



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 (SFCaHT)

MINUTES

July 9, 2012

Noon – 1:30 pm

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Nancy Goldberg welcomed members at 12:09 pm and attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 23, 2012 meeting were approved.

III. Community Updates

a. CASE (Californians Against Sexual Exploitation) Act

Marc Klaas provided a background on the CASE Act, an anti-trafficking initiative that directs the conversation back to child trafficking within California. The Act, if passed, would locally criminalize child trafficking in California where it is currently not illegal if the child consents. The Act would decriminalize and increase services for young prostitutes while also increasing penalties for pimps, increase prison terms for traffickers, require traffickers to register as sex offenders, require disclosure of internet accounts, and use fines imposed to fund victim services. Mr. Klaas asked for the public's support through endorsements. Mr. Klaas said that more than 85 advocacy groups have signed on in support of the Act, as well as former Mayor Gavin Newsom. The list of endorsements is on the CASE Act website.

A concern was raised as to whether the Act's narrow focus on punishing only sex trafficking, which is only one element of trafficking overall, could allow traffickers to take advantage of possible loopholes. Human Rights Commission Executive Director Teresa Sparks and Ms. Goldberg supported broadening the Act's definitions of trafficking to include other forms of trafficking, such as forced labor. Ms. Sparks suggested writing a policy paper and Dr. Emily Murase offered support.

b. SFCaHT Freedom Summit

Harvard Light Church in Fremont is hosting the Freedom Summit from January 25 - 26, 2013 to train first responders and nurses on trafficking. The church is able to host about 3,000 attendees.

IV. Update from Department of Public Health on massage parlors

Dr. Johnson Ojo from the Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update on massage parlors in San Francisco. DPH's role is to enforce state and local laws regulating massage businesses, license massage establishments and practitioners, conduct routine inspections, ensure minimum health standards are maintained, provide necessary education, and protect the health of practitioners.

Following Operation Gilded Cage's removal of 11 establishments in 2005, the Mayor created a Task Force to conduct monthly inspections of high risk establishments, coordinate regulatory activities for city codes, and refer suspected human trafficking victims for assistance. Dr. Ojo commented that the Task Force is ineffective because there are few laws backing it up. Victim identification is a challenge because women are usually silent or prone to run, and are unwilling to provide information. Another problem is that most "johns" (consumers of prostitutions) are let go without consequences. This Task Force's role is limited because it can only routinely inspect for health code violations as all criminal activities such as prostitution and undercover operations are within the Police Department's purview and not DPH's.

In 2008, the American Massage Therapy Association, CA Chapter (AMTA-CA) lobbied to pass SB 731, and the bill was approved in 2009. SB 731 provides massage practitioners with voluntary online certification to work anywhere in the state of California and is administered by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), a nonprofit organization. Massage establishments whose employees are all certified this way no longer need permits from their local health departments and are also exempt from conditional use permits by City Planning. This takes away the power of local agencies and many establishments are going into business without the City's knowledge. There are currently 190 massage establishments, an increase from 152 in 2010. Of the 36 establishments that applied for CAMTC exemption, 22 have been approved. The number of CAMTC-certified therapists in San Francisco is unknown.

In response, DPH has implemented new regulations such as increasing fines for code violations, increasing the penalty for employing underage practitioners, and limiting operating hours. These regulations have been impactful as DPH has collected \$26,050 in administrative fines in fiscal year 2011-2012, made 62 citations, and closed 16 establishments. Currently, there are 168 out of 190 establishments with DPH permits.

Dr. Murase distributed a handout on human trafficking which included a snapshot of a massage parlor review and a glossary of sexual terms from the website www.rubmaps.com. The informational handout also included definitions of human trafficking, international treaties and legislation on the issue, and additional resources and references. A suggestion was made for the DPH and SFPD to work with Supervisor Chiu's office to find ways to approach the State regarding trafficking issues.

V. The Body Shop End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes Campaign

Department on the Status of Women Graduate Law and Policy Fellow Alexandra Ledyard presented on the Body Shop's anti-human trafficking campaign per an inquiry from an SFC AHT member. Ms. Ledyard distributed a memorandum that summarized the success of the record-breaking campaign which raised \$2 million for charity. The Body Shop launched a petition to implement stricter anti-trafficking legislation, and it was presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2011 with more than 7 million signatures. Although the campaign has ended, Dr. Murase commented that the Body Shop is a good example of ways to think out-of-the-box for funding, especially for nonprofits.

VI. Strategic Planning Meeting

A copy of the Proposed Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2012 detailing the separate tasks of the 3 SFC AHT committees - Awareness, Governance, and Policy Committees - was distributed for members to review. Ms. Goldberg suggested forming an advocacy group to lobby state legislatures and updating the trafficking resource guide.

Most members agreed that the Collaborative needs to see more sustained work in between the informative quarterly meetings. Suggestions were made to convene a Strategic Planning Meeting to further determine priorities and align resources to push for a common objective in order to be more effective. A suggestion was made to reach out to tourists through international events that are held in the City, such as working with consulates to organize an international film festival about trafficking to increase awareness, and to identify staffing resources.

VII. Conclusion

For the next meeting, members are encouraged to identify reasons for their continued participation in the Collaborative and some beneficial ways for their organization to partner with the City. A Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 30, 2012 from 12-1:30 pm at a location to be determined. The next SFC AHT meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012 from 12-1:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.