Colorado Human Trafficking Council March Meeting

Minutes

March 27, 2015, 9:00 am to 11 am
Jefferson County Department of Human Services

ATTENDEES

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Becky Bullard, Vice Chair

Thomas Acker

Jill Brogdon

Mari Dennis

Matt Dodson (cc)

Janet Drake

Amanda Finger

Sterling Harris

Lynn Johnson

Jason Korth

Katie Kurtz

Angela Lytle

Pat Medige

Karen Moldovan

Don Moseley

Jo-Ann O'Neil

Michelle Salazar (cc)

Tammy Schneiderman

Sheriff Justin Smith

Dan Steele

Absent

Stephanie Villafuerte (excused)

Lester Bacani (excused)

Bob Coulson (excused)

Claude d'Estree (excused)

Lawrence Hilton (excused)

Marty Zaffaroni (excused)

Maureen Cain

STAFF

Nancy Feldman, OVP Manager

Maria Trujillo, Human Trafficking Manager

Terri Livermore, Human Trafficking Coordinator

CHTC Meeting March 27, 2015

Issue/Topic:

Welcome and Introductions

Action Motion to approve minutes Janet moved, Tom second Approved: unanimously

Discussion:

- Welcome
- · Vice Chair Bullard chairing today's meeting
- New Member introduction Jason Korth (Faith-based organization slot Restore Innocence)
- Announcements
 - 10th anniversary celebration of the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking – event on April 9th at LCHT (Posner Center) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Minutes reviewed and approved
- Packet overview

Issue/Topic:	Discussion		
Public Comment	Debbie Carroll – Jefferson County:		
	 The foster care and court systems are ineffective for determing the best 		
Actions:	interests of children; instead, they funnel children into the sex trade		
None	Rosemary Van Gorder – Fort Collins (via email):		
	The child welfare system has too much authority regarding the removal		
	of children from families, and family courts don't afford due process and		
	inadequately assess information when making decisions		

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Issue	' I N	nıc:

Legislative Update

Action

None

Discussion

Legislative Update Presentation provided by Jane Drake:

HB1019 – strike below; in Appropriations – directs the Council to address Safe Harbor

SB30 – Affirmative defense for trafficking victims; waiting for Governor's signature

SB122 – Massage parlor reauthorization – through Senate, on House floor; no opposition

HB1078 – Reporting missing children in custody of state agency within 24 hours to Law Enforcement and National Center for Missing and Exploitated Children (NCMEC); signed by Governor

HB1060 – New to update: defendants charged with sex crimes be advised a protection order is in place as a condition of their bond; signed by Governor

Discussion

HB1019 Directives

- By January 2016 recommendations and explanations must include a discussion of the benefits and problems associated with SAFE Harbor
- Adds new, specific SAFE Harbor directives to the Council
- Legislative TF determined this would be initial effort
- Complex issues with many viewpoints
- Goal is to bring together draft language rather than issue a report

Will HB1019 impact other Council TF deadlines and activities? No

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How does Legislative TF see labor trafficking fitting into future work?

Maintaining a space for labor, but with only one meeting it's difficult to determine specifics
 Right now LTF is driven by legislative mandates which are focused on sex trafficking
 Discussion
 Committee has met; will develop a tagline and guiding principles to capture Council's entire body of work and demonstrate the Council is representative of all forms of human trafficking

Action None

Issue/Topic: Guidelines and Taglines

Will have draft language to present at the April meeting

Issue/Topic:

Presentation: Federal Legislation

Action

None

Discussion

Lynn Johnson presenting on Federal Human Trafficking legislation

- HR159 Stop exploitation through Trafficking/grants
- HR181 Justice for victims of trafficking/grants
- HR246 Improve response to victims of child sex trafficking
- HR285 Penalty for selling/advertising sex services for minors/trafficked persons
- HR350 Prevent children from become victims/expand housing resources
- HR357 Expand training for federal govt personnel
- HR398 Enhancement of health care industry training; best practice/grant to develop best practice training
- HR460 Train Homeland Security personnel
- HR468 Increase services to runaway/homeless trafficking victims (Hyde Amendment stalled this bill)
- HR469 Assist state child protective services systems to better ID and address child victims of sex trafficking (some concerns with this bill; also silo issues)
- HR514 State Department to prioritize trafficking
- HR515 Tourism travel issue ID and notify when sex offenders are traveling into the US (Angel Watch Center)
- PO113-183 (known as 4980) Already passed and has some money;
 Child Welfare requirements comprehensive authority to analyze and conduct prevention services; more information on this issue at next meeting

