



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 21, 2016

Council Members Present: Jillian Gilchrest; Deb Heinrich; Tracey Kelly; Yvette Young for Tammy Sneed; Linda Cimino; Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Marla Shiller; Geralynn McGee for Kara Hart; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander; Hakima Bey-Coon; Kim Karanda.

The following members gave notice that they could not attend: Deb Greenwood

Call to Order: Chair Jillian Gilchrest called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) On a motion made by Deborah Del Prete Sullivan and seconded by Deb Heinrich, the minutes from September 17, 2015 were approved unanimously.
- b) On motion a made by Deb Heinrich and seconded by Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, the minutes from November 19, 2015 were approved unanimously.
- c) On motion a made by Deb Heinrich and seconded by Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, the minutes from December 17, 2015 were approved unanimously.

2. Presentations & Discussion

a) Hotels/Motels Hourly Rates

Jillian Gilchrest reviewed the Council's 2015 policy recommendations as they pertain to hotels, motels, or similar accommodations. The Council made two policy recommendations; to eliminate the exceptions in the Display of Notice re services for victims of human trafficking at truck stops and liquor permittee premises and expand that to include all hotels, motels, or similar accommodations, and adult entertainment businesses; and to require that hotels, motels, or similar lodgings maintain records for a minimum of six months regarding all persons who rent sleeping accommodations. Additionally, the Council recommended further discussion on prohibiting Connecticut hotels, motels, or similar lodgings from renting rooms hourly.

As recommended, the Council discussed prohibiting Connecticut hotels, motels, or similar lodgings from renting rooms hourly. Council members reviewed policies from a handful of cities throughout the country that have prohibited hourly rentals as well as information on Connecticut specific trafficking cases involving hotels. In light of the information presented, the Council discussed whether prohibiting hourly rates will fix the underlying problem that the Council seeks to address. The Council members discussed current Connecticut law, *53a-89, Permitting Prostitution*, and questioned why that statute hasn't been enforced at hotels or motels where trafficking is known to

take place. Council members recommended further inquiry into the barriers that prevent that statute from being enforced.

Additionally, Council members discussed a greater need for attention on those purchasing sex, which is a major emphasis of the Council's 2015 Annual Report and 2016 efforts.

b) TIP Council Statewide Needs Assessment

Jillian gave Council members an update on the status of the Connecticut Project to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking, a project the Council will oversee. She discussed the current timeline for the project, which is February 2016-November 2016, and the need for Council members to take part in the proposal evaluation process, the recommendations of participants to the Project Working Group, and suggestions for researchers to respond to the Request for Proposals.

3. Legislative Updates

a) 2015 TIP Annual Report

Council members discussed the annual report recommendation pertaining to a diversionary program for individuals arrested for prostitution. The Council discussed looking into what other states do for pre-trial diversionary programs, speaking with Connecticut's Court Support Services Division, and gaining a better understanding of the current accelerated rehabilitation program. Additionally, the Council members asked that we obtain information on rates of recidivism with regards to prostitution and how many prostitutes currently go through community courts. Members also discussed the importance of hearing from women who have been arrested for prostitution to better understand the issue.

b) Domestic Workers Task Force Final Report

Jillian reviewed the recommendations of the Domestic Workers Task Force.

4. Adjournment

Adjournment: Chair Gilchrest adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM.