Statewide Council on Human Trafficking
Annual Report 2018

Florida: An All Hands On Deck Approach To Combat Trafficking
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January 18, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and as required by Section 16.617(5) of Florida Statutes, I am pleased to present the Council’s 2018 Annual Report to Senate President Bill Galvano and House Speaker Jose Oliva. This Annual Report provides an update on the Council’s ongoing work.

As the incoming Chair, I am very proud of the work being done by the Council and its agencies. The partnerships and relationships created through the Council have allowed Florida to serve as a national leader in human trafficking response.

The 2018 Annual Report offers an overview of the work done by the Council, its representative agencies, and partners. Additionally, the Council continued its active role in reviewing the work of service providers receiving state funding. It is imperative that state funds be used responsibly and in furtherance of Florida’s stated goals to combat trafficking and care for victims. This is an important role for the Council and should remain a priority.

I look forward to working with our state Legislature and the Governor to continue the fight to end human trafficking. With an all hands on deck approach, we will reach our goal of making Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking.

Sincerely,

Ashley Moody

Attorney General Ashley Moody
OVERVIEW

In 2014, the Florida Legislature created the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking (Council) for the purpose of coordinating efforts throughout the state to combat human trafficking in Florida. Through the Council, key stakeholders have worked together and have made great progress in the fight to eradicate human trafficking in Florida while supporting victims.

As mandated under Florida law, the Council is required to submit an Annual Report to the Legislature. The 2018 Annual Report will provide an update on the work of the Council, its representative agencies, and partners. Additionally, this report will serve as a comprehensive synopsis for incoming leadership. The Council continues to review the work being done by service providers receiving state funding. The Council believes it is imperative that state funds be used responsibly and in furtherance of Florida’s stated goals to combat trafficking and care for victims.

Both the terms “victim” and “survivor” may be used within this report. While the Council recognizes that survivors of human trafficking are survivors at every point of their exploitation through their recovery, the terms are used interchangeably throughout the report, often distinguishing those who have been identified and have initiated services versus those who have not yet been identified.

Additionally, the tasks outlined within the report address both the sex trafficking of minors and adults. As a result, both the terms “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)” and “Sex Trafficking” are used throughout the report to refer to the offense of sex trafficking; CSEC is only used when referring to a system, program, or sub-population of survivors that involves only those under 18 years of age.

THE COUNCIL

The mission of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking is to enhance the development and coordination of state and local law enforcement and social services responses to fight all forms of human trafficking and to support victims. A secondary mission of the Council is to make Florida a model state for fighting human trafficking. To accomplish these missions, the Council seeks to improve the ability of state and local law enforcement and prosecutors to both identify the many forms of human trafficking and the ways in which to more effectively attack it. Linking these efforts with an expanded and improved continuum of care of social services especially designed to assist the victims of human trafficking is essential to this mission.

Florida is one of the first states with a statutory council on human trafficking focused on policy. The 15-member council is chaired by the Attorney General and brings together law enforcement officers, prosecutors, legislators, service providers, as well as state leaders in the fields of health, education, and social services to work together in combating human trafficking. Pursuant to Section 16.617(2) of Florida Statutes, the Council shall consist of the following members:
(i) The Attorney General, or designee, who shall serve as chair
(ii) The Secretary of Children and Families, or a designee, who shall serve as vice chair
(iii) The State Surgeon General, or a designee
(iv) The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or a designee
(v) The Executive Director of the Department of Law Enforcement, or a designee
(vi) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or a designee
(vii) The Commissioner of Education, or a designee
(viii) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate
(ix) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
(x) An elected sheriff appointed by the Attorney General
(xi) An elected state attorney appointed by the Attorney General
(xii) Two members appointed by the Governor, and two members appointed by the Attorney General, who have professional experience to assist the Council in the development of care and treatment options for victims of human trafficking

As of July 2018, the Council’s membership consisted of Attorney General Pam Bondi, Secretary Mike Carroll (Department of Children and Families), State Surgeon General and Secretary, Dr. Celeste Philip (Department of Health), Secretary Justin Senior (Agency for Health Care Administration), Florida Department of Law Enforcement General Counsel Jason Jones (designee for the FDLE Commissioner), Secretary Christy Daly (Department of Juvenile Justice), Title IV, Part A Director Michelle Gaines (designee for the Department of Education Commissioner), Senator Kathleen Passidomo (appointed by the Senate President), Representative Jeanette Nuñez (appointed by the Speaker of the House), Sheriff Will Snyder, Martin County (appointed by the Attorney General), State Attorney Dave Aronberg, 15th Circuit (appointed by the Attorney General), Chief Melanie Bevan, City of Bradenton (appointed by the Governor), Lee Lowry, The Junior Leagues of Florida (appointed by the Governor), Dotti Groover-Skipper, The Salvation Army (appointed by the Attorney General), and Terry Coonan, FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (appointed by the Attorney General).

The Council is charged with the following: 1) Develop recommendations for comprehensive programs and services for victims of human trafficking to include recommendations for certification criteria for safe houses and safe foster homes; 2) make recommendations for apprehending and prosecuting traffickers and enhancing coordination of responses; 3) work with the Department of Children and Families to create and maintain an inventory of programs, including awareness efforts and victim assistance services; 4) hold an annual statewide policy summit with an institution of higher learning in Florida; and 5) develop overall policy recommendations that further the efforts to combat trafficking in Florida. § 16.617(4), Florida Statutes.

The Council formed three working committees to address the following: (i) awareness; (ii) law enforcement tools; (iii) prosecution; and (iv) victim safety and recovery. Committee responsibilities are broken down as follows:

**Services & Resources Committee**

*Co-chaired by the Secretary of Department of Children and Families and the Secretary of Department of Juvenile Justice*

This committee examines enhancement of victim safety and recovery.
Criminal Justice Committee
_Chaired by the elected Sheriff appointed by the Attorney General_
This committee explores methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training.

Legislative & Special Initiatives Committee
_Chaired by the Attorney General_
This committee addresses legislative priorities and special initiatives such as increasing public awareness of human trafficking.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN FLORIDA**

Federal and Florida law defines human trafficking as the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, or obtaining another person to transport for the purposes of forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation using force, fraud, and/or coercion. Under 787.06, Florida Statutes, victims of human trafficking may be anyone, young children, teenagers, or adults. Under Florida law, coercion, as defined in the Statute to include force or fraud, must be present whenever prosecuting a defendant for the trafficking of an adult. However, if the victim is a minor under 18 years of age or is a mentally defective or mentally incapacitated person regardless of age, the prosecution is not mandated to prove coercion.

