### YUMA COUNTY SEX TRAFFICKING COALTION

YOUTH SEX TRAFFICKING AWRENESS AND INTERVENTION

# COALTION MEMBERS

The Healing Journey Trauma Recovery Center

Yuma County Juvenile Probation

Yuma County Victim Services Division

Amberly's Place

MCAS Advocacy Center on base

**Catholic Commuunity Services** 

Probvers 31 home

Cocopah Indian Tribe Victim President Rosa Long

Cocopah Police Department

# COALITION MEMBERS

Yuma Police Lieutenant Legros

San Luis Police Chief Jessup

Yuma County Justice of the Peace, Juan M. Guerrero

**Department of Child Safety** 

Mercy Care

Banner Health

Arizona Complete Health

Arizona Western College Campus Police

Yuma County
Sex Trafficking
Coalition
Mission
Statement

- •To provide training and education to our community in recognizing the signs of youth sex trafficking.
- •To establish collaborations between agencies in providing services to at-risk youth and victims of trafficking.

#### Law Enforcement Training

Yuma Police Department San Luis Police Department Yuma County Sheriff's Department Arizona Western College Police Department

Cocopah Police Department

Quechan Police Department Somerton Police
Department

#### Collaborations Between Agencies

Juvenile Court refers to The Healing Journey for services when a victim of youth sex trafficking or a youth at risk of being trafficked is identified. Juvenile Court also provides Sex Trafficking 101 Training for THJ staff and coalition members.

Department of Child Safety refers when the youth is at risk for trafficking

School based counselors will refer if a youth is at risk for trafficking

Goals of the coalition meetings are to provide insight and additional support for on-going cases and staff potential new cases, i.e. using local resources from those who attend

#### Barriers and Challenges

COVID-19 affected our ability to promote awareness, unable to provide trainings and do community outreach

We are still faced with the challenge that our community does not accept that sex trafficking is an issue and that it does exist in Yuma County.

### The Healing Journey Successes

Has worked with 20 victims of youth sex trafficking in the past six years.

35 girls and boys at risk for trafficking drugs and sex trafficking.

We provide Trauma focus therapy and life skills along with case management.

Each therapist and life skills counselors are certified through the Arizona Trauma Institute

#### On-Going Goal and Moving Forward...

To Continue educating our community, local law enforcement and behavioral health agencies on recognizing signs of sex trafficking, identifying victims and those that are at risk of being trafficked.

Yuma Sex Trafficking Symposium, with the assistance of The McCain Institute, which will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which will provide training to:

- Law Enforcement
- Department of Child Safety
- Behavioral Health Agencies
- Victim Advocacy
- Prosecutors

Develop and Provide Sex Trafficking 101 for high school students and parents/guardians

#### Questions? Comments?

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