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DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT)

General Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2013

11:30 am – 1 pm

San Francisco Public Library Main Branch

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA

Latino/Hispanic Room A, Lower Level

Members Present:

Steering Committee:

Julie Soo, Commission on the Status of Women / Co-Chair of SFCaHT
Nancy Goldberg, Jewish Family and Children's Services / Co-Chair of SFCaHT
Antonia Lavine, Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking

Department on the Status of Women Staff:

Dr. Emily Murase
Aimee Allison
Minouche Kandel
Stephanie Nguyen
Iris Wong

Collaborative Membership:

Robin Brasso, National Council of Jewish Women
Helynna Brooke, Mental Health Board and SF Mental Health Education Fund
Irene Casanova, Larkin Street Youth Services
Kimberly Chelf, Freedom House
Cristy Dieterich, Department of Public Health-- Newcomers Health Program
Kelly Gilliam, F.D. Homes
Brenda Hepler, EPCAT-USA
Benita Hopkins, SF Not For Sale/Love Never Fails
Victor Hwang, SF District Attorney's Office
Linda Janourova, Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking
Alix Lutnick, RTI International
Lailah Morris, SF District Attorney's Office
Anna Pickren, Dream Project Foundation
Sister Therese Randolph, RSM, Northern California Coalition of Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
Ruth L. Robinson, Northern California Coalition of Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking, Stop Slavery
Brendan Rogers, University of San Francisco
Sarai Smith-Mazariegos, MISSSEY, Alameda Family Services, DreamCatcher, Nika's Place

I. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Nancy Goldberg welcomed members and attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Goldberg then introduced the agenda for the meeting which was approved without objection.

II. Recap of the SCAHT August 2nd Conference on Child Sex Trafficking

1. Film

Aimee Allison screened her original film, “A Day in the Life of a Victim of Child Sex Trafficking”. This 13-minute film focuses on the story of one child sex trafficking victim who was trafficked in San Francisco, the East Bay, and Las Vegas from the age of 11.

After screening her film, many members of the collaborative acknowledged Ms. Allison and her team for their work. Ms. Allison acknowledged one volunteer, Jerome Newton, who spent countless hours working on making the film with her after being inspired by the survivor’s story and mission.

Ms. Allison then reviewed the distribution plan for the film. It is currently uploaded to Youtube but not yet public. She is planning on sending out the link for providers to use freely. Ms. Allison is also looking into third parties who can create and distribute CDs of the film for a small fee for those who do not have internet access.

2. Conference Evaluation

Stephanie Nguyen provided a summary of the conference evaluations.

187 community partners and service providers attended the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SCAHT) Conference on Child Sex Trafficking. Educators, health care providers, government agencies, law enforcement, and community advocates from 85 agencies worked together to discuss best practices, strategize a more coordinated response to trafficking, and develop policy recommendations to address the crisis of child sex trafficking in San Francisco. Of the 187 advocates who attended the SCAHT Conference on Child Sex Trafficking on August 2, 2013, 110 submitted evaluations, an exceptionally high response rate of 59%.

An overwhelming majority of attendees reported that they had an excellent experience at the conference (93%) and left with valuable new insights (88%). Many stated that they would attend a future SCAHT conference (91%) and would recommend future conferences to colleagues and friends (93%).

The San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and the Department on the Status of Women are utilizing recommendations developed from the conference to strategize a plan of action.

3. Action Items

Brenda Hepler stated that she would like to see better collaborations between the government entities and community agencies. She also proposed SCAHT reserves a space in each library for information and resources related to human trafficking during Anti-Human Trafficking Month (January). She stated that San Jose has successfully accomplished this in years past. Co-Chair Goldberg recommends the books, *Sold* and *Girls Like Us*, be displayed at libraries in January.

Julie Soo would like to raise public awareness. There is not an identifiable place for survivors to run. She hopes to see hospitals and places of worship become safe sanctuaries for survivors to seek refuge. Sister Therese Randolph, Northern California Catholic Coalition of Sisters Against Human Trafficking, stated that she is working to put collaborations between religious entities and hospitals on the agenda for her own coalition and will connect with Commissioner Soo after the meeting.

Helynna Brooke expressed support for a collaboration with hospitals to provide safe places for survivors to seek care. She also proposed an addition to current protocols to mandate providers to refer survivors to hospitals immediately for physical/mental health clearance and services.

Irene Casanova stated that the Larkin Collaborative is committed to staffing the human trafficking hotline and providing emergency shelter beds for trafficked youth regardless of age.

Alexandra Lutnick stressed the importance of incorporating a perspective focused on youth empowerment. Often these youth are labeled as both victim and perpetrator—throughout this, providers need to outreach in a way that channels their resiliency. Ms. Lutnick also emphasized the importance of looking at the structural factors that put these young folks at risk, such as lack of education or work experience and involvement in the child welfare system. The community needs to be able to offer job skills training, internships, and other viable alternatives to life on the streets.

Kelly Gilliam agreed with Ms. Lutnick with regard to youth being labeled as both victim and perpetrator. Working with at-risk youth at her agency, she has noticed that those selling at-risk youth are often peers of the youth of both genders. She feels it is necessary to provide additional targeted training in schools to both raise awareness among youth about the issue and among teachers and administrators about how to appropriately respond.

Sister Therese Randolph hopes to address the demand aspect of trafficking by raising awareness and targeting potential perpetrators at major City events. She suggested having a coalition or task force to work on outreach and public awareness campaigns in the months leading up to the Superbowl.

Dr. Murase added that Oakland is developing mandated anti-trafficking curriculum for 7th graders. The SF School Board is also considering adopting similar curriculum.

Antonia Lavine stressed the need for data collection and research in San Francisco and the Bay Area. She feels it's important to collect demographic data and narratives of real-life trafficking situations to better inform policy and victim services. She also suggested conducting research on the causes of human trafficking, and on all the factors that cause particular populations to be at-risk. This research could be used to educate both community providers and City agencies to address the gaps in service.

Ms. Nguyen suggested first implementing recommendations that were tangible and easily executed. The recommendations that were drafted at the conference had suggestions for both large-scale changes in policy and protocols as well as suggestions that could be implemented by direct service providers. One specific recommendation she proposed adopting was creating a volunteer opportunity list and mentorship list to connect those interested in contributing with causes that need pro-bono

support. Ms. Nguyen also expressed support for rekindling data collection efforts, as a clearer picture of community needs and gaps in service could bring additional funding toward addressing this issue.

Robin Brasso highlighted the pervasiveness of human trafficking throughout the country. She recently attended a reception for Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard that raised awareness of the problem in Hawaii.

Sarai Smith-Mazariegos stated that it is essential to have first responders immediately supporting survivors who come forward. She added that ideally these first responders would come from the community and be detached from any formal system or institution. These first responders should be there with police when they conduct operations where survivors may be involved. Ms. Smith-Mazariegos also emphasized the need to establish rapport with the survivor prior to any interviews and to acknowledge the survivor's process of healing and need for safe space in the immediate moment.

III. Poster Contest

Ms. Kandel provided an update on this year's Human Trafficking Poster Contest and distributed copies of the entry form and revised contest rules.

Members discussed phone numbers to include with the winning poster. Last year, SFPD's Vice Crimes tip line was featured on the poster. Suggestions for phone numbers to include this year include the phone numbers of: SFPD's Special Victims Unit, the Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative/Asian Women's Shelter, and the Larkin Street Youth Services Collaborative Human Trafficking Hotline.

Several members expressed concern that having more than one number would intimidate or discourage folks in need from reaching out. Other members stated that it was essential to include multiple numbers from both government entities and community agencies for survivors who distrust law enforcement.

Ms. Allison suggested including one number for folks to report suspected trafficking to law enforcement and another to connect to direct service providers.

IV. SB1193

Dr. Murase discussed new legislation requiring businesses to post anti-trafficking information and resources in their storefronts. This is currently an unfunded mandate that needs more publicity and outreach.

Ms. Kandel distributed a sample poster with the required language and the policy brief created by the Office of the Attorney General. She invited folks interested in creating a more accessible poster and outreaching to local businesses to sign up for the SB1193 Committee.

V. SFOAHT Communication

Ms. Kandel invited members interested in being involved with SFOAHT communication efforts to sign up for the Communications Committee. This committee would have oversight over the newsletter, the website, and general communication amongst members and the distribution lists.

VI. Update on the Mayor's Task Force on Human Trafficking

Ms. Kandel announced that the Mayor's Task Force on Human Trafficking will be releasing an Anti-Human Trafficking Roadmap in the coming weeks.

VII. Community Updates

Ms. Brooke invited members to attend a workshop on Trauma-Informed Care to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the California Endowment building. She directed those interested to visit tinyurl.com/trauma-informed-care for more information about this workshop.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Kandel invited SCAHT members to email her any agenda items for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Suggestions for Next Steps:

- Establish collaborations between religious entities and hospitals.
- Draft an addition to current protocols to refer survivors to hospitals immediately for physical/mental health clearance and services.
- Develop a coalition to work on outreach and public awareness campaigns prior to major events.