

Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Annual Report



2020



The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



Arizona Human
Trafficking Council

EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

MARIA FUENTES
DIRECTOR

December 31, 2020

Governor Doug A. Ducey
1700 W Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor,

It is our pleasure to serve as co-chairs of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. We would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Council and its workgroups over the past year. Their expertise, passion, and dedication to address the issue of human trafficking across Arizona made this work possible. We are proud to share the outcomes and accomplishments of the Council along with our vision for future work.

During the past year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to victim services, law enforcement, national responses to prevent and combat human trafficking, and regional responses to COVID-19. The various presentations have helped inform the Council's understanding of human trafficking and strategies for prevention and intervention. Since 2014, the Council has informed and trained over 40,000 people, including first responders; school nurses, counselors and administrators; forensic nurses; Department of Child Safety caseworkers; Tribal law enforcement; and juvenile probation officers. Each year the Council strives to spread awareness on this issue to all Arizonans and continues to identify ways to prevent it.

We would like to thank you for your commitment to the Council and for being a true leader in this fight. It is our hope that our continued efforts and collaborative partnerships will increase prevention, improve the lives of victims, increase successful prosecutions of traffickers, and better serve all of those that are affected by this heinous crime.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cindy H. McCain in black ink.

Cindy H. McCain
Co-Chair
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Handwritten signature of Gil Orrantia in black ink.

Gil Orrantia
Co-Chair
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

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Arizona Human Trafficking Council

COUNCIL PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

Governor Doug Ducey indefinitely renewed the Arizona Human Trafficking Council by signing Executive Order 2015-12 on December 22, 2015. The Council is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF). The Council is charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona; developing recommendations to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services; fostering greater collaboration among law enforcement, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the community at large; promoting public awareness about human trafficking, victim services, and prevention; and working to develop and facilitate training for first responders, law enforcement, and professions who serve the citizens of Arizona. The following report captures the many accomplishments of the Council and its collaborative partnerships in six broad areas: training, outreach and awareness, victim services, policy, state and national collaboration, and research.

In addition to full Council meetings, the Council further develops its work through four workgroups:

DATA & RESEARCH

The Data & Research Workgroup develops and facilitates training on the identification of, and response to, trafficking victims across the state. Trainings provided by this Workgroup are informed by research and promote multidisciplinary collaboration, including: education on the warning signs of human trafficking; state and local response resources; the issue of demand; school based prevention education; and a study of Arizona specific trafficking cases. The Workgroup is also charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona. This research is conducted by academic partners from ASU and has explored important research questions regarding the impact of large sporting events. Other research has included exploring human trafficking among homeless youth, juvenile probationers, adult probationers, and Arizona-specific sex and labor trafficking cases.

OUTREACH & AWARENESS

The Outreach & Awareness Workgroup strives to expand public awareness and facilitate community engagement around the issue of human trafficking through community and stakeholder partnerships, presentations, outreach materials, education and public service announcements. The Workgroup strives to ensure a shared community understanding, so that every citizen can aid in the identification of potential trafficking situations and work to create safe and accepting avenues for victims to disclose abuse, and connect victims to trauma-informed services to ensure healing.

POLICY

The Policy Workgroup strives to improve the quality and access to care received by victims to best meet victims' needs and ensure offender accountability by strengthening prosecution for traffickers and sex buyers. This Workgroup reviews current policy and

develops recommendations on improving the quality of care for victims, as well as strengthening prosecution for traffickers and purchasers. Policies regarding human trafficking include: victim protections, state statutes and city codes impacting criminal records, language and terms used to define and describe human trafficking, enhancing tools for law enforcement and prosecutors to find buyers and traffickers, and developing necessary services through legislative action. The Workgroup strives to unmask myths related to victims' rights, educate all Arizona State Legislators, and identify areas where collaboration can be improved.

VICTIM SERVICES

Through data collection, network mapping, and collaborative efforts, the Victim Services Workgroup enhances the network of services for human trafficking victims in Arizona. The Workgroup identifies gaps in care, engages new community partners, and ensures that victim services are survivor-informed, victim-centered, strength-based, and trauma-informed. Through a collaborative approach, the Workgroup works to identify and recommend solutions based on best practices in addressing lapses in victim services.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Executive Order 2015-12, the Council is composed of individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at his pleasure without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council:

