

HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES¹
Friday, 29 October 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Sara Cochran, Vinitha Nithianandam and Stephen Liggett-Creel.

Members Absent: Andrea Nunez, Nick Weikel and Cheryl Mattis.

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

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 10:00 am; Briana Davis, Program Assistant for OHTP, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. Chair, Nick Weikel and Andrea Nunez were not in attendance.

2. New Business

- a. Event Planning: Members discussed ideas for future awareness and outreach events. Leslie Petak suggested hosting a small open house for the community to receive information about trafficking in Howard County and enjoy light refreshments. She noted that the event would be low commitment making it potentially easier to engage the community.

Stephen Liggett-Creel proposed organizing a speaker series, ideally spacing events out throughout a months' time. Beginning with an open house at a popular local venue, such as Busboys and Poets. Followed by a featured speaker near the middle of the month and closing with a vigil at the end of the month.

Vinitha Nithianandam inquired about engaging school groups in awareness events. Sara Cochran shared that in the past, there have been active clubs that have participated. She recommended reaching out to identified school clubs.

Kathy Jordan recommended developing an annual calendar to identify dates and begin event planning in advance. She also suggested identifying groups in the community and seeking opportunities to collaborate.

Sara Cochran noted the committee was limited in skills and expressed to need to expand interest in the committee. Stephen Liggett-Creel suggested forming a smaller focused committee strictly to plan and organize events.

- b. January Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Briana Davis provided space to discuss ideas specific to January Human Trafficking Awareness Month. She expressed the opportunity to collaborate with regional task forces, such as Montgomery County and Prince Georges County. Sara Cochran voiced support.

3. Old Business

- a. Nabit Sentencing and Press Event: Briana Davis shared about the press event and sentencing hearing of Charles Nabit on September 27th. A recording of the press event is available on the Howard County Office of Human Trafficking Prevention website².
- b. Requests for Speaking Engagement Opportunities: Briana Davis reminded members to utilize their personal to contacts to schedule virtual or in person human trafficking presentations or meetings.

Leslie Petak noted that the HoCo Indivisible Immigration Action Team was interested in moving forward with scheduling a training in late November, with a focus on trafficking and immigration specific issues.

A master presentation for community engagement opportunities has been drafted. Once final edits have been made the presentation will be sent to OVC for approval.

4. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Briana Davis confirmed that Mariam Imohi and Tyra Hill resigned from their respective positions at HopeWorks; therefore, leaving the Anti-Trafficking Department vacant. The Office of Human Trafficking Prevention terminated the subaward agreement and is currently working to partner with TurnAround, a new victim services provider for the remaining two years of the OVC grant.
- b. Sara Cochran shared that the AGAST Compassion Brigade attended the Howard County Circuit Court Hearing-Disposition (Sentencing) of Timothy Jamar Ford on October 28th. He was charged with sexual assault, prostitution, solicitation of a minor and trafficking. Ford received a sentence of 25 years, suspending all but nine years in prison.

5. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. November 18: 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 December 17, 2021 from 10am – 11am. The meeting will be via WebEx.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 11:06 am; Briana Davis 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) Access the recording of the press event on the OHTP website, <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/OHTP>.