



**South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force
2017 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
 - II. Structure of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force
 - III. 2017 Quarterly Meeting Review & 2018 Meeting Dates
 - IV. South Carolina State Plan to Address Human Trafficking
 - V. 2017 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations
 - VI. Court Data: Pending and Closed
 - VII. Highlighted Partnerships & Initiatives
 - Regional & National Collaborations
 - Polaris - National Human Trafficking Hotline
 - Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children
 - Department of Homeland Security - Blue Campaign
 - Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions
 - Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST)
 - Community Awareness – New Website, Billboards, and Posters
 - VIII. Regional Task Forces
 - Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force
 - IX. Statewide Task Force Sub-Committees
 - Direct Service Provision
 - Prevention Education & Outreach
 - Healthcare Providers
 - Data Management & Research
 - Legal Innovations
 - Legislative
 - Labor Trafficking
 - Youth Advocacy
 - Survivor Advisory
 - Law Enforcement
 - X. Task Force Member Accomplishments
 - XI. 2018 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations
- Acknowledgements

I. Introduction

Human trafficking is a public safety, public health, and human rights violation negatively impacting communities across America. South Carolina is no exception. Every day, individuals in our neighborhoods are oppressed via the abhorrent methods of control practiced by human traffickers; the most prevalent being sexual and labor exploitation.

Human trafficking is impacting people of every socio-economic class and victims include men and women, boys and girls. Traffickers are targeting their prey in both rural and urban settings, in our schools, businesses and tourist areas. Additionally, the Internet has made it easier for children to be bought and sold. There are an estimated 100,000 new escort advertisements every day and many are selling children.

The effects of this crime are reverberating across the nation and our state. In 2017, we gained added insight into the magnitude of modern day slavery in South Carolina. We learned more about the negative impact on victims, the systems of care needed to support survivors, and the policies that must be instituted to abolish this atrocious crime.

The 2017 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report provides data that details the scale of exploitation in our state. It also highlights the stellar efforts underway by counter human trafficking advocates. Lastly, the report shares 2018 recommendations that will be adopted as the Task Force's targeted focus areas in the coming year.

While the annual report is written to be as inclusive as possible, there may be organizations doing additional work in the South Carolina anti-human trafficking arena that are not mentioned within this document. The information provided in this report was gathered at South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force meetings, sent by task force members to the Coordinator of the Human Trafficking Task Force at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, and gathered from other sources as noted throughout the text.

II. Structure of the Human Trafficking Task Force

The 2012 human trafficking law, S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-2050(B)(1) states that the Attorney General will chair a task force to address the crime of human trafficking in South Carolina. Task Force efforts are in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies. A major endeavor noted in the law was the development of a State Plan to Address Human Trafficking. The Task Force disseminated the State Plan to Address Human Trafficking in June of 2014. The law dictates that the Task Force shall coordinate the implementation of the State Plan. Furthermore, the Task Force will submit annual reports, inclusive of findings and recommendations, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate. The Task Force shall also consider completing the following collectively or via one or more of its constituent agencies:

- Collect and share trafficking data among government agencies while respecting the privacy of victims of trafficking in persons;

- Coordinate inter-agency information sharing for the purposes of identifying criminals engaged in trafficking in persons;
- Establish policies to position state government to work with nongovernmental organizations and other elements of civil society to prevent trafficking and provide assistance to United States citizens and foreign national victims;
- Review the existing services and facilities to meet trafficking victims' needs and recommend a system to coordinate services;
- Evaluate the various approaches used by state and local governments to increase public awareness of trafficking in persons;
- Collect and publish data on trafficking, posting the information on the Attorney General's website;
- Design and implement public awareness campaigns to inform potential targets of the risks of victimization;
- Creation and dissemination of materials to increase the public's awareness of the extent of trafficking in persons, both US citizens and foreign nationals, within the United States.

Task Force Membership

In addition to the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, the following members were legislatively mandated to the task force:

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
 The South Carolina Police Chiefs Association
 The South Carolina Sheriffs' Association
 The State Law Enforcement Division
 The Department of Health and Environmental Control Board
 The State Office of Victim Assistance
 The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination
 The Department of Social Services
 A representative of the Office of the Governor
 A representative from the Department of Employment and Workforce

Besides the aforementioned members, two non-governmental organizations are appointed to the Task Force: The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). An invitation of membership is also extended to representatives of the United States Department of Labor, the United States Attorneys' Office, and federal law enforcement agencies within the State including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office.

