

HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee
Virtual Meeting
MINUTES¹
Thursday, 7 January 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Andrea Nunez, Cheryl Mattis, Leslie Lampieri, Rich Gibson, Mariam Imohini, Kathy Jordan and Sara Cochran.

Members Absent: Del Scruggs, Chuck Chandler, Suellen Siegel.

Others in Attendance: Leslie Petak, Susan Allen, Nick Wykle and Briana Davis.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

a. 10:00 am; Andrea Nunez, OHTP Manager, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. Andrea Nunez led the meeting on behalf of Committee Chair, Rev. Del Scruggs, in his absence.

2. Old Business

a. National Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Andrea Nunez led discussion around the Red Sand Event planned for January National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Several council members shared that they have submitted their pledge videos or will be submitting prior to the deadline on January 12, 2021. Once all videos have been submitted, the county communications team will create the awareness video to be shared with the community via social media, Constant Contact and the County Executive Press Network.

Sara Cochran suggested the video could also be shared through the County Executive's Newsletter as well as through faith-based organizations.

Kathy Jordan agreed with Sara Cochran and noted that she could assist in reaching out to faith leaders to share the video through their networks.

Leslie Lampieri added the video could be shared with the action teams at Howard County Indivisible.

3. New Business

a. Conversations between the Faith & Community Based Organizations & Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Council Members: Andrea Nunez briefly discussed the plan for members of the council to host an hour-long meeting once a quarter via WebEx with Faith and Community Based Organizations. More information to come during the next scheduled committee meeting.

4. Announcements and Events of Importance

a. January 19: Real Estate Committee Meeting, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

b. January 21: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Full Meeting, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

5. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive, will be attending the upcoming HTPCC Council Meeting on January 21, 2021 to discuss progress towards the 2019 Recommendations. Andrea Nunez encouraged committee members to attend if able.
- b. Rich Gibson, State Attorney, provided a brief update on the county court systems current process. He shared that there are no trials scheduled until April, because of Covid-19. The court system is addressing cases in appropriate ways according to the pandemic. Mr. Gibson noted that many people throughout the community are not in a space to recognize and report crimes due to quarantine. Which has caused numerous impacts on different criminal activities; human trafficking not being an exception.

Sara Cochran inquired about any leads on current Anti-Trafficking Legislation in the Maryland General Assembly.

Rich Gibson expressed he was not aware of any specific bills. The Maryland State Task Force has resubmitted prior bills for the upcoming year. There is also a bill that been submitted to remove spousal immunity.

6. Next Committee Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the HTPCC Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee is scheduled for February 26, 2020 from 10am – 11am. The meeting will be virtual.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Andrea Nunez concluded the meeting.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis

Rev. Del Scruggs

Chair

Notes:

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