Currently, there is not a recognized methodology for accurately capturing human trafficking rates within the United States. Data collection and data sets are not consistent state to state. In Florida, one of the primary sources of data on trafficking of minors is the Department of Children and Families (DCF). DCF records the number of reports alleging the human trafficking of children to the Florida Abuse Hotline. According to the _Florida Department of Children and Families Annual Human Trafficking Report 2017 – 2018 State Fiscal Year_, the number of reports to the Florida Abuse Hotline has increased each year since the introduction of the human trafficking maltreatment code into the maltreatment index in 2009, with the exception of state fiscal year (SFY) 2017-18. In SFY 2017-18, the total number of reports received by the Hotline alleging at least one of the human trafficking maltreatments was 2,133 reports, which is slightly less than the 2,224 reports from SFY 2016-17. Overall, from SFY 2013-14 to SFY 2017-18, there was a 147.7% increase in reports to the hotline for human trafficking maltreatments. Approximately 12.7% of the reports received were male victims, which is consistent with the male victim rate of reports received during prior years. Approximately 92% were coded as Human Trafficking-CSEC, while just over 7% were coded as Human Trafficking-Labor.

Unfortunately, there is no one system that is comprehensively collecting data on the trafficking of adults in Florida. As progress is made in data collection efforts to determine the prevalence of human trafficking, estimates from organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the National Human Trafficking Hotline are often acknowledged.
LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Florida has been a national leader in laws addressing human trafficking. Since 2012, multiple legislative priorities have passed to ensure that human trafficking was addressed from all angles.

2012

House Bill 99 Sexual Exploitation
The “Florida Safe Harbor Act” is a broad statute that ensures CSEC children are placed on a dependency track to receive services rather than a delinquency track. This legislation also gives law enforcement discretion to either arrest or deliver the minor to a short-term safe house and enhances penalties for solicitation. The law requires the Department of Children and Families to address child welfare service needs of sexually exploited children and provide requirements for safe houses.

House Bill 7049 Human Trafficking
This legislation combines statutes on involuntary servitude, human trafficking, and sex trafficking into a single statute and gives prosecuting authority over cases of human trafficking to the Florida Attorney General’s Office of Statewide Prosecution and to the statewide grand jury. Additionally, the law requires offenders to register as sex offenders or sexual predators when found guilty of commercial sexual activity and increases penalties for violations of human trafficking.

2013

House Bill 1325 Victims of Human Trafficking
This legislation provides for victims of human trafficking to petition the court to expunge arrests and convictions from their records if the acts were committed during the course of victimization.

2014

House Bill 7141 Human Trafficking
The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking was created with the passing of this legislation. Local community task forces addressing human trafficking were also mandated. Additionally, the law provided that the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and community-based care lead agencies utilize screening and assessment tools in serving this population. The law created additional guidelines for safe houses and safe foster homes, mandated that multidisciplinary team staffings be conducted for verified child trafficking victims, and required training for the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice staff working directly with this population.

House Bill 989 Human Trafficking
This legislation increases protections to victims of human trafficking. The law prohibits minors from working in adult theaters and removes time limitations to allow a prosecution for certain human trafficking offenses to be commenced at any time. The legislation creates and increases criminal penalties relating to human trafficking.
2015

**House Bill 369 Human Trafficking**
This legislation requires the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, and certain employers to display human trafficking public awareness signs at specified locations, provides public awareness sign requirements, and authorizes a county commission to adopt an enforcement ordinance.

**House Bill 465 Human Trafficking**
While providing enhanced criminal penalties for soliciting another to commit prostitution, this law also boosts protections for victims of human trafficking.

**House Bill 469 Human Trafficking**
The legislation exempts from public records the location of safe houses, safe foster homes, and other residential facilities serving victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

2016

**House Bill 545 Human Trafficking**
The legislation includes human trafficking as a predicate offense for felony murder. If a victim of human trafficking dies due to the trafficking process, the person accused of trafficking can face first-degree felony or life felony charges. The law also prohibits the branding of a victim of human trafficking. Additionally, the conviction of anyone engaging in human trafficking with victims of any age will result in his or her classification as a sexual offender or predator. The bill removes persons under the age of 18 from being prosecuted for specified prostitution offenses.

2017

**Senate Bill 852 Human Trafficking**
Under this law, the Department of Children and Families or a sheriff’s office must conduct a multidisciplinary staffing on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation to determine the child’s service and placement needs. This legislation also revises the continuing medical education course requirements for certain relicensures or recertifications to include a course in human trafficking.

2018

No new legislation regarding human trafficking was passed in the 2018 Legislative Session.
FLORIDA’S EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a multi-tiered, complex crime. As such, Florida’s coordinated approach to human trafficking has been critical. No single agency or organization is equipped to handle all aspects of a human trafficking response. Raising awareness, promoting education, providing training, identifying gaps in services, leveraging resources, and bringing justice and restoration to victims are all essential components. The efforts at the state and local levels provide the foundation of the Council’s ongoing work.

Office of the Attorney General

Office of Statewide Prosecution

The Attorney General’s Office of Statewide Prosecution (OSP) handles multi-circuit prosecutions of human trafficking cases in Florida. OSP has a zero-tolerance policy for human trafficking crimes and opens all human trafficking cases presented by law enforcement. Beyond prosecution, OSP is committed to community outreach with Assistant Statewide Prosecutors regularly attending and speaking at conferences and workshops focused on human trafficking. Assistant Statewide Prosecutors provide training and presentations on various topics and case studies to local law enforcement agencies as well as national organizations. The Attorney General’s Office of Statewide Prosecution is presently handling numerous active investigations of human trafficking.

Legislative

The Office of the Attorney General has worked with the state Legislature and the Governor to make Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking. As a result, Florida has been a national leader in laws addressing human trafficking. Working with state lawmakers, the Office of the Attorney General led efforts to enhance prosecutions. These efforts include increasing and maximizing penalties as well as enhancing penalties if certain factors exist.

Awareness

Working to eradicate human trafficking in Florida, the Office of the Attorney General has launched multiple human trafficking awareness efforts. The goal of each campaign has been education and awareness. Some examples include:

From Instant Message to Instant Nightmare
In 2013, the Office of the Attorney General launched the statewide campaign as an awareness effort to help parents with online safety. Materials were displayed on billboards, at malls, and in bus shelters throughout Florida. The campaign included an online safety pledge for kids and tips for parents.
Tri-County Awareness Campaign
In 2015, the Office of the Attorney General partnered with Florida Sheriffs to raise awareness of human trafficking in Florida. During the preceding fiscal year, $100,000 was appropriated to the Department of Legal Affairs to be utilized for a human trafficking public information campaign. This was an opportunity to team up with Florida Sheriffs for a localized human trafficking public awareness initiative in the Tampa Bay area with Florida Sheriffs to include television ads, billboards, and social media. The link to the campaign can be found at: www.facebook.com/AbolishMovement/videos/1142416955775078/

You Can Stop Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign
In January 2017, the Office of the Attorney General launched the #YouCanStopHT campaign to coincide with Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The initiative was launched in partnership with Tampa International Airport in an effort to educate travelers on the signs of human trafficking and to encourage them to report the crime to authorities.

