



**June 18, 2020**

## **Minutes**

### **Introductions**

Jeanette Debs, PFLAG - jeandeb@gmail.com  
Julianna Mariani, Project Fight - juliana.mariani@uss.salvationarmy.org  
Julie Gill, TEDI Bear Child Advocacy Center - gillju@ecu.edu  
Ken Becker, Community Crossroads Center - ed@greenvillecommunityshelter.org  
Leah Arnold, Legal Aid of North Carolina - leaha@legalaidnc.org  
Maria Pinto, The Center for Family Violence Prevention - mpinto@c4fvp.org  
Melinda Sampson, NC Stop Human Trafficking - melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org  
Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking - pam@ncstophumantrafficking.org  
Tracy Kennedy, REAL Crisis Center - tskenedy@embarqmail.com

### **Good News**

Jeanette Debs: PFLAG Greenville is receiving \$2,000 from Roblee Foundation.  
Maria Pinto: County provided grant money for hotels for up to fourteen days for victims who needs to come to the shelter

**PCCAHT Account: \$237.33**

### **Rapid Response Team Report**

#### **Human Trafficking Cases - May 2020**

Follow up from last month:

In Federal news: Supervisors in an HSI investigation into human trafficking in illicit massage parlors authorized agents to have sex with potential human trafficking victims.

More information here:

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/homeland-secrets/agenttouch/story/investigative-Techniques.html>

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/homeland-secrets/agenttouch/story/see-something-say-Something.html>

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/homeland-secrets/agenttouch/story/operation-asian->

Touch.html

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/homeland-secrets/agenttouch/story/otherwise-illegal-Activity.html>

If you would like to sign a petition to protest, [sign here](#).

If you would like to send a letter of protest, please send to these agencies:  
<https://hotline.oig.dhs.gov/#step-1>

<https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/file-civil-rights-complaint>

## **Training Opportunities (See attachment)**

### **Roundtable Participants:**

**Leah Arnold of Legal Aid of NC:** There has been no walk-in appointments (as a result of COVID). Immigration court has been temporary shutdown, which slows down the application process. The USCIS (the agency who processes humanitarian applications) states that they are out of funding which could delay the number of applications processed at a time.

**Julie Gill of TEDI Bear Child Advocacy Center:** Our clinics scheduled for evaluations were reduced significantly and with everything that happened in March (a result of COVID-19). In April we went back to seeing patients but with a much lighter schedule than what we normally have. We currently have three evaluations a day and in July we are moving to four, but we are doing all the intensive disinfecting, social distancing, and everyone is required to wear a mask and have their temperature checked.

Mental health services, we do therapy and all therapy has shifted online therapy through telehealth. Some families responded well, and others had little challenges, so we are trying to mitigate that, and we have a very limited number of patients who come on-site every week for therapy and meet in person. Our coordination of inter-agency response is our MDT team. We have nine teams in the region all in which are meeting virtually. They continuing to meet, reviewing cases, ensuring that all systems are working together to make sure no child falls through the cracks. Participation has increased due to people being home, but things have slowed down as far as the things that need to happen for the children. Advocacy is being done by phone, making sure that kids have access to interventions even though they might be through telehealth vs in person.

Education outreach, which is going well as a result of virtual opportunities. Stewards of children have an official virtual platform that we can provide services through the internet. We are doing a lot of training with groups that may have been a little more challenging getting in-person training. All our funders and sponsors have been completely supportive of how we moved to online. The BRACE meetings to work on resilience and ACE education are also going well as far of participation. The SB 199 bill that mandates that schools have training in exploitation and abuse, we are getting calls from school systems asking for those types of training.

Family impact: Children feel stressed, they feel isolated due to not being connected with, and with their activities, there is a real sense of sadness and loss from them. We are still getting referrals from DSS and law enforcement.

**Maria Pinto of the Center for Family Violence Prevention:** We provide services for victims of domestic violence. We cover Pitt County, Martin County, and Washington County and have offices in each county. We run a safe house for victims and their children, along with providing adult counseling, court services, we help with domestic violence protective orders and anything else relating to court services and victim advocacy, those services are housed at the main office. We also have the family center, where we have supervised visitation is held, along with the children counselor and the GREAT program (abuser treatment program). We have two retail stores, My Sister's Closet (retail store for women's clothing) and My Sister's attic (retail store for furniture and home décor).

As a result of COVID, some of our services have been impacted, but basic services are still open and running. Our main office remains open, but the staff is limited. Most of the services like court services and counseling have to be provided remotely through WebEx. We have seen an increase in calls for assistance with protective orders. For counseling in the beginning on a crisis basis, as of today we are getting new clients and serving court services fully, but still being done remotely. Protective orders remained open at the courthouse, there was a reduction in criminal cases, the domestic violence cases have been running.

