

**Arizona Human Trafficking Council
May 28, 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 May 28, 2019 at the Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (27)	Members Absent (2)
Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair	Barb Trella
Cindy McCain, Co-Chair	Kate Brophy Mcgee
Brian Steele	
Sarah Beaumont	
Gary McCarthy	
Rachel Mitchell	
Brian Freudenthal	
Maria Fuentes	
Doug Coleman	
Sheila Polk	
Zora Manjencich	
Greg McKay	
Ken Hunter (representing Frank Milstead)	
Nathaniel Brown	
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz	
Brian Steele	
Michael Traylor	
James Waringn (by phone)	
Sarah Kent	
Jennifer Crawford	
Lois Lucas	
Heather Carter	
Dr. Cara Christ	
Debbie Johnson	
James Gallagher	
Jennifer Crawford	
Joseph Kelroy	
Staff and Guests Present (49)	
Nikki Green	Malcolm Hightower
Stephanie DiVerde	Mark Doty
Joanna Jaugui	Claire Merkel
Eileen Fortenza	Pam Suoboda
Cindy Carter	Natalie Eggers

Caedyn Carter	Joshua Frisay
Kristin Abrams	Lori Ford
Erin Williamson	Sharleen Henderson
Jodie Langs	Cayla Gonzales
Christine Raino	Angela S.
Carol Smolenski	M. Sherwyn
Carol Gandolfo	Stacy Blocker
Kimberly Hogan	Sara Colbert
Toshia Hogan	Dale Herren
Becky Hoffman	Sabrina Folquez
Veronica Duffield	Edna Lugo
Tim Ryan	Grumpy
Spike	Nancy Baldwin
Evelyn Robles	Michelle Rucker
Amber Kanazbah Crotty	Christina Lawler
Jerri Hutson	Martin Lynch
J. Paul Paris	Mary Snyder
TC Colla	Amanda Arvizu
Cate Brennan	Mike T.
David Jose R	J.R Ujifusa

Call to Order

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia, Co-Chair**, called the Arizona Human Trafficking Council meeting to order at 9:24a.m. with 27 members and 49 staff and guests present.

Approval of Minutes

- **Mr. Orrantia, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **April 9, 2019** meeting minutes.
- **Ms. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** motioned to accept the **April 9, 2019** minutes.
- **Mr. Nathaniel Brown** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Collaborative

- **Mr. Mark Doty** begins by stating that he is going to touch on the collaboration process for treating trafficked youth. He is concerned about getting services to victims. At the time (2017), victims were not given the services they needed, so his boss, and Mercy care came together. Mercy Care had some beds, in a juvenile observation ward. There, victims are able to be assessed for 23 hours for child/youth sex trafficking. From there a multidisciplinary team including St. Luke's, Arizona Police, Mercy Care and DCS was formed. At the beginning these organizations didn't have the number regarding trafficked youth. The rate was thought to be only 25 victims per year, but it turns out that that number is not at all accurate. After a youth is recovered, we make a call to Mercy Care, and then placement center for DCS. Within an hour we have a placement for that child. The victims go

to the OSCA unit, to be assessed, and then they are picked up and brought to their placement by police. The kids usually don't run away from the police and this way we are able to start that healthy bond/rapport. If the child is safe to release to the community, services are provided and taken to the child that is done within 48 hours. By doing it this way, the victim does not have to worry about getting themselves to their services, and therefore, fosters compliance. In addition, the likelihood of that child running away decreases significantly. This allows them to feel safe and cared for. They are assigned a case manager and medication if needed and have access to a support group. They will be able to receive any other interventions that they need and are monitored. The police will transport victims to their services. This fosters the bond between police officer and victim. Before, there was an 80% AWOL rate. The kids would run away before we could get them to the services they need. All of this goes to show that now since those numbers have changed, we can show those kids that someone is looking out for them. Some don't go through OSCA, but if the kid isn't a flight risk they don't need to go through that. As long as they are willing, they fall within the guidelines (majority of which being DCS kids). Mercy Care can only take AHCCCS kids or DCS kids. We are working on getting them take all insurances. We are doing everything we can to help these kids. We see the AWOL kids cases start to change as they start to trust us to help them heal.

