



**May 20, 2021**

## **Minutes**

### **Introductions**

Melinda Sampson, NC Stop Human Trafficking, [melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org](mailto:melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org)

Leah Arnold, Legal Aid of NC

Kayla Green, Center for Family Violence Prevention

Travis White, PCSO

Lauren Anzelone, LAMB's Place

Jeanette Debs, PFLAG Greenville, NC

Ashley Norton, Hoke County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center

Georgia Childs, Pitt County Health Department

Deborah Savage, Communicable Disease Health Educator with Pitt Co. Health Dept.

Maria Pinto, Center for Family Violence Prevention

Michelle Adams

Tim, American Children's Home

Kory Williford, FBI Victims Specialist

Minerva Freeman, Pitt County Family Development Corp., Inc.

Nicole Dean, Pride

Gabriella Pinto

Meredith Ferreri

Amanda Dolinger, Benchmarks

Kat Berrier, American Children's Home

Rajendra Jagad

### **Good News**

**Pam Strickland:** Glad to be back to in-person meetings and thankful for new team members; Meredith, new work study student.

**PCCAHT Account: \$237.33**

**Rapid Response Team Report**

Speaker is absent.

### **Training Opportunities**

**Pam Strickland:** Stewards of Children training opportunities; other opportunities include virtual conferences. NC Stop Human Trafficking conferences are next week. Traditional human trafficking 101 is coming up. Training being offered from NC VAN, NC CAHT will have human rights training, which is for people working directly with victims.

**Leah Arnold:** Victim's rights don't often come into play but understanding victim's rights law and what they are dealing with is important, so I'm excited about this training. Colleague Holly Thompson will be leading the Legal Aid portion of the training. Training is specific to NC state laws.

**Pam Strickland:** There is a conference coming in July: Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation. Will be virtual.

### **Human Trafficking Cases in NC**

**Pam Strickland:** This is the third case in NC that involves a "minister" exploiting members of a congregation that I've heard about. Using someone's faith to exploit them is horrible. Next case concerns child pornography; hope to get statute changed to use the term "child sexual abuse images" or "child sexual abuse materials", but statute currently uses the term "child pornography".

**Travis:** That reminds me of a case from a few months back; it revolved child pornography and child abuse images. We were attempting to locate where the images were coming from, and NC and three other states were involved. I know that case was not here but it still hasn't come to a conclusion.

**Speaker:** Lauren Anzelone, Founder, LAMB's Place

**Lauren Anzelone:** Lamb's Place was established in 2019. Prior to Lamb's Place, I was working for 6-9 years in therapy and saw a lot of crossover with young women and even some young men. When a young person ages out of the foster care system, 1 in 5 usually experience homelessness.

I noticed too that these young people had a lot of barriers to stable housing, employment, education. 24% will have no high school diploma or GED, 3% make it to college, and 23% will become teen parents. Employment and lack of housing increases, which leads to illegal activities. This impacts their ability to pay rent.

These are some of the examples of statistics that make things harder for transitioning; the purpose of Lamb's Place is to help with this transition and connect them with housing, employment and food. With these statistics, this is where the crossover with human trafficking

can occur. Former foster kids are overrepresented in homelessness, human trafficking and prison systems.

What happens is that the former fosters go back to what they know, whether it's healthy or not. Sometimes they want to get out of it but don't know how. Our goal is to give them the skills and resources they need to help support their transition so they don't have to go back to what they know.

We just opened our first home in February so we are learning to better help our young people. We have our third home now, but there is a huge need for a fourth home and we are excited to be able to serve in that capacity. Connect with us at lambs-place on Facebook, lambs\_place on Instagram or <http://lambs-place.org>.

Questions:

How are you funded?

**Lauren Anzelone:** Mostly through the generosity of many donors and supporters but we have also received four grants and are working on a fifth. All our homes thus far have been completely furnished by the generosity of donations.

Are there specific criteria for someone to be eligible?

**Lauren Anzelone:** We serve ages 18-25. There is a small application process. We don't have a huge criteria; the biggest one that sticks with us because of our property owner is that they can't have a felony. That is our biggest barrier. We do meet and greet with young people to see if this is a good fit for them.

How long can they stay? What requirements do they have, such as employment or payments?

**Lauren Anzelone:** We work with them once a week to talk about a transitional plan and make/meet goals. They can stay from 18 up til 25, for as long or short as needed. We want them to feel like this is their home, but we want to partner with them. They pay a small rent monthly that covers utilities, cable, internet, furniture; they have individual rooms with locks. If we have someone not paying rent, we help come up with a plan so that they are still responsible for the rent but help hold them accountable. We are in the process of partnering with a bank that does budget training with a certificate. Each month, we will follow up with their budget to help them prepare for budgeting in the future.

We try to provide "boundaries with grace."

Is this a faith-based non-profit?

**Lauren Anzelone:** Yes, it is faith-based, but our residents do not need to be of any particular faith. They are not required to do any religious activities; there are opportunities for devotion times, but it is not needed. There are no repercussions to not being involved in faith-based activities. We do not want to force anything onto our residents.

How do referrals work? Does it have to be someone who is local?

**Lauren Anzelone:** There are no limitations for which county they come from. We want to serve all NC counties. We want to be able to support as many folks as we can.

Are there any organizations you're partnering with to try and get your residents' records expunged?

**Lauren Anzelone:** Not at this time. We are thinking of connecting with an organization for this.

### **Announcements:**

#### Stewards of Children: Training in Child Sexual Abuse Recognition, Response and Prevention

May 20, 6-8 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

#### Virtual: Sex Trafficking: What's Porn got to do with it?

May 26, 2 p.m.

[Register here](#)

#### BBQ, Bluegrass & Brew

October 22, 7-9pm

The Barn on Saint Andrews, 400 Saint Andrews Drive, Greenville (the old Beef Barn)

[More info and tickets](#)

**Pam Strickland:** We are looking for sponsors and if anyone has potential donations for our auction, that would be great.

**Minerva Freeman:** Second Chance is a local organization that can assist with a path to supporting those with a record. Portia Bright is the contact person. They work with people with a record in assisting them to get on the right track.

**Kayla Green:** Center for Family Violence working on cookbook and upcoming event.

**Georgia Childs:** Pitt County Health Department to attend Pride event on June 26th, 10-2 in the town common.

**Pam Strickland:** Umbrella Market is back, with live music, from 5-8 every Wednesday.

### **Long Sleeve Drive for Migrant Farmworkers in Greenville NC**

El Rancho - 2500 Charles Blvd.  
Tropicana Supermarket – 1204 N Memorial Dr.  
AMEXCAN Office – 1410 Evans St. Suite 1-A  
La Sinaloense – 1700 W 5<sup>th</sup> St.

For more information:

Call: (252)329-0593

Email: [jrodriguez@amexcannc.org](mailto:jrodriguez@amexcannc.org)

### **Next Meeting**

June 17, 9:30 a.m.

Virtual - [Link to zoom meeting](#)

### **Adjourn**

### **Next meetings- Mark Your Calendars**

**June 17**

**July 15**

**August 19**

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

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