



Baltimore County
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
Work Group

Agenda
Tuesday June 14, 2022
9:00am - 10:30am
WebEx

Call to Order Ashley McAree & Amanda Rodriguez, Co-Chairs

Approval of Minutes Jennifer Stine, Secretary

Member Updates

- Introductions and Agency Updates
- Prospective Members

Legislative/Policy Updates

- County Council Resolution [23-21](#)
 - Sub-committee update
- CE Request re: Hotels [Google Doc](#)
 - Sub-committee update
- Legislative Updates
 - Amanda Rodriguez

New Business

- Regional Navigator Program Report Out
- GBMC Donation
- Baltimore County Fire Department Trainings
- Volunteer Opportunities
- CE Quarterly Updates
- Teen Advisory Board
- Website Updates

Upcoming

- Trainings/Events/Conferences
- Community Outreach
- Next Meeting:

Roundtable Discussion

Adjournment

Present: Ashley McAree (GBMC - CoChair), Jenn Stine, Alexandra VanDress (regional navigator TurnAround), Evelyn Kim (GBMC), Dr. Joyce Williams, Meg Ferguson (Asst. County Attny., BCPD), Carmen Christiana (Women's Commission), Rosalyn Berkowitz (Commission for Women), Wendy Hildebrand (DJS), Dr. David Williams, Tania Araya (TurnAround), Milana Vayner (Baltimore County), Dave Manranto (BCPD Crimes Against Children), Kelly Truax (GBMC SAFE), Krista Trahan (CAC), Mike Keller (BCPD Missing & Abducted Children), Lauren Hanley (GBMC SAFE), Danielle Nichols (GBMC), Dave Blackburn (BCPD), Amanda Rodriguez (TurnAround – CoChair), Lauren Stokeling-Brewer (TurnAround); Dr. Michael Ford (BCPS), Rachel Sye, Celena Falline (DJS)

Intros/Agency Updates

Meg Ferguson - County Council enacted addition to “nuisance law” broadening the area in which the county can prosecute – just report & evidence that it’s happening, actions included are much broader – should give police more tools to investigate night clubs, other spots where people may be victimized. Link to bill:

<https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/CountyCouncil/Bills%202022/b01422.pdf>

TurnAround – starting employment readiness program again. Accessible to any HT survivor, as well as other survivors. Financial literacy, resume writing, soft skills, barriers, etc. Led by staff who understand trauma and barriers. Includes a \$100 stipend for attending each class, plus gift card at end for completing sessions to buy clothing to prepare for interviews. To sign up, call Tania Araya. 8-week class in city office; can talk with attendees re: transportation, etc. Starts July 12th on every Tuesday through end of August.

Hotels: CE requested input re: possible legislative changes re: hotels in BC re: banning hourly rentals. Lots of feedback, recommendations shifted after speaking with survivor leaders in BC. Survivors stated banning could have unintended negative impact; hotel owners may not pay attention to legislative change. Recommendations were to not ban, but to require record keeping, require reporting/photo copying/preserving photo IDs, requiring display of anti-trafficking info and resources, requiring training of employees. Survivors recommended continuing to have police presence at known hotels; approve access to safe housing for vulnerable populations.

- Carmen – CE was very pleased and thanked everyone. One question – amount of time for record keeping – could they be longer than 18 months?
- Rosalyn – working on bill that asked for 18 months, but put 6 months in because didn’t think 18 would be approved.
- Det. Blackburn – longer the better, have some hotels on 40 that work well with, provide some info, but don’t have IDs and others, so more would be helpful.

Legislative updates: Focusing on protocol development, using LA County as guide, focusing on warm hand-off; child-serving agencies – protocols, screenings, how the child moves through the system. With work well with Regional Navigator program. Also looked at other areas, but wanted to focus on protocol development. Working on putting draft protocol together now. Timeline – hope to have something together by end of June; initial draft by next Thursday, then will go to different groups for comment/feedback. Meg Ferguson asked for info and to be included in future emails.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunities – emails coming to the group asking for opportunities. How can we put people to work with this specific group? Could use for events in the future, but right now? Jenn – send them to individual member groups; or maybe something with the awareness materials once they’re ready? David – possibility of “SUV” where someone interested in volunteering could send a CV and then group leadership could try to match them with the group members.

GBMC donation – received \$5,000 donation for awareness materials. Ashley working with agency to create brochures, shoe cards (for survivors, victims), and pocket cards (for professionals working with survivors). Also a table skirt to start doing events. Logo & QR code for website, national HT phone number on everything. Probably a couple more weeks. Will work with Jenn to report to GBMC.

CE Quarterly Updates – spoke with CE re: hotel recs, but would like to do quarterly updates to the CE. Carmen meets with CE every month and can give updates as often as group wants. Quarterly is probably best for bigger updates, on a monthly basis can do smaller updates. Can include member updates as well – send to Ashley or Carmen.

Teen Advisory Board – MD Child Trafficking Conference had teen survivors speaking, and Ashley made contact with one. Dulaney HS has anti-trafficking group, they're very interested in participating in our next meeting. Teen Advisory Board would be good to advise on working with teens, etc. Dr. Ford – is there anything already created? Discussion of other groups, individuals we could reach out to to engage youth – contact Ashley if you have ideas.

