

Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force Meeting September 29, 2016

Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

Two of the subcommittee co-chairs, Michele Leith and DeDe Wallace, presented a draft general training powerpoint and asked attendees for feedback. Members suggested changes in the following areas:

- Add a recruitment slide
- Add a social media slide, which would also make it more relevant for kids/parents
- Put a story at the beginning
- Provide stories rather than legal cases
- Incorporate video clips
- Include some statistics, or at least explain why there aren't good statistics available
- Emphasize facts rather than myths
- Add more information in the presenter notes
- Change the language about indicators of sex trafficking/under 18

DeDe asked that people email any other suggestions to her
Deanna.Wallace@ice.dhs.gov

Victim Services Subcommittee Meeting

A. The Victim Services Subcommittee working groups reported on their activities:

1) Family Reunification

The informational brochure for parents, which has gone through many revisions, has been laid out and is nearing completion. Committee members will review it and make final edits. FCPS is making a curriculum on family reunification.

2) Child Welfare

The committee has focused on information gathering and identifying individual contacts. Loudoun County social services has been making great progress in responding to the needs of trafficked youth.

3) Foreign-Born Victims

The committee has been training the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's office on the needs of foreign-born victims of trafficking. FBI Agent Bornstein reported on difficulties communicating effectively with foreign-born victims and encouraging them to change their situations. Proposed actions included a briefing for law enforcement or a discussion at the next meeting, and creating a local response protocol so the needs of foreign victims can be addressed within that. Catholic Charities of Northern Virginia has just signed an MOU to serve foreign-born victims of trafficking up to one year. Tahirih cannot take new clients until January.

4) Housing

The Housing Committee needs more members. They have been calling shelters to offer training and to ask whether they have trafficking victims. They need to work on easier access to information about empty shelter beds.

B. Outreach Subcommittee Report

The Outreach chairs reported on the presentations the subcommittee is working on, 101 and a basic overview. A train-the-trainers with the Blue Campaign is planned for January.

C. Law Enforcement Updates

Maureen Cain, Assistant U.S. Attorney, will lead the Law Enforcement Subcommittee. Law enforcement representatives reported on trends.

- Dede Wallace, HSI Victim Specialist

Dede reported that Norfolk area domestic violence NGOs had received a \$300,000 grant to create a joint DV, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking hotline and direct referral system.

- Det. Corinne Czekaj of the Loudoun County Juvenile/Sex Crimes Unit and Sargeant Michael Bell of the Loudoun County Gang/Vice Unit

They reviewed recent Loudoun County cases; they currently have three open cases. Most cases are coming from runaway reports. In general, victims are not cooperating with law enforcement. They had difficulty recently with a victim with mental health issues who walked out of a facility.

- Det. John Spata, Fairfax County Police Department

In Fairfax County, the Organized Crime section handles prostitution stings. They discover girls and women from many areas. They are generally willing to provide intelligence. A current issue is kids who are vulnerable to trafficking who come from abroad to live with parents they don't really know, or people who aren't really their parents. FCPD also assisted Fairfax County Fire/EMS with their trafficking training. FCPD has two mobile crisis psychologists.

- Special Agent Rob Borstein, FBI

Recently all relevant parties were brought together to work on the case of a missing girl, which was very helpful. It is important to work with victim service providers and build rapport with victims in order to get their cooperation and desire to leave the life. It was reported that FCPS school social workers and parent liaisons are hearing reports from kids who could be trafficked.

Next Meeting: November 17