. Ms. de la Torre is that person. She is dedicated and enthusiastic, and Arizona is lucky to have her. He thanked her for her work.
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** said that Col. Milstead made it a priority. When you institutionalize it, change happens, and he thanked Col. Milstead and Ms. de la Torre.

Mesa PD Update

- **Nick Lien** provided the Council with an overview on the Mesa HEaT Unit and its work in the last year. The Unit has a staffing model of one sergeant, two detectives, and one civilian investigator. It is housed out of Mesa Family Advocacy Center which offers a variety of on-site work. The Unit is a multidisciplinary approach to investigation, prevention, education, and advocacy. Many resources are put into sex trafficking as they are the majority of their cases. The Unit has many proactive operations which have embraced other organizations to make operations work (ex. homeland security). Mr. Lien spoke about several operations including “Eagles Nest”, “Rocket”, “Can’t Touch This” and “Degrossting” which was named after a word his son created. Many of these operations included decoy ads, and Mr. Lien stated that he hoped John boards would light up with the fact that Mesa PD is in motels so beware.
- **Ms. Roe-Sepowitz** asked if he knew how many ads were put out there to get the numbers that came in. Mr. Lien did not know how many.
- **Mr. Lien** continued to talk about the operation “No Mulligans” which Mesa PD partnered with Tempe PD, AG’s Office and Homeland Security. The AG’s Office is currently prosecuting and what is unique about this operation is that multiple partners joined to help pay for equipment and a mobile forensic lab which helps get victims out of public eye when being interviewed. Two models are primarily used: act as traffickers and pose as juveniles. Mr. Lien next stated that we will always have buyers of sex, and always have those that won’t buy sex so showing faces of perpetrators will hopefully get those in the middle to decide not to do it. Mr. Lien highlighted several cases of buying sex from minors. Overall operation “No Mulligans” had 20 in-custody arrests, 48 felony child sex deals were made, and additional victims and leads came from the operation. Mr. Lien showed a chart for the first half of 2018 that indicated the problem is not going away anytime soon. Mesa PD works closely with the Collaborative, Mesa having the 2nd highest juvenile population referred to the Collaborative. Next, Mr. Lien talked about education and prevention. Opal Singleton is coming to Phoenix to provide training to executive staff on what kind of a problem human trafficking is. She will also speak with the superior court and probation officers, and another group will receive 2 presentation with Q&A for families and children
 - identifying high risk youth
 - missing persons investigators go to DCS group homes where high risk pop lives
 - talk to them about the risks of HT and running away
- Mr. Lien ended with details from the “Lourock B” Case study. In this case, four juveniles and four adults were recovered. One pimp was arrested and four search warrants were written, one was over 800 pages long. Additional victims were identified across the country. The case began when a missing juvenile was located in a Mesa hotel. The juvenile disclosed being trafficked so the patrol sergeant called Mr. Lien at 3am. They were able to retroactively search ads on Backpage. A second separate case from previous ASU case where pimps did not know each other and had two different brands. HSI counterparts used to interview victims. This case is not finished with 11 counts being charged including child sex trafficking.
- **Ms. Jennifer Crawford** asked what sites they are using to post ads? **Mr. Lien** said they are constantly moving and changing, but some examples are “Adult Friend Finder”, Whisper app, Facebook, and Instagram. They also work with “Just Men”, an NGO group which posts ads and then sends “buyer beware” messages. They let Mesa PD know when they see certain sites jumping and refer violent buyers or those that want to be traffickers/pimps to PD.
- **Mr. Brian Steele** stated that there are deeply disturbing parts to this, seen operations and it’s amazing. The cost share with east valley is also amazing since one department may not have enough funds.
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** stated that it was a great presentation, subject was brought to life and extremely impactful. He also thought it is impressive to think back 5-10 yrs ago, and how now we are bringing agencies together, and that is a big change from years ago, cost sharing is innovative and unique. He said it was a helpful

presentation to learn what Mesa PD is doing in the field. They are doing great work, story was not something you want to hear but it's happening, so thanked him for all that he does.

Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA)

