

TIP

Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council

Mandated by the Connecticut General Assembly and
directed by the Commission on Women, Children & Seniors
18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 www.ctcwcs.com

MINUTES

September 15, 2016

Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

Council Members Present: Beth Hamilton, *Marisa (State's Attorney's Office)*, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Hakima Bey-Coon, Leonela Cruz, Krishna Patel, Yvette Young, Kim Karanda, Erin Williams, Tammy Sneed, Jillian Gilchrest, Beau Thurnauer, Faith VosWinkel, Steve Hernandez, Wendy, Moto Kasongo

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

Welcome & Introductions

1. Legislative Update

a) Commission on Women, Children & Seniors

Steve Hernandez, Executive Director of the Commission on Women, Children & Seniors briefly updated the Council on the consolidation of the state's six legislative commissions into two. He expressed that the newly formed Commission on Women, Children & Senior's has made the work of the Council of utmost importance and expressed gratitude to Karen Jarmoc, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence for agreeing to volunteer staff time to Chair the Council. He also thanked Jillian Gilchrest for accepting the appointment of the Commission to serve as their designee to continue to Chair the Trafficking in Persons Council.

b) Public Act 16-71, An Act Concerning Human Trafficking

Jillian reviewed the major components of PA 16-71 which will go into effect October 1, 2017.

2. Presentations & Discussion

a) Hotel/Motel Training Update & Recommendation

- Sarah Washburn of the Connecticut Lodging Association presented with *Armondo* on an online course that defines the issue of child trafficking and explains why it is important to hotels. AHLEI and ECPAT-USA partnered to develop this online training to provide the information needed for hotel employees and managers to identify and respond to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Sarah mentioned that the training is available in 14 languages. She also described training materials from

the Blue Campaign, a free resource that hotels and motels can access. Finally, she mentioned how many large hotel chains, such as the Hilton, have made a companywide decision to train all staff on human trafficking.

- Heather Fischer of Love 146 described her organization's work with volunteers to inform hotel/motel owners about human trafficking which is meant to supplement training. She offered materials and training services to interested individuals and groups in Connecticut who wish to educate hotels/motels.
 - Tammy Sneed of the Department of Children and Families reviewed the state law that will go into effect on October 1, 2017 including the Department's responsibility to recommend a training program that hotels/motels can use to train staff. DCF recommended both the free Blue Campaign materials and the training that Sarah Washburn reviewed developed by the AHLEI and ECPAT-USA.
 - Council members had a discussion on how to get this information out to the various hotels and motels. Sarah explained that the CT Lodging Association does have contact information for all hotels/motels in the state but that their membership and participation does not reflect the totality of the lodging industry. Council members suggested reaching out to the American Asian Hotel Association and Chambers of Commerce. Additionally, members discussed train the trainer programs, and having folks offer to bring trainings to the hotel/motels in the state. Council members decided to revisit this topic at a later meeting to discuss outreach efforts and possible funding opportunities for training.
- b) Police/Prosecutor Report Back Tool for Council Review & Discussion
- Jillian reviewed the state law that will go into effect on October 1, 2017 regarding police and prosecutor reports to the legislature on investigations of human trafficking. She introduced a draft reporting tool for Council members to review for the purpose of offering the tool to police and prosecutors in order to support those in the field and ensure standardization of the information being reported to the legislature. Council members explained that the Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane has been working on a similar tool. Council members agreed that Jillian will reach out to Attorney Kane's office to schedule a meeting with key partners interested in creating a uniform tool that can be used to obtain the data needed to meet the requirements of the legislation and inform the work to prevent and address human trafficking.
- c) CT Project/Needs Assessment Update
- Jillian reminded Council members about the CT Project to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking and provided an update about the project's delay

as a result of state funding cuts. She asked Council members to send any funding opportunities her way and explained that she continues to seek private dollars to fund the work. Michael Bolton Charities will be contributing \$5,000 to support the Project.

d) Demand Campaign & Forum

- Jillian informed Council members about plans to embark on a statewide campaign to address the demand for sex trafficking and prostitution. She reminded members that in the state of Connecticut, the rate at which prostitutes are convicted is 7 times that of those who buy sex. She will be reaching out to Council members to form a small group of individuals interested in working on and promoting a statewide campaign.

3. Council Updates

- a) Erin of Love 146 provided an update on the funding they have received from the Office of Victim Services and the Department of Children and Families to expand case management services statewide.
- b) Tammy Sneed of DCF and the Human Anti-trafficking Response Team provided an update on the number of referrals of youth identified as potential victims of commercial sexual exploitation or domestic minor sex trafficking. Faith asked that a HART update be added to the Council agenda as a standing agenda item.
- c) Linda Cimino of the OVS provided an update on funding that has been distributed to address human trafficking and plans to create videos that can be used for training.

4. Other Business & Announcements

- a) Jillian distributed a list of future Council meeting dates.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36AM.