No money attached to most of these proposals. Bills seem to maintain a "silo" orientation rather than an emphasis on mutli-displinary approaches. There are many who talk about multi-disciplinary, but is not translating legislatively

Comments

Of the proposed legislations the primary focus is on children, other populations need protections too.

Coordinating federal legislation with state activities – how will federal legislation affect CO activities

Nothing has passed yet; will address each piece if and when it passes

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Reiteration that the need exists to address legislation that affects labor trafficking; it doesn't currently appear that the federal or state level is addressing any labor trafficking laws/issues

Federal Legislative Snapshot

- Currently focused on data collection, provision of information and training efforts
- No significant action thus far; most efforts are stepping stone legislation
- Beginning stages

Polaris Project: Departments of Homeland Security and Labor are considering new regulations on the H2A visa program – they are currently seeking comment on the proposed regulations

Next month's presentation will focus on labor trafficking

Issue/Topic:

General Discussion

Action

Dept of Labor will report back regarding current labor trafficking response plan

Discussion

Collecting/Tracking human trafficking data

- CDAC Human Trafficking checkbox CDAC collects DA information in Action; CDAC added an indicator box "human trafficking." Not a charge, but can be checked for all associated charges
- Probably no training but an email would probably suffice
- Innocence Lost does track, but only child victims

Statistics - case filings

• Can find sex trafficking within filings but more difficult to determine labor trafficking from filed charges

Labor Trafficking

Law enforcement perspective: so much relates to immigration (not domestic); must work with Feds, due to Visas and undocumented immigrants; requires a crackdown on employers

Most abuses committed on sheep herders who are potential victims of Labor Trafficking involves immigrants who are here legally

Implementation of existing laws is important; Council can have a role working on infrastructure – encourage LE to respond to violations; LE does not necessarily have the focus on and capacity to respond (most LE trafficking efforts are housed in Vice Units or something similar)

Having trouble getting LE to take traveling sales crews seriously; most victims are here legally (no victims through COVA have had successful criminal/legal outcomes)

- Mostly addressed administratively with entities following laws;
 victims don't report
- Dept of Labor will look into response plan and report back at next meeting

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Is there a way to build an infrastructure response for Labor Trafficking within LE and DA offices?

- A possible unit to utilize is the economic crimes unit (DA's office)
- Traditionally been handled by Vice trained in HT elements (most have been wage violations; not risen to HT level; possibly house in Fraud unit
- Need for a plan is critical
- Issue: crossover with federal authority creates complications
- Not having enough reported, prosecutable cases reported to dedicate resources
- Money and document analysis challenging; people crimes are easier to understand and address
- Smaller jurisdictions: don't have special units/task forces; regular units handle all cases
- Tend to focus on fraud issue in magazine sales; until victims self ID as victims
- Need to recognize it for what it is; similar to child sex trafficking a decade ago
 - Training for prosecutors (economic crime types) and LE regarding Labor Trafficking
- LE agencies not equipped to handle this issue; training makes sense
- ID kids and parents of kids who are trafficked
- Specific Scenario: legal immigrant drives without license and has accident; rancher makes worker pay; what are possible avenues?
 - Wage theft possible; would have to look further for coercion
- State laws do apply and there can be a response locally, even with federal intersection
- Colorado Legal Services and several others can do training on Labor Trafficking
- Any labor trafficking involvement with DORA?
- Need to educate everywhere including legislators and public

Issue/Topic: Wrap-up Action Motion to adjourn Janet moved, Debi second Approved unanimously Discussion New Expense Form – electronic only (see Maria)