



**Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Minutes
November 2019**

Introductions:

Minerva Freeman, Community Member, minervafreeman1004@gmail.com
D’Nise Williams, Greenville Police Department, dwbraswell@greenvillenc.gov
Taja Tatum, Greenville Police Department intern
Bonnie Jean Kura, TEDI BEAR Children’s Advocacy Center, kurasb18@ecu.edu
Maria Pinto, Center for Family Violence Prevention, mpinto@c4fvp.org
Jennifer Matthews, Pitt County Coalitions Against Substance Abuse/East Carolina University, cremeensj@ecu.edu
Latrisha Lyons, Pitt County Department of Social Services, Latrisha.lyons@pittcountync.gov
Leah Arnold, Legal Aid of North Carolina, leaha@legalaidnc.org
Kayla Holder, REAL Crisis Intervention, kaylahrealcrisis@gmail.com
Raj Jagad, Exchange Effect, rajjagad3@gmail.com
Jeannette Debs, PFLAG, jeandebs@gmail.com
Desha Lane, Pitt County Sheriff’s Office, desha.lane@pittcountync.gov
John Porter-Acee, St. Timothy’s United Methodist Church, johnpa@st-tim.org
Carrie Sowash, Community Member, csowash@gmail.com
Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking, pam@ncstophumantrafficking.org
Melinda Sampson, NC Stop Human Trafficking, melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org

Good News:

Pam Strickland: NC Stop Human Trafficking visited with Beverly Weeks, executive director of Cry Freedom Missions in Wayne County. There is incredible interest in having a coalition developed in that area. NC Stop Human Trafficking will continue to work on building and fostering relationships to develop coalitions like the Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking across the state.

Maria Pinto: The Center for Family Violence Prevention moved offices to the Lee Building near the courthouse. There is more space, and the center will be planning an open house.

Raj Jagad: The Exchange Effect hosted free EKG tests and discovered a woman who was in need of immediate medical attention. Coalition members suggested for further outreach to get connected with Juan Allen at Access East who does farmworker outreach as well as Oakmont Baptist Church’s Medical Clinic.

Jeannette Debs: PFLAG will be hosting a holiday card writing event to send to incarcerated people in the LGBTQ community on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 131 Oakmont Drive, Greenville.

Rapid Response Team Report:

Pam Strickland (reporting on behalf of Juliana Mariani, Project FIGHT case manager): Juliana is currently serving 8 women in their 40s who are domestic born; 5 women in their 30s who are Latina – all sex trafficking victims; and 3 males in their 30s who are victims of labor trafficking and who are Latino.

19 Days of Prevention Campaign Report:

Melinda Sampson (reporting on behalf of Liz Liles, founder of Daughters of Worth): We had a great service provider turnout for the parents' resource fair at the Grady White/ER Lewis Boys and Girls Club in Belvoir, however, few parents engaged with it. It may be the nature of the culture in that location, and the fact that the day was an early release day from school.

Bonnie Jean Kuras: The book club Chew & Chat went well. We had some great conversations and developed some connections that we did not have before this book club meeting, so that is always wonderful. We read "The Body Keeps the Score," by Bessel von der Kolk, MD.

D'Nise Williams: The Children's Readings were fun. We read "Miles is the Boss of His Own Body," to about five children in all. Williams chose that book because she consulted her colleagues and they all felt that was the safest book to read to children without parents becoming upset. It is a great thing to do this more.

Melinda Sampson: I think we should go to where children are already there, like the Moyewood Recreation Center event – it had a great turnout because there were kids already in the afterschool program.

Minerva Freeman: The Pitt County Youth for Justice and Change event went really well. There were about 25 kids there and the youth that led the event did a great job. It was good because the kids got to learn about cyberbullying and internet safety, but the youth in the group also got to present and learn as well. We should do more events like this at Moyewood Recreation Center.

Melinda Sampson: Our social media campaign featured shareable graphics for every day of the 19 days. Each post, on average, reached 350 people with some posts being shared more than others. People were really interested in the topics of child pornography, child sex trafficking, child sexual abuse and street children. The Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking, NC Stop Human Trafficking, Daughters of Worth, Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Pitt Collaborative for Family, Youth and Children participated in the digital campaign.

(SEE PRESENTATION SLIDES)

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month:

Social Media

Melinda Sampson: There will be 90 social media shareables available soon.

