



City and County of San Francisco

Department on the Status of Women

Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Executive Director Emily M. Murase, PhD

San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFC AHT)

MINUTES

April 23, 2012

Noon – 1:30 pm

25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94102

I. Welcome and Introductions

SFC AHT Chair Nancy Goldberg welcomed members at 12:05 pm. Teresa Sparks, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, also welcomed members.

Representatives from the following agencies and departments introduced themselves: the Department of Public Health's Newcomer's Health Program, Department of Homeland Security's Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, Freedom House, SF Department on the Status of Women, Bay Area Anti Trafficking Coalition, US Department of Labor, Jewish Community Relations Council/Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking, Human Rights Commission, SF Commission on the Status of Women, Mayor's Office, SF District Attorney, UC Davis, St. Dominic's Catholic Church, Junior League, Because Justice Matters, The SAGE Project, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Not For Sale, SF Police Department, and National Center for Youth Law.

II. Pending Legislation on Human Trafficking

Catherine Carlton, Co-Chair of the State Public Affairs Committee of Junior League, provided a brief background about the Junior League and how it analyzes and supports 25-40 bills in a single year. She distributed a handout and summarized 16 Human Trafficking Bills in 2012: SB 123, AB 1571, SB 1193, ACR 92, SB 1091, SB 1133, AB 1837, SB 1185, AB 1940, AB 2212, AB 1956, AB 2466, SB 1389, AB 1740, AB 1682, and AB 2040.

When asked how SFC AHT can assist, Ms. Carlton said to write and send letters to legislatures in support of AB 1940 as soon as possible. Because all bills have a deadline, the sooner the letters are sent, the better. She encouraged nonprofit representatives to lobby and write letters in support of the bills because there is a general misperception that nonprofits cannot lobby (nonprofits can lobby, but cannot spend more than 20% of its funds to do so). Ms. Carlton offered to come back to talk about national human trafficking legislations.

III. Update on 2012 Action Plan

This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

IV. Update from Department of Public Health on massage parlors

Representatives from the Department of Public Health were not available to provide an update on massage parlors. They have been requested to come at the next meeting to provide an update.

V. Child Sex Trafficking

a. Update from the Police Department

Sergeant Arlin Vanderbilt from the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) Special Victims Unit (SVU) provided background on sex trafficking cases in the City.

Child sex trafficked victim cases to the SVU are generally referred by patrol officers, while other cases are brought in through the investigative process, referred by Child Protective Services (CPS), through an anonymous tip, or through Internet ad tips. In 2011, SFPD handled 32 child sex trafficking cases, with 23 cases involving identified victims. The other 9 cases were either unfounded or the tip given could not be followed through. The average age of the child victim is 16 and crosses all ethnicity and background. While almost all are girls, there have been some transgendered victims in the past. The most common ways service is solicited is through street prostitution, followed by internet and strip clubs. When a child is involved, the assumption for law enforcements is that the child is not working on her/his terms, but rather for someone else. Some of the extreme cases of child sex trafficking seen in San Francisco is the sale of girls by her parents or a trusted family member. These cases are rare. Although there are pockets of areas with a higher number of child sex trafficking victims, victims can be found throughout the City.

The Police Department handles child and adult sex trafficking victims differently, and often takes the opportunity to interview massage parlor workers when the Public Health Department conducts its investigation.

The First Offender Prostitution Program, where female officers pose as prostitutes and arrest "johns" (consumers of prostitution), is designed to reduce the demand for commercial sex and educate men about the negative consequences of prostitution. Through the program, "johns" arrested are given the choice to pay a fee and attend a class, or be prosecuted. The downside to this program is that only so many people can be arrested and educated through this operation.

A question was raised as to whether the presence of used condoms at massage parlors are used as evidence, as it could have great health consequences if not used by trafficked victims. A representative from the District Attorney's Office will get back to the group regarding this question.

Another question was raised as to what type of protocol and/or interaction the SVU have with CPS. Although there is a need for a formal protocol between SVU and CPS, the difficulty is that each agency has its own restrictions when dealing and releasing information regarding minors. Police officers have generally resorted to arresting a child, even though it is clear that the child is a victim, for a lack of a better

alternative. The decision often is between sending the child to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) or a noncustodial facility (such as Huckleberry House or CPS) which is tantamount to sending the child back to the pimp in some cases. Someone else indicated that Senator Leland Yee is working on a third alternative. The JJC is currently the only facility that can be locked. Halfway houses have been considered, but the problem is that the location will be compromised after the first person leaves and tells a pimp.

b. Discussion on a potential conference on child trafficking

Chair Goldberg opened the floor to discussing a possible conference focused on child trafficking. The word “sex” has been omitted to accommodate other types of child trafficking, including labor. Topics to be considered for the conference includes identifying root causes of child sex trafficking, other types of abuse/trafficking that usually occurs simultaneously with child sex trafficking, and domestic child labor trafficking.

Statewide and regional conferences are taking place in the near future and SFC AHT is encouraged to participate in those efforts: State Attorney General is hosting statewide conferences to increase awareness and Alameda County is having a 3-day conference, June 13-15, called the 2012 National Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch.

With the many other events and activities taking place around the Bay Area related to human trafficking, SFC AHT should strengthen efforts in finding out what coalitions exists, what efforts are being implemented, and possibly create a roadmap to pinpoint all organizations, collaborations, and activities on human trafficking.

If SFC AHT hosts a separate conference on child trafficking, it should consider how to differentiate the proposed conference from the others, identify who the target audiences will be, identify what the takeaway messages and/or courses of action participants will receive, ensure that it is not all the same speakers as other conferences, and to add something new to the conversation.

VI. Conclusion

There is a need to update the Human Trafficking Resource Guide, and maybe include a map. SFC AHT’s Data Collection Committee requested data from organizations that work with human trafficked victims. Data should be sent to Antonia Lavine (antoniasb@hotmail.com) for compilation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.