Tampa’s airport was chosen as the pilot for the #YouCanStopHT campaign due to the large number of travelers visiting Tampa to attend various events at the time including the NCAA College Football National Championship game and the annual Gasparilla events. Tampa International Airport displayed the #YouCanStopHT graphic on digital signs throughout the airport which directed travelers to www.YouCanStopHT.com. The website provides a list of common signs of human trafficking, statistics, and contact information for authorities. Additionally, a printable version of the graphic was displayed on the website for visitors to print and share with others.

The pilot program led to the campaign’s expansion to six other airports across the state of Florida. Furthermore, handbills featuring the #YouCanStopHT graphic were printed and distributed to all branches of the Office of the Attorney General and continue to be distributed at human trafficking events throughout the nation. The #YouCanStopHT handbills have been distributed to universities as well as to non-governmental organizations across the state.

Following up on the success of #YouCanStopHT, a student version of the handbill was produced and distributed at events for the Department of Education, Florida Gulf Coast University, and the University of Central Florida. The student version of the handbill promoted the identification of human trafficking signs as well as the methods for reporting human trafficking.
Training

In addition to legislative and awareness efforts, the Office of the Attorney General has also stressed the importance of training initiatives. The Office of the Attorney General has partnered with the following organizations to develop some of their human trafficking training programs:

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) – Created an online training course for law enforcement officers which can be accessed in patrol vehicles
- Florida Businesses – Developed an online toolkit for Florida businesses including recommended company policies
- Florida Trucking Association – Helped with training to ensure that truckers can be our “eyes and ears” while on the road
- Florida College of Emergency Physicians – Developed materials for emergency physicians and emergency medical personnel on knowing the signs when a victim presents at an emergency room

Strategic Partners

The Office of the Attorney General frequently identifies strategic partners who help with awareness efforts, education, and training. Some strategic partners include:

Florida Trucking Association
Florida College of Emergency Physicians
Florida Sheriffs Association
Florida Police Chiefs Association
Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
Associated Industries of Florida
Florida Petroleum Council
Florida Retail Federation
CWAG Alliance Partnership – Bilateral partnership with Mexican Attorneys General

Key local, state, and federal partners include:

Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Health
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Local State Attorneys in Florida’s 20 judicial circuits
Law Enforcement including local Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
US Attorney’s offices in Florida (Southern, Middle & Northern Districts)
Department of Children and Families

Maltreatment Index
According to the Florida Department of Children and Families Annual Human Trafficking Report 2017 – 2018 State Fiscal Year, all reports alleging the human trafficking of children must go through the Florida Abuse Hotline. The hotline has coded reports of suspected human trafficking of minors since May 2009. Initially, all reports to the hotline were coded “human trafficking,” regardless of whether they were reports of CSEC, labor trafficking, or domestic servitude. Over the past few years, DCF has adjusted human trafficking maltreatment coding in response to improved data collection and case analysis. From January 2013 through June 2015, reports to the hotline were coded as “labor trafficking” or “CSEC-non-caregiver.” In addition to those two maltreatment codes, the hotline continued to code for “human trafficking” as a general maltreatment indicating the allegation of human trafficking but without a determination of type. Any allegation of CSEC in which the alleged perpetrator was believed to be a parent or caregiver was coded as “sexual exploitation.” “Sexual exploitation” maltreatment included abuse or neglect components outside of the human trafficking allegation. Therefore, there was no ability to pull accurate numbers from the “sexual exploitation” maltreatment code. To gain better data on the prevalence of human trafficking, DCF again amended its maltreatment coding. Since July 2015, there are only two maltreatments which may be utilized for a human trafficking allegation: labor and CSEC. CSEC maltreatment may be an “in-home” report, indicating a parent or a caregiver as the alleged perpetrator; it may be an “other” report, indicating a non-caregiver as the alleged perpetrator; or it may be an “institutional” report, indicating the alleged perpetrator is an institution.

Funding

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Receiving Entity</th>
<th>Agency With Oversight</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>Community Based Care Lead Agency</td>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>Non-recurring General Funds</td>
<td>$1,468,601</td>
<td>Initial Safe Harbor Appropriation</td>
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As a result of the Florida Safe Harbor Act (House Bill 99 – 2012), the Legislature initially appropriated just under $1.5 million to community-based care lead agencies to serve trafficked minors. These non-recurring funds were designed to support community-based care lead agency efforts in acquiring an estimated 50 additional safe house beds within those areas of the state experiencing the highest verification rates of juvenile commercial sexual exploitation. These placements were expected to:

- Provide security, crisis intervention services, general counseling, and victim-witness counseling
- Have the capability to conduct comprehensive assessments that can identify a victim's service needs
- Provide residential care
• Ensure that victims have access to and are receiving appropriate health and dental care
• Have access to behavioral health services, recreational activities, food, clothing, supplies, infant care, and miscellaneous expenses associated with caring for these child victims
• Arrange for educational services, including life skills services and planning services for the successful transition of residents back to the community
• Provide transportation for youth as needed

Following the initial non-recurring appropriation for the Florida Safe Harbor Act, the Legislature identified annual recurring appropriation funding of $3 million to respond to child sexual exploitation. This human trafficking funding of $3 million became a part of the core funding to community-based care lead agencies. These efforts continue to be tracked in order to gain a true picture of the total cost of services and placements for CSE youth. Much of this funding is directed toward children who are involved in the formal child welfare system, which limits the ability to provide services to children who are not in the system.

Expenditures reported by the community-based care lead agencies in the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) indicate they spent a total of $5,217,267 on CSEC services and placements for 264 youth during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017-18. This is more than $2 million above the appropriation.

Statutory Implementation/Human Trafficking Initiatives – Training, Multidisciplinary Team, Human Trafficking Screening Tool

Since 2012, much of DCF’s work to address human trafficking in Florida has been guided by legislation. The Florida Safe Harbor Act’s new statutory language created definitions around specialized residential options for CSEC, outlined requirements for these specialized housing options, provided that children should be assessed for placement in a safe house, and allowed for law enforcement to deliver children who are suspected of being CSE victims to the Department. In 2016, House Bill 545 provided that language in 796.07, Florida Statutes, be amended to ensure that minors may not be charged with specified prostitution offenses. This built on the efforts of the Florida Safe Harbor Act to place CSE victims on a dependency track instead of a delinquency track.

