



## **EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Moving forward to combat this evil together**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

**January 20, 2017**

Following is a summary of the highlights of the discussions that took place during the Friday, January 20 meeting of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force (TF) held at the Talbot County Library in Easton.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Becky Anthony	Ann Holladay
Susan Bartley	Ann Hynes
Ayn Ducao	Carol Kunkel
Robin Dunning	Shari Powers
Michelle Harding	Diane Shaffer
Kevin Hendricks	Tom Stack
Kim Hendricks	Ed Thomas

Ed Thomas welcomed attendees, introduced guests, Ayn Ducao and Tom Stack. He pointed out that we would discuss our respective activities with the guests and continue to address the Task Force's areas of focus.

1. Ann Ducao, Assistant US Attorney, Chairperson, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, described the Maryland Task Force membership and committee structure: Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Public Awareness, Training and Legislation and their current activities. The members are NGO, local, state and federal government leaders who serve on the TF as volunteers. She mentioned that the Back Page adult casual encounter website has been taken down, but expects the function will migrate to another location and she pointed out that Back Page had been cooperating with law enforcement. Ayn mentioned the U of MD Safe Center for Human Trafficking

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Survivors, the grant being managed by the U of MD School of Social Work and training focusing on medical facilities.

In response to the question what should the ESHTTF be concentrating on, Ayn responded: Justify the Need to Address Human Trafficking, Obtain Personal Victim/Survivor Stories, Partner with Law Enforcement and State's Attorneys and Service Providers.

2. Tom Stack, Public Safety Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and member of the state TF congratulated the ESHTTF on its work and progress. Tom outlined the work of the Safe Harbor Working Group and its recommendations. He pointed out that three human trafficking bills have been introduced in the General Assembly and more can be expected. Tom urged the TF to send letters of support for the proposed legislation, this has been done.

Tom summarized the human trafficking focused law enforcement training that has been taking place and will continue throughout the state. He pointed out that to date 1,200 of the 16,000 law enforcement officers in Maryland have received the training. Tom stated that the training will take place in Frederick in February and the investigator training will be repeated in Ocean City this summer. It is clear that the training has resulted in increased arrests and convictions.

There was a discussion of the lack of knowledge pertaining to the limited services available to victims and survivors on the eastern shore. In response to a question regarding what should be done if you see or suspect trafficking is taking place the response was that calls should be made first to local police and next to the national Hot Line.

The growing connection between heroin and human trafficking was discussed. Ayn suggested providing training and public information. Ann H volunteered to check into this need and explore available training.

3. Michelle Harding explained that the Hope Foundation will be working with young women at risk of becoming victims. The Foundation is beginning at Easton High School and will reach out from there. Michelle described the Talbot County Board of Education presentation and the positive response and requests for information and follow-up. There was good coverage of the event in The Star Democrat.

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4. Activities relevant to the Focus Areas were discussed as indicated in the following:

- **Awareness**

- Shari P distributed a draft syllabus “Human Trafficking Course of Study” and asked that it be reviewed and comments provided prior to or at the next meeting. Created a two sided TF “Rack Card” to be distributed throughout the Shore providing information about the TF, human trafficking and what can be done (Ed T & Diane S).
- The TF website has been update and is live at [www.eshttf.org](http://www.eshttf.org). (Ed T)
- A business-card style card has been produced in English and Spanish with the HOT LINE phone and text numbers and copies provided to be distributed at truck stops, restaurant rest rooms and other places where vulnerable people may congregate.
- Reaching out to church and other groups to make them aware (Various persons) no progress.
- Making arrangements for a human trafficking meeting with business, civic, elected and community leaders in the Easton area in March 2017 (Ann Holladay & others).
- Meeting with Cara Rose (Homeland Securities Investigations) to obtain input related to the level of human trafficking on the Eastern Shore and to continue the discussion regarding her participation in the March 2017 public meeting (Ann Holladay) an email exchange took place, Cara is being sent to Atlanta for six months to provide training.

- **Prevention/Education**

- Meeting with the Talbot County Board of Education in January and arranging to meet with the PTSA of the Easton High School early next year and following-up with other county school systems and schools (Michelle H. and others). A successful meeting was held with the Board of Education on January 18, see item 3 on page 2.
- Following-up with Chief, Barbara Duncan, of the Salisbury Police Department to reach out to vulnerable groups and communities (Hendricks).
- Arranging EmPower Me Training to equip volunteers to reach out to elementary school age children in church, school and other settings (Ann Holliday & Diane S). The training will take place at the TF February 24 meeting.

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- Creating a human trafficking elective course to be offered for the first time at Salisbury University in spring 2017 (Becky A). Becky is moving forward in an informal manner and expects the course will become formal over time. She will endeavor to arrange small group sessions with interested students as well and get more faculty members involved.
  - Arranging student and faculty meetings/presentations at Salisbury University (Becky A). See above, the Hendricks and Becky are working together on this.
  - Reaching out to Wor-Wic Community College to see about introducing discussion of human trafficking (Hendricks). Will approach Wor-Wic after the Prevention Program has been successfully applied at local schools.
  - Contacting Young Life and other youth organizations to explore the possibility of having human trafficking as a topic at their annual/semi-annual conferences and retreats (Ann Holladay & Amor W). Ann H learned about the potential Young Life camp in Dorchester County.
- **Direct Service**
    - Get CAC training and volunteers to stay with children while the CAC staff is interviewing other family members. The same approach can be used with other service providers. (Ann Holladay & Diane S).
    - Informing law enforcement agencies that the TF is available to assist them.
    - Help the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy & Learning Center (Various persons). Robin is reaching out to secure needed funding.
  - **Legislation**
    - Send a letter to the 16 Senators and Delegates representing the Eastern Shore in the MD General Assembly informing them about human trafficking on the shore and urging them, if they are not already, to get involved in preventing and combatting human trafficking. (Ed T). Done
    - Advocate for and support legislative proposals before legislative bodies (Ed T & others). Ann and Ed are participating in the MDHTTF legislative conference calls. Have sent support letters for three bills and will continue to be involved.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on February 24 between noon and 2:00 pm at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. **The EmPower Me Training will take place during this meeting.**

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