- **Grumpy and Spike** presented an overview of BACA to the Council. They first explained that their mission statement works because they are focused entirely on the child; their purpose/narrow focus is to empower abused children to not feel scared in the world they live; they remove the fear so they realize how strong they are and healing can begin; they make children part of their organization; they have road names which protects anonymity and members become part of their organization. Before initial contact, the child knows what to expect and is asked if they want to participate in BACA. They have the ability to say no, but they also talk about what it means to be brothers and sisters in their organization and that they show up no matter what. BACA was founded 24 years ago in Provo, UT by two clinical professionals who by happenstance of working with children saw children regress. BACA is in 17 countries (none in Asia, South America, or Africa) and 38 states (240 chapters). Everyone trained the same way over a 15 month process and everyone is vetted. BACA has worked with over 20,000 abused kids and hundreds of man hours are put into each kid (some thousands). Grumpy and Spike gave an example of case where child did not want to give impact statement because he knew community would be beside the perpetrator. BACA team went to stand by him which gave the child confidence to give their statement, and the perpetrator received a prison sentence. Children are members until 18 years old but always considered a BACA child. BACA has the ability to quadruple the number of kids helped, and there are many children that need the help. BACA consists of committed volunteers (not paid employees) who show up needed, not when want to. The child didn't choose to be abused, so members don't choose when they want to show up. Members are given extensive background check, cannot have child abuse in background. Once cleared, they are assigned to a sponsor who is responsible to take the new participant through the training program. It is a one year minimum training with quarterly goals. Once the participant has met requirements and sponsor has recommended them to Board, they are eligible for Patch. Every child is assigned two Patches who are available 24/7/365 to the child. Clinical professionals are attached to each Patch. These are needed to debrief members and help train new members since it is not intuitive to talk to a child. BACA members understand the change in the kids that happen because of the program, but they needed more formal documentation to show it works. An international clinical advisor devised a research project that showed children improved in areas of emotional stress, conduct, hyperactivity, peer problems over a four year study of 154 children ages 3-16 years old, in 16 states. Children were given a pretest, and then tests at initial contact, 6 months and 1 yr later. Results showed significant improvement where children went from clinical level of problem with above areas, to levels age appropriate. This study is available on their website. Grumpy and Spike finished by asking for help to increase BACA's impact in Arizona. There are over 50,000 reported cases with many cases not reported. Currently the numbers they help are statistically irrelevant, and they do not want to play small ball anymore. BACA has started to do outreach and awareness but they need to get people in the organization comfortable to move in that direction. They gave the example that in every Texas superior court house there is a BACA room. An MOU in place that says BACA is an authorized agency to work with kids. If they had an MOU with state agencies, turnover would not affect their ability to help kids. Many places and homes do not know who they are so this delays empowerment.
- **Col. Frank Milstead** asked how they access background checking? **Spike** said through the FBI and LiveScan. **Col. Milstead** then asked why this group is an outlaw motorcycle gang? **Spike** said they are a 501C organization, not a motorcycle club. CMA has a patch that is very similar and would not call them outlaws. Most motorcycle groups wear a patch (sign of brotherhood/sisterhood) and they have not had one conflict with any of their work across the world. **Col. Milstead** said it's the image they are portraying. **Grumpy** responded by saying that kids see them as strong men and women, that are here for

them. That's the message even if the public may see it differently. The child sees it as big, strong, ugly here for me with a cool motorcycle. He doesn't know why it works, but it does.

- **Ms. Roe-Sepowitz** said the image that they project is part of their toolkit. Kids are incredibly afraid of the boogeyman, so the idea that someone feels safe is powerful. Kids have few opportunities to build safe relationships. They might look scary but end up being little cupcakes from a trauma focused lens. She gave them a big thanks and said we all want fairy godmother but her kids want scary guy to protect them and BACA key component to that.
- **Spike** said when holistically looking at child abuse case, all involved come in and out in chunks. BACA is there 24/7.
- **Mr. Brian Steele** asked everyone to imagine you are a 12 year old girl in a home, and one day 50 harleys pull up. The girl runs out to them, a ceremonial blanket is hugged by each member (to give them strength) and then given to the girl who hangs it over her window. From that moment on girl changes and is open to receiving treatment.

2018 YES

- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz and Ms. Kristen Bracey** presented on the 2018 Youth Experience Survey (YES). Yes is the lowest cost longitudinal research study in the world that happens because of \$5 gift cards and the will of the community to do the research. ASU partnered with Umom, one-n-ten, Our Family Services in Tucson and Native American Connections. YES explores life experiences of homeless young adults in Arizona and their vulnerabilities. This was the fifth year of doing the survey and the second year labor trafficking was included in the questions. Homeless young adults are defined as being between 18-25 years of age and living in transitional shelter. Data was collected over 10 days in July and 179 responded, 43% from Tucson, thanks to Our Family Services, and 57% from Phoenix. Out of the 179 respondents, ten were from California and two from Alaska, so why are they coming here? Arizona is not known to have excellent services like Seattle and Portland. 16 was the average age of respondents and what was particularly telling was the housing situation. Living on the streets means every night looking for a place to sleep, every morning waking up to having absolutely nothing.
- **Ms. Magdalena Jorquez** asked if these kids are alone? **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz** said yes, maybe with boyfriend or girlfriend, but not family units
- **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz and Ms. Bracey** continued by talking about drug use and self harming behavior. Respondents reported a high percentage of cutting, risky behavior, suicide, and over 50% have diagnosed mental health disorders. She stated there are many medical challenges including finding youth to use Phoenix Children's hospital incredible program, as well as AHCCCS. Poor vision and asthma biggest medical issues this population faces. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz talked about negative life experiences stating dating violence experience is a top issue along with negative contact with law enforcement and special education. ACEs were included for the first time this year. Four or more ACEs means much more likely to experience disease, early death and suicide. Out of 179 respondents, 62 reported experiencing sex trafficking and almost half reported some form of trafficking. 1 in 5 reported experiencing both and that crossover is important. When it came to sex trafficking, it was not just about money, but rather about other basic needs that need to be met. The average age of first victimization is 17 and needing a place to stay was the highest reported reason. Technology widely used to exploit homeless youth. Some unique vulnerabilities for those that reported experiencing sex trafficking were they are 2.5 times more likely to have four or more ACEs, three times more likely to report drug addiction, and four times more likely to report an alcohol addiction. This is the second year the YES investigated labor exploitation in this population. The term "labor exploitation" is used because it is difficult to prosecute and prove cases under labor trafficking. Youth that experience labor exploitation have unique vulnerabilities including eight times more likely to experience sex trafficking. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz and Ms. Bracey finished with important findings noting that this is an Arizona-wide issue. These youth have profound mental and physical health issues. They have access to medical care but are

