



EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Moving forward to combat this evil together

MEETING SUMMARY

August 9, 2016

Following is a summary of the highlights of the discussions that took place during the Tuesday August 9th meeting of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force (ESHTTF) held at the Overflow Cafe, Cambridge.

ATTENDANCE:

Joann Muller

Anna Parr

Dudley Parr

Ruth Andrews

Dave McElhinny

Diane Shaffer

Michelle Harding

Mary Dunlavey

Ann Hynes

Ed Thomas

DISCUSSION: Joann Muller welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and opened the meeting. Ed Thomas provided a brief overview of the July meeting focusing on the goals that were identified as Alice Browning wrapped-up her discussions with the attendees.

Diane Shaffer provided information related to some of the goals and indicated that the Talbot County Department of Social Services has submitted its application for funds to continue its annual operating programs several of which relate to some of the goals that were put forth during the July meeting including:

- The funding will Expand Empower Me to teens, as a follow-up to human trafficking events and after police training. These funds will build capacity for human trafficking therapy within several programs.
- Diane stated that Empower Me is already in the school system and is in some churches in Easton.
- A state Department of Human Resources, Human Resources Expert will be making a human trafficking presentation to all Talbot County teachers. Diane will find out if this is taking place in other eastern shore counties.
- There is a parent support group as part of the Talbot County CAC.

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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.***

- Anti-grooming legislation is needed.
- CAC's can be non-profit organizations as well as a part of government.
- There will be an intern coordinating volunteer assistance to at the Talbot CAC.

Joann stated that for a Task Force to be effective it needs to determine and carry out a series of tasks. It needs to do more than meet and share information. She asked attendees to describe what they feel should be the role of the ESHTTF, what their expectations are and what they would do. A wide ranging discussion followed including the TF needs to:

- Make resources available to people in need
- Make the public aware of human trafficking
- Reverse patterns of destructive behavior
- Be a clearing house for programs to assist people in need
- Identify models that can be applied in other jurisdictions
- Coordinate agencies and organizations to better meet needs
- Identify & inform local community leaders to get involved

A brief conversation took place regarding whether the TF is faith based and what is/should be its composition. The discussion unveiled the need to clarify and enunciate the mission and purpose of the ESHTTF.

There was a brief discussion dealing with the responsibilities of medical and other professionals in reporting real or potential instances of human trafficking.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Ann Hynes provided information regarding two events taking place in Delaware:

1. Sex Trafficking Happens in Delaware, October 1, 2016, 9 am-12 noon. Crossroad Community Church, Georgetown DE.
2. Human Trafficking Conference, Delaware's Professional Training, November 17, 2016, 9am-4pm, Dover Downs – focusing on medical and counseling topics.

Ed provided information pertaining to the Human Trafficking meeting to take place at the Kent Island United Methodist Church at 6:00 pm on August 19 including showing the movie "In Plain Site" followed by a discussion about human trafficking. This is an opportunity to acquaint people in the upper shore about the ESHTTF.

Ann also provided a summary of the awareness activities of Yolanda Schlabach and Zoe Ministries in Delaware.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on September 13 at 7:00 pm at the Overflow Café, 400 Muir Street, Cambridge, MD 21613.

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