



## **FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **Human Trafficking Task Force**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**February 6, 2017 at 7:00pm**

**Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Winchester Hall**

Members present were Miles Ward, Frederick County Human Relations Department, Chief Ed Hargis and SGT Andrew Alcorn, Frederick City Police Department, Annie Jones, Commission for Women, Mari Lee, Human Relations Commission, Lynn Davis, Child Advocacy Center, Malcolm Furgol, United Way, Barbara Fink, Health Department, Nina Carr, Heartly House, Jessica Fitzwater, Frederick County Council, Jessica Beall, Department of Social Services and Michael O'Connor, Maryland Municipal League.

Also present were guests Charlotte Wood, United Way, Judy Smith, volunteer, Andrea Nunez, Montgomery County Council, Karolyn Monroe and Sydnee Sichert, Frederick County Council.

1. Approval of minutes: Nina Carr amended the minutes from January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to add SGT Andrew Alcorn to the Community Response subcommittee, minutes were then approved.
2. OVC Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy & Operations e-Guide was distributed and discussed.
  - a. The starting time for future task force meetings was changed to 6:30 pm, still on the first Mondays of each month. April is the Human Relations Commission's annual award banquet so the meeting will be rescheduled if there is another space available to hold the meeting.
  - b. The Suggested Task Force Mission Statement was discussed and approved.
  - c. Annie Jones compared the Federal Law vs. MD State Law of Trafficking as explained by the handout.
3. Subcommittees met in small groups for 45 minutes then presented to the group their goals, objectives, and timeline.
4. Sub Committee Presentations:
  - i. **Training Sub-Committee:**
    1. Goal: Inventory current Human Trafficking training levels of task force member agencies and organizations (February – April)
      - a. Developing survey questions
      - b. Map out current level of training
      - c. Identify training groups
    2. Goal: Identifying best practices in training (February – June)
      - a. Review training in Maryland and around the county



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- b. Identify training topics
  - c. Develop short and long term training goals
  - d. Develop training record protocol
- 3. Goal: Develop recommended training (June – August)
  - a. Identify training materials
  - b. Identify instructors
  - c. Develop community outreach information

**ii. Legislative Sub-Committee:**

- 1. Goal: Provide legislative proposals to the County Council by the end of the task force's work.
  - a. Determine what is currently in the Frederick County and Frederick City Code regarding licensing massage/bodywork, hotel and staff training, posting requirements in government buildings and/or businesses, public health notices, and other relevant areas.
  - b. Identify gaps compared to surrounding counties and successful jurisdictions.
  - c. Draft potential legislation.
- 2. Goal: Track state legislation that is relevant to human trafficking.
  - a. Track MCASA legislative updates.
  - b. Receive updates and recommendations from Delegate Young.
- 3. Goal: Work with law enforcement and State's Attorney's office to determine what protection exist for undocumented residents who want to report human trafficking.
  - a. Reach out to the Asian-American Center, Centro Hispano, and other organizations to get real life anecdotes and define biggest issues.
  - b. Research T-visas and other potential protections and work with Montgomery County task force to see if they have recommendations.

**iii. Data and Scope Committee:**

- 1. Goal: Gather data and information from law enforcement agencies, investigators, prosecutors, medical and victim services providers on how HT cases are being handled in our community.
  - a. Identify resources and protocols that are available.
  - b. Determine what other resources are needed.
  - c. Find successful models for recognizing, reporting and interviewing in situations of HT.
- 2. Goal: Send out a survey to local, county, and state law enforcement agencies, hospitals, clinics, nonprofit service providers and other groups and individuals who have been involved in HT investigations in providing care and assistance to victims.
  - a. Results of the survey will be analyzed and hopefully lead to recommendations.

**iv. Community Response Sub Committee:**

- 1. Goal: Research and identify a variety of best practices and protocols for responding to human trafficking.



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- a. Gather resources for community response and profession-specific response.
- b. Locate screening tools used to identify survivors by various professionals.
- c. Assess strengths, limitations, and applicability of protocols and tools identified.
2. Goal: Identify organizations/institutions who are actively or potentially identifying victims and/or providing services to victims in Frederick County.
  - a. Identify organizations who are actively working with survivors or who suspect they are serving trafficking survivors.
    - i. If organizations are actively working with survivors, what happens when a victim is identified? Are there specific protocols in place within the organization?
  - b. Determine the level of training and expertise held within organizations specifically on identifying and responding to trafficking survivors.
  - c. Poll interest in inclusion in a trafficking specific resource directory and/or a comprehensive community protocol.
3. Goal: Understand potential gaps in responding to a trafficking survivor in Frederick County.
  - a. Using research of best practices in community response, determine limitations to service provision, legislative protections, and criminal justice in Frederick County.
  - b. Describe accessibility to services outside of Frederick County, with an emphasis on the services that are limited or non-existent in Frederick County.
  - c. If specific organizations that seem most appropriate to provide a "missing service" are identified within Frederick, ascertain the barriers to providing that specific service for the organization.
4. Goal: Establish network with other stakeholders in bordering counties, other regions of Maryland, and nationally.
  - a. Identify points of contact for victim services subcommittees for other Maryland task forces.
  - b. Conduct meetings/phone calls with representatives to learn about their community response and protocol development.
  - c. Learn and share information about resources that survivors can access across counties.
5. Goal: Compose community response recommendations based upon protocol research and information gleaned from outreach to local, state, and national stakeholders.
5. Group discussed that the survey would be drafted within 2-3 weeks. Groups were going to have a realistic timeline to bring to the next meeting.
6. Adjournment