



EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Moving forward to combat this evil together

MEETING SUMMARY

July 21, 2016

Following is a summary of the highlights of the discussions that took place during the Thursday July 21st meeting of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force (ESHTTF) held at Christ Church, Easton.

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Harding
Diane Shaffer
Kim Hendricks
Kevin Hendricks
Ann Holladay
Carol Kunkel
Abby Carlson
Ed Thomas

Joann Muller
Anna Parr
Dudley Parr
Ruth Andrews
Dave
Michael Stivers
Sheri Powers
Jan Murphy

Alice Browning
Michael Pucci
Adele Pucci
Ajarn Chulee

DISCUSSION: Ann Holladay explained that the purpose of the meeting was to have a facilitated discussion of the relationships between community development and empowerment and human trafficking. Ann introduced Alice Browning who would be leading the discussion. Alice introduced the remainder of the team, Michael and Adele Pucci and Professor Ajarn Chulee. The team's widespread human trafficking expertise and experiences were described.

The attendees introduced themselves indicating why they are interested in human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, why they are interested in fighting human trafficking and the skills and passions they already have to fight trafficking. Everyone participated in an exploration of the goals of the task force, what they wanted to change and potential actions that could be taken.

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Prevent and combat human trafficking (sex and labor exploitation) by encouraging, supporting and promoting public awareness and action within specific communities and counties throughout Maryland's eastern shore.***

Diane Shaffer led a discussion of the role and operations of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). Five of the nine eastern shore counties have CACs two are starting them and there is no activity in two counties.

After a delightful dinner Alice emphasized the importance of prevention and awareness stressing that too few people know about human trafficking and fewer still know what to do about it. Alice, with some input from the attendees, outlined a series of topics that had emerged from the evening's interaction that will be considered in developing an Anti-human trafficking strategy for the ESHTTF. The list of topics follows:

1. Absence of a Grooming Law
2. CAC's. what is going on elsewhere on the eastern shore, make the Talbot County model available to other jurisdictions
3. Coordinate volunteer assistance to the Talbot County CAC
4. Availability of direct services such as those provided at the Overflow Café, provision of a diversity of services, how should they be supported
5. Expansion of the Empower Me Program into work places and schools
6. Human trafficking school curriculum
7. Parent support groups
8. Church engagement strategy, coordinate volunteer engagement
9. Pornography

In response to the question "What does the Overflow Café need" Dudley indicated: intercessory and personal prayer, people to work alongside those who are involved now and connection to/engagement with churches.

Alice concluded by stating that based on the foregoing list and other input given throughout the evening she would prepare a draft action strategy for discussion and refinement at subsequent meetings.

Ann and the attendees thanked Alice and the team for a very productive evening and indicated they were looking forward to making more progress.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on August 9 at the Overflow Café, 400 Muir Street, Cambridge, MD 21613.

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