

HTPCC Legislation and Policy Committee

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

Thursday, 22 July 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Monica Krebs, Richard Gibson, Tami Bulla, Mariam Imohi, Tyra Hill, Stephen Liggett-Creel, Chuck Chandler and Andrea Nunez.

Members Absent: Lt. Eric Kruhm and Cheryl Mattis.

Others in Attendance: Briana Davis.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. Meeting Open:

- a. 12:30 pm; Monica Krebs, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members to the HTPCC Legislation and Policy Committee meeting.

2. New Business

- a. Landlord Outreach Initiative: Andrea Nunez provided an update on recent collaborative efforts between the Howard County Police Department (HCPD), the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention (OHTP) and the States Attorney's Office. All members who were present signed a confidentiality agreement acknowledging they would not disclose any of the information discussed.
- b. Task Force Protocols: Andrea Nunez proposed the development of protocols to govern the Coordination Council should reside with the Policy and Legislation subcommittee. An initial draft of the protocols was submitted to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for review and OHTP is still awaiting feedback.

Monica Krebs and Stephan-Liggett Creel expressed interest in assisting with the protocol development.

- c. Article Review/ Discussion: Human Trafficking and Prison Labor: Monica Krebs led discussion by summarizing the key points from each of the three articles demonstrating the connection between Human Trafficking and Prison Labor and its relevance to Maryland. Legislation was introduced in 2020 by a Howard County delegate to increase wages for individuals performing any prison labor and to prohibit funds being taken away for room and board. Monica opened discussion to reflect on the topic and determine if there was committee interest to support the bill.



Rich Gibson expressed this was the first-time hearing about the potential connection between prison labor and human trafficking. He noted the committee should be cautious about approaching the topic as to maintain their scope of focus.

Mariam Imohi agreed that the exploitation of individuals within the prison system was a nuance of labor trafficking and an overall concern within the field. She also agreed this may not be in line with the focus of the subcommittee and expressed interest in connecting with Monica Krebs to work outside of the committee to help improve conditions within the prison system.

Andrea Nunez and Stephan Liggett- Creel thanked Monica Krebs for providing the committee with the opportunity to learn and have a robust conversation about the topic. She highlighted that there is legislation to prevent products created in other countries via prison labor to be imported to the United States. However, there are companies within the United States that are benefiting from exploiting prison labor. Andrea inquired about the overall prison process and length of time spent in each stage specifically relating to Howard County. Stephen Liggett-Creel shared the annual report² released by Maryland Correctional Enterprises to support discussion.

The committee will determine whether there are work opportunities available within the county facilities to then decide if this is an area the committee should focus and provide guidance on.

3. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. August 27: Training, Outreach and Partnerships Committee, 10:00am – 11:00am.
- b. September 16: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Meeting, 1pm – 2:30 pm.

4. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Andrea Nunez shared the first performance report was submitted for review to the OVC grant manager and offered to share the final report with the committee.

5. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the HTPCC Policy and Legislation Committee is to be determined.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 1:50 pm; Monica Krebs, Chair, concluded the meeting.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis

Monica Krebs

Chair



Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) [Maryland Correctional Enterprises Annual Report 2020](#)