III. 2017 Quarterly Meeting Review & 2018 Meeting Dates

Per South Carolina law, the Human Trafficking Task Force meets quarterly each year. Meetings are held at the West Columbia Municipal Complex and designed as an opportunity for regional chairs, state-level sub-committee chairs, and other anti-human trafficking leaders to provide updates, discuss challenges, and share resources. On average, 70 people attended the 2017 meetings, up from approximately 40 in 2016. Information regarding the 2017 meetings dates and their respective agenda items is listed below.

2017 Meetings & Agenda Items

March 3rd

- Regional Task Force Updates
- State Task Force Sub-Committee Updates
- Youth Violence Prevention Curriculum Overview
- Immigrant Victim Services Update

June 2nd

- South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson – Presentation and Q&A
- State Task Force Updates – Mid-Year Review of Initiatives
- Sub-Committee Updates
- Regional Task Force Updates
- Child Sex Trafficking Data Project with the Children’s Law Center
- Immigrant Victims Services Update
- Announcements for Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

September 22nd

- Task Force VOCA Grant Award
- Regional Task Force Updates
- Sub-Committee Updates
- Member Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)
- New Meeting Format
- South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Website Reveal
- Announcements for Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

December 8th

- New Meeting Format
- Introductions of Mandated Members, Regional Task Force Chairs, and Sub-Committee Chairs
- 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports – Mandate and Status of 2017 Recommendations
- Sub-Committee Updates
- Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Updates
- Trainings – State and Regional Level
- Public Awareness Efforts – State and Regional Level

2018 Meeting Dates

In 2018, the Task Force will meet on the following dates: **March 2nd, June 1st, September 7th, and December 7th (the first Friday of each month)**. The meetings will continue to be held at the West Columbia Municipal Complex from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Please consult the Task Force website for a calendar of events that will notify members of any needed date changes. The website will also provide information regarding regional task force meetings, training opportunities, and other anti-human trafficking events throughout South Carolina.

IV. South Carolina State Plan to Address Human Trafficking

Released in June of 2014, the South Carolina State Plan to Address Human Trafficking is the framework from which the State Task Force establishes goals. It should be noted that the State Plan reflects the relevant issues during the time in which the document was drafted, so some findings are less pertinent now than others. The focus areas that comprise the framework include the following:

Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- Finding: There is not abundant or comprehensive data about human trafficking as it is happening in South Carolina.

Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking

- Finding One: First responders, medical professionals, labor agencies, and victim advocacy groups must be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.
- Finding Two: There is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources for groups that provide services to victims of human trafficking.
- Finding Three: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.
- Finding Four: There is a lack of understanding and awareness of the various immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking that are essential to victim safety and prosecution.
- Finding Five: Civil relief options for a trafficked victim are not well known or communicated.
- Finding Six: Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.

Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers

- Finding One: The lack of resources available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges frustrate opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- Finding Two: The lack of information-sharing among law enforcement officers and prosecuting offices hinders opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- Finding Three: The lack of trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges prevents opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.

Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- Finding One: There is inadequate enforcement of existing rules and regulations in South Carolina.
- Finding Two: Lack of awareness about human trafficking and ingrained societal perceptions aggravate the problem, resulting in lost opportunities to help victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Other Areas for Consideration and Study

- Foreign national victims: Consider how current immigration laws can affect victims of severe human trafficking.
- Rapid Response Teams: Consider creating teams throughout the state via new partnerships, the development of regional multiagency groups, and concise points of contact to be used by response teams.
- Child Victims: Analyze how South Carolina juvenile law affects juvenile victims of human trafficking, particularly those victims who might be arrested for a crime.
- Internet and Technology: Develop strategies to more efficiently investigate tips received from online sites, draft protocol for handling tips including possible areas of overlap between human trafficking and internet crimes against children. Also examine different methods, specifically those related to technology and the Internet, used in the perpetration of human trafficking crimes in order to formulate better responses, develop prevention strategies, and build stronger cases for prosecution

V. 2017 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations

In the 2016 Annual Report, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force identified recommendations for 2017 that aligned with the State Plan's guiding framework. There was much focus, along with numerous projects and initiatives, on achieving these goals. There were successes and a few setbacks in accomplishing the recommendations. Below, the recommendations are presented with a status update as to where the state currently sits in relation to each goal. Those that were not achieved will continue to be relevant moving forward. In the final segment of this report, the 2018 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations are outlined as a means of establishing new goals for the upcoming year.

Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- Data Collection

Recommendation:

Much like other states, South Carolina does not currently have comprehensive statistics on human trafficking. However, this is changing as organizations embark on diverse data collection efforts. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force will ideally develop a data management system that allows collaboration across stakeholder disciplines. This system will also allow for a uniform depository for current and future information.