Cindy H. McCain

Co-Chair
The McCain Institute for International
Leadership

Gil Orrantia

Co-Chair
Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Sarah Beaumont

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Kate Brophy McGee

Arizona State Senate

Nathaniel Brown

Navajo Nation Council

Marsha Calhoun

American Airlines

Heather Carter

Arizona State Senate

Cara Christ

Arizona Department of Health Services

Doug Coleman

Apache Junction Justice Court

Jennifer Crawford

Tucson Police Department

Michael Faust

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Maria Cristina Fuentes

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Jim Gallagher

Phoenix Police Department

Debbie Johnson

Arizona Department of Tourism

Joseph Kelroy

Administrative Office of the Courts

Sarah Kent

Maricopa Association of Governments

Lois Lucas

Catholic Charities

Zora Manjencich

Arizona Attorney General's Office

David Curry

Arizona Department of Transportation

Heston Silbert

Arizona Department of Public Safety

Rachel Mitchell

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Sheila Polk

Yavapai County Attorney

Jill Rable

HonorHealth

Dominique Roe-Sepowitz

Arizona State University

Brian Steele

Phoenix Dream Center

Jim Waring

Phoenix City Council

Michael Wisehart

Arizona Department of Economic Security

COUNCIL GOALS 2020

In 2020, the Council continued its work to expand its pool of qualified Human Trafficking trainers; supported victim services programs; and brought Arizona stakeholders together to improve Arizona's response to trafficking. Furthermore, and in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council found innovative solutions to bring together stakeholders from across the state through virtual platforms to improve Arizona's response to trafficking.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2020, Council members organized and participated in a variety of activities that furthered the mission of preventing - and improving the state's response to - human trafficking. These events also provided learning opportunities for Council members and other stakeholders, and demonstrated how the Council's efforts are far reaching and applicable across the state and country.

Arizona Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed January 2020 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month to recognize Arizona's commitment to combatting human trafficking, protecting victims' rights, and restoring their freedom and dignity. Throughout the month of January, the Arizona State Capitol Dome - along with other state agency, municipal, and county buildings - was lit blue as part of a human trafficking public awareness campaign. The Council released a new Human Trafficking public service announcement featuring Governor Ducey and Mrs. McCain, which can be viewed at endsextrafficking.az.gov.

Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium

The Council hosted its second annual Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium on January 7, 2020, in partnership with GOYFF, and the McCain Institute. The Symposium brought together stakeholders across Arizona to strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration to continue to improve the response to trafficking throughout the state.

The event focused on best practices in providing services to victims, models of partnership-building, and expanding service provider networks. The Symposium also focused on strengthening collaboration among multidisciplinary teams and utilizing the wrap-around services of advocacy centers. Regional Taskforce members from Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, and Yavapai counties shared their success in working with schools and parents to increase training and awareness on the issue of child sex trafficking. Attendees included representatives from law enforcement, health care, social services, non-profits, education, and government.

Quarterly Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Meetings

Co-Chair, Director Gil Orrantia, convened two Quarterly Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Meetings in 2020. These meetings are designed to bring together the many regional task forces in Arizona to collaborate, share information and best practices, discuss needs, and update the Council on regional activities. Representatives of the following regional task forces participated in these meetings: Arizona Coalition of Victim Services (ACVS), Central Arizona United to Stop Exploitation Taskforce (CAUSE), Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Northern Arizona, Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT), Phoenix Human Trafficking Taskforce, Pinal County, Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN), Yavapai County Trafficking Taskforce, and the McCain Institute.

National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States

On September 15, 2020, the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (NAC) published its interim report, Best Practices and Recommendations for States. This report is intended to provide states with resources and examples to combat the sex trafficking of children. The NAC was established in 2017 pursuant to the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. The NAC advises the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on practical and general policies that are designed to improve the nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth. Arizona has been represented on the NAC since the appointment of Governor Ducey to the NAC in 2018. The September 2020 interim report contains more than 127 recommendations to the states in the following categories: multidisciplinary response, screening and identification, child welfare, service provision, housing, law enforcement and prosecution, judiciary, demand reduction, prevention, legislation and regulation, research and data, and funding and sustainability.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the past year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to victim services, law enforcement, national responses to combat human trafficking, and regional responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Council continued to learn about best practices and ways to increase collaboration at the state level. This understanding has helped facilitate the Council's efforts to ensure that Arizona remains a leader in combatting human trafficking. Presenters included:

