

**HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**MINUTES<sup>1</sup>**  
**Friday, 17 December 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:** Andrea Nunez, Sara Cochran and Vinitha Nithianandam.

**Members Absent:** Stephen Liggett-Creel and Cheryl Mattis.

**Others in Attendance:** Briana Davis, Nick Weikel, Leslie Petak, Suellen Seigel and Ovan Shortt.

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**1. MEETING OPEN**

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

**2. New Business**

- a. January Human Trafficking Awareness Month: In preparation for Human Trafficking Awareness month the committee discussed possible events. Andrea Nunez shared she was contacted by a member of the Ravens Playmakers who was interested in partnering with the HTPCC for a donation drive hosted throughout the month of January. There are currently three restaurants in Ellicott City that have tentatively agreed to place collection boxes outside of the establishments. All donations would go directly to TurnAround. Plans are still ongoing, and information will be provided to the committee once finalized. Suellen Seigel noted 'Tinos' hosts midweek evening events in which a certain percentage of proceeds go to an organization. She also suggested communicating who would be picking up the donations and during what day/ time, so the owners are aware.

Vinitha Nithianandam in partnership with Howard Community College, connected with two companies that are willing to donate approximately 15-20 laptops. She will continue to provide updates.

Andrea Nunez shared the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force is organizing a statewide walk on January 16<sup>th</sup> for individual groups to organize within their communities and post pictures on social media. Some members expressed interest, however, overall agreed to wait until spring allowing more time to organize and publicize well.

Ovan Shortt briefly explained his role working with Recreation and Parks, noting the Community Engagement and Outreach program has a youth group that may generate interest. He offered to circulate information to school groups to gauge interested in scheduling presentations.

Andrea Nunez shared information about the Film Screening and Panel Discussion of *Trafficked in America* scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-8:30pm. The event will be held virtually. Attendees will be required to view the documentary via Kanopy prior to the discussion.

The Department of Community Resources and Services will be partnering with the County Executives' Office to host a Social Media Campaign. The County Executives' Office will be posting

content throughout January which DCRS will repost. Members are encouraged to reshare through personal social media accounts.

In closing, Andrea Nunez reminded the committee to not be constrained by a certain month, noting events can be done at any time throughout the year.

- b. 2022 Events Calendar: Briana McNemar shared a draft events calendar, detailing scheduled events, awareness months and meetings. The calendar will be updated on a continuous basis.

### **3. Old Business**

- a. Social Media Ambassador Program: Briana McNemar shared draft posts for review. Ovan Shortt provided feedback, noting some are too wordy and recommended spreading out the content across various posts. OHTP will continue to develop content, with an initial batch of content for members to share likely by the end of February.

### **4. Additional Items for Discussion**

- a. Sara Cochran noted that HopeWorks is still advertising a 'Recognizing HT' workshop for youth, adults and professionals. Given the realignment, she inquired whether it was appropriate content and if the workshop should be removed. Andrea expressed she would connect with HopeWorks' leadership.
- b. Sara Cochran attended the webinar 'Labor Trafficking: A New Framework' and found it very informational, highlighting key takeaways. Andrea Nunez thanked her for attending and sharing with the committee. Andrea shared ongoing research about labor violations throughout Howard County. She explained the information would help guide efforts to conduct direct outreach to vulnerable populations.
- c. Suellen Seigel shared current Maryland proposed legislation, specifically the Innkeepers Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Safe Harbor bills. She encouraged members to support.
- b. Leslie Petak requested that meetings be conducted within the allotted time frame. Nick Weikel suggested scheduling meetings for an hour and a half.

### **5. Announcements and Events of Importance**

- a. January 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 February 25, 2022 from 10am – 11:30 am. The meeting will be via WebEx.

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Minutes were drafted by: Briana McNemar

Nick Weikel

Chair

**Notes:**

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