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Gil Orrantia asked if Mr. Mark Doty could further speak about transportation, as he feels it is an integral part of the collaboration.
- **Mr. Mark Doty** stated that typically if the kids have an open case we transport no matter what. Since we are still trying to get the rest of law enforcement on board, the Phoenix Police Department is stepping up to help out. We pick the victims up from DCS and take them to Mercy, this way we can talk with them while we are in our civilian clothes so we don't pose a threat. We just talk to them about what they need, what their hobbies are, etc. We even stop along the way if they need to pick anything up. After we take them to Mercy, we take them to their placements, sometimes up to 2 hours up to Prescott, if need be. We have a friendly conversation to build trust. Doing it this way has been proven to be the most effective method of getting more information about their trafficker.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** added the following statement: This is really genius, you deserve a pat on the back. I want to see you emphasize the partnerships. The thing that makes the Collaborative the best is the partners.
- **Mr. Mark Doty** answered that we have the placement center; we call them and that contact would be Lisa at Mercy we have that collaboration. We have gone to talk to the other law enforcement; it used to just be Maricopa. But it's opened the door to access to care. We have a survivor mentor, and that's good and bad because the victims will open up to them, someone they connect to, but not to the police. They have a therapist at Streetlight, and Lilly Academy. The thing that works is calling each other to find the best placement.
- **Mr. Ken Hunter** asked what the runaway rate is.
- **Mr. Mark Doty** stated that the percentage used to be 80%, and that the police try to collect data but sometimes it's hard. Yes, the AWOL rate was 80, but now we only have 7 youth on the run, which brings us to a 94% retention rate.

STRENGTH Court

- **Judge Ryan** began the presentation by stating that he reached out to **Mr. Mark Doty** to help in identifying the cases, and we wanted some stability, and we used that for a baseline for a calendar and now some of the other judges are there.

- **Judge Gass** commented that he chose the name STRENGTH because the victims are resilient. This is not a specialty court, but there are special services. We jumped without any framework, just get them there. Identification is crucial. Victims must be confirmed first. We take those cases then and work with existing resources, mental health etc. We work with survivor mentors, with McCain Institute, with Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz at ASU STIR. We have residential providers; we have the support from different folks around the state. The most important thing to remember is that victim=trauma. The victims have unique needs and we work with professionals to get them what they need. We conduct court differently; we sit across from them so we can be positive that the victim feels safe and cared for.
- **Judge Gass** then told a story about a victim named Em. He stated, I asked her what she wants to do with her life and she wanted her GED, and then she said she wanted her diploma, she wanted to become a behavioral health specialist. That's what we need to do. We need them to understand that we are here for them. We have to get everyone at the table talking. CASA mentors, what we do has to be sustainable. That's the general goal of both ASU's STIR office as well as The McCain Institute. We have to make sure that we have the tools in place. We have to identify the "at risk" not just victims. I want to give a shout out to our prosecutors too, they are a big help. We are working with DCS, with the lawyers and that what we need to focus on. We have to identify the approach, the identification. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, developed a checklist, and that gives us an overview of what we need to focus on. Something that we can approach for long term. We work with mental health providers and that's critical. The prosecutors, the defenders, we need to make sure that what we do works for everyone. Another thing we have to focus on is substance use/abuse. The girls tend to be less involved than the boys. We are trying to identify how to serve them and what they need. There are delinquent behaviors we need to identify the appropriate measure, Coming back to the story about Em, I listened to all our recordings, and she turned out to be killed while she was on the run. I wanted to go back to make sure that I had given her every opportunity/resource she needed, I used this as a tool so I can tailor how I speak with the other kids.
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** asked if anyone had any questions. After no one raised their hand, he commented thank you for your support this is an amazing situation, I was able to be in court with you, and I've never seen anything like that and I am very proud that we have it here in Arizona. Thank you again for your help and commitment.

