

## **Trafficking in Persons Council Committee Notes October 29 & November 19, 2013**

### **Adult Sex Trafficking**

*October 29, 2013 Attendees:* Krystal Ambrozaitis, Andy Anastasio Jr. , Lindsey Boudreau, Joe Froehlich, Barbara L. Geller , Elizabeth Keyes, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

*November 19, 2013 Attendees:* Andy Anastasio Jr. , Laura Cordes, Barbara L. Geller , Tracey Kelley, 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:**

1. Focus on Johns/pimps, not prostitutes
  - a. revoke driver's license
  - b. Mandated groups
  - c. Police enforcement
2. Look at prostitutes as victims – establish a right to speak to a victim advocate
3. State Public Relations – zero tolerance policy for trafficking

### **Child Sex Trafficking**

*October 29, 2013 Attendees:* Kimberly Carey, Dan Giungi, Juli Juabsamai, Charles Rothenberger

*November 19, 2013 Attendees:* Dan Giungi, Juli Juabsamai, Christine Keyes, Charles Rothenberger,

#### **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)
- 184 referrals of cases of human trafficking
- Number of boys has exponentially increased – survival sex, substance abuse

## 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

### *Main recommendations*

1. Increase the minimum sentence for anyone convicted of promoting prostitution for someone under age 18
  - a. Risk of injury to a minor – 5 year minimum
  - b. Enticing a minor – 5 year minimum
2. Protection for 16 & 17 year olds
  - a. Provide immunity to minors (see Uniform Act)
3. Motion to vacate
  - a. Streamline and regulate
  - b. amend so that anyone under the age of 18 at the time of conviction for prostitution, can apply to vacate the conviction when they turn 18, without requiring proof of trafficking

## Labor Trafficking

### October 29, 2013

*October 29, 2013 Attendees:* Leonela Cruz, Kara Hart, Marla Shiller, Teresa Younger

*November 19, 2013 Attendees:* Leonela Cruz, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Marisa Morello, Marla Shiller, Teresa Younger

## Discussion

- Research whether other states have Trafficking legislation and if so , what that legislation entails and how it compares to Ct. Result - Thirty-nine (39) states have anti trafficking laws. Connecticut ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for the strongest laws, behind New Jersey and Washington which tie for first place, and Mississippi which ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>. What stands out is the fact that Ct.'s laws and the higher ranking states' are very similar. The differences in rankings result from enforcement ability. Those states that rank higher have dedicated more financial resources and manpower (i.e. enforcement officers and prosecutors) to the issue, allowing them to devote more time and attention to these cases . *[That being said, we could not find any statistics to demonstrate the ratio between cases and enforcers]*
- Determine what DOL's history and experience with Trafficking issues is, including how it becomes aware of such issues. Result: According to the Director of DOL's Wage and Workplace Unit, it has not received any complaints on this issue in some time. The vast majority of

complaints received are wage complaints. Any affected person would have to tell the investigator that they have been brought in against their will and were being exploited. He recalled seeing only one case where this happened. Such a complaint was made against Dunkin Donuts franchise owner and Homeland Security took over the human trafficking issue. DOL handled only the wages issue. DOL Wage and Workplace Standards Unit staff have had one training session on this issue in 2008.

- Find out whether Connecticut has a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. Result: Connecticut is currently in the process of creating one using guidelines set out by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and The National Employment Law Project. CT is using National guidelines, but is not involved in a National Initiative. Each Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights is a State initiative. Ours will be particular to Connecticut.
- According to the Polaris Project CT ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country. CT legislation falls short because it requires that there be force, fraud, or coercion for sex trafficking of minors.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Support a State Domestic Bill of Rights
2. Eliminate the requirement that there be force, fraud, or coercion for sex trafficking of minors (the fact that they are minors should be enough)

### **Public Awareness & Education**

*October 29, 2013 Attendees:* Linda Cimino, Rob Derry, Jillian Gilcrest, Michelle Gjurez, Karen Jarmoc, Laura Lockwood, Nicole von Oy, Nate Taner

*November 19, 2013 Attendees:* Hakima Bey-Coon, Linda Cimino, Jillian Gilcrest, Michelle Gjurez, , Nicole von Oy

#### **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 statue 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

### Main Recommendations:

1. Strengthen public awareness – require more areas to post information and add a penalty through the Department of Public Health.

- a. Require original language in bill without exceptions
  - b. Amend SECTION 20 of the Uniform Act ( Display of Public Awareness Sign, Penalty for Failure to Display)
  - c. Penalty: DPH licensing
  - d. some areas: trucking, taxis, buses, motels, hotels, planned parenthood, private abortion clinics, hospital, ER care
2. Public Awareness Campaign, including an Internet Campaign
  3. Review domestic violence protocol w/medical professionals
    - a. Imbed trafficking protocol

### **Centralized Reporting**

*October 29, 2013 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

#### **FYI – CT Felonies**

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan provided the following information about the sentences for CT felonies.

A – 20+ years

B – up to 20 years

C- up to 10 years

D - 0-5 years

E – 3 years

Can also get up to 5 years' probation