

HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES¹
Friday, 30 April 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Andrea Nunez, Nick Weikel, Sara Cochran and Stephen Liggett-Creel.

Members Absent: Cheryl Mattis and Mariam Imohi.

Others in Attendance: Leslie Petak, Susan Allen and Briana Davis.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 10:00 am; Nick Weikel, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members.

Andrea Nunez welcomed members and thanked them for their continued work on the committee.

2. Old Business

- a. Planning for Spring Virtual Awareness Events: The committee discussed plans for organizing a second meet and greet event. The purpose of the event would be to grow partnerships, raise awareness and create opportunities for continued learning. Upon further discussion the committee decided to focus efforts on expanding the community contact list to generate more interest amongst the community prior to organizing another event.

Nick Weikel offered to connect with personal contacts within the faith-based community and to gauge their interest in receiving training for the congregation and youth programs. He also noted creating opportunities to connect individuals that express interest in volunteering, with local organizations such as AGAST.

Andrea Nunez agreed that growing the community contacts would be an ideal first step. She also stated the committee will need to finalize an outreach plan to include a standardized training to provide consistent messaging across the HTPCC.

Leslie Petak noted that some trainings may need to be tailored specifically to youth since they have different thought processes than adults due to development. It would be beneficial to partner with Valerie Harvey to present this messaging to youth within the school system.

Stephen Liggett-Creel added that providing Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for training completion may help to gain interest. He added that trainers would have to be certified to provide trainings for CEUs. The Department of Social Services is considered a certified trainer and would be willing to partner with the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council to make it possible to offer credit.

- b. Utilizing Social Media: Briana Davis initiated discussion about utilizing social media to share information about human trafficking and provided sample social media posts from the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention (OHTP). She noted the posts contained an image with a brief message.

Committee members expressed overall support for the sample posts as well as the intent to repost from the county social media pages. Nick Weikel suggested incorporating statistics and facts representative of Howard County.

Stephan Liggett-Creel suggested reviewing statistics from the surrounding counties. He noted that a victim could be a resident of Howard County, but the crime may have occurred in one of the surrounding counties; therefore, it would not be accurately represented.

3. New Business

- a. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Panel Discussion: The Howard County Office of Human Trafficking Prevention, in partnership with the Office of Human Rights and Equity and HopeWorks, hosted a virtual discussion commemorating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sara Cochran expressed that she thought the event was great and found it very informative. She noted the Regional Navigator Program was of interest. Andrea Nunez explained the program is grant funded and serves to coordinate services for victims of child sex-trafficking up to the age of twenty-four. The program is housed with the Howard County Child Advocacy Center.

4. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Leslie Petak shared that she is currently working on updating the AGAST PSA and intends to begin circulating the flier throughout the community by the end of the month. Nick Weikel suggested it would be beneficial to have a digital copy to share on social media as well.
- b. Committee members agreed meetings will be held the last Friday of every other month starting in August. The next meeting will remain as scheduled.

5. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. May 12: Medical Committee Meeting, 2:00pm-3:00 pm.
- b. May 13: Policy and Legislation Committee Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.
- c. May 20: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Full Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.

6. Next Committee Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee is scheduled for June 30, 2021 from 10am – 11am. The meeting will be virtual.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 11:50 am; Nick Weikel concluded the meeting.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis

Nick Weikel

Chair

Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.