Status: In Progress – Continued Action in 2018

Data collection and analysis remain critical in supporting efforts to abolish human trafficking and build services in South Carolina. In 2017, the State Task Force developed a Data Management and Research Sub-Committee under the leadership of Dr. Liyun Zhang, Research Analyst at the University of South Carolina Children’s Law Center.

As referenced in the State Task Force Sub-Committees section of this report, the Children’s Law Center and the Office of the Attorney General collaborated on the Child Sex Trafficking Data Project. The project and its conclusions will be discussed in more detail at an upcoming state task force meeting and later published for scholarly review. Efforts are underway to seek funding in support of continued research on child sex trafficking in counties across South Carolina.

Dr Zhang and the Coordinator of the State Task Force have outlined a reasonable approach to addressing the need for a data management system in South Carolina. In early 2018, it is anticipated that the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) will release data variables that will be used in a federal level data project. The plan is to align South Carolina’s data collection system with those at the federal level to avoid the need to make modifications after a collection system is developed and launched locally. Upon obtaining the data variables from OTIP, the Data Management and Research Sub-Committee will work with a local organization to develop a uniform depository that allows for multi-disciplinary contributions. Such a system will allow for cleaner data while providing task force members a more efficient method of submitting their information.

Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking**• Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Court**

Recommendation:

As mentioned in the 2016 report, efforts will be made to seek funding to support the implementation of a youth diversion court in South Carolina. This program would best position young victims or those at-risk of human trafficking to receive much needed services under the court’s oversight. The Diversion Court would also allow for better statewide collaboration amongst all juvenile justice stakeholders.

Status: No Progress – On Hold Until 2018

South Carolina’s judicial system remains receptive to establishing specialized courts for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). This would position the State to address the needs of minor trafficking victims in a more holistic and victim-centered manner than is currently in place. However, efforts are stalled until other resources, such as a rapid response system and alternative residential placements, are established to benefit victims and support the courts’ efforts.

In 2017, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force established the Legal Innovations Sub-Committee under the leadership of Elliot Daniels, Esq., with the Columbia law firm of Murphy & Grantland, PA. In partnership with the Coordinator of the State Task Force, Mr. Daniels will support efforts to launch specialized courts while addressing other legal needs of

victims and survivors. For more information about current efforts underway, please reference the Highlighted Partnerships & Initiatives and Statewide Task Force Sub-Committee sections of this report.

- **Increased Residential Services**

Recommendation:

Currently, there are no residential services available for adult or child victims of human trafficking in the State of South Carolina. There are efforts underway to open shelters. It is critical that quality services be available to house human trafficking victims.

Status: In Progress

The State of South Carolina has made little advancement in the provision of residential services to adult or child victims of human trafficking. There are two organizations, Lighthouse for Life and Doors to Freedom, who anticipate opening safe houses for minor victims in 2018. Triune Mercy Center and the Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville have united their efforts to open a safe house, Jasmine Road, for women who were sex trafficked, commercially sexually exploited, battle addiction, and/or suffer the repercussions of incarceration. Jasmine Road is anticipated to open in summer 2018. It is designed to be a two-year trauma-informed program that incorporates free accommodations, clinical mental health support, and fair wage vocational opportunities.

While these strides are commendable, the State of South Carolina must recognize the need for more aggressive development of safe, quality emergency care facilities to house minor victims of human trafficking. The current reality is a grim proposition for minors who are frequently treated as perpetrators in our existing model. This is an unacceptable model and the task force urges the state to develop triage centers for CSEC victims that meet their diverse needs in a therapeutic milieu rather than a punitive environment.

- **Minimum Standards and Protocols**

Recommendation:

There is also a lack of certified and vetted human trafficking specific victim services in the state. The task force will work on defining minimum standards that align with best practices in the field and develop relevant recommendations. Ideally, the recommendations will allow for a system of oversight and professional expectations that are currently lacking in some areas.

Status: In Progress

In partnership with the Crime Victims Ombudsman's Office, task force members contributed to a framework of minimum standards for residential facilities that support human trafficking victims. Efforts will continue to formalize the standards. Additionally, the State Task Force will implement Memorandums of Understanding with its members that will stipulate clear expectations while respecting the multi-disciplinary composition of the Task Force. Those providing residential services to human trafficking victims will be expected to adhere to best and promising practices in the field to officially be recognized by the Task Force as a quality provider and endorsed as a referral placement with the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers

- Professional Training

Recommendation:

The efforts of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force have been strong in the area of professional training for law enforcement, legal professionals, and other interested parties. Members should continue these efforts and diversify to include other professions who may encounter victims of human trafficking in their professional or volunteer work.