To create a more structured process for identifying and serving CSE victims in Florida, Governor Scott signed a comprehensive bill into law in 2014 that outlined multiple actions required by DCF. House Bill 7141 primarily created 409.1754, Florida Statutes, and mandated that DCF utilize identification, placement and assessment tools, conduct multidisciplinary staffing, create service plans for CSEC, provide training to any child protective investigator or dependency case manager working on these cases, ensure human trafficking task forces cover all areas of the state, and report to the Legislature annually on CSE children identified and services provided to this population. The bill also amended 409.1678, Florida Statutes, requiring DCF to create a certification process for safe houses and safe foster homes.

House Bill 7141 directed DCF to promulgate rules, including 65C-43, Florida Administrative Code, and Children and Families Operating Procedures (CFOP) 170-14. 65C-43, Florida Administrative Code, outlined new requirements for staff training and screening for potential...
trafficking, information to be collected for an annual report to the Legislature, and safe house certification language. CFOP 170-14 outlined the processes required during investigation of potential human trafficking cases, including the multidisciplinary team (MDT) staffing process as well as requirements for service provision to this population. Beginning in 2014, new human trafficking training and tools, including the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) and the Level of Placement Tool (LPT), were developed in compliance with statutory mandates. Additionally, staffing forms, service plans specific to this population, and information collection tools were created.

During the 2017 session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 852 (2017-023, Laws of Florida), amending 39.524 and 409.1754, Florida Statutes, with new statutory requirements for MDT staffing. The statute requires MDT staffing to determine the need for services for suspected and verified victims of commercial sexual exploitation, the development of individual service plans for this population, and information to be included in the annual report to the Legislature. This report must include DCF’s response to the findings and recommendations made by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability as required in 409.16791, Florida Statutes. Lastly, the new legislation requires a follow up with all verified victims of commercial sexual exploitation within six months of the completion of the child abuse investigation. This legislation went into effect October 1, 2017.

In 2017, DCF’s Human Trafficking Unit staff modified CFOP 170-14, Response to the Human Trafficking of Children, to reflect the new statutory requirements. The Human Trafficking Unit staff then conducted training efforts throughout the state to ensure that DCF staff and contracted staff understood the new requirements. As noted previously, DCF also created new forms to enhance the MDT process and to collect the required information and data on this population, in compliance with the new statutory requirements. DCF’s regional human trafficking coordinators initiated the six-month follow ups with verified victims of CSEC on April 1, 2018, six months from the effective date of the statutory changes.

Moving forward

In 2018, DCF’s Human Trafficking Unit focused on ensuring that current processes were in compliance with Florida Statute. This included a review of forms, Florida Administrative Code, CFOP, and quality assurance review of over 100 cases. Using information gathered from these reviews, DCF will continue to standardize training and implementation efforts of all trafficking-related initiatives in an effort to continually improve identification of, service to, and outcomes for this population. DCF is also committed to remaining informed on new evidence-based services, research on outcomes, awareness raising curricula, and other resources for serving this population being used throughout the nation. In line with other DCF priority of effort initiatives, DCF will also continue to assess current service array and placement options available to this population and work to address gaps as needed.

Florida continues to have a nationwide presence in the arena of fighting human trafficking. DCF has representatives on a national expert council, a national human trafficking workgroup, and the federal Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) Southeast Region (IV) Human Trafficking Workgroup. In 2018, Florida’s efforts to address the commercial exploitation of youth were featured in
a national webinar series entitled “Stop the Injustice.” This series was developed by Shared Hope International, a nationally recognized non-governmental organization that addresses research, law, policy, and practice on human trafficking issues. DCF’s human trafficking unit staff regularly provides technical assistance to other states, including advising on the initiation of ACF’s new Human Trafficking Workgroup in Region VI. While progress has been made in building a more comprehensive system of care for victims of CSEC, child welfare professionals continue to see a need for the independent evaluation of placements and programs in order to fully understand and identify the best intervention options for the children served.

Department of Health

The clinics of Florida’s County Health Departments (CHDs) provide family planning services across the state, including pregnancy testing and counseling, physical exams, and screening for hypertension, breast and cervical cancer, and sexually transmitted diseases. Clinical staff who conduct these services utilize a statewide system known as the Health Management System (HMS) to guide screenings and to report services provided to clients. Since 2013, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) included a series of questions in its screening tool to identify human trafficking victims and provide intervention in the local sixty-seven CHD clinics. The questions are included in the “Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking Screening” section of the DOH’s clinical screening tool in HMS. HMS also provides reporting mechanisms on CHD clients positively identified as victims of human trafficking.

The lead question in DOH’s human trafficking screening tool follows: “Is anyone forcing you to do work you that you don’t want to do?” Clinical staff may assess if the client’s injury or health concern is a result of the client being induced to perform involuntary acts or work under the conditions of force, fraud, or coercion. Clinical staff’s understanding of the client’s conditions allows staff to determine the immediate services needed as well as the type of supportive services needed. These services may include assistance in calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Protocol for conducting the human trafficking screening tool and for providing services to the identified victims are provided to clinical staff in DOH’s Technical Assistance: General 15 (TAG 330-15).

As an active member of the Council, DOH has worked on assignments given through the Council’s 2016 Human Trafficking Response in Florida report. In doing so, DOH embarked on an evaluation of its HTST questions. The evaluation was designed to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the DOH’s Human Trafficking Screening Tool for Healthcare Setting.


DOH’s Human Trafficking Workgroup, a multi-disciplinary collaboration of Department Central Office staff in Tallahassee, conducted the evaluation by partnering with eight CHDs located around the state of Florida. The clinical staff in the eight CHDs participated by using the Human Trafficking Screening Tool for Healthcare Setting (Evaluation Tool) to conduct screenings on CHD clinic clients. The Evaluation Tool was the central component of the pilot, which included a review of existing screening tools and documents on which questions would best replace the current questions. A webinar training for the eight CHD participants was provided along with collaborative discussions between the Central Office and the eight CHD staff. The pilot launched on June 1, 2017 and closed on June 30, 2017. The eight CHDs submitted their respective Evaluation Tools completed by clinic staff. The feedback provided by the clinic staff was reviewed and utilized to develop the new Human Trafficking Screening Tool Questions for Healthcare Settings.

The pilot framework was established through three priorities, all of which were met by the DOH. The first priority was having a series of questions available for DOH clinical staff to help them identify potential human trafficking victims. DOH approved the new Human Trafficking Screening Tool Questions for Healthcare Settings on September 26, 2017.

The second priority was to document and ensure clients are linked to services. This was tested through the Evaluation Tool and resulted in the list of resources included in the Human Trafficking Screening Tool Questions for Healthcare Settings for clinical staff to utilize in addition to DOH’s published TAG 330–15.

The third priority ensured questions could be formatted within DOH’s HMS system so staff can accurately and consistently record patient responses, which lead to data that is meaningful and actionable. The expected launch date is July 2019.