- The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) shared that it developed safety protocols that would support the resumption of in-person parent and child visitations. DCS facilitates 6,000 or more safe visitations in any given week. Since the pandemic began, DCS has continued to prioritize permanency for children in their care, successfully reunifying 2,978 children with their families, and finalizing approximately 1,700 adoptions. More details on the changes DCS has implemented during the pandemic can be found at <https://dcs.az.gov/covid19>.
- The Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) works to combine existing federal programs to eliminate gaps through which foster youth fall into homelessness.
- The Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Taskforce presented to the Council on their recommendations to the legislature and the Governor regarding their collaborative statewide review of Arizona's laws for protecting those victimized by sexual abuse during childhood. The full recommendations can be found at goyff.az.gov/VictimsTaskforce.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), shared that in 2019, they assisted with approximately 10,500 reports related to possible Child Sex Trafficking (CST). NCMEC is aware of instances where child predators are using the darknet to entice children to produce sexually explicit material. Spotlighted in this presentation was the increase in reporting due to the rise of conspiracy-related claims about CST.
- The Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) provided an overview of the 2020 Youth Experiences Survey (YES) Study Results. The purpose of the YES study is to determine gaps in service needs, particularly among vulnerable populations and explore how prevalent sex and labor exploitation is as a result of these vulnerabilities.
- Soul Survivor Ink (SSI), a nonprofit organization that removes or covers-up branding tattoos forced on the victims of sex trafficking, shared that it operates in 34 cities across the country and plans to perform approximately 1,000 procedures in 2020.

- The STRENGTH (Strength Through Resilience – Empower New Growth Through Hope) Court shared that its operations have continued during the COVID-19 Pandemic by utilizing video and telephonic conferencing. This is a specialized court which focuses on the needs of child victims of trafficking. Since STRENGTH Court's inception in 2018, there has been a significant decline in the number of minor victims who have fled placement and returned to the streets (less than 5%).¹
- Service providers updated the Council on how their operations have been affected and adapted because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. These service providers included Phoenix Dream Center, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix Police Department, StreetLight USA, Maricopa County Juvenile Sex Trafficking Collaborative, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, and Maricopa Association of Governments.

A complete summary of Council meeting presentations can be found at: goyff.az.gov/htc.

COUNCIL WORKGROUP REPORTS

As part of the Council, 4 workgroups convene regularly to further develop the work. Workgroup accomplishments for 2020 include:

- Bringing awareness and training to over 3,900 stakeholders and community members, including educators, social workers, and juvenile and adult probation officers;
- Conducting a statewide Human Trafficking Needs Assessment to assess services for victims, and identify barriers to providing services; and,
- Providing victim service providers with best practices to adapt services amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in support of vulnerable populations.

DATA & RESEARCH WORKGROUP

The Data & Research Workgroup is chaired by Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz is the Director of the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) at Arizona State University (ASU) and has served on the Council since 2014. In 2020, members of the Workgroup hosted 36 human trafficking training opportunities (in-person until March and then via web-platform) for a total of 3,931 individuals. Training audiences were made up of victim advocates, domestic violence shelter staff, clinical social workers/counselors, behavioral health staff, special education teachers, bus drivers, transportation specialists, acupuncture providers, foster parents, brain injury specialists, psychiatric hospital staff, juvenile and adult probation officers, juvenile corrections staff, college students, and community members at-large.

Through the STIR Office in Arizona State University's School of Social Work, the Workgroup collaboratively published several studies. The STIR Office collects and publishes local and national data that is used to inform training, coordinate victim identification and services, and inform a coordinated response to victims by stakeholders such as law enforcement, social services, and health care professionals. In 2020 the Workgroup published several studies, including the following:

- 2020 Youth Experiences Survey (YES)
- Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery Group (STAR) at Estrella Jail Report (four group reports)
- CAUSE Task Force Report
- Diversity and Inclusion Report

¹ <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/trafficking>

- IRC Case Report
- 2020 Child Sex Trafficking Survivor Roundtable Report
- 2020 Child Sex Trafficking in Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2020 Trick Roll Study-Forced Criminality in Sex Trafficking Situations

The Workgroup also continues to work with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) on two projects. The first is to train correctional/detention officers to identify victims of human trafficking, and once identified, develop policy on how to respond. The second project is to provide and research a psycho-education group for female inmates in the MOSAIC program at the Estrella Jail. To date, 84 incarcerated women who have self-identified as a victim of sex trafficking have attended the STAR (Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery) group. The evaluation of the STAR group found that the participants' life histories were filled with violence and traumatic experiences. Participation in the STAR group led to decreased trauma symptoms.

A project with the Maricopa County Child Sex Trafficking Collaborative (The Collaborative) resulted in multiple capacity building training opportunities with The Collaborative Partners. The training had two goals. The first was to educate providers of services and to clarify the goals of The Collaborative. The second was to build a robust community of clinical providers to offer sex trafficking-specific clinical services to child victims around Arizona.