Status: Achieved – Continued Action in 2018

Throughout 2017, members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force have been aggressive in providing trainings to diverse populations throughout our state. Members have focused more on educating young people, motel/hotel proprietors, healthcare professionals, emergency response teams, educators, small business owners, faith-based organizations, professional associations, child welfare agencies, and law enforcement. It is critical that members of the Task Force continue their efforts through an organized, regional approach that ensures the most impact in our communities.

Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach

Recommendation:

To date, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force has done well in increasing public awareness of human trafficking in the state. It is recommended that the Task Force continue efforts through the creation of a website that provides resources to professionals combatting human trafficking and others interested in joining the anti-trafficking efforts. The website could also be used to assist members with identifying potential funding opportunities to allow for expansion or development of specialized human trafficking related services.

There are also recommendations in relation to expanding educational opportunities to children and youth to prevent young people from becoming victims of human trafficking. Efforts should be made to reach out to non-profits and other community-based organizations working with children to assist them in educating young people. Innovative educational approaches should also be explored in an attempt to better inform the public about risk factors as well as the toll human trafficking takes on communities in South Carolina.

Status: Achieved – Continued Action in 2018

In September 2017, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force launched its inaugural website at www.humantrafficking.scag.gov. The website is a central location for members of the Task Force, as well as citizens less engaged in everyday efforts, to access information. Resources include the structure of the State Task Force, regional task force and state level sub-committee information, documents for direct service providers, recent news stories related to human trafficking, and other useful material.

While the website is a major step in the direction of better coordinating task force member efforts and sharing resources, there is a need for increased development of the site that will be

implemented in 2018. Continued updates will include the calendar of events, vetted victims' services, grant opportunities, and the inclusion of a list of member organizations who have formalized their connection to the State Task Force through the MOU process.

In addition, the Prevention Education & Outreach Sub-Committee is actively pursuing anti-human trafficking curricula to review and present findings to the State Task Force. The group will then create a rating chart for educators that will be posted on the task force website. Additionally, the plan is to pilot a curriculum at two locations in the state, one rural and the other urban.

Other Areas for Consideration and Study

- Foreign National Victims

Recommendation:

Continued efforts should be made to gather and disseminate information that would be beneficial to foreign national victims as well as service providers who deliver support to this population. Furthermore, trainings should be delivered that relate specifically to identifying foreign national victims or potential victims, assisting them in connecting with needed legal and social services, and other issues related to service provision. Task force members shall share best practices, available support services, and training opportunities with others in the group.

Status: In Progress – Continued Action in 2018

In 2017, there was an increased focus on issues that impact foreign national victims and how service providers can best meet their unique needs. Trisha Ravenhorst, Director/Attorney of the Immigrant Victim Program at the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, provided the Task Force with updates regarding immigration changes, T and U-Visas, and other pertinent information that would benefit those who support foreign national victims. Ms. Ravenhorst's presentations have provided many Task Force members with base knowledge of the changes generated via the current political landscape. Ultimately, this knowledge has better positioned members to navigate systems while advocating for their clients.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, also entered a newly crafted MOU with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVSA). In part, the MOU focuses on the needs of foreign born victims. Under the direction of Kathleen Heavner-James, Linguistic Equity Specialist, the task force will benefit from SCCADVSA's increased focus on providing technical assistance around interpretation and translation best practice, victim rights education within limited English proficiency communities (including deaf and hard of hearing victims), and the development of multilingual outreach materials for crime victims (particularly sexual assault, interpersonal violence, human trafficking, and stalking).

- Rapid Response Teams

Recommendation:

There is an acute need to establish rapid response teams within South Carolina to better support victims of human trafficking. There have been challenges noted in successfully establishing such

teams. However, the Task Force will further assess the possibility of forming regional rapid response teams and identifying clear, concise points of contact.

Status: Progress – Continued Action in 2018

In 2017, the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force consulted with members of the Salvation Army, both in South Carolina and their offices in Charlotte and Raleigh, to learn more about the success of Project FIGHT (Freeing Individuals from the Grip of Human Trafficking). Project FIGHT is currently operating in five locations throughout North Carolina including Charlotte, Raleigh, Asheville, Greenville, and New Bern. The Salvation Army brings much successful experience via their participation in North Carolina's nine rapid response teams.

After careful consideration of existing resources in South Carolina, a hold was placed on developing these teams until additional resources are identified and/or developed to assist an established rapid response network. The Coordinator of the State Task Force is working with community advocates in counties across the state to launch new regional task forces. Local level coalitions will better position the initial coordination of a network of responders and help position these teams to successfully execute their responsibilities. The need still exists in South Carolina to better coordinate response systems. Therefore, this recommendation will remain an active goal for the State Task Force in 2018.

