



**Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council (HTPCC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, 08 September 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:**

X	Yolanda Sonnier	X	Dina Ward (Proxy)	X	Tania Araya (Proxy)
X	Jon Steuernagle	X	Stephen Liggett-Creel		Monica Krebs
X	Jackie Scott		<i>Health Department Rep.</i>	X	Sara Cochran
	Cheryl Mattis (Proxy)	X	Jessica Obiageli Epps		Andrew Heilinger
X	Rich Gibson	X	Lauren Blake	X	Vinitha Nithianandam
	Jennifer Ritter (Proxy)	X	Jena Britton		Alicia Altamirano
X	Tami Bulla (Proxy)		Mariana Izraelson		Christina J. Bostick
X	Lt. Eric Kruhm (Proxy)	X	Rachel Sye		Chuck Chandler

**Others in Attendance:**

X	Andrea Nunez (TF Coordinator)	X	Alex Vandress
X	Briana McNemar	X	Celette Marshall
X	Leslie Petak		Kathy Jordan
X	Nick Weikel		

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**1. MEETING OPEN**

- a. 1:30 pm; Yolanda Sonnier, Chair, Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council (HTPCC), welcomed committee members.

**2. Establishment of Quorum**

- a. The Roll was taken: Eleven 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 19 May 2022 Committee minutes and opened for discussion. Lt. Eric Kruhm motioned to accept the minutes as written. Rich Gibson seconded the motion. A voice vote of official members was taken and approved without opposition or abstentions.

**4. TOP Committee Updates**

- a. July 30<sup>th</sup> World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: Andrea Nunez thanked members of the TOP committee who collectively posted 140 flyers (48 Spanish, 91 English, 1 Korean) at approximately 70 businesses and community locations. The committee will build on these efforts to reach additional spaces throughout the county (restrooms, parks, etc.).



Sara Cochran and Leslie Petak express interest in supporting this effort and suggested posting flyers in rest stops. Yolanda Sonnier and Eric Kruhm noted rest stops were considered state property and may be difficult to receive approval.

- b. Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** Andrea Nunez suggested partnering with TurnAround for events they have organized during the month of October. Rachel Sye expressed there are several events scheduled throughout the month as part of TurnArounds '7 Weeks of Giving' Campaign. While most of the events will be held in Baltimore County, they are open to anyone who is interested in joining. One of the events will take place in Howard County, more information will be shared at a later date. Rachel Sye will share information with Briana McNemar to send out to the full HTPCC.
- c. Open House and Film Screening-** The HTPCC will host an Open House and live screening of, *Trafficked in America*, on October 13, 2022, beginning at 5:30pm at the East Columbia Branch Library. A panel discussion will follow the screening, featuring HTPCC member, Alicia Altamirano; Rachel Sye, TurnAround; and Lucy Thames, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.; moderated by Andrea Nunez. Members were encouraged to attend and share the event information with their networks. Yolanda Sonnier asked Lauren Blake if it would be possible to share the information across the public school system; Briana McNemar will follow up.

#### **5. OHTP 2021-2022 Annual Report and Plan for 2023:**

- a. Review of Report:** Andrea Nunez provided a brief overview of the OHTP 2021-2022 Annual Report and opened for discussion.
- b. OHTP Pilot Outreach:** Andrea Nunez presented findings from the OHTP pilot outreach initiative conducted in partnership with Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
- 6. TurnAround Updates:** Rachel Sye and Tania Araya provided program updates. Currently, they are in the process of interviewing for the Program Manager position and working through details to finalize the transition of Regional Navigator funding. Alex Vandress was introduced as the designated Regional Navigator serving Howard County. In addition, TurnAround has hired a full-time therapist for Howard County clients starting in October.

Staff are currently working out of the Multi-Service Center, while looking at additional options to expand locations.

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

- a.** October 13: Open House and Film Screening, 5:30pm-8:30pm, HCLS East Columbia Branch.
- b.** October 28: Training, Outreach and Partnerships Committee, 10 am- 11:30 am (*via WebEx*).
- c.** October 28: Howard County and TurnAround Partner to Fight Human Trafficking, 5:30-7:30pm, *location to be determined*.
- d.** November 17: HTPCC Full Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm (*hybrid*).



**8. Additional Items for Discussion**

- a. Sara Cochran directed a question towards Rich Gibson regarding upcoming trials. He noted one case that was recently postponed; no additional cases scheduled at this time.

**9. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)**

- a. The next meeting of the Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council will be held November 17, 2022. The meeting will be in-person with the option to join virtually via WebEx.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

- a. 3:00 pm; Yolanda Sonnier closed the meeting and directed the Council to stand in adjournment until November 17, 2022.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana McNemar

Yolanda Sonnier  
Chair