Training, Prevention, Data and Research

- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** stated I want to acknowledge that I work with nearly everyone on the council; we've sat and developed this new program on ways to treat them. I want to emphasize our strengths as a council. Mr. Jim Gallagher and I have done a lot of work together. We try not to step on each other's toes, and we support each other. I think having a researcher is key to the process we have those people available to do that. Always asking what we can do to help. I hope that that is something that I can provide. I don't do this alone. I like the word innovation, the mission at ASU is to go forth and do, we run into the problem, and with the partners and look for innovative solutions. We know that human trafficking does not discriminate it affects every race, gender etc. We cannot arrest our way out of this, we can't just arrest the buyers. We are getting participation from the victims the traffickers usually just keep trafficking and sometimes it's hard to get the victims to talk about themselves because its painful for them. We don't have a way to talk to people about prevention. We need people in schools to be looking out for each other. There are still gaps in our programs, and we are trying to get more beds. We have more resources than we did 10

years ago, but we are still working on all that. The screenings are cumbersome. For adults we have nothing, we are working on a screening for nurses, those are the things that were fighting with. Domestic violence and sexual violence trainings aren't enough. We need to make everything better and just more. We are really trying to get the other organizations to work with us, not against us. The healing takes time. One in three kids in Arizona have been trafficked, be that labor or sex. We have to get people to know that this is an important issue. We are not considering the vulnerability of people being transported. We know that someone being sent somewhere by bus is dangerous but the kids don't know they're being trafficked yet so they don't ask for help. We cannot do the things we did in the past to combat this because it simply has not worked. Please use research to support the actions we take. My advice is to go directly to the victims. We need to recognize that victims will not just be in a hotel room. Get police to identify that they need to do data informed research for longevity. It will not all match together, and we don't like to share but that doesn't mean we can't work together to test new practices. We have the skills to do that. Use technology as a tool to help victims. Traffickers know the technology, and if we aren't on top of that it will slip through our fingers, We need to come up with new ways because they old ways are not working.

- What we're doing: we look at ads; we support the police department, not get in their way. We try to see the audience and use innovative analytics such as HEaT unit and data driven decision making. We found that most of the cases were children only. It was very important to note that traffickers usually only had one victim. We found that it took 29 days from the identification to the arrest. New research tells us it's now 59 days for arrest. We found that adults came forward during domestic violence and children are unlikely to come forward so we find them through stings. We have done trainings, we have grants and that has significantly added to our force. We have trained thousands of people, some mandatory. We train probation, schools, the police, sex trafficking awareness and recovery centers, nurses, special ed, child welfare, mental health professionals etc. We work with Strength Court also. We have new cases that we wouldn't have had, but now we do because of the connection with the Sheriff. We host First Step, which is a pop up drop in center, and it welcomes people in and we serve by performing STI testing, providing them with clothing, hair/makeup, and mental health services. We have public defenders there and they can talk to them. Victims are afraid to call because they believe they will be arrested instead of the traffickers. Sextraffickinghelp.com is a great resource that we use. This is for helpers, not providers. STARFISH Project is another tool we use. There you can get certified, and find lesson plans, it is targeted for teachers of middle-high schoolers. Starfish place is a housing space for victims. We have a lot of services for them there. We work with BACA, and are open to work with lots of people from all over, we are an open club and welcome everyone
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** asked if anyone has questions. **Ms. Rachel Mitchell** asked if there was training for adult probation **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** replied that we train 600 probation officers, and our hope is to find one person from each county who is "extra" trained, to be the person for each county. Ms. Rachel Mitchell also asked are you training to find traffickers or victims. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz replied both; we are still looking for them. We have had a great turn out with trainings for both.
- **Mr. Greg McKay** asked if it's hard to get convictions when the victims don't talk. DCS brought forth a legislation that was signed by Governor Ducey, regarding the abduction of a child by a state agency. It was designed to stop parents from taking the kids from child care "Takes, entices or keeps from a state agency", to quote, so therefore, the state is the victim. If that person leaves the state its class 3 if they stay its 4, we are testifying as victims. I think phone data will be super helpful in this matter.

- **Mr. Brian Steele** asked if we wanted to move this, how we do that. Who are the most important keys? **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** replied we hope it's not a one off. We don't want that. We want to profile the relationships. I think the thing that makes it special right now the position/connections makes it curitual. That's why it works, because we know what to do and who to call. We have a bit of work to do, we are going to talk to the kids too and see what works best for them. Good treatment gives opportunity to talk about sex trafficking and what all happened to the kids.