• Child Victims

Recommendation:

As previously noted in this section, child victims deserve our collective support. The Youth Human Trafficking Diversion Court is the first step in ensuring that each child victim receives the legal support and referral services needed for their recovery. South Carolina must ensure that there are therapeutic residential opportunities available to house these young victims. The facilities must also meet minimum standards and protocols to ensure victim wellbeing.

Status: In Progress – Continued Action in 2018

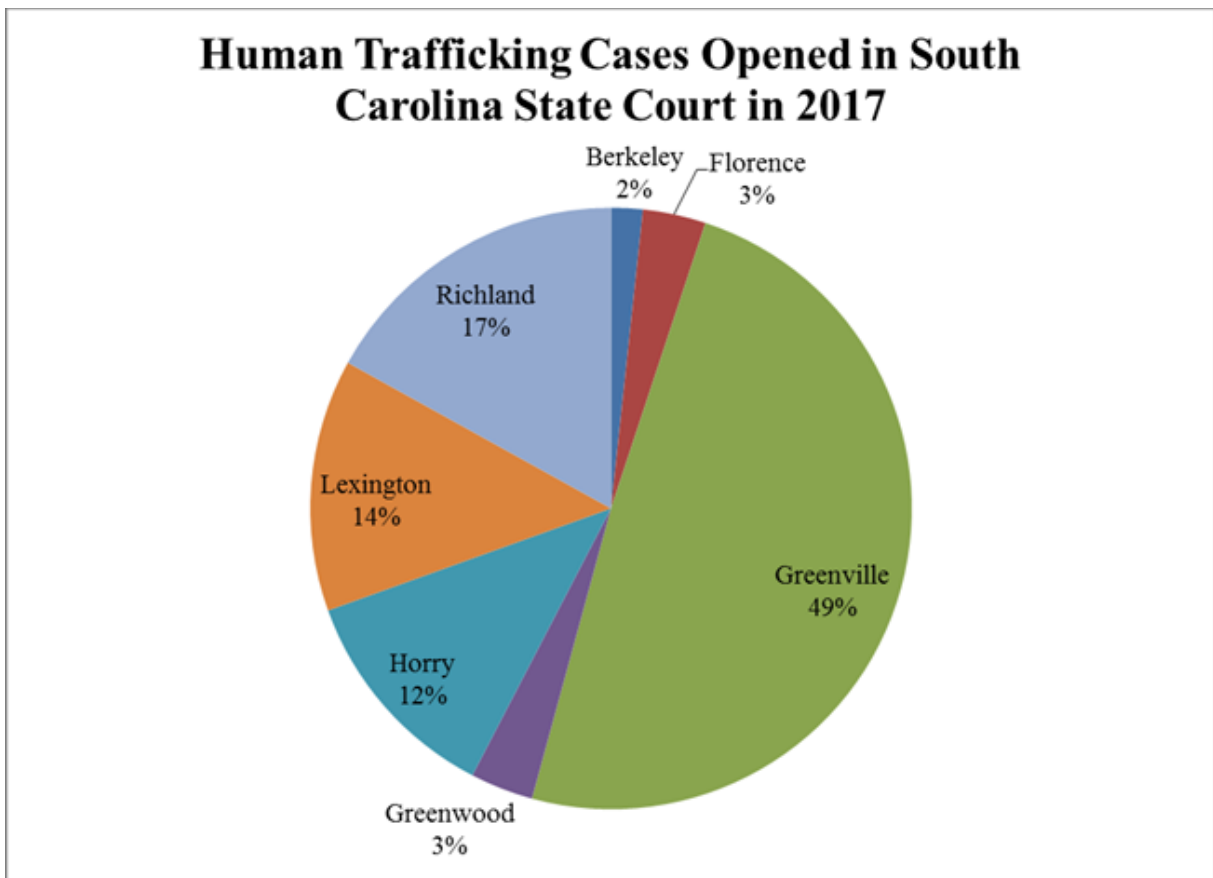
Child victims of human trafficking, whether domestic or foreign, are one of the most vulnerable populations in our society today. We have a principled responsibility to protect these children from further harm. In doing so, members of the anti-human trafficking movement must continue to identify emerging needs of this population as well as gaps in current services. The State Task Force acknowledges the resources in place to support these victims, such as the child welfare system, court appointed special advocates, and non-profits that offer community-based support services. However, the State of South Carolina is highly encouraged to continue its coordinated efforts to further develop formal, specialized systems of care for this population of minor victims.