not going to providers. They have extensive drug use, although substance abuse is not a cause of homelessness. Recommendations that came out of the survey are if more than half of the population walking into hospital, police station, organization, are LGBTQ, we need to look at how we address them. We need to work on screening tools, and making sure agencies that work with young people have tools. The average age survey was 17 which is older than we've seen before but not sure if that is a positive. Backpage shutting down didn't change much. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz noted that a GOYFF grant will allow them to work with special ed teachers this year. One-n-ten has 30 plus waitlist for beds, and finally case law and statute language need to more fully address the issue.

- **Nathaniel Brown** asked who does the survey and how can he get the survey to Native American homeless youth, as well as resources? He said there are 116 homeless Native Americans in the streets of Phoenix. He was at Pride this weekend and asked if they had a booth. He also thanked BACA. **Dr. Roe-Sepowitz** said they do work with those numbers, that they did not have a booth at Pride as the don't want to over sample, and will work on new relationships.

Sub Committee Reports

- **Outreach and Awareness Subcommittee**
 - **Mr. Gary McCarthy** stated that tomorrow Truckers Against Trafficking is hosting an event that he will be on a panel at, ASU criminal justice class, May 10 in Tucson, May 16 USDOT HT Council. Look around this room - we are one mission, one goal. From law enforcement side to services, medical providers, community, one stop shop leading this country, proud to be part of the Council.
- **Policy Subcommittee**
 - **Ms. Sheila Polk** stated that the committee has not met since last time Council met, nothing to report.
- **Training / Research & Data Subcommittee**
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** stated that April 12 is the Labor Trafficking Summit (partnership between ASU, McCain Institute and City of Phoenix). Fair trade chocolate will be part of the summit and she is very happy about that as we need to be more conscientious about what we buy. May 4 next drop in center. Clothing drive starting for that. She trained all of the residents at Maricopa Integrated Health Services. Surprised they hadn't heard about this. Missing them as a population to train and bring awareness to. As social services turnover, we need to retrain. 10 women, 17 children at Starfish Place. Sending out monthly newsletters. Newest project supported by McCain is working with Sheriff's Office to train all officers. Amber Alert will do specific training for probation officers. Durango - Mosaic program is new starting this month. Working with Tucson VA to get them training, Train the Trainer starting up. Cochise County is this week with 13 registered, Prescott, Phx and Tucson will happen over the next 8 months. They are working to build a network so others can do the training. Went to UN meeting on artificial intelligence - how slaves are moved and grow via satellite imaging. Not sure how relevant it is to practice, but was very interesting to be a part of.
- **Victim Services Subcommittee**
 - **Mr. Brian Steele** stated that the committee will work to meet. City Task Force did meet. YES big part of their work. DCS 11 new contracts came on board. Uptick in trafficking cases coming in. The Collaborative has seen 150 children come through, 8% recidivism. DCS percents are flattening out. Transgender home, and temporary homes are in the works.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Co-Chair Gil Orrantia**, announced the next meeting will be on May 28, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. Hosting the NAC during this time.

Call to the Public

- **Co-Chair Gil Orrantia** gave call to the public.
 - Erin McCarthy - In June of last year when there were undocumented minors, found Desert Lily Academy and that is how she found the Council. She is not sure how the vetting system goes there? AZ Boys Ranch is not a place for victims of sex trafficking in any way shape or form. Children run away, child abuse reports (not sure how many are substantiated). Are the other places vetted as poorly, do they have the same track record?

Adjourn

- **Chairman Gil Orrantia** called for adjournment at 11:04 AM.

Dated 11 of April 2019
Arizona Human Trafficking Council
Respectfully Submitted By:
Nikki Green
GOYFF