



Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking Minutes

July 18, 2019

Introductions

Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking, pam@ncstophumantrafficking.org
Juliana Mariani, Project FIGHT, juliana.mariani@uss.salvationarmy.org
Marie Welch, NC Stop Human Trafficking board member, mariewelch12@gmail.com
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Sue Anne Pilgreen, Vidant Medical Center – Injury Prevention, sfipps@vidanthealth
Yolanda Thigpen, Kinston Police Department, yolanda, thigpen@ci.kinston.nc.us
Melinda Sampson, NC Stop Human Trafficking, melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org

Good News

PCCAHT WEBSITE: Please send information about your upcoming events and organizational information to Melinda Sampson so that she may post it on the website. Minutes will be posted on the website. The new PCCAHT website address is www.pccaht.wordpress.com

HUMAN TRAFFICKING COURT IN FAYETTEVILLE

Pam Strickland: The Human Trafficking Court in Fayetteville is the only one of its kind in the state. Victims don't have to go to regular court, this is exciting.

MORE INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING COURT IN FAYETTEVILLE: The court will be known as WORTH Court (We Overcome Recidivism Through Healing) to avoid the stigmatizing term of "human trafficking." In many cases, victims of trafficking are charged with crimes such as prostitution, drug possession, larceny or shoplifting. Instead of charging victims,

WORTH Court is designed to connect these people to services such as counseling, drug treatment, job skills training, medical care, education, immigration legal aid and housing. WORTH Court's first court date was July 19.

[READ MORE ABOUT WORTH COURT.](#)

OTHER:

GREAT ARTICLE IN N& O:

Pam Strickland: The News and Observer article about human trafficking and massage parlors was very well done. She talked to advocates and professionals in the anti-human trafficking movement across the state and all the information was correct.

CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION IS WORKING:

Bonnie Jean Kuras: Recently she presented a workshop to Project FIGHT regarding childhood sexual abuse and exploitation. It was a nice connection developed from the Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and those connections have been a highlighted conversation through BRACE, TEDI BEAR, and PCCAHT. Everyone is having conversations and collaborating. It is a really good model.

CLIENT NOW HAS A HOME:

Juliana Mariani: A client has acquired an apartment. This client has been through foster care and experienced homelessness. She was staying in hotels, and she was ultimately trafficked at a bus stop. Now she is happy. She does need dishes, though. She doesn't have pots and pans.

Bonnie Jean Kuras: There should be a place to donate specific things in one place.

Sue Ann Fipps: Try God's Love. They have a huge building with anything and everything to start out. The number is 252-341-4232.

Tori Chamberlain: Contact Pitt Resource Connection and your needs will be sent to all the people on the PRC list. Send that needs information at cindyarealcrisis@gmail.com

STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS IS EXPANDING:

Sue Ann Fipps: SADD saw a total pendulum change. After two years of building relationships with principals and administrators, momentum is finally built. That is a win. SADD has become overloaded with requests, however. SADD received most of the grants that have been applied for and will add a part-time person. SADD had 111 kids who reached out for help in some way to our SADD coordinator alone. This doesn't include students

reaching out to school staff for help. There is domestic violence going on, contemplation of suicide as well. Most of those self-identifications came from SADD events. The plan moving forward next year is the principal will lay out the needs and Deb (Pomeroy) [SADD Coordinator] will be providing training for educators for each school.

TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Pam Strickland: Tiffany with Trillium invited Pam Strickland to participate and do a training for law enforcement in Pitt County. She will invite Pam Strickland to share human trafficking information in other counties.

FALKLAND ELEMENTARY STEM FAIR WAS A SUCCESS

Minerva Freeman: STEM activities at Falkland Elementary were a success. Grades 3 through 5 attended and all the students were excited and well behaved. Greenville Utilities, 4-H and many other community members came out.

Rapid Response Team Report:

Juliana Mariani: In June, there were six Latinos, 3 males and 3 females. They are victims of labor or labor and sex. There were 10 Americans, all female, all sex trafficked. During the on-call week, Juliana Mariani received three calls – two of which came from North Carolina and one was from Florida. One of the calls from North Carolina was a woman who had a child. She said she needed to leave now because her trafficker wanted to do the same thing to her daughter. The woman was taken to a shelter. (Juliana Mariani serves on an emergency on-call rotation basis for the National Human Trafficking Hotline).

NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Next meeting: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday, August 1
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2100, Raleigh, N.C

Human Trafficking Cases (See Handout)

Training opportunities (See Handout)

**Discussion 1: Legislative update
(See Handout)**

**Discussion 2: Legalization, Decriminalization and partial
Decriminalization of Prostitution
(See Handout for full fact sheet)**

Pam Strickland: A discussion was had at the June meeting about legalization, full decriminalization and partial decriminalization of prostitution. In the news,

you may have heard about decriminalization of prostitution. Presidential hopeful Kamala Harris came out in favor of decriminalizing prostitution. It is out there. There is a discussion that is happening. It is worthwhile to talk about what that means. Many people believe decriminalization and legalization are interchangeable and these terms are not.

Currently, prostitution is illegal, everyone can be arrested and people involved are stigmatized.

Everyone assumes it is legal in all of Nevada – there are only a few counties in Nevada where it is actually legal. Everywhere outside of those counties in Nevada it is an illegal operation.

In situations of legalization, licensing is required and health checks are required. Of course, requiring condoms does help, but that is the only part of the body is covered. Having condoms help, but it doesn't make it healthy.

Yolanda Thigpen: Legalization could lead to a less burdened court system.

Pam Strickland: *In situations of decriminalization, it promotes bodily autonomy, allows people to make money in the only way they feel they can; destigmatizes “sex work;” and it reduces fear of reporting assaults against sex workers.*

Decriminalization also normalizes the commodification of a human body; there is no distinction between the buyer, seller and the prostituted person; demand increases because there is no punitive repercussion; and it provides a cover for sex traffickers.

Pam Strickland: *In partial decriminalization or the Nordic Model, the pimp and buyer will be arrested, not the person being prostituted. The prostituted person is offered services and a way out. More than 90 percent of people in the sex industry are victims of sexual abuse. Their decision making is based on trauma. A high percentage of these people were coerced into prostitution at a young age. When you talk to people in our area, it is very much drug related and there is no way to know if the pimp got that person addicted to drugs or preyed on them because they were already addicted. What is hard for some people to understand is that a person prostituting themselves is not by choice, but lack of choices. NC Stop Human Trafficking supports the Nordic Model. It has been adopted in several different countries and by de facto adopted in some areas in the U.S. – not officially, of course. There are areas in North Carolina, practically speaking, that are doing this because law enforcement is offering services to prostituted people but arresting the sex buyer and the trafficker.*

19 Day of Prevention Campaign

Committee: Yolanda Bowens, D'nise Williams, Liz Liles, Melinda Sampson,
Minerva Freeman, Pam Strickland

First meeting: July 30, 6pm
Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville

Announcements

Stewards of Children training

Tuesday, 7/23/19, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville, NC Meeting Room A

Register: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/tedibear/soc-registration.cfm>

Human Trafficking 101

Thursday, July 25, 6-8:30pm

Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville

Light supper served

Register at <https://humantrafficking101greenville.eventbrite.com>.

National Night Out

August 6, Kinston

Contact [Yolanda Thigpen](#) at Kinston PD to have a table

Daughters of Worth

Masquerade Ball

Oct 18, 6pm, Location TBA

We are going to have food, door prizes and talk about being your true authentic self. These events are open to community and community partners – we invite you to have a table and information available.

Daughters of Worth Summit

March 19-20, 2020, Greenville Hilton

Keynote speaker: Dr. Adrian Wood is the keynote speaker.

We are going to focus on shifting the trajectory – anything you can think of related to women and children. If you are interested in serving on the planning board, the planning sessions begin in August or the first of September, just trying to gather team to being a part of that.

Next meeting

August 15, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Sheppard Memorial Library, Meeting Room A

Speaker: Bonnie Jean Kuras, Resilience in the Work Place

Adjourn

Next Meetings – Mark Your Calendars

August 15

September 19

October 17

Human Trafficking Case Manager

Juliana Mariani

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24-hour Warm Line: 919-410-6596

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www.projectfightnc.org

Website/Social Media

Encstophumantrafficking.org/PCCAHT

www.facebook.com/PCCAHT

Please like the Facebook Page and send announcements to

melinda@encstophumantrafficking.org.