This goal will only be reached through thoughtful collaboration amongst current stakeholders. As previously mentioned in this report, this includes the establishment of courts focused on the needs of CSEC victims and specialized therapeutic acute care facilities that meet victims needs while providing the missing resource in successfully launching a rapid response network. Lastly, we will continue to examine the need for the development of a network of mentors, much like

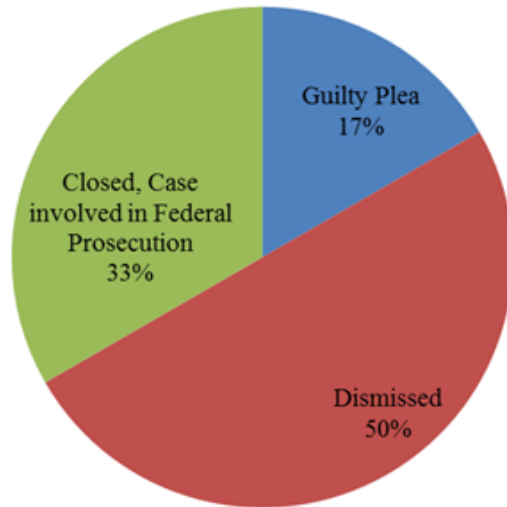
life coaches, to support young people’s successful transition from specialized care into mainstream society.

VI. Court Data: Pending and Closed

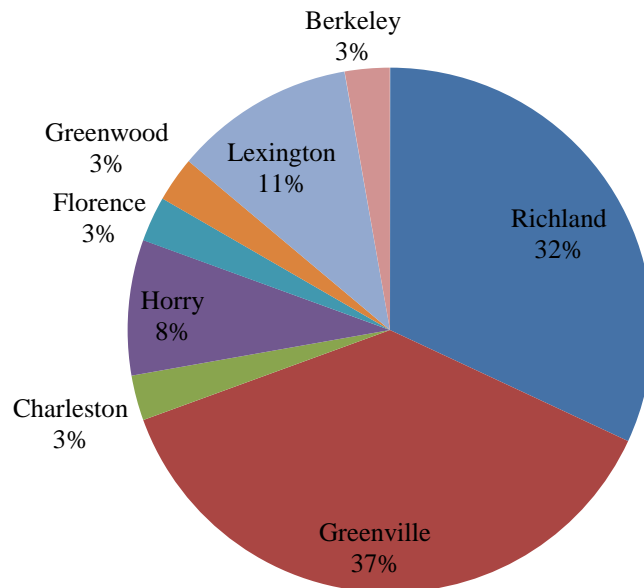
In 2017, 18 human trafficking cases were closed in South Carolina State Court. Of the 18, 7 were charged as involving minors. The three guilty pleas, taken for human trafficking in 2017, all involved victims under the age of 18. Local law enforcement charged 59 counts of human trafficking in 2017. Of the 59 charges, 22 involve cases with minors. Local law enforcement worked with both state and federal law enforcement agencies in investigating cases in 2017. Several of the state charges have been adopted by the federal court. As of December 29th, 2017, there are 72 human trafficking cases pending in the South Carolina State Courts.



Dispositions of Human Trafficking Cases in State Court in 2017



South Carolina Human Trafficking Cases Pending in State Court as of 12/29/2017



VII. Highlighted Partnerships & Initiatives

Each year, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, via the Attorney General's leadership, seeks opportunities to develop new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations. The following seven highlighted partnerships and initiatives were chosen to exhibit a sample of the Task Force's specialized efforts in 2017. The goal of these partnerships is to aid in combating human trafficking throughout South Carolina, the Southeast region, and our nation while building the capacity of law enforcement and other professional service providers to meet the needs of victims/survivors.

Regional & National Collaborations

To effectively communicate and collaborate with partners across the nation, Attorney General Wilson and the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force actively contribute to regional and national workgroups. While the following three groups are all focused on solving the complex challenges that factor into abolishing human trafficking, they vary in their multi-disciplinary approaches within the anti-human trafficking arena. In 2018, the Office of the Attorney General is committed to continued collaboration via participation in regional and national coalitions.

National Association of Attorneys General – Human Trafficking Committee

NAAG's Mission Statement: The Association provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and insights on subjects of importance to the Attorneys General of the states, territories, and district. It fosters local, state, and federal engagement, cooperation, and communication on legal and law enforcement issues. It provides training, research, and analysis to members and their staffs on a wide range of subjects relevant to the practice areas of the attorneys general offices. It assists in the implementation, administration and enforcement of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

Human Trafficking Committee

Attorneys general across the nation recognize that human trafficking is a scourge upon our communities. To proactively and collaboratively combat this crime, the attorneys general have established the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee. The committee's goals are to investigate and promote best practices for combating human trafficking at the state level. Focus areas include law enforcement and prosecution strategies, educational outreach efforts, and alliances with partner agencies and non-governmental organizations.

As a longtime proponent of anti-human trafficking efforts and an active member of NAAG, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson is a sitting member of the Human Trafficking Committee. The committee has compiled resources to help states abolish this crime and posted them on the national website (www.naag.org). Along with Attorney General Wilson, the following attorneys general have committed their offices to the cause of counter human trafficking by joining the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee.