Municipal Proclamations:

Bethel: Second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain: Second Tuesday at 7 p.m. (Minerva Freeman will handle)

Pitt County Commissioners: First Monday at 9 a.m. (Pam will be doing this but invites other coalition members to come out and show their support)

Greenville: First Monday and First Thursday at 6 p.m. (Pam will be doing this but invites other coalition members to come out and show their support)

Farmville: First Monday at 6:30 p.m. (Melinda will be doing this)

Grimesland: First Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Grifton: First Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Simpson: Second Monday at 7 p.m.

Ayden: Second Monday at 7 p.m.

Winterville: Second Monday at 7 p.m.

Falkland: Minerva Freeman will do this one.

Discussion: What are the needs of human trafficking survivors? How are they being met? What needs are not being met? What steps can we take to fill those gaps?

Jennifer Matthews: There are limited resources for Spanish speaking individuals when we are looking at substance abuse issues. Trauma often causes an issue for individuals to recover from substance abuse issues as well. They need help on both those fronts at the same time. And then there is always payment. Treatment is expensive. There is a detox center by the health department but what happens next? They can't return to the same environment and need additional support through the process. PORT will never turn someone away, but their services are limited. Where these people go next is hugely important.

Pam Strickland: There is a gap when in the community for Spanish speaking therapists. Juliana also mentioned that there isn't a support group for survivors and they need that, as well as housing and transportation issues.

Desha Lane: There are grant opportunities for the Pitt Area Transit and Trillium offers vouchers for rides.

John Porter-Acee: May know therapists who would provide pro bono services, and may have Spanish speaking therapists, as well.

Leah Arnold: My clients need a full medical exam to apply for a green card which they have to pay in full. There is only one certified "civil surgeon" in Pitt and surround counties, who can perform this exam, and the charge is \$300 per person. Also, to apply for a fee waiver costs \$930. Another requirement for the fee waiver is tax returns showing how little money they made. My clients also need a tax preparer to help them prepare back tax returns that they have never done. All this cost a lot of money.

Announcements:

Check out the BRACE podcast that PCCAHT members Melinda Sampson (NC Stop Human Trafficking) and Bonnie Jean Kuras (TEDI BEAR) facilitate.

Stewards of Children Training

Tuesday, December 3, 2-4:30 p.m.

Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville

Register: <https://tedibear.ecu.edu/stewards-of-children/>

Holiday card writing

Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

131 Oakmont Drive, Greenville

PFLAG will be hosting a holiday card writing event to send to incarcerated people in the LGBTQ community

Chew and Chat: No Shame Book Club

Friday, January 10th from noon to 1 p.m.

McAlister's Deli, Greenville

COMPASSIONOMICS – The Revolutionary Science Evidence That Caring Makes a Difference by Stephen Trzeciak and Anthony Mazzarelli. The premise of the book is that compassion has vast benefits for patients/can reverse the cost crisis in health care and could be the antidote for burnout – compassion matters. There are multiple TED Talks related to this topic.

PCCAHT Fundraiser at Mellow Mushroom

Wednesday January 15, 2020

11:00am-11:00pm

<https://www.groupraise.com/events/120717>

2020 Charles Blvd

Greenville, NC

Please click here and then click "Commit to Eat". Our event will be cancelled if 25 folks don't "Commit to Eat".

Human Trafficking 101

Thursday, January 23, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans St., Greenville

Light supper served.

Register at: <https://humantrafficking101january.eventbrite.com>

“Blind Eyes Opened” (Documentary about Human Trafficking)

Thursday, January 23, 7pm

750 SW Greenville Boulevard

Greenville, NC 27834

[Trailer and more info](#)

[Tickets](#)

Circle of Security Parenting Classes

Location: TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center

2303 Executive Dr., Greenville, N.C.
Next session begins in January
See flyer for details to register.

Next Meeting—Holiday Potluck!

December 19, 9:30 a.m.
Sheppard Memorial Library, Meeting Room A

Pam and Melinda will provide coffee and juice, and paper supplies. Everyone please bring your favorite holiday breakfast or snack item. We'll also have our Fair Trade Market, so be prepared to shop!

Adjourn

Next meetings- Mark Your Calendars

December 19

January 16

February 20

www.pccaht.com

Email melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org to add your organization.