For the safe house, there was a protocol put in place, so if a victim is seeking shelter are placed in a hotel for 14 days, which is paid for with a county grant, and victims are constantly checked for any COVID signs. The shelter is at full capacity and some staff had to be furloughed which effected the safehouse. With stores closed, funding was reduced, and victim advocates had to be furloughed for over a month due to funding delays. Some staff came back on May 4th and the workload had increased to make sure all services were covered. The only program still closed is supervised visitation (which we are currently in the process of trying to reopen) and the GREAT program.

**Juliana Mariani of Project FIGHT:** We assist human trafficking victims with clothing, food, ID assistance, mental health, and dental, along with housing and shelter. We have shelters who assist victims when they need to flee, we also pick them up with police officers.

We have been impacted by COVID due to DMV being closed, we are unable to assist clients with getting their ID along with the office of Social Security, which has been kind of a setback. I have a client who has his T-Visa but doesn't have his license and was driving without them and pulled over. I noticed with our Latino clients, that they need to work and are getting sick, but they don't have health insurance and as a result, have been getting bills. Another thing that I have noticed, is clients being concerned with not meeting face to face with doctors, due to not having computers or just feeling uncomfortable not meeting in person. Even though they can't work, they are still able to have food in their homes.

**Ken Becker of Community Crossroads Center:** With COVID-19 we started preparing back in January for the pandemic. We installed extra hand washing stations at the front door. We have equipped our night staff who do the primary screen when people come in. We have been asking all our whether they have been experiencing symptoms and using touchless thermometers to check for fevers. We did go through a period during the stay at home order, where Community Crossroads was open 24 hours a day and it stretched our resources a little bit. We haven't had to furlough anyone, but we have had to set aside some programs in which were completely run by volunteers, to not put them, staff or residents at risk, so we minimized our association with people from the outside.

We are not running our Respite rooms currently (which are run by volunteers), which were rooms for the medically unstable, so they could have somewhere to go during the day. We have

temporarily shut down our clothing closet and evening bible study. We plan to reopen those programs as soon as possible; we are trying to maintain half occupancy so that we can maintain social distancing. Our plan is, when we reach phase three, to operate at full capacity. We are still open to taking people, we have about four female beds and three male beds that we have available. We are screening people and are referring people who are more vulnerable members of the population to the county, the FEMA sponsor, where they are placed in hotels, and then non-congruent housing. We don't know how long this will continue but we are going to take advantage of that as long as it is here because here, we have a very congruent population. But we do encourage them to social distance. When the shelter was open for 24 hours, some organizations brought in food for residents and coming in making breakfast. We are not turning people away, but we are finding them other resources.

## **Announcements**

### **Webinar: Sex Trafficking: What's Porn Got to do With It?**

June 24, 2 p.m.

The intersection between pornography and sex trafficking is broad, learn about how sex trafficking and pornography intersect, what a huge business it is, and what we can do about it.

REGISTER HERE: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SIOYYucvQg29qCsXpRGX8Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SIOYYucvQg29qCsXpRGX8Q)

### **Human Trafficking Commission Meeting**

Thursday, June 25, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[Details](#)

### **Human Trafficking 101**

July 8, 2 p.m.

What is human trafficking? Why is it so prevalent in NC?

Join us to learn the answers as well as how to identify red flags and warning signs in a potential victim; and how to report human trafficking.

REGISTER HERE: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cZ8o2l\\_aQh-lmulKjdO6kw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cZ8o2l_aQh-lmulKjdO6kw)

### **How Does Porn Cause Harm?**

July 22, 2 p.m.

Porn contributes to many societal issues that facilitate and normalizes the exploitation of people. It causes harm to individuals, relationships and society. Join us to learn more.

REGISTER HERE: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kdjP6jMXTkyCG7f4nb1Z2w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kdjP6jMXTkyCG7f4nb1Z2w)

**CareNet Counseling:** We continue to take new clients and have the ability to assist those who are un- and under-insured. Call 252-355-2801.

**Resources for Covid-19** (attached)

Online tips  
Take care of yourself and others

**Next Meeting**

July 16, 9:30 a.m.  
Virtual or Sheppard Memorial Library, Meeting Room A

**Adjourn**

**Next meetings- Mark Your Calendars**

July 16  
August 20  
September 17

[www.pccaht.com](http://www.pccaht.com)

Email [melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org](mailto:melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org) to add your organization