



June 17, 2021

Minutes

Introductions

Melinda Sampson, NC Stop Human Trafficking, melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org

Liz Liles, Daughters of Worth

Emily da Camara, Project FIGHT

Marie Welch, NC Stop Human Trafficking Board Member

Venus Curry, Pitt County Sheriff's Office

Ashley Lowe, Karana Rising

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

Rajendra Jagad

Samine Parris-Stowes

Kia Glosson

Leah Arnold

Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking

Jeanette Debs, PFLAG

Deborah Savage, Pitt County Health Department

Georgia Childs, Pitt County Health Department

Kayla Green, C4FVP

Good News

Daughters of Worth received a \$15,000 grant from Woman to Woman and are also working to launch a safe home

Vidant Foundation gave PCCAHT a \$5,000 grant

PCCAHT Account: \$237.33

Rapid Response Team Report

Speaker is absent.

Multidisciplinary Team is in training.

Leah: Futures Without Violence hosted multi-session training to respond to the needs of survivors of human trafficking.

Pam Strickland (NC Stop Human Trafficking), Leah Arnold (Legal Aid of NC), Travis White, (Pitt Co Sheriff's Office), and Lala Barlow (REAL Crisis) participated in the training. They plan to meet again to determine next steps and will share those with the Coalition.

Training Opportunities

Pam will be sending out part 1 of Human Trafficking Rights webinar.

Stewards of Children webinar coming up July 13, 2-4 pm. Registration can be found in link below

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e_aD37lh6bws54m9SwjPaGAD9fXXL-2RgGeLofSWrfs/edit?usp=sharing (Doc of all upcoming training opportunities)

AHEC is having a series of human trafficking trainings; these trainings are free and are done in partnership with the Human Trafficking Commission.

NC Stop Human Trafficking has an upcoming webinar called "Keeping Kids Safe Online."

Human Trafficking Cases in NC

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yk9q0-5jA91zY3JboVT4QSeOYW8S2KtzupjnygXZlf0/edit?usp=sharing> (Doc containing info on recent human trafficking cases)

Speaker: Ashley Lowe, Karana Rising

Works with Karana Rising to do Metropolitan Police training with cadets. Ashley is a human trafficking survivor who helps police know how to engage with victims; she also writes blogs, workshops, mentoring and speaks at meetings. Ashley's story helped impact the Safe Harbor legislation.

Ashley: At the age of 13, I was charged with prostitution. I was incarcerated many times from 13-17. In 2015, I was asked to go in front of congress and speak. I was asked to help influence that "no child under 18 should be charged with prostitution." It wasn't just my story but along with many others, our stories were told and I was there when they signed the bill.

This is part of the Safe Harbor law and after DC passed it, a few other states passed it as well. It also helps survivors get more support, which is something survivors need a lot of.

One common experience survivors share is that we all come from a broken home, whether it's sexual, physical, emotional abuse or an absent parent. Something went wrong as a child that led them into human trafficking, whether willingly or forced. This is my personal experience with myself and also other survivors I have spoken to.

I've been to many group homes and placements but never received the help that I need. At the age of 17, when I was in Colorado, they had a group every week for girls that had been involved in prostitution and trafficking and I had never had that support until then. There's not a lot of emotional support for survivors. There's nothing that feels better than having the support come from a survivor themselves.

The support group in Colorado was led by a really great male therapist and he really knew what he was talking about and helped us. That's why we're doing what we're doing with these workshops; they are led by survivors, for survivors.

I felt like something I should have received but didn't was anger management, and family therapy was difficult when parents are in denial and won't own up to the issues. I feel like I lacked anger management and meaningful family therapy.

I have noticed that a lot of traffickers are using Roblox to victimize children and other similar sites. There's a lot of things going on with these social media sites and children. My kids know not to talk to strangers online. I try to keep it real with my kids, and that was a problem when I was a kid. No one talked to me about the birds and the bees, good touch, bad touch. You are a product of your environment and I'm trying to break the cycle for my kids.

I've learned that little things like looking at a picture your child drew is very important to children and will let them know you support them. My dad was absent in my life and I caught myself looking for that attention in other men. I didn't have the support or feel the love because the love and the support was elsewhere.

I stayed at a home for survivors that helped me enroll in school and get daycare vouchers for my daughter. I've always struggled with a foundation and I still feel like I could use a little bit of anger management. I tried to go to therapy at 22 and they kept wanting to bring things up that happened to me as a child; that's a closed chapter in my life and I didn't want to talk about it, so I didn't go back.

I finally got approved for a house after struggling for one for many years and I'm very grateful.

Pam: Getting housing is an issue for many human trafficking survivors. Thank you for sharing that.

Ashley is currently enrolled for a Bachelor's degree in Management and has dreams of having her own non-profit.

Announcements:

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 5th St.

For more information:

Call: (252)329-0593

Email: jrodriguez@amexcannc.org

Umbrella Market is every Wednesday night

Keeping Children Safe Online hosted by Melinda coming up

NAMI Pride Event on June 26th; any PCCAHT members interested in staffing a table at the pride event?

Human Trafficking 101s will be in person again along with webinars. A **Human Trafficking 201** will be offered as a webinar in July.

Next Meeting

July 15, 9:30 a.m.

In person- Farmville Public Library

4276 W Church St, Farmville, NC 27828

Virtual - [Link to Zoom meeting](#)

Adjourn

Next meetings- Mark Your Calendars

July 15

August 19

www.pccaht.com

Email melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org to add your organization