- Attorney General Maura Healey (MA), Co-Chair
- Attorney General Sean Reyes (UT), Co-Chair
- Attorney General Andy Beshear (KY)
- Attorney General Chris Carr (GA)
- Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman (CO)
- Attorney General Bob Ferguson (WA)
- Attorney General Josh Hawley (MO)
- Attorney General Mark Herring (VA)
- Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt (NV)
- Attorney General Ken Paxton (TX)
- Attorney General Doug Peterson (NE)
- Attorney General Bill Schuette (MI)
- Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem (ND)
- Attorney General Alan Wilson (SC)

For more information, please contact:

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DHHS/ACF Region IV - Southeast Coalition of Eight States

The US Department of Health & Human Services' Administration of Children and Families Region IV office in Atlanta coordinates the Southeast Coalition of eight states. Representatives from each of the participating states, namely state task force leads and child welfare representatives, meet four times a year. With two meetings hosted by member states and two meetings via conference call, the group regularly dialogue about pressing issues in the field of counter human trafficking. The eight states who participate in this coalition include: South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The representative from South Carolina in 2017 was Kathryn Moorehead of the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General - Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs/Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In 2018, representation will also include Elliott Daniels, Esq., of Murphy & Grantland, P.A./Chair of the Task Force Legal Innovations Sub-Committee, delegates from the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Social Services delegates. Dependent upon items for discussion on meeting agendas, South Carolina will also include involvement from our State Task Force sub-committee chairs.

In January 2018, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General will host members of the coalition in Columbia for a two day meeting.

National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

The National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives is led by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs. South Carolina is an active member of the compendium. The group meets quarterly via conference call to discuss goals, challenges, resources, and other relevant topics that relate to the collective efforts to end human trafficking. Currently, the National Compendium is composed of 25 states and three national representatives including the following:

Arizona	Colorado	Connecticut	Florida	Georgia	Idaho
Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska
New Jersey	New Mexico	N. Carolina	N. Dakota	Ohio	Oklahoma
Oregon	S. Carolina	Tennessee	Texas	Utah	Virginia
Wisconsin	National Human Trafficking Hotline (2)		DHHS/ACF Southern States Rep		

Polaris - National Human Trafficking Hotline - Washington, DC

The National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline (hereto referred to as “the hotline”) is the nationwide anti-human trafficking hotline and resource center serving victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community in the United States. Since 2007, it has been run by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization.

The hotline provides human trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and services to get help and stay safe, and equips the anti-trafficking community with tools to effectively combat human trafficking. The hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help. Through the hotline, Polaris also provides innovative anti-trafficking trainings, technical assistance, and capacity building support

Formal Partnership

In May 2017, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, formalized its partnership with Polaris to strengthen statewide capacity to respond to and support victims/survivors. By entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), both parties officially recognize the importance of collaboration to identify and serve victims, promote greater public awareness, and increase the skills and capacity of law enforcement and professional service providers in understanding and responding to human trafficking in South Carolina. To facilitate these goals, the state task force and Polaris agree to, but not limited to, the following participation:

Polaris

- Provide prompt response to call, emails, texts and other reports to the hotline to provide crisis services, referrals, and/or accept tips of potential trafficking situations;

- Provide annual call case, country and state-based reports, in which the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General/Human Trafficking State Task Force is located;
 - Provide information on the number of signals received that reference a campaign promoting the national hotline (when applicable);
 - Collaborate with key state stakeholders to provide consultation on promising practices to improve statewide response to human trafficking;
 - Provide access to resources on human trafficking or referrals to subject matter experts;
 - Ensure national hotline reporting protocols are directly connected to statewide efforts;
 - Provide access to the national hotline’s promotional and campaign materials;
- And
- Collaborate with the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General toward insuring that state-level referral services are appropriately vetted to ensure the continued safety and well-being of victims and survivors.

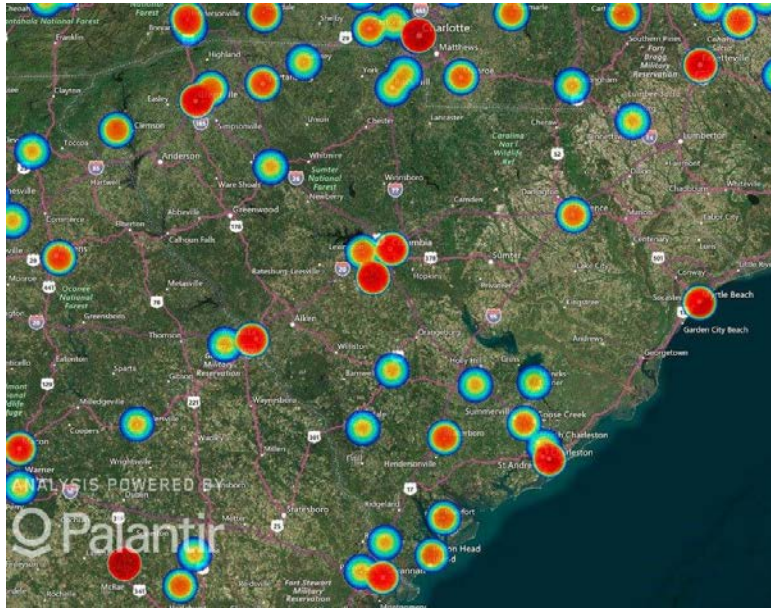
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General/Human Trafficking State Task Force

- Identify the national hotline as the state’s designated anti-human trafficking hotline and incorporate into the state’s anti-trafficking response;
 - Adopt a victim-centered, culturally sensitive approach when developing or revising the state’s anti-trafficking response;
 - Actively promote the national hotline through trainings and/or publicly funded outreach campaigns;
 - Collaborate with Polaris to ensure all human trafficking coalitions/task forces throughout the state promote and use the national hotline;
 - Require that all human trafficking coalition/task force members have a basic knowledge of human trafficking and the national hotline;
- And
- Collaborate with Polaris toward insuring that state-level referral services are appropriately vetted to ensure the continued safety and well-being of victims and survivors.

Data Sharing & Analysis

In accordance with the data sharing stipulation within the MOU, Polaris provides the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force additional clean data beyond that shared with the public at large. Data collection and analysis is a complex process that entails careful examination. Therefore, the more in-depth data reporting is shared approximately six to eight months after the end of a calendar year. The following includes information reflective of human trafficking throughout South Carolina in 2016, the latest and most accurate insight into human trafficking in our state.

The data is representative of Polaris’ regular communication with individuals contacting the helplines. Of note, the information does not represent the full scope of human trafficking in South Carolina. A potential lack of awareness of the crime and/or access to the hotline in certain geographic regions, by racial or ethnic groups, and by labor trafficking survivors can lead to significant underreporting. The data is based only on information provided to the helplines.



Human Trafficking in South Carolina

Data obtained in December 2017 shows the impact human trafficking is having on individuals in South Carolina. In 2016, there were 78 cases reported and, of these cases, 56 were sex trafficking, 17 labor trafficking, two sex and labor trafficking, and three were classified as other/not specified. The heat map above shows where these incidents originated. Areas with more red shading indicate greater numbers of reported cases. The map only reflects cases where the locations were known. Some cases may involve more than one location.

The heat map supports claims that human trafficking is impacting communities across South Carolina. In fact, the top five known locations of human trafficking were reported in the following counties:

1. Greenville County (15)
2. Charleston County (12)
3. Horry County (9)
4. Richland County (8)
5. Beaufort County (4)

Much like regional task force representation in South Carolina, Polaris assigns all hotline reported cases to counties. Therefore, those that occurred in Charleston were assigned to Charleston County and those that occurred in Columbia were assigned to Richland County. Also of note, Greenville, Horry, and Richland counties are all active in regional task forces. Charleston County will be included in the Tri-County Regional Task Force scheduled to launch in early 2018.

Known Sex and Labor Trafficking Venues

From a reported 35 cases in South Carolina, we can identify six common sex trafficking venues. The 35 cases represent only those venues of trafficking known by the hotline. The venues are ranked as follows:

1. Hotel/Motel-based (31.43%)
2. Illicit Massage/Spas (17,14%)
3. Residence-based (14.29%)
4. Online Advertisement, Venue Unknown (11.43%)
5. Escort/Delivery Service (11.43%)
6. Venues Reported <3 Times (14.29%)

Unfortunately, it is more difficult to identify themes when assessing labor trafficking venues in South Carolina. Of the 15 cases during which the hotline gained knowledge of the locations, each specific venue was reported less than three times per location. This speaks to the diversity of labor trafficking incidents and the importance of gaining more insight in 2018 through increased efforts to identify labor trafficking victims, prosecute traffickers, and provide support services to survivors.

Potential Victims of Trafficking in South Carolina

Details regarding potential victims of human trafficking are collected through Polaris' regular interactions with individuals contacting the helplines and not the result of a systematic survey. Polaris staff noted key elements of accounts relayed by victims or relayed the experiences of their friends or family members. Callers were only asked to share as much information as they were comfortable in sharing. As such, the information below should not be considered a comprehensive statement on victims of trafficking in South Carolina