



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Human Trafficking Task Force

#### Meeting Minutes

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30pm

Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Winchester Hall

Members present were Miles Ward, Frederick County Human Relations Department, Chief Ed Hargis and SGT Andrew Alcorn, Frederick City Police Department, Malcom Furgol, United Way, Mari Lee, Human Relations Commission, Nina Carr and Heather Moreno, Heartly House, Jessica Fitzwater, Frederick County Council, Jessica Beall, Department of Social Services, Lindsey Carpenter, State's Attorney's Office, Pam Holtzinger, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Angela Spencer, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Barbara Fink, Health Department, Lynn Davis, Child Advocacy Center, Michael O'Connor, Maryland Municipal League, and Annie Jones, Commission for Women.

Also present were guests Karolyn Monroe, Frederick County Council, Jenna Moseman, Heartly House, Katie Dallimore, United Way, Tressa Bell, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Kris Fair, The Frederick Center, Sara Kominers, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Laurie Culkkin, Maryland Volunteer Lawyer's Service, Suzi Borg, Mental Health Association and Julia Webb, 2-1-1.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes: Miles Ward moved to approve the minutes and Chief Hargis seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
3. Sub-Committee Updates
  - a. Legislative
    - i. Jessica discussed the "Body Work Bill" as a likely legislative recommendation; Sheriff's Office agreed this would add an additional charge for traffickers operating as massage business owners
    - ii. Hotel training is another potential legislative option; we are researching PG County Task Force online training as a starting point
    - iii. PG County also has bill where landlords can be charged with a misdemeanor if they are knowingly allowing trafficking in their building; Chief Hargis stated it is a primary concern that trafficking exists in apartment buildings in Frederick.
    - iv. They are researching asset forfeiture from trafficking cases and how other counties allocate funds back to survivor services. Chief Hargis will talk to Howard County about this.
    - v. They will definitely recommend continuing the task force and will discuss if we would need to amend county code to move it under the Human Relations Commission.
    - vi. Reminder to get all legislative suggestions to Jessica by mid-August.



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- b. Community Response and Protocol
  - i. Continuing to edit and adapt both the First Responder Screening Tool and the Protocol and Resource Guide which will be part of the sub-committee's report
  - ii. Malcom and Heather will be presenting at the Coalition for the Homeless July meeting about the task force to expand collaboration
  - iii. Discussed need for more information about labor laws and oversight in Frederick County and what they can do to address labor trafficking.
- c. Data and Scope
  - i. Heather discussed the draft of the Survey Data Report; once final revisions have been made, it will be distributed to all task force members before next meeting to help inform all sub-committees
  - ii. Email sub-committee with any questions regarding report, or what is lacking in the data
  - iii. Discussed the shortcomings of the number of cases data due to lack of data tracking, underreporting, misidentification (e.g., DSS labeling victim of trafficking as "runaway, mission person, etc")
  - iv. Discussed including a narrative of the background and creation of the task force, types of cases seen, and a compelling survivor story. Pam gave an example showing the lack of standardization that has impeded victim response in the past. Chief Hargis shared story about a girl who had multiple contacts with multiple service agencies without getting help. Nina will look into getting permission to use a survivor story.
  - v. We want to paint a realistic picture of the victim, as many are resistant to services due to the trauma they have endured.
- d. Training
  - i. Chief shared the draft training recommendation outlines for specific agencies (law enforcement, social services, medical, government, public schools, higher education); draft report will be done next month.
  - ii. Will recommend a yearly cross-discipline training in the county
  - iii. Discussed current training requirements
    - 1. Maryland requires one-hour entry level training for basic recruits in law enforcement; no in-service requirements but Chief will start with his department in 2018.
    - 2. In order to mandate training, legislation is approved and training commission provides required objectives
    - 3. Chief will research if other states have legislated training for law enforcement and report to Jessica
    - 4. Barbara mentioned the Michigan Board of Nursing requires a class in Human Trafficking



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4. Discussion of Collective Group Recommendations
  - a. Next meeting: Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, Vaughn Harper, special agent from Homeland Security Investigations, will be our guest speaker.
  - b. September meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Susan Ritter, victim specialist from Homeland Security Investigations, will be our guest speaker.
  - c. October meeting: drafts of sub-committee reports are due. They should be placed on Google drive as well.
  - d. November meeting: final drafts are due.
  - e. December meeting: final report complete. Heather will finalize report based on sub-committee drafts. Heather, Nina and Pam will confirm format of final report and send out as an example for sub-committees to follow.
  - f. January: hope to present our findings to the County Council during Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
5. Public Comment
  - a. Laurie Culkin from Maryland Volunteer Lawyer's Service's Human Trafficking Prevention Project shared about their post-conviction work. They help trafficking victims and those at risk for exploitation clear their records and get employment. They provide training to service providers and have 35 pro bono attorneys working with them. She will let us know if Frederick County is part of this yet. They are available as a resource for training and a referral point for victims.
  - b. Kris Fair from the Frederick Center shared the they are creating a Health Equality Index for LGBTQ patients; he recommends increased awareness for service providers and community members to understand the reality of trafficking.
  - c. Mari suggested creating a social media PSA to give educate youth; Laurie agreed that survivors often don't even know they are victims.
6. Adjournment