DOH currently offers two human trafficking courses to its staff. The courses offered are Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Healthcare Context and Human Trafficking Awareness. The Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Healthcare Context meets the core competency for public health professionals’ standards published by the Public Health Foundation. The trainings are also offered to the public through DOH’s public website, which may be found at the following link: http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/human-trafficking/index.html. DOH’s Human Trafficking website raises awareness on human trafficking as a public health issue in the community.

DOH’s partnership with the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC) during the 2017-2018 state fiscal year provided additional training opportunities for CHD clinical staff and other health care providers in the counties where the training was offered. STAC conducted its training, Human Trafficking A Call to Action for Health Care Professionals. This training was offered in Franklin, Gulf, Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison, Leon, Liberty, Calhoun, and Wakulla counties. The training provided continuing education credits for nursing and other health care providers.
Collaboration with human trafficking service providers and DOH continues. Local Tallahassee service providers have presented to DOH’s Human Trafficking Workgroup. DOH staff partners with local human trafficking service providers through the respective service areas.

DOH’s School Health Services Program (SHSP), in partnership with the Florida Department of Education, conducted the Child Human Trafficking Awareness Survey for School Health Staff in November 2017 to assess awareness as well as training and support needs of school nurses and unlicensed school health staff. The response of more than 700 school nurses and unlicensed staff influenced DOH’s decision to form an interagency, interdisciplinary ad hoc committee to develop child human trafficking resources that would be available to county school health programs. Information gained from the survey will be reviewed by the committee as it prioritizes activities in alignment with the Florida Association of School Nurses and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) standards. The committee includes a member who represents both the Florida Association of School Nurses and the NASN. The committee functions under the DOH’s Human Trafficking Workgroup and is recognized as the School Health Child Human Trafficking Committee.

The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) has contracted with a strategic planner consultant to lead and develop a comprehensive human trafficking intervention and prevention strategic plan for DOH. The funding is provided by the Office on Trafficking in Persons, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The planning began in September 2018.

Under 787.29, Florida Statutes, DOH generated resources for developing public awareness signage for placement in massage establishments around the state of Florida. DOH’s role is to inform licensees of the requirement and provide recommendations and examples of standardized language for public awareness signage.

**Adoption of American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Practice Guidelines**

In addressing human trafficking as a public health issue, DOH sought to create standardized medical processes to improve care for sexually exploited children and reduce mortality as well as morbidity. DOH surveyed the Child Protection Team medical directors on their current treatment practices for commercially sexually exploited children and conducted a wide search of established national protocols and best practices. In March 2017, DOH adopted the medical protocols and practice guidelines of the American Professional Society of the Abuse of Children (APSAC). These guidelines establish a baseline for identification, assessment, and treatment.

Statewide Medical Director, Dr. Bruce McIntosh, developed a best practices and protocols training and presented it to DOH’s Child Protection Team medical directors on June 2, 2017. In this training, medical directors were encouraged to modify their practices to comply with the APSAC recommendations, with the ability to individualize treatment based on the client’s personal history, symptoms, test results, and other needs.
In August 2018, DOH conducted a follow-up survey to determine how practices have changed. The survey seeks to assess the Child Protection Team's compliance with the APSAC recommendations, identify any inconsistencies, and establish plans to overcome barriers.

**Development of the nPEP Medications Program**

The Child Protection Team's nPEP Medications Program was developed to provide timely access to critical medications for adolescent sexual assault victims to prevent HIV infection. The cost of a 28-day course of medications to prevent HIV infection (nPEP) is approximately $600. Many of the adolescent sexual assault victims seen by the Child Protection Team staff do not have insurance. Those who are insured and evaluated on weekend nights face significant challenges to get prescriptions approved by insurers in order for treatment to begin within the necessary 72-hour time frame. Child Protection Team leadership developed a partnership with the leadership of the Walgreen's pharmacy chain which expedites processing of nPEP prescriptions so that treatment can be initiated in a timely manner. Partner pharmacy locations must be established for each team at the local level. Thirteen child protection teams are presently participating. Six are in the process of establishing local processes, while the remaining four teams refer adolescent sexual assault victims to other service centers where medications can be provided.

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

In 2013, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) developed a 2-hour human trafficking online training course for law enforcement. In 2016, FDLE worked with the Attorney General's Office to update the course to reflect updates in Florida law. FDLE provided the Council with a summary of law enforcement officers who have been issued certificates for taking the 2-hour training course with more than 5,000 law enforcement officers having been issued certificates for taking the course as of October 2016.

**Department of Juvenile Justice**

The Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) targeted anti-trafficking initiatives date back to 2012 when it created a human trafficking identification tool pilot and hosted the first annual Florida Human Trafficking Summit. Since then, DJJ has continuously worked to strengthen efforts to identify potential trafficking victims that intersect with the system, divert them out of the juvenile justice system when possible, and enhance the ability to serve this population through the juvenile justice system when required.
Using the information garnered from the human trafficking identification tool pilot, DJJ worked in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and a workgroup of stakeholders to develop Florida’s Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) in the fall of 2014. The tool was created as the result of the statutory mandates created through House Bill 7141 (2014) which requires that both DJJ and DCF utilize a human trafficking identification tool. DJJ staff must take a human trafficking training as well as HTST training prior to being able to administer the HTST. The first screening within DJJ was completed on February 27, 2015. Screenings continue to be administered to youth who display risk factors for human trafficking and are involved in the juvenile justice system. Both DJJ and DCF utilize the HTST as a victim identification tool and share information with each other.

As of the close of State Fiscal Year 2017-18, 12,237 HTSTs had been administered by DJJ or DJJ-contracted staff to a total of 6,773 youth. Youth may be screened more than once to obtain further information on potential exploitation. 54.5% of the HTSTs were administered to girls and 45.5% to boys. Of those screenings, 5,394 resulted in a call to the Florida Child Abuse Hotline, with 2,786 calls accepted for investigation (an acceptance rate of 52%). According to DJJ, which tracks the results as part of its statutory requirement to validate the tool, the acceptance rate for calls for girls was 57% and 41% for boys.

DJJ completed an analysis in 2017 examining the five criteria used to trigger completion of an HTST to assess users’ perceptions of the usefulness of the triggering criteria. More than 80% of survey respondents indicated that the HTST indicators/triggers are helpful in identifying youth who need to be screened for potential human trafficking. DJJ is dedicated to further data collection in an effort to determine the reliability of the HTST in identifying trafficking victimization as well as the integrity of its implementation throughout the state.

This tool is available to any other organization who may encounter victims. To date, more than 20 states have requested a copy of the HTST for further review, and some are currently utilizing slightly modified versions of the HTST in their juvenile justice settings.

Through a continuous data sharing agreement with DCF, DJJ is able to cross-reference delinquency information from the DJJ Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) with information on cases called into the Florida Abuse Hotline for human trafficking. Data on human trafficking collected in the JJIS and DCF’s Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) is now routinely shared to identify our cross over youth and to highlight intersection options.