The Sex Trafficking Special Education Project, in partnership with Koi Education, Dr. Angel Jannasch-Pennell, and Kimberly Peaslee, focused on training special education providers and targeting support services, including transportation staff, school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, special educators, and special education administrators. The project resulted in targeted training materials including red flags and response plans, which can be used as a checklist and tailored for each school or school system.

A project with Family Advocacy Centers (FACs) and Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Arizona explored the activities of each center regarding the services provided to sex and labor trafficking victims. The project also resulted in training opportunities designed to support each center's training requests. The training included sessions on Sex Trafficking 101, Medical and Sex Trafficking, and Recognizing and Working with Trauma Survivors.

The STRENGTH Calendar Project is a process evaluation created to track the development of the STRENGTH Calendar in the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. In partnership with Dr. Judy Krysik and the Arizona State University (ASU) Center for Child Well-Being, the process evaluation included interviewing over a dozen STRENGTH Calendar stakeholders and analyzing information about the court participants.

A Human Trafficking Statewide Needs Assessment was conducted and over 100 victim serving agencies in Arizona responded to the online/telephone survey. The survey assessed the scope of services in Arizona for victims of sex and labor trafficking, as well as identifying barriers to providing services. Respondents from all 15 counties in Arizona participated and major gaps in services were identified.

The 2020 Youth Experiences Survey (YES) was administered by the Arizona State University (ASU) STIR Office, in collaboration with Our Family Services in Tucson and in Phoenix, Native American Connections, one-n-ten, and UMOM New Day Centers. This was the seventh annual Youth Experiences Survey (YES) and it received 81 responses. The study was conducted in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Arizona and found that homeless and runaway youth continue to have significant barriers to independence, including incomplete education, limited

access to resources (shelter, food, support), Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), mental health challenges, and childhood histories of abuse. The participants reported sex trafficking at a higher rate than any other previous year of the study. Participants reported that 90% of them had a sex trafficker and they were equally likely to be sex trafficked for money as they were for food. A quarter (24.7%) of the participants reported a history of labor exploitation and, similar to sex trafficking, were equally likely to be labor trafficked for money as they were for food.

The Workgroup completed two focus groups in 2020. The first focus group was conducted with sex trafficking survivors and the questions related to transforming the traditional drop-in center model to a street outreach model due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. The second focus group brought together juvenile probation sex trafficking specialists to explore their experiences and identify training and support needs.

OUTREACH & AWARENESS WORKGROUP

In 2020, Debbie Johnson, Director of the Arizona Office of Tourism, was named Chair of the Outreach & Awareness Workgroup. Director Johnson brings a wealth of experience that will prove invaluable in supporting and driving the Workgroup, having served on Council since 2014 and previously serving as Chair of this Workgroup.

POLICY WORKGROUP

In 2020, the Policy Workgroup continued to identify obstacles to felony convictions and expungement. The Policy Workgroup is chaired by Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney. Ms. Polk has served on the Council since 2014.

VICTIM SERVICES WORKGROUP

The Victim Services Workgroup is co-chaired by Dr. Angela Salomon and Dr. Sarah Beaumont. Dr. Salomon, Director of Programs at StreetLight USA, has served as co-chair since 2019. Dr. Beaumont, Medical Director of the Homeless Youth Outreach Program at Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH), has served on the Council since 2018.

With the current COVID-19 Pandemic, victim services are needed more than ever, and programs have had to adapt to ensure the safety of team members while continuing to serve those who have experienced or are at risk of exploitation through sex or labor trafficking. The Workgroup shifted its focus to address these acute needs and developed a webinar to share best practices and resources that support vulnerable populations. Members of the Workgroup shared updates to policy and protocol in supporting employee health and safety, adjusting outreach and case management to virtual platforms, and addressing housing and food insecurity. This webinar provides viewers an opportunity to learn how other organizations have adapted their programs to continue to be effective and provide effective resources to address emerging issues in client safety and well-being. The webinar was recorded in partnership with the McCain Institute. Kate Ormiston, Alicia Winchel, Dr. Angela Salomon, and Sarah Kent served as presenters. The webinar can be accessed at goyff.az.gov/htc.

The Workgroup was also able to further its evaluation and development of identification tools that help service providers to better distinguish victimization through labor and sex trafficking. This work has spurred efforts to identify trauma-informed approaches that would avoid re-traumatization and be inclusive of the needs of different vulnerable populations. The Workgroup also continued to encourage service providers to integrate the YES Study results into their scopes of service.