

**Trafficking in Persons Council  
Committee Meetings  
October 29, 2013**

Adult Sex Trafficking

*Attendees:* Krystal Ambrozaitis, Andy Anastasio Jr. , Lindsey Boudreau, Joe Froehlich, Barbara L. Geller , Elizabeth Keyes, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

**Discussion**

- Public act 13-166: Look at the language for forfeiture of property – is it penalizing those we are trying to help?
- Why was bilingual taken out of the statute?
- Research 50 states
- Research new information on trafficking

**Recommendations:** none

Child Sex Trafficking

*Attendees:* Juli Juabsamai, Kimberly Carey, Charles Rothenberger, Dan Giungi

**Discussion**

- Over 100 survivors identified in Connecticut in the past 3-5 years – primarily girls, DMST
- Connecticut – 95 corridor, Berlin Turnpike, from New York to Boston
- Transgendered youth – high risk population, engaging in survival sex
- Youth in care are at high risk (foster care)

**Recommendations**

- Focus on other areas of trafficking, not just pimp-controlled trafficking
- Amend the Safe Harbor law to match the federal law – 16 and 17 year olds protected under the law
- Have a higher level of protection for 16 and 17 year olds
- Do not convict for prostitution if under the age of 18
- More resources and focus on protection of boys and LGBTQ youth
- Harsher penalties for traffickers – look at increasing minimum sentencing
- Mandatory training for law enforcement
- Forfeiture of property
- Increase penalty for Johns

## Labor Trafficking

*Attendees:* Leonela Cruz, Kara Hart, Marla Shiller, Teresa Younger

### **Discussion**

- The law allows the Attorney General to file suit – are there similar statutes in New York?
- Does DOL, in the course of an employment and wages investigation, investigate trafficking?
- Does Connecticut have a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights?

**Recommendations:** none

## Public Awareness & Education

*Attendees:* Linda Cimino, Rob Derry, Jillian Gilchrest, Michelle Gjurez, Karen Jarmoc, Laura Lockwood, Nicole von Oy, Nate Taner

### **Discussion**

- State Public awareness
  - language is not clear
  - no penalty
  - no clear dissemination information
  - Where are the awareness posters? (truck stops, airport lounges, bowling alleys, OVS website)
  - 1,500 printed, 400 posted/distributed
  - Not required at airport lounges, places w/liquor licenses, restaurants/catering services
- Domestic Violence victims
  - do not identify as victims – will posters reach them? (risk factors)
  - reach different cultures, different audience
  - reach churches
  - bus stations/transportation. Example – in Indiana, able to reach cab communities with public awareness
- Central hub of transportation for public awareness
- Certain groups have resistance
  - hotel owner did not want to post. Had liquor license
  - By distributing posters in hotels, makes it seem like someone is watching them
  - Post it in kitchen where employees will see it.
- Not finding victims
  - Not being reported
  - Go to shopping center, parking lots
- Gang related
  - Bridgeport
  - Recruiting members
  - Prostituting them out
  - Enforces more threats
- Massachusetts and New York State provides a lot of services/awareness campaigns
  - Redirecting people via internet, social networks
  - Casinos – contracting shuttle buses to reach riders
  - Mass transits- bill boards, free advertising
  - Labor/farm trafficking – reach farms

- Work w/churches
  - Outreach
  - Legislation?
  - How to identify victims at nail salons/hotel workers
- Legislative resources to reach culturally specific communities
- Reaching people who are involved in raids to get their opinions on where awareness needs to happen
- Focus groups
  - With law enforcement
  - Faith communities
  - Shelter workers
  - Medical communities (clinics)
  - Planned Parenthood – nurses/staff
  - UCONN School of Social Work can conduct?
- Centralized Reporting Place
  - Children-DCF
  - Adults?
  - Example: Berlin Turnpike
  - How to get law enforcement to see it
  - More resources
  - Need to know how big issue is
  - Through statute or policy, needs to be a place to report
- Placing advertisement – back of *The Advocate* where ads for girls are

### **Recommendations**

- Strengthen public awareness campaign by providing clear language; establishing a penalty
- Require trucking, taxi, and hotel/motel clerks to distribute information
- Eliminate Eliminators
- Have focus groups

### Centralized Reporting

*Attendees:* Natasha M. Pierre, Beau Thurnauer

### **Discussion**

- Since trafficking often becomes a federal case, State laws are not being utilized. How can we identify offenses?

### **Recommendations**

- Develop a list of trafficking related offenses and track those crimes
  - Criminal – check with state police on the ability to get reports on arrests
  - Civil – immigration and wages
- Develop a Law Enforcement Trafficking Taskforce to track and gather the information
  - possibly modeled after racial profiling
  - Utilize educational institutions to collect and analyze data