

HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES¹
Friday, 27 August 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Andrea Nunez, Nick Weikel, Sara Cochran, Mariam Imohi, Tyra Hill and Vinitha Nithianandam.

Members Absent: Cheryl Mattis and Stephen Liggett-Creel.

Others in Attendance: Leslie Petak, Kathy Jordan and Briana Davis.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 1:00 pm; Nick Weikel, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members.

Andrea Nunez introduced newly appointed HTPCC council member, Vinitha Nithianandam. Committee members welcomed Ms. Nithianandam and provided brief introductions.

2. New Business

- a. Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Nick Weikel led discussion for planning the October Domestic Violence Awareness Month Event in partnership with HopeWorks.

Mariam Imohi shared she has contacted the Community Engagement Department at HopeWorks to coordinate efforts between the organization and the Coordination Council. There is a candle light vigil scheduled for October 7, 2021. More information about the event and additional opportunities will be shared as they become available.

3. Old Business

- a. UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: Committee members reviewed the Facebook post shared by DCRS for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th. Andrea Nunez shared that the flier was also provided to approximately 87 attendees during a Mobile Home Outreach event.

Leslie Petak noted she and other members of AGAST dispersed approximately 45 fliers at different locations throughout the county. Overall, businesses were receptive to displaying the fliers, with very few that were resistant. She has followed up with a couple locations that still have the flier displayed.

Sara Cochran shared she attended the Office on Trafficking in Persons event, 'Voices of Freedom²', an initiative to preserve the stories of survivors of trafficking and allied professionals in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA).

- b. Requests for Speaking Engagement Opportunities: Andrea Nunez reminded members to utilize their personal to contacts to schedule virtual or in person human trafficking presentations or meetings and create new partnerships with faith-based, community or business groups.

Leslie Petak and Nick Weikel both expressed they may have potential engagement opportunities and will follow up once confirmed.

- c. Utilizing Social Media: The committee continued discussion on the use of social media to raise awareness in the community. Briana Davis shared draft social media posts and noted that approval would still be needed from the grant manager and county communications department.

Nick Weikel and Sara Cochran expressed the content was great, however, the pictures may be difficult to view on a smartphone.

4. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Mariam Imohi and Tyra Hill will create and share list of needed items for HopeWorks clients as well as accepted donations (i.e., gift cards, toiletries, dry goods, unused towels/ bedding, etc.).
- b. Mariam Imohi shared that HopeWorks has a new website³ and encouraged members to sign up for the organizational newsletter to stay up to date on upcoming events.
- c. Vinitha Nithianandam inquired about training offered for Howard County Public Schools. Andrea Nunez noted that some trainings have been conducted in the past, but it could be a focus of the committee in the future.
- d. Members of the Council, as well as from the community, are encouraged to attend the Federal Sentencing of Charles Nabit to show support for the victims. There will be a press conference held prior to the sentencing hearing. Andrea Nunez will share more information as it becomes available.
- e. The committee discussed the possibility of scheduling an outdoor meeting in the fall to network with members of the full Coordination Council.

5. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. September 16: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Full Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.
- b. September 27: Federal Case Sentencing and Press Conference.

6. Next Committee Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee is scheduled for October 29, 2021 from 10am – 11am. The meeting will be via WebEx.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 2:43 pm; 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.
- 2) For more information and to access the archived videos visit, <https://acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/voices>.
- 3) HopeWorks new website is, <https://hopeworksofhc.org/>.