The McCain Institute

- **Ms. Kristin Abrams** stated our programs are aimed at making differences in leadership, human rights, national security, and of course combating human trafficking. On the human trafficking team, we are working to end both sex and labor trafficking. We do this through collaborative partnerships, research and direct impact. We couldn't do this without our partners, and we are very excited about the new collaboration. We have recently partnered with Texas Police Department to make a new team. Thanks to **Ms. Claire Merkel** for all she's done during the process. We have a long term relationship with AMBER alert, now this human trafficking training is involved in that. In the last 3 years we have had 4 trainings. For that we partner to train for prosecutors for best practices and highlighting. We contribute research and analysis of human trafficking. YES has shown us for the past 5 years that there is a pattern. Such incredible violence in Vegas, as well as Phoenix. The McCain Institute wants to get STARFISH project out. The student alliance against trafficking is currently in 40 campuses including the U.S, the UK, and Uganda. We support kids to combat modern slavery. I want to share about our key partners. The Buffet-McCain initiative aims to inform about labor exploitation. We want to expand, where does it happen? How do we help? These are the questions in agriculture labor exploitation. We try to address this by using GIS. We use this technology in the design and implementation. We source and pull form public data sets and map/layer them so we know how to target our intervention programs and find where it's happening. This can be translated to other victim groups. We then put the map on a tablet so our people can go out and meet and help the victims. The most important maps to date are the ones collected by our outreach teams. We then are able to gain that detail. They can drop a pin on the app, which goes back to the team so we can re-evaluate. I think this is translatable. I want to share a new project: National Justice Sector Assessment. We wanted this work to be informed by people like us sitting around the table, judges, prosecutors, etc. This leads us to a few conclusions including: inconsistency between coordination and collaboration, limited experienced personnel, little opportunities. In 2017, we created a runaway and homeless youth program. This builds capacity, and knowledge in identifying signs of exploitation. We are excited to be working in collaboration with DHHS with expanded education programs. We continue to do this here and around the nation

Call to the Public

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** opened the meeting to allow for questions from the public.
- **Ms. Cate Brennon** stated that she would like to see more training for medical professionals including nurse practitioners. She would also like training for advocates. She believes that educating these caretakers is most important.
- **Ms. Amber Kanazbah Crotty** stated she is looking to create a database. We think it's time we understand what is happening to our children and families. We need to create these data systems.
- **Ms. Sherwyn** stated Mr. McKay has put out a monthly report, it states that there were 650 missing children, runaways/no identification in 2015, in 2018 there were 323, and to date its 723. Where

are these children? There are no photographs, missing persons reports. I read that 86% of youth that are trafficked are out of foster care. During this whole program, not one word about parents. DCS is going to seize children, terminate their parental rights, and then lose the kids? The government is trafficking the people of Arizona.

- **Ms. Lori Ford** stated I'd like to explain that we are a grassroots organization that has identified that DCS needs oversight. We are self-appointed. Sometimes when you're in the midst of all doing what you're doing it's good stuff, but when you're on the outside, human trafficking is trafficking for money. DCS seizes kids out of homes. They are violating the constitution. There is money exchanged, people are getting paid out of title 4 E funding. We have not one word about parents. Where are these children? That's what traffickers do; they keep them in the dark.
- **Mr. David Romer** stated thank you for the work you're doing, we know that you care. I have heard about the programs, the social security act is where DCS gets their authority from. In this act, it's stated to give services to victims to need it, not to take kids away from their parents. What's happening is that DCS is going in and taking children. You can't take them without due process. This tells you that you can't go in and do that.
- **Mr. Martin Lynch** stated there is not a word about due process. These kids disappear and we don't know why. When children are taken the jury may not agree with that. It speaks about juries and how they are to be applied. The jury is supposed to prevent corruption. There are no juries.

NAC's Work and Preliminary Recommendations

- **Mr. JR Ujifusa** stated, I want to mention the 11 sections of the report. I believe it's best if we break up and we look at us and you to talk about those respective issue areas.
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** added that the report is out and available if anyone needs it.

Adjourn

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** called for adjournment at 10:57a.m
- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** stated that the date for the next meeting is to be discussed
 - **Ms. Zora Manjencich** motioned to support adjournment
 - **Ms. Jennifer Crawford** seconded the motion

The motion passed without any dissenting votes.

Dated 30 of May 2019
Arizona Human Trafficking Council
Respectfully Submitted By:
Nikki Green, GOYFF