



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL

MINUTES
September 17, 2015

Council Members Present: Jillian Gilchrest; Hakima Bey-Coon; Deb Heinrich; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander; Tracey Kelly; Leonela Cruz; Yvette Young for William Rivera; Faith VosWinkel; Valina Carpenter for Linda Cimino; Beau Thurnauer; Renee Cimino for Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Wendy Mota Kasongo for Karen Jarmoc; Marla Shiller; Frances Fallon; Kara Hart; Andy Anastasio

The following members gave notice that they could not attend: DeV Vaughn Ward; Colette Anderson

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

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On motion made by Beau Thurnauer and seconded by Hakima Bey-Coon, the minutes from June 18, 2015 were approved unanimously.

2. Presentations & Discussion

a) Nail Salons in Connecticut

The Council heard from three speakers, Gary K. Pechie, the Director of Wage and Workplace Standards Division at the Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL), Alok Bhatt, the Legislative Analyst at the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, and Bob Kocienda with the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School. Mr. Pechie discussed CTDOL's investigation of 25 nail salons randomly chosen throughout Connecticut which revealed numerous wage and labor violations. Mr. Bhatt discussed his commission's efforts to reach out to owners and employees of nail salons to clarify labor law and support the rights of workers. Mr. Kocienda discussed the work of his students at the Center for Youth Leadership regarding nail salons. Students at the Center speak with nail salon employees; explain their legal rights; provide community outreach to educate consumers; and work with local and state government officials to elevate the issue of health and labor violations in the nail salon industry.

The Council members had a discussion with the speakers about what measures might help in preventing the violations from continuing. Members spoke about potential public policies that might help address the labor and health violations that are being committed at nail salons across Connecticut.

- b) Connecticut Project to Combat Human Trafficking/Needs Assessment
Jillian gave a status update on the project, noting that she had approached a handful of foundations for funding and was awaiting responses to her requests. She also handed out a project description document and asked for Council member feedback.
- c) Amnesty International, “Sex Workers’ Rights are Human Rights”
Jillian handed out information about Amnesty International and their recent decision to support efforts to decriminalize prostitution for those selling sex, not for those purchasing sex or for benefiting from the sale of sex.

3. Legislative Updates

- a) Task Force on Domestic Workers Recommendations & Final Report
Jillian gave an update on the work of the Taskforce which is expected to release their findings and final report in October 2015.

4. Council Updates

- a) Member Updates on TIP-related Work
Tracey Kelly announced that on September 29th there is a training at the Chief State’s Attorney’s Office on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking presented by Attorney Eva Klain who is the Director of Child and Adolescent Health at the American Bar Association’s Center on Children and the Law.

Jillian announced that the Women’s Consortium, in collaboration with DMHAS, CSSD, DCF, DOC, and DPH will be holding the National Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders Conference in Hartford on October 13-15. For more information visit, <http://www.ajfo.org>.

- b) Appointments to Council
Jillian updated Council members about efforts to clean up the TIP files to ensure that the State Library has current appointment letters on file. Additionally, legislation passed in 2015 indicates that two new members will be appointed to the Council by October 2015.

5. Other Business & Announcements

- a) Yale Law Clinic & Traveling Sales Crews
Deborah Heinrich discussed the Council member’s conversation from the June meeting regarding traveling magazine sales crews in Connecticut. She announced that the Yale Law Clinic has contracted with Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services to conduct research on traveling sales crews and provide Council members with their findings, which may result in possible policy recommendations.
- b) Jillian announced the next meeting will be held on November 19 and at that meeting the Council will discuss potential policy recommendations to be included in the Council’s yearly report released in January 2016.

6. Adjournment

Adjournment: Chairman Gilchrest adjourned the meeting at 11:45AM.