

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

Thursday, 17 March 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Yolanda Sonnier, Jon Steuernagle, Jackie Scott, Andrea Nunez, Monica Krebs, Andrew Heiliger, Mariana Izraelson, Jena Britton, Lauren Blake, Jessica Epps, Sara Cochran, Rachel Sye and Stephen Liggett-Creel.

Members Absent: Vinitha Nithianandam, Lt. Eric Kruhm, Christina J. Bostick, Rich Gibson, Dina Ward, Chuck Chandler, Alicia Altamirano.

Others in Attendance: Briana McNemar, Cheryl Mattis, Lauryn Reynolds, Shanika Cooper, Shakinah Braxton, Leslie Petak and Susan Allen.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 1:00 pm; Yolanda Sonnier, Chair, Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council (HTPCC), opened the meeting by welcoming committee members.

New members and first-time public attendees introduced themselves to the full committee.

2. Establishment of Quorum

- a. The Roll was taken: Twelve Committee members were in attendance. Yolanda Sonnier declared the Committee was in quorum and brought the meeting to order.

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

- a. Ms. Sonnier entered the 20 January 2022 Committee minutes and opened for discussion. Jackie Scott motioned to accept the minutes as written. Stephen Liggett-Creel seconded the motion. A voice vote of official members was taken and approved without opposition. Rachel Sye abstained from the vote.

4. TOP Committee Updates

- a. Resignation of Committee Chair: Andrea Nunez announced Nick Weikel has stepped down as Committee Chair but will continue to be involved in HTPCC activities. Committee members unanimously agreed Andrea Nunez and Briana McNemar will act as committee chair. Andrea Nunez noted if anyone was interested in taking the role of Chair to contact her directly.
- b. Awareness Month Events: Committee members reflected on the January Human Trafficking Awareness Month event. The film screening and discussion of *Trafficked in America* was successful with approximately 20 attendees. Andrea Nunez expressed interest in repeating the event in-person later this fall for Labor Rights week. OHTP also offered this as a lunch and learn

session for DCRS staff, reaching an additional 11 individuals. Thinking ahead to January 2023, member expressed interest in organizing a book discussion using survivor content.

The HTPCC will partner with OHRE for a book discussion of 'Believing' by Anita Hill in commemoration of April Sexual Assault Awareness Month². The event will be held in-person at the Miller Branch Library on April 26, 2022, from 6-8 pm. OHTP will speak briefly about sexual and gender-based violence as well as the overall work of the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention.

- c. Educational Presentations: Andrea Nunez summarized the recent educational presentations OHTP in partnership with HCPD have provided to community groups such as Recreation and Park staff and the Human Rights Commission. She also noted that members, Jena Britton and HCPD participated in the Cross-Collaboration event with the Prince Georges, Montgomery and DC Task Forces.

Yolanda Sonnier reminded the group to plan one virtual or in-person community training, presentation or other outreach event/ initiative for 2022.

- d. Potential June/July Outreach Events: Andrea Nunez encouraged members to think about additional events that could be planned for the summers, such as a community walk, etc. No additional ideas were voiced by members.

5. Presentation: Anti-Human Trafficking Services- TurnAround Inc.

- a. Rachel Sye, Deputy Director at TurnAround, provided an overview of TurnAround Services (See attachment A).

Shanika Cooper thanked Rachel for the presentation and requested TurnAround speak at one of the Health Department all-staff meetings. She also suggested TurnAround become a member of the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC).

Sara Cochran also expressed appreciation for the presentation. She suggested OHTP include a public statement on website announcing the partnership with TurnAround, detailing its benefit to the county.

Yolanda Sonnier inquired whether TurnAround will provide trainings for youth/ teens. Rachel Sye confirmed that the organization does provide tailored trainings and will need to seek approval from OVC prior to scheduling presentations.

Jena Britton sought clarification on the process of reporting suspicions of trafficking on behalf of the hospital, specifically if the hospital should report directly to TurnAround or HCPD. Andrea Nunez and Rachel Sye suggested connecting outside of the full meeting to better discuss protocol.

Jessica Emerson, Human Trafficking Prevention Project, had to cancel due to a scheduling conflict. The presentation will be rescheduled for the May Full HTPCC Meeting.

