

**Baltimore County Human Trafficking Work Group**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 14, 2023**  
**9:00am - 10:00am**  
**WebEx**

**Call to Order at 9:00am**

**Present:**

Ashley McAree, Amanda Rodriguez, Kamesha Stokes, Stacy Amparo, Jamie Sokolis, David Williams, Joyce Williams, Beth Luthye, Brian Cowley, Kelly Foster, Krista Trahan, Tania Araya, Wendy Hildebrand, Amy Baker, Carmen Christiana, Kelly Truax, Michael Ford, Scott Kilpatrick

**New Business:**

*Protocol Development*

Frederick County Human Trafficking Task Force has a protocol in place and MOUs between several key stakeholders in their county. Amanda spoke with Lindsay with the Frederick County Task Force who is willing to speak at an upcoming meeting. The goal is to develop an MDT process for both minors and adults, increase identification, provide appropriate services, and support investigations and prosecutions. Discussion re: those who would be present: Law enforcement: CACU, SVU, and VICE; State's Attorney's Office; DSS: CAC/CPS; BCPS; Victim service provider; Medical provider. Ashley and Amanda will reach out in the near future to coordinate an initial meeting, preferably in-person.

*Limited English Proficiency Materials*

There was a recent request for Spanish resources from the Baltimore County Health Department. Limited resources are available for LEP at this time. Carmen will contact an individual that holds a diversity position within Baltimore County to potentially assist with developing resources specific to Spanish-speaking individuals or assist with translating current awareness materials. GBMC has one human trafficking-specific brochure that has been translated into Spanish.

*Legislative/Policy Updates:*

Several members of our working group testified in support of the Safe Harbor bill including Stacy Amparo, Amanda Rodriguez, Liz Kimbel, and Rhonda Sanco. The Safe Harbor bill will provide protection for child sex trafficking victims to prevent criminalization for crimes committed during trafficking victimization. It will also assist with supporting children by providing victim services. This bill made it through the house unanimously. It will have a further vote on Friday, potentially. There is a bill being championed by the Commission for Women involves mandating human trafficking training for transportation employees. This will be voted on this upcoming Friday, potentially. A bill involving public

school education, including sexting and human trafficking being added into the curriculum has not moved as of yet. There is a victim service funding bill focusing on the continuation of VOCA funding.

#### *Baltimore County Police Department*

The Crimes Against Children Unit's Detective Scott Kilpatrick is now the detective who will be investigating child sex trafficking. Detective Scott Kilpatrick's background includes the Specials Victim's Unit and the Crimes Against Children Unit investigating child sexual abuse. Ashley will send his contact information to the workgroup in an email.

#### *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*

The workgroup visited three of our four Baltimore County hospitals including St. Joes, GBMC, and Franklin Square during January for Human Trafficking Awareness month. We handed out our awareness materials and talked to different members of the hospitals and patients/families. Staff were very interested and over 100 badge cards were distributed.

#### *Baltimore County Fire Department Training*

Last year, the Baltimore County Fire Department contacted the workgroup in re: to developing and offering training throughout the department. The goal is to begin developing this training and requesting feedback from the group prior to finalizing. The outline of the training will be sent via email in the near future for review and acceptance or requested updates. If anyone from our group has case studies specific to the fire department and/or EMS, please email Ashley. The State's Attorney's Office, DSS, and the police department will be consulted re: any information that is important to their roles. There is a request for members of the workgroup to facilitate training. Once the training is developed, the workgroup can begin deciding how to best offer these trainings to the fire department and at what intervals.

#### *Upcoming Trainings/Events/Conferences*

The workgroup will have an informational table at the Towson Town Festival on Saturday 5/6/23 from 10 am - 8 pm and Sunday 5/7/23 from 1 pm - 6 pm. Roz and Carmen will assist with the table on 5/6/23 from 10 am - 1 pm. If anyone is interested in assisting on 5/6/23 anytime between 1 pm - 8 pm or on 5/7/23 anytime between 1 pm - 6 pm, please contact Ashley to sign-up.

GBMC is hosting a fundraiser called Walk a Mile in Their Shoes on 4/22/23 at 9 am. The walk will be located on GBMC's campus. There will be a brunch fundraiser immediately following the walk at Barley's Backyard in Towson. All proceeds will benefit the GBMC SAFE Program.

We received a request for a speaker to present for a Baltimore County human trafficking seminar led by a local sorority and sponsored by the International Awareness and Involvement Committee. This event will be held on 5/11/23 or 5/18/23 at UMBC. The committee is currently planning and limited information is available at this time, including the exact date, time, and type of presentation being requested. David

Williams (if scheduled for 5/18/23) and Renee Murrell had offered to assist if needed. Ashley will update as more information is available.

*Next Meeting: June 13, 2023*

**Meeting adjourned at 9:47 am**