Since 2015, DJJ has also trained prevention providers throughout the state. PACE Center for Girls, FSU’s Young Parents Project, and the Florida Network for Youth and Family Services are among the prevention providers utilizing the HTST and conducting screenings to identify possible trafficking victimization. After a successful pilot testing of the HTST in runaway shelters in select counties, the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services (FNYFS) launched the HTST statewide in August 2017. DJJ, DCF, and FNYFS have also explored the possibility of utilizing FNYFS for the emergency placement of minor victims of human trafficking who may have been adjudicated dependent or are community-based youth. This exploration is ongoing.
As of 2018, DJJ has fully integrated human trafficking training and awareness throughout the agency and its partners. All new probation officers and detention officers receive human trafficking training as part of their initial certification training. Probation officers and on-call staff receive annual in-service human trafficking training as well. There is a statewide network of HTST trainers who are trained to deliver human trafficking training and instruct others how to conduct the HTST. Further, a statewide network of Human Trafficking (HT) Liaisons is located within the probation branch. HT Liaisons are selected from each judicial circuit to participate in human trafficking prevention-related activity, including participating in the local human trafficking task force, participating in multidisciplinary team staffing for trafficked youth, and monitoring the data collection efforts for HTSTs conducted. On a monthly basis, HT liaisons review the HTSTs conducted in their areas for accuracy, completeness, and any issues identified by the tool. The liaisons work closely with DCF to track whether potential HT victims are eventually verified as HT victims and ensure that DJJ staff are notified to make appropriate service referrals. The liaisons also advocate in court and throughout the delinquency system process as needed on behalf of CSE youth.

DJJ is committed to ongoing improvement of the HTST tool and continuing to work to address this population of youth. Continued identification and data collection efforts will help the state better understand the scope of trafficking in Florida and the incidence of these youth within the juvenile justice system.

Department of Education

Like other agencies on the Council, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) has developed targeted training efforts for their stakeholders. Over the course of the past few years, they have provided ongoing training and resources for all school personnel via webinars, professional development events, and in-person trainings. To achieve some of these training initiatives, DOE has developed internal partnerships with the following bureaus, programs, and offices:

- Bureaus of Standards & Instructional Support; Student Achievement through Language Acquisition; Student Services and Family & Community Outreach and Student Support Services
- DOE Human Trafficking Workgroup
- Human Trafficking Interagency Workgroup
- Homeless Education Program
- Migrant Education Program
- Offices of Healthy Schools and Safe Schools
- School Transportation

Collaborative efforts include conference and webinar presentations, newsletter contributions, staff training, and technical assistance. DOE is also a reviewer for the Department of Health (DOH) School Health Services Program’s web-based human trafficking training for school
nurses and school health staff. DOE routinely presents on human trafficking on the program’s conference calls and webinars. In 2018, DOE expanded its work with DOH around human trafficking and created a joint workgroup entitled the School Health Child Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee. This committee has yielded plans for trainings, outlined a survey for nurses, and a DOH screening tool.

Two in-person training efforts took place in the summer of 2017. DOE’s annual (June) Healthy Schools Summer Academy promoted human trafficking awareness and education with speakers, including a video message from the Florida Attorney General, exhibitors, and resources for participants. On September 7, 2017, the Sex Trafficking of Minors in Florida’s Schools Symposium was co-hosted by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DOE in Orlando. This symposium featured a day of general session speakers from the following organizations: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, FBI, Devereux, the National Educators to Stop Trafficking (NEST), Millions Kids, and a survivor advocate. An exhibitor hall included national and statewide human trafficking advocacy groups. The symposium originally had 250 registrants, but the approaching hurricane kept the attendance numbers at approximately 130. Feedback from the symposium was extremely positive. As a result of the success of the 2017 Sex Trafficking of Minors in Florida’s Schools Symposium, another Schools Symposium was co-hosted by DCF and DOE on September 14, 2018. The 2018 Symposium was hosted in Tampa and had 275 attendees.

The DOE Healthy Schools Project continues its anti-trafficking training focus in twelve school districts: Brevard, Columbia, Flagler, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Manatee, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, and Washington. In addition, Broward, Dade, Duval, and Palm Beach districts are receiving technical assistance and guidance in partnership with DOE. These districts have a specified scope of work that includes human trafficking education through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) School-Based Cooperative Agreement project which concluded July 31, 2018. During the final year of the project, the focus shifted to sustainability. The previously CDC-funded districts continued their focus on anti-trafficking in the 2018-19 school year. The partnership is ongoing as DOE has planned regional trainings to support the statewide anti-trafficking efforts in the Florida Educational Consortia.

Florida School Transportation requested and included anti-trafficking information in the Florida School Bus Operator Training Manual. The additional lesson includes resources, warning signs, and templates for bus messaging such as posters and placards. Supervisor, driver, and monitor in-service trainings included information, break-out, and general sessions on human trafficking throughout the month of August. DOE developed the Driving Out Trafficking brochure for school transportation. The DOE Transportation manager required annual anti-trafficking training during back-to-school training and mandatory recertification examination. In 2017, more than 15,000 school bus drivers and monitors were trained by DOE with an additional 7,000 trained by DOE advocate partners. Between August and October of 2018, approximately 11,000 school transportation professionals received training and resources. DOE is assisting with the development of school bus signage and placards.

To address the task of training students, the districts of Brevard, Broward, Miami-Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas piloted human trafficking education lessons
that were integrated in health education during the 2017-18 school year. In anticipation of a legislative mandate in 2018, more than 30 school districts prepared for the required inclusion of human trafficking in comprehensive health education. After that measure did not pass, 22 of those districts continued their plans on a local level. The following districts included human trafficking trainings and education beginning in September 2018: Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Collier, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hernando, Hillsborough, Leon, Manatee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Suwanee, Volusia, and Washington.

To increase general knowledge of human trafficking among their staff and stakeholders, DOE has undertaken a number of other awareness initiatives including the addition of a human trafficking information page to the DOE website, which is updated quarterly with pertinent information for all educators and other Florida stakeholders. DOE also created visible internal awareness initiatives throughout the Turlington building including using the closed-circuit monitor to display facts and statistics. In January of each year, DOE posts information on Human Trafficking Awareness Month activities on social media. This list becomes more robust each year. For the start of the 2018-19 school year, the Chancellor included human trafficking awareness information in the back-to-school memo. In 2017, DOE developed an End Child Trafficking mini-guidebook with QuickSeries Publishers, which has been disseminated to more than 10,000 stakeholders. In 2018-19, an additional 15,000 copies have been ordered for statewide dissemination.