Website Updates – Looking at getting dedicated email address. Carmen will follow up with communications and try to get one. Also look into updating website in the future. Members should look at site and suggest updates. Ashley would like to update what trafficking is, who's at risk, info and links to member/partner agencies. Would like to include link/form/email to request a training.

Upcoming:

Trainings – BCFD training in the works for county-wide trainings to the Dept. Initial draft complete, will begin creating official training soon and will get feedback from group prior to implementing. This will be a lot of manpower to train entire BCFD – if anyone is interested in helping at any point, please let Ashley know. Other partnerships with agencies' outreach programs to utilize their manpower. Ros brought up the already-recorded trainings that were done for BCFD; will look into combining those with in-person and updates. Ros will be included in next meeting. Let Ashley know if you are interested in hosting or otherwise helping with the trainings.

Woman who was just named Ms. Maryland, moving on to Ms. America – wants to host an anti-trafficking fundraiser and interested in getting us involved. Milana/Carmen – keep CE in mind and keep opportunities to work cross-jurisdictionally with the City in mind.

Goals for 2022-2023: Amanda – wants to establish collective goal/s. Opened up to group for initial thoughts. So far, CE's office and general interest is system-level change through legislation, etc. Other thoughts?

- David – training of individual and groups. “If you don't know it, you don't see it.” Raising awareness, especially for those who are likely to have contact with victims/survivors. Could continue with another webinar series for general public; what to do if/when you see something. Help train on the warm handoff.
- Ashley – issue of each group doing its own thing, not aware of what others are doing. Beneficial for everyone to know what others are doing so we can know where the gaps are. Ashley will send out a request for info on what each member agency is doing. Trainings provided, internal outreach, general outreach, etc., where gaps are.
- Dr. Ford – would like to revisit training the school teams, including PPWs (visit the homes). Training needs: BCPS-We started training individual school teams a few years ago, but due to covid, the ransomware attack, etc. We didn't get to complete that task. Would like to add Residency investigators and PPW's to that training list.

Amanda will put together goals, including metrics.

Member Commitment: Ashley & Amanda will meet individually with members to talk about their goals, commitment to working on this group. Will be scheduling soon.

10:05 – Transition to Regional Navigator Group

Present: Ashley McAree (GBMC), Amanda Rodriguez (TurnAround), Michael Ford (BCPS), Lauren Hanley, Jenn Stine (CASA), Alex VanDross (TurnAround), Krista Trahan (CAC), Lauren Stokeling-Brewer (TurnAround), Tania Araya (TurnAround), Carmen Christiana (Baltimore County), Dave Maranto (BCPS), Kelly Traux (GBMC), Dave Blackburn (BCPS), Michael Keller (BCPS), Rachel Sye

Goal-setting from other group – warm handoff, training apply here. TurnAround will also be Regional Navigator for Howard County.

Trends/Agency Updates

Alex VanDress – last quarter data – because of group homes, some data includes youth from outside the County but living in the County. 9 new referrals, 7 are open clients; MDTs – FTDMs, intro meetings, etc., since 3/28 have been 16 – bulk of these have been for one client; communicate with Araminta re: what each other are doing. Krista offered help with putting in touch with DSS workers; CASA offered to help if kids are assigned to a volunteer, or possibly they could refer to get a CASA. Alex expressed other challenge of getting in touch with group homes. Biggest hurdle is getting access to the kids – contacting group homes, parents, foster parents. Majority of referrals come from Arrow & DSS; almost never from police. The 18-24 year olds are still difficult to access; want to put info in hospitals, especially GBMC because they are the hub. Info re: 18-24 range – Dave – they do see that age group, offer services, but often don't want to use them; Amanda would like to talk with Dave Blackburn to figure out possibility of getting police to bring in Regional Navigator program more often, but without compromising autonomy, confidentiality, etc. Maybe TurnAround talk with vice to collaborate? Not seeing juveniles – a lot of people have moved into the City; lost 50-75% of the girls. Lauren will be doing street outreach so that people can still have access to services, even if they aren't touching the criminal system. Dave – no specific place he can identify in the City to find these youth. Lauren – since has done some outreach in Garrison corridor (between Wabash & Cold Spring), there is a lot of activity going on there. Assisted one young lady to get into BlueDot yesterday. So still a lot of activity during the day, not all hidden online, escorts, etc. Dave and Lauren will connect to collaborate. Alex: I would also reiterate that if they are provided to us but do not want services, they may come up again and want our services and we may be able to identify them with the appropriate program quicker. Additionally, I have received some referrals from the FBI but typically they are outside the age group or county that I serve. I know Rosalyn and I worked on a case with the FBI a couple of months ago. So, the FBI is also aware of the regional navigator program, so we are hoping that will help as well.

Challenges/Successes:

Jenn – some progress with communication, but not across the board, very case-by-case. Also a specific concern re: one individual youth who is being placed out of state, but not at a trafficking-specific placement. Jenn & Alex identified that they both know the youth and will connect re: how to serve her; Jenn, Alex, and Amanda will also meet re: legalities of confidentiality, CASA court order, etc. for working with future youth.

Will continue to have Regional Navigator meetings immediately following the County HT Work Group meetings.

Adjourned: 10:36am