6. Article Review

- a. Committee members reflected on two news/ press releases highlighting cases involving labor trafficking in South Georgia³ and South Carolina⁴. Monica Krebs noted there are not a lot of labor trafficking cases being seen in Maryland. These cases are good examples of the different ways labor trafficking can occur. The South Carolina case is more typical, while the Georgia case is an example of how networks can occur within trafficking. Andrea Nunez and Yolanda Sonnier expressed surprise by the number of female names listed on the indictment. Sara Cochran noted that traffickers fraudulently used the H2A visa program and expressed there needs to be more program oversight on behalf of the government.

7. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. April 29: Training, Outreach and Partnerships Committee, 10 am- 11:30 am.
- b. May 19: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Full Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.

8. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Andrea Nunez proposed a new member check in with OHTP for an introductory HT 101, informal presentation/conversation, with the goal being to provide more knowledge on sex and/or labor trafficking and discuss goals for participating in the HTPCC.
- b. Mariana Izraelson shared Grassroots incorporated the MDSSW HT 101 training as part of the required annual staff training. She noted it was easily implemented and have received positive feedback from staff. To date, 114 employees have completed the training.
- c. Andrea Nunez assigned the following task to appointed members: Send one article relating to sex trafficking and/or sex work prior to the May meeting.
- d. Yolanda Sonnier shared the AAPI is hosting an event on May 1, 2022, from 11am -4pm. She suggested the HTPCC could staff a table and provide resources. She will provide additional information.

9. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council will be held May 19, 2022. The meeting will be in-person with the option to join virtually via WebEx.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 2:30 pm; Yolanda Sonnier closed the meeting and directed the Council to stand in adjournment until 19 May 2022.



Yolanda Sonnier
Chair

Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) For more information and to register for the April event visit, <https://live-howardcounty.pantheonsite.io/event/reading-human-rights-believing-anita-hill>
- 3) *Human smuggling, forced labor among allegations in south Georgia federal indictment:*
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdga/pr/human-smuggling-forced-labor-among-allegations-south-georgia-federal-indictment>
- 4) *Two Midlands residents accused of trafficking farm workers:*
<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/south-carolina-labor-trafficking/101-557ded04-8b71-4122-a07a-7ed5c76c9cb8>

Attachments:

- A) Presentation: Anti-Human Trafficking Services- TurnAround Inc.



ATTACHMENT A

Presentation:

Anti-Human Trafficking Services- TurnAround Inc.

17 March 2022

Anti-Human Trafficking Services- TurnAround Inc.

Rachel Sye and Tania Araya
TurnAround Inc.



Today's Objective

To learn about
TurnAround's services for
survivors of human
trafficking in the Baltimore
City, Baltimore County, and
Howard County area.

Who We Are

TurnAround Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves as **the designated Rape Crisis Center for Baltimore City and Baltimore County**. We have served as a Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Crisis Center with the mission of providing counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence **since 1978**. Our work expanded to also serving victims and survivors of human trafficking. **In 2011**, TurnAround received a grant for an **Anti-Trafficking Project** to address this issue and the needs of sex trafficking victims in Baltimore.

Who We Serve - Human Trafficking

- Confirmed/Identified (labor or sex trafficking)
- Highly Suspected but not confirmed (non-disclosure)
- High Risk – (engaging in high-risk sexual activity, typically has hx of sex abuse/assaults that puts them at risk of being sex trafficked)

TurnAround Inc. Services

- All Ages (typically 13 and above)
- All Gender Identities
- Supports 100 plus each year (prior to Covid)
- All SERVICES ARE 100% FREE
- We Provide:
 - EMERGENCY/SHELTER
 - BASIC NEEDS
 - CASE MANAGEMENT
 - THERAPY
 - LEGAL
 - DROP IN CENTER
 - GROUPS (psycho-educational or social)
 - EMPLOYMENT TRAINING CLASSES

Referrals Received (pre covid)

**In 2018/FY19 -
Received 116 referrals
to HT program**

**Fiscal Y19- Served 198
in HT program**



Referrals to TurnAround

Operate a 24/7
Helpline and Text line

Referrals come from
outreach/partner
efforts (DSS,DJS, LE,
community providers,
offsite programming)

From Referrals, we
serve approx. 50%
youth and minors and
50% adults on average
each year

Case Management Services Core Values

- **Intensive Advocacy Based Case Management:**
- TurnAround's mission in this area is to provide and coordinate services and resources in the most effective and efficient manner possible to individuals with complex needs, towards maximizing the individual's well-being and functioning. Our services are based on the following **core values:**
- Advocacy-based case management services are **survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and empowerment based**
- The therapeutic relationship or **working alliance** between the advocate and individual is **integral to helping the individual achieve her or his goals**
- **Understanding** the individual's social, physical, and cultural environment or context and the **challenges faced by the individual** is important
- It is important to elicit, support, and **build on the individual's strengths, assets, resilience,** and potential for growth and development
- The **advocate does not work in isolation but in collaboration** with colleagues, agencies, and organizations
- **Advocacy occurs at many levels** and advocacy for systems change plays a key role

Case Management Structure

- **Intensive Advocacy Based Case Management Services Involves:**
- Support
- Information and education
- Safety planning
- Access and linkages to services and resources
- Setting goals and monitoring progress
- Identifying and addressing barriers
- Coordination and continuity of services

Case Management Core Process

Core Process of Intensive Advocacy-Based Case Management

- Crisis response
- Assessment
- Development and implementation of an individualized care plan/goal plans
- Intervention(s)
- Monitoring
- Follow up
- Crisis Prevention/Managing crises
- Documentation
- Outcomes – safety and empowerment
- Transitions and closures

Phase Approach

We work with survivors through Phases

- Initial Phase-(the first 90 days or working with survivor, goal is to manage crisis and to stay connected)
- Phase I- Assessment and Stabilization (after 90 days, continuing to get to know client and help them stabilize, can last up to 6 months to a year or longer)
- Phase II= Active Engagement (from 6 months to 2-3 years or more)
- Phase III= Transition/Termination (Active- has worked with survivor at least 2-3 years, they are resourceful and need little support vs Inactive- survivor is thriving and ready to disengage from services or move toward survivor leadership phase)
- Phase IV- Mentor/Leadership (survivor opportunities: include leading a group, becoming a speaker, a mentor, focus group feedback on services/systems, joining legislative efforts)

Safe Harbor Law – Coordinated Response

- Passed in 2019- Requiring a law enforcement officer who suspects that a child that has been detained is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a regional navigator; requiring a local department of social services that receives a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to refer the child to a regional navigator for services; establishing the Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to support services for youth victims of sex trafficking; requiring the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/bills/hb/hb0827T.pdf>

Maryland List of HT Regional Navigators



Contact List for Maryland's Human Trafficking Regional Navigators

Jurisdiction	Agency	Regional Navigator	Email	Phone	Available 24/7?
Anne Arundel	Board of Child Care	Jake Cooper	cooper@turnaroundinc.org	240-954-4548	Yes
Baltimore City	Center for Hope: Baltimore Child Abuse Center	Jill Nix McCoy	jmccoy@cityofbaltimore.org	443-625-7502	Yes
		Bonheda Howard	ehoward@cityofbaltimore.org	443-699-7533	Yes
		Caroline McDonald	cmcdonald@turnaroundinc.org	443-624-3040	Yes
Baltimore County	Turn Around Inc.	Tracy Barnes (Outreach Coordinator)	tbarnes@turnaroundinc.org	410-377-8111 4332	Yes
		DA/T Helpline	N/A	443-279-0379	Yes
		DA/T Hotline	N/A	410-498-5956	Yes
Calvert	Calvert County Department of Community Services	Erica Felder	efelder@ccgov.org	410-396-3037 (Office) 443-466-3633 (Cell)	Yes
Frederick	Frederick Police	Jennifer Collins	jencolls@frederickmd.org	443-405-3615 (Cell)	Yes
Harford	The Sexual Assault/Spance Abuse Resource Center	Jessie Schultz	jschultz@city-maryland.org	443-866-5724 (Cell)	Yes
		St. Erke Heister	stheister@howardcountymd.gov	410-313-2629	Yes
Howard	Howard County Police Department/Child Advocacy Center	Erin Aker	erina@hcmf.edu	410-313-2630	Yes
Montgomery	University of Maryland SAFE Center	Ellie Leahy Park (Outreach Coordinator)	elpark@umd.edu	443-266-8984	Yes
		Jessie Aker	jsaker@umd.edu	410-200-4299	Yes
Prince George's	University of Maryland SAFE Center	Ellie Leahy Park (Outreach Coordinator)	elpark@umd.edu	443-306-3964	Yes
		Jessie Aker	jsaker@umd.edu	410-200-4299	Yes
Washington	Safe Place Child Advocacy Center	Erica Gutierrez	ericagutierrez@maryland.gov	240-463-6783	Yes

CONTACT US:

Helpline: 443 279 0379

Text line: 410 498 5956

- 2 Mainlines: 410 377 8111 (County) or 410 837 7000 (City)
- Email: rsye@turnaroundinc.org
taraya@turnaroundinc.org
- Website: www.turnaroundinc.org