Moving forward, DOE will continue human trafficking training and awareness efforts including weekly webinars and a “lunch-n-learn” on human trafficking for employees. DOE has already translated many of their human trafficking resources into Spanish and French Creole and plans to translate the materials into additional languages in 2019. DOE plans to continue to actively recruit anti-trafficking speakers and exhibitors for the Florida School Health Association’s annual event and other events as opportunities arise. The Title IV, Part A program will hire a Human Trafficking Education Specialist for the first position ever dedicated to training and education from the state education agency.

At the district level, Orange County Public School partnered with DCF and Appleton Creative, Inc. to create posters that were distributed to all secondary schools in 2015. The informational posters are still being distributed statewide. Duval County Public Schools is partnering with Shared Hope International and Her Song to embed human trafficking information into their curriculum guides. Shared Hope also participated in DOE’s human trafficking month activities, and Putnam County Public School partnered with DCF to have human trafficking awareness trainings for middle and high-schoolers at the start of the 2017-18 and the 2018-19 school years.

Brevard Public Schools’ Health Education and School Health Services department is continuing its work with local anti-trafficking organizations to provide assembly programs at the middle school level. Brevard added human trafficking awareness language to the Human Growth and Development curricula. A Brevard Public School student created an anti-trafficking PSA for a class project, and the District is now using the PSA district-wide. Miami-Dade Public Schools are working with a community-based organization and a non-
governmental organization to create a secondary human trafficking curriculum. DOE met with the Miami-Dade County committee in October to review their efforts. DOE is also working closely with American Psychological Association (APA) through the cooperative agreement with the CDC to provide training and resources for the above-mentioned partner school districts.

In addition to county-level efforts, the Health Education Advisory Team (HEAT) reviewed My Life My Choice and determined a small pilot was warranted to ascertain the efficacy of the curricula within its districts. The following districts used the curricula in the fall of 2017-18 school year: Broward, Leon, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pasco. A small sample was selected with teacher and student feedback determining the next steps. For the 2018-19 school year, the My Life My Choice curriculum pilot was reinitiated in/expanded to the following counties: Bay, Brevard, Broward, Miami-Dade, Duval, Gadsden, Liberty, Hillsborough, Manatee, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas. In December 2018, the DOE Title IV, Part A (T4A) program will host a Safe and Healthy Child Trafficking Mini-Con for school personnel in Jacksonville. The event will be recorded and evaluated for future posting on the T4A website. Selah Freedom will facilitate the two-day training and offer ten additional trainings statewide throughout the school year. The partnership with Selah Freedom will yield a student-focused PSA for Florida schools.

DOE has fostered several national collaborations which have developed training guides, lessons, and fact sheets for our state-level review. The national partnerships include: Advocates for Youth; Alliance to Rescue Victims of Trafficking; American Psychological Association; CDC, National Center for Homeless Education; National PTA; Polaris Project; and U.S. Homeland Security. DOE is also partnering with the following Florida state agencies and community-based organizations to increase awareness: DCF, DJJ, DOH, FDLE, Born to Fly, Equality Florida, Florida PTA, Lifeboat Project, The Salvation Army, Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, and YES Institute. DOE has collaborated with Equality Florida and YES Institute to develop LGBT+ lessons to include trafficking and tips for trauma-informed schools.

DOE also partnered with the Girl Scouts to promote its human trafficking platform. The student-led campaign spearheaded by Hillsborough County student Grace Ramos has garnered her the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award. Miss Ramos developed a poster that was unveiled at the 2018 Sex Trafficking of Minors in Florida’s Schools Symposium. DOE uploaded the poster to the website and featured Grace Ramos at the Safe and Healthy Child Trafficking Mini-Con in December 2018.

The Florida Department for Education is committed to raising awareness as well as providing training and support for school districts. Human trafficking training helps to raise awareness in schools and in the community. Educators, other community-based professionals, and parents play a critical role in recognizing potential human trafficking and helping potential victims access specialized services.
STATE & LOCAL EFFORTS

Florida Human Trafficking Summit
Florida law directs the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to host an annual statewide policy summit on human trafficking in partnership with an institution of higher learning. The annual conference brings together anti-trafficking leaders and advocates working to eradicate human trafficking in Florida. The summit addresses human trafficking through the lenses of law enforcement, survivors, and academia. Additionally, the summit is an opportunity for collaboration of efforts between different stakeholders to help combat trafficking. Information on the annual Human Trafficking Summit may be found at [www.humantraffickingsummit.com](http://www.humantraffickingsummit.com).

The Council partnered with the Florida Office of Attorney General, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and the University of Central Florida to host the 2018 summit, which was held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando. More than a thousand registered to participate in the 2018 summit. Five hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit was offered for attendees.

Attendees heard presentations from nationally recognized speakers on a range of topics during the breakout sessions including case studies, survivor perspectives, ending demand for trafficking, LGBTQ+ youth, private sector efforts to address trafficking, internet safety, and recognizing the signs of trafficking among many others. Former State Representative and current Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Núñez, who served on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, gave closing remarks.

Each year, the Council recognizes those who have performed exemplary service in the fight against human trafficking by distinguishing: (i) the Law Enforcement Official of the Year; (ii) the Survivor Advocate of the Year; (iii) the Prosecutor of the Year; and (iv) the Community Advocate of the Year. The 2018 Summit Awards Committee selected the following individuals for this year’s recognition:

**Law Enforcement Official of the Year**
Special Agent Supervisor Jose Ramirez,
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Survivor Advocate of the Year**
Jamie Rosseland,
Survivor-Mentor at Open Doors Outreach Network

**Prosecutor of the Year**
Statewide Prosecutor Nick Cox and the Office of Statewide Prosecution,
Office of the Attorney General - State of Florida
Community Advocate of the Year
Yinay Ruiz,
Project Manager of the Miami Cares Project

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice recognized Therese Moses as the Department of Juvenile Justice Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year. The Florida Department of Children and Families awarded DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year to Katia Coonan.

Public Awareness Signage
In 2015, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 369 which requires the Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Department of Health (DOH), and certain employers to display human trafficking public awareness signs at specific locations in Florida. The sign provides the phone number to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and it also provides a text message option to receive information or to get help. Required locations for the signage include:

- Rest areas
- Turnpike service plazas
- Weigh stations
- Primary airports
- Passenger rail stations
- Welcome centers open to the public
- Emergency rooms at general acute care hospitals
- Adult entertainment establishments
- Businesses or establishments offering massage or bodyworks services not owned by a health care professional

Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force

In early 2016, members of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office (PBSO) Special Investigations Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the PBC State Attorney’s Office (SAO), and the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO) convened to develop a strategy to address human trafficking in Palm Beach County. The team determined the best approach would include a victim centered, trauma informed, multi-disciplinary Task Force.

To this end, the PBSO, as the lead law enforcement agency, and Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach (CCDPB), as the lead victim services’ agency, applied to the Department of Justice to acquire a grant which would provide funding and a formidable framework to establish an “Enhanced Collaborative Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force” (Task Force). The grant was awarded in October 2016, and the Task Force officially commenced in January 2017.
The Mission of the Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force is to combat human trafficking through a collaborative, victim centered, trauma informed framework by identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims; investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes; and building awareness about trafficking in and around the community.

The Task Force is comprised of several core partners, unified through a formalized memorandum of understanding, to include: PBSO, CCDPB, the USAO, the FBI, the SAO, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), PBC Victim Services, Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Barry University. Since its inception, numerous additional law enforcement and victim service provider partners have also joined the Task Force.

The primary goals of the Task Force include: the identification of all types of human trafficking victims; data driven decision making; proactive, long-term investigations; successful prosecutions; and the provision of a comprehensive array of victim services. Through these established goals and the unparalleled dedication of Task Force members, to date thousands of community stakeholders have been trained to recognize indicators of human trafficking, cases have been opened, arrests have been made, and victims have been identified and offered much needed services.

The Task Force had another successful year in 2018. Through the first three quarters of 2018, the Task Force made over thirteen felony arrests (state and federal) and identified or recovered over 50 new human trafficking victims. The Task Force also provided specialized training to law enforcement officers and other members of the community, such as teachers, religious leaders, hotel management staff, and nurses. The Task Force was awarded Task Force of the Year during the annual ASIS Law Enforcement Awards ceremony in Palm Beach Gardens.

**Miami-Dade State Attorney – Human Trafficking Unit**
Established in 2012, the Human Trafficking Unit of the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office is an innovative trauma-informed law enforcement model for the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking. This unit encompasses distinguished, highly trained specialized prosecutors, investigators, and victim specialists. The focus of the Human Trafficking Unit is a dual track approach to do everything in its power to help heal victims, while at the same time and with equal vigor, to successfully prosecute their abusers. As of August 2017, 436 cases have been filed, and the unit has worked with 582 victims of human trafficking. Approximately 67% of the victims are local, and approximately 32% are out-of-state.

**Uber Driver Training**
The Council has worked to encourage increased private sector efforts to combat trafficking. The business community is a key partner in this work. In 2017, the Council invited Uber Technologies to offer an update on their newly launched driver training initiative. Uber transports approximately one million people a day in Florida, and Uber drivers are uniquely positioned to help identify instances of trafficking and to report suspicious activity. As a result of the Council’s outreach, Uber first announced the launch of its national training program in Florida. The training program has reached over 40,000 Uber drivers in our state.
FUTURE INITIATIVES

As referenced in previous reports, the Council encourages service providers to seek outside evaluation partnerships in an effort to inform best practices and guidelines for serving this population. Some providers have partnered with universities in Florida to provide long-term evaluation of their programs. These partnerships allow individual programs to assess services and create plans for continued program development while also aiding in the state’s efforts to determine best practice in serving adult and minor survivors of trafficking. With limited research available nationally, the Council will continue to advocate for this crucial effort.

One document that may help lay the groundwork in developing program evaluations, measures of success, and best practices for anti-trafficking programs is the *Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Victims of Human Trafficking*. This field guide was developed by the Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) Region (IV) Southeast Regional Human Trafficking Advisory Group. Since 2016, this group has convened to improve coordination and services to victims of labor and sex trafficking. The group includes two representatives from Florida. One need identified by the group was to develop a best practices framework to guide and evaluate agencies providing services to victims of human trafficking.

Different states have considered and adopted various mechanisms for improving and regulating agencies serving victims of human trafficking. As an example, South Carolina recently passed legislation mandating that providers serving adult survivors of trafficking be certified. In developing the *Guiding Principles*, the workgroup gathered available information from multiple states and stakeholders to ensure it was a comprehensive representation of current work and lessons learned in the field.

While working with human trafficking victims has some overlap with the services needed and the trauma experienced by victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, human trafficking is a specific crime with its own variances and challenges in regard to service needs, trauma, policy, funding, and other areas. As such, there is value in clearly identifying best practice issues and providing general guidance in service provision as a resource for service providers, community partners, funders, and others who intersect with survivors of human trafficking and those agencies providing services.

The link to the Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Victims of Human Trafficking may be found at: [www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/region4guidingprinciples](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/region4guidingprinciples).

In the 2017 Council Report, the Council’s Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee made two legislative recommendations:

- Develop appropriate protections for Human Trafficking Victim Advocates. These should mirror the statutory protections for sexual assault victim advocates.
- Develop licensing and structural guidelines for safe houses serving adult victims similar to DCF certification guidelines.
The need for the human trafficking victim advocate protection continues to be an issue that has been brought to the Council. Human trafficking victim advocates currently lack the same protections afforded to sexual assault victim advocates, making it possible for them to be subpoenaed to testify in court or turn over case notes to the court. This could have a negative impact on the relationship with the survivor. The Council is recommending similar protections for human trafficking victim advocates because victim advocates are often a crucial part of the healing process for a survivor.

Secondly, with the increase of residential facilities offering services and long-term placement options for adult survivors of trafficking, the Council is recommending that the Legislature develop a certification process for adult facilities. Requirements can mirror the certification requirements established under Florida law for safe houses and safe foster homes caring for sexually exploited children.

The Council remains supportive of a system that will allow the funding to follow the victim to ensure all service needs can be met. As such, the Council will continue to explore the best option to address this need.

Appendix A
Resources

Report Human Trafficking
To report suspected human trafficking of a child in Florida, please contact:
Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

To report suspected human trafficking of an adult anywhere in the United States or of a child outside of Florida, please contact:
National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

State and National Resources
Florida Office of the Attorney General
www.myfloridalegal.com
www.youcanstopht.com
www.humantraffickingsummit.com

Florida Department of Children and Families
www.myflfamilies.com

Florida Department of Health
www.floridahealth.gov

Agency for Health Care Administration
www.ahca.myflorida.com

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
www.fdle.state.fl.us
www.fdle.state.fl.us/FCJEI/Online-Training/Introduction-to-Human-Trafficking

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
www.djj.state.fl.us

Florida Department of Education
www.fldoe.org

Palm Beach County Task Force
www.pbso.org/human-trafficking

Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office Human Trafficking Unit
www.miamisao.com/services/human-trafficking

Polaris Project
www.polarisproject.org

Blue Campaign
https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign
### Appendix B
**State Funding History**

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Receiving Entity</th>
<th>Agency With Oversight</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Aspire Health Partners</td>
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<td>Placement and services for adolescent CSEC survivors</td>
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<td>Devereux</td>
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## Appendix B

### State Funding History

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### Appendix B
State Funding History

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## Appendix C
### Council and Committee Presentations 2014-2018

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<th>Meeting</th>
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## Appendix C
### Council and Committee Presentations 2014-2018

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### Appendix C

#### Council and Committee Presentations 2014-2018

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