



January 20, 2022

Agenda

Introductions

Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking, pam@ncstophumantrafficking.org

Minerva Freeman, minervafreeman1004@gmail.com

Jeannette Debs, PFLAG, jeandebs@gmail.com

Liz Liles, Daughters of Worth, liz@daughtersofworth.org

Bonnie Jean Kuras, TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center, Kurasb18@ecu.edu

Julie Gill, TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center, gillju@ecu.edu

Kory Williford, FBI, kawilliford@fbi.gov

Venus Curry, Pitt County Sheriff's Office, venus.curry@pittcountync.gov

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

Aimee Heroux, NC Stop Human Trafficking intern

Rhonda Dawson Pitt Co DSS, rhonda.dawson@pittcountync.gov

Kiera Claussen-Womack

Cami Russell

Samine Parris-Stowes, Work with Youth in Sorority, samine.parris@gmail.com

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

Good News

Jeannette Debs: PFLAG of Greenville is awarding a scholarship to assist students who are LGBTQ+ in the surrounding areas to go to college at ECU.

Pam Strickland: We had a live panel discussion yesterday and that was the first time we had ever done that. We were pretty excited. Another piece of good news is that we have produced a human trafficking documentary. We are releasing that next week on Wednesday.

Vidant Funds Report

-We have \$4,247.32 available to assist with survivor needs.

\$752.68 was spent to assist a local survivor with rent.

-Support Group for Survivors Update from NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking
The group is meeting for the first on January 26. A flyer and handout will be sent out with the minutes. Please share with survivors you know.

Pitt Co Human Trafficking MDT Report

Leah Arnold: We were able to meet and go through our MOU that all agencies will need to sign. There were no new cases to discuss so far.

January is Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month

Greenville: January 24, 6pm, Virtual Please mark your calendar and plan to attend! (We need as many members there as possible.)

[Training Opportunities](#) (follow this link)

[Human Trafficking Cases in NC](#) (follow this link)

Speaker: Liz Liles, founder of Daughters of Worth will discuss how they serve victims of human trafficking and surrounding areas.

Liz Liles: I started Daughters of Worth in 2015 and trafficking was part of that out of the gate. Our work has changed a lot over the years. When I first started we had two girls being raised by their grandmother and one of the girls came up to me and began disclosing what was happening. In order to pay rent and utilities the grandmother was selling them for sex.

One of the things I love about NC Stop Human Trafficking is bringing awareness and education about what trafficking is. Even the survivors we are working with have this idea that trafficking looks like a white van that shows up in a parking lot or they are tied up. But we don't see that. We have young ladies who were sold out for pizza or drugs or had to hide out while mom was active in "the life" and solicited their daughter or granddaughter.

The work has changed a bit. A lot of the work began with the advocacy piece, to listen to them, trying to help them to develop that confidence to tell their stories.

Up until early 2020, we served girls up until graduation. In 2020, we had girls that were getting ready to graduate and they didn't have support that was needed.

When you reach age 18, and the little bit of support that you had as a minor is completely gone, it looks completely different. The barriers that they are having to overcome, the hardship, the trauma, and not having any support there, it really opened my eyes of what it looks like in our community and why it is so difficult for them to overcome.

So we started serving girls into their '20s.

It has grown from 7 to 30. We have become an underground operation for survivors. They have almost built a family with each other. What we are finding is they pass our number to other survivors and say, when you are ready, they will help you get out. We actually had the National Human Trafficking Hotline call us when a survivor contacting them and asked for Liz at Daughters of Worth specifically.

You have to wait until they are ready.

Our goal is to get her into safety immediately. This looks different depending on the situation.

Typically these girls have nothing. They will leave with the clothes on their back and a plastic Wal-Mart bag that's got maybe toothpaste, toothbrush and one set of clothes. It is very raw and it always shakes you. They don't have any identification, license and social security card as well as bank cards - everything has been taken from them and they have to start from the very beginning to get any of these things back.

We work with Legal Aid and law enforcement and we make certain she has support and that she is not in this alone. It is happening more and more frequently here, from relationships to girls who are hungry to have love and acceptance.

As a coalition, as a community we need to be doing the things that we can do on a citywide level and a community level to be able to make it easier to generate independence and stability.

How do you have safe and affordable housing when you are making \$7.25 an hour? How are you able to overcome when you have charges, if you've got prostitution charges and trying to find a job.

The barriers they are having to overcome in order to try to make it, is one of the hardest things I have ever experienced. The things that we take for granted. We have a driver's license to get back and forth to work.

We find that a lot of these girls are continuously fighting the system. They desperately want to get out but they just don't always know how to make it. Sometimes it looks so easy to go back, because at least they know they have shelter there and they know how to navigate these horrible circumstances.

One of the things we desperately need is a safe home. We need a space for them to come in and rest. They need a place where they can breathe, a hot shower and a warm meal.

Announcements:

Pam Strickland: I hope that you will register for the documentary screening.

Bonnie Jean Kuras: Kia Glosson has also become a facilitator for Circle of Security parenting classes, so we will be able to offer more sessions of Circle of Security. Right now, we are working with Pitt County CDSA. I'll be sending out some schedules to make you aware of that.

Melinda Sampson: I've done the HEAL training, and we are getting into the health care professional space. If you have colleagues who are in the healthcare field, and want to be trained, send them my way.

Maria Pinto: We do have five job openings. They can go to our website and they can apply through our website.

If anyone has suggestions for specific speakers, topics for speakers to discuss or news you want to share from your organization, please let us know!



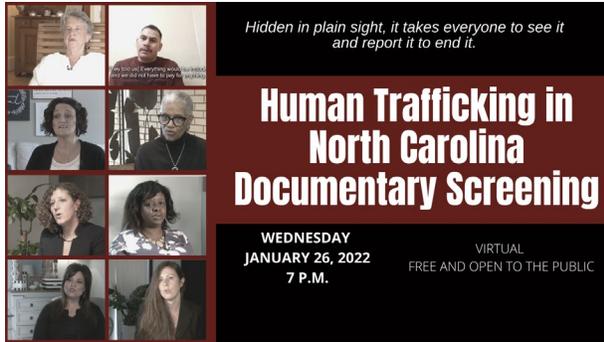
This graphic features three headshots of speakers: Caitlin Ryland, Kierika Yarbrough-Smith, and Vicki Dallas. Below the photos are their names and titles. The main text reads "Human Trafficking in North Carolina Panel Discussion" and "WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19, 2022 2 P.M. VIRTUAL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC". A quote at the bottom says "Hidden in plain sight, it takes everyone to see it and report it to end it."

[Register here](#)



This graphic features a grid of eight headshots of speakers. The main text reads "Human Trafficking in North Carolina Documentary Screening" and "WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26, 2022 2 P.M. VIRTUAL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC". A quote at the top says "Hidden in plain sight, it takes everyone to see it and report it to end it."

[Register here](#)



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Greenville City Council meeting

January 24, 6pm Virtual

Please save the time, and I'll send info on how to join when I have it

We need as many people there as possible to show support for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Next Meeting

February 17, 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn

Next meetings- Mark Your Calendars

March 17

April 21

May 19

www.pccaht.com

Email melinda@ncstophumantrafficking.org to add your organization