

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

Monday, 22 June 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Jackie Scott (DCRS), Jay Prager (Dept of Health), Lt. Eric Kruhm and Dave Francis (Howard Co Police), Rich Gibson and Jennifer Ritter (Howard Co State's Attorney's Office), Dina Ward (Howard County Sheriff's Office), Yolanda Sonnier (Howard County Office of Human Rights), Stephen Liggett Creel (Howard County Dept of Social Services), Sara Smoley (Grassroots Crisis Intervention), Savannah Khoury (HopeWorks), Rev. Delavago Scruggs, Leslie Lampieri and Jon Steurnagle (Howard County General Hospital/Hopkins), Jessica Epps (Howard County Commission for Women), Andrew Heiliger, Chuck Chandler, Monica Krebs, Sara Cochran

Other Howard County Government Officials in Attendance: Cheryl Mattis (Deputy Director Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services)

Special Guest(s): Susan Ritter (US DHS/HSI), Tom Stack (Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative)

Others in Attendance: Kathy Jordan, Leslie Petak, Cathy Leimenstoll (AGAST), Bob Ford (Howard County Human Rights Commission), Suellen Siegel, Briana Davis (DCRS OCF).

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 2:00 pm; Andrea Nunez, Office of Human Trafficking Prevention Manager, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Nunez welcomed virtual attendees to the first official meeting of Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council (HTPCC) since legislation passed establishing it as permanent advisory body to the Howard County Executive and County Council.

2. Establishment of Quorum and Recognition of Special Guests

- a. Twenty official voting committee members were in attendance; thus a quorum was established and the meeting was brought to order.
- b. All official members introduced themselves as well as regional partners, Susan Ritter from US DHS Homeland Security Investigations and Tom Stack from the Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative.

3. New Business

- a. Committee Updates: Ms. Nunez reviewed some of her work to date and key points in the draft Rules of Procedure for the HTPCC, which were circulated in advance to all members, including the option for virtual or call-in attendance as needed.

- b. Committee Roles:** Ms. Nunez advised members to consider running for Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Members were encouraged to email her directly to express interest. An election may be held during the next HTPCC meeting.
- c. Issue-Focused Committees:** Ms. Nunez suggested forming issue-focused committees to drive work forward around members interests.

Ms. Nunez described the already existing workgroup focused on real estate professional training on trafficking and relationships with local landlords geared at more successful survivor housing rentals in partnership with HopeWorks.

Rev. Del Scruggs suggested a committee focused on faith-based partnerships and partnerships broadly. Monica Krebs also expressed interest in work generally focused on partnerships.

Leslie Lampieri and Jon Steurnagle expressed interest in a medical/hospital focused committee.

Andrew Heiliger expressed interest in a committee focused on fire personnel training.

4. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a.** Savanna Khoury, HopeWorks, noted they are looking for a new Anti-Trafficking Department Director. Ms. Nunez will share the job description via email with all members to disseminate within their networks.

5. Additional Items for Discussion

- a.** State's Attorney, Rich Gibson, asked for clarity on sending representatives to meetings on his/his office's behalf. Andrea Nunez will confirm with the Howard County Office of Law, DCRS attorney and report back.
- b.** Sara Cochran (Howard County AGAST) asked for clarification re term lengths. Cheryl Mattis and Andrea Nunez will report back.

6. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)

- a.** The next meeting of the Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council will be determined at a later date based on member availability.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

- a.** The meeting concluded.
- b.** Ms. Nunez pledged to promptly:
- Circulate a Doodle poll to determine the best possible standing monthly meeting date for members.
 - Confirm every members' term length and circulate a complete roster of members with term lengths and contact information noted. She also advised that all members would have their



names published to the Coordination Council website (without individual contact information).

- Share pictures of the human trafficking awareness bus campaign that ran earlier this year.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis



Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attachments:

- A) Draft Rules of Procedure for the HTPCC