



City and County of San Francisco

Department on the Status of Women

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Executive Director Emily M. Murase, PhD

San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking

Meeting Notes

March 12, 2010

11:00 pm – 1:00 pm

District Attorney's Office Law Library,
850 Bryant Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. Agency Announcements

- NCJW announced their Spring Shopping Thing fundraiser. Contact Olga Tretyakova at olgatret@gmail.com for details.
- There will be a SAGE team participating in the Marin Human Race. If you'd like to join the team or donate, contact Candice Gold at candicegold@earthlink.net.
- The Newcomers Health Program at DPH will be sponsoring a group of graduate students conducting an assessment of human trafficking in San Francisco. They may be in contact with SFCaHT members over the next few months for information.

II. District Attorney's Office Presentation

- a. Connie Chan, Director of Interagency Collaborations
- b. Maria Bee, Chief of Victim Services Division
- c. Victor Hwang, Human Trafficking Prosecutor

III. Committee Updates

a. Governance

The Governance Committee presented the most recent draft of the bylaws that incorporated the advice received from members. There was some discussion of the article calling for unanimous decision-making, which members thought would be very challenging to achieve. Some suggested changing the phrasing to "consensus" with a 70% threshold. Others remained concerned that this would lock them in to a group decision that their agency may oppose, such as supporting a particular piece of legislation or sponsorship of an event. Another alternative would be to give a steering committee made up of representative members the authority to make decisions on specific topics. The steering committee composition has not been decided, but will likely include the chairs of the SFCaHT committees. Some members did not have a chance to send their comments to the Governance Committee prior to their meeting, so the Committee will meet again. Please send any feedback about the document to Norma Satten at satten@sbcglobal.net by Friday, March 26.

b. Legislative Monitoring

Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez reported on the major pieces of State legislation currently under review. There is a monthly conference call to discuss these in detail on the 4th Wednesday of each month:

(877) 455-8695, passcode: 831073. Members are also encourage to provide Nancy with ideas about legislation in the works or that SF can propose or support.

c. Data Collection

The Data Collection Committee has drafted a form to use to collect data about survivors and traffickers from social services and from law enforcement/prosecution. The Committee will be vetting this form with a few members of the Collaborative prior to finalizing it, and will begin working on a distribution list for the form for the spring.

d. Public Awareness

The Awareness Committee has been on hiatus since the Awareness Campaign ended, but many topics have been raised that may call for another community forum. Laura will contact Ann Singer, chair of the Awareness Committee, to schedule a preliminary meeting.

IV. Housing Needs of Trafficking Survivors

Hediana Utarti of Asian Women's Shelter submitted written comments, as she was unable to make the meeting (summarized below):

- Having a "pot" of funding to provide subsidies/grants for housing for trafficking victims would be helpful in stabilizing clients and supporting them in finding a safer environment.
- All victims of human trafficking should be able to apply for the subsidy/grant. CBO case managers can function as a support system to help clients apply. This funding could work like the new funding system in the domestic violence field called "First Avenue" -- it provides a rental subsidy for families who are starting a new life or rebuilding their lives after they leave a shelter program. Clients apply on their own, but they will get a letter of verification from their case managers.
- Examples of how the funding might be used include: security deposit and first month rent, 6 month to a year rental subsidy, moving/relocation costs.
- Such funding would help service providers use the existing housing system in SF and the Bay Area for trafficking clients WITHOUT creating a new shelter or housing system specific to trafficking clients. They will be living independently, in a safer home, and continue to work with case workers and legal services. In this scenario, clients/victims have options to choose where they feel most safe to live. This is a very empowering process for clients.

Other housing-related challenges include:

- Male victims – only homeless shelters, which are not appropriate
- Child victims
- Lack of emergency shelter space compared to need

Members noted that the U.S. requires other governments to commit funds to provide for housing of victims, and it makes sense to require that our own government do the same. Can we attach housing services and funding to the reauthorization of VAWA? HUD has priority housing lists in its Section 8 program; can trafficking survivors be added to that list?

Maria Bee of Victim Services stated that housing issues are some of the most challenging issues for her advocates to handle, especially when it involves public housing. Even if the advocates work to relocate a victim out of San Francisco, where more affordable housing may be available, there are other challenges that arise. For example:

- Medical record transfer
- Child school enrollment and record transfer
- Methadone clinic transfer
- Addressing the temptation to return “home” where there might be danger
- Finding a location that has culturally and linguistically appropriate services

Participants agreed that the issue of housing is critical, and may be a good topic for another community forum.

V. Future Meetings

a. Sign-Up for Hosting Future Meetings

The meeting date was changed to account for the work of the committees. The Collaborative may begin meeting bi-monthly instead of monthly, depending on need. Next meeting will be at City Hall on **Monday, May 3, 2010, 11:00 am**. Future meetings will be on the **1st Monday** of every other month.

VI. Other Topics for Discussion

Membership: Participants discussed the issue of expanding membership or reaching out to the sex worker community. Members discussed the desire to have in-depth conversations with members of that community to better understand their point of view and to define the areas where we might agree. Many members of that community were present during the forming of the Collaborative. However, Collaborative members are clear that an organization must commit to the mission of ending human trafficking in order to become a voting member of the group. Still, we can invite conversation without offering membership. Some participants expressed the concern that inviting the sex worker community may overshadow other issues and pigeonhole SFC AHT into only addressing the sex trafficking/prostitution issue, neglecting labor trafficking and other related areas. To maintain a broad scope, some suggested inviting other “industries,” such as restaurant, migrant labor or anti-sweatshop organizations to the table. This may also be a good potential topic for a future forum.

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 3, 2010, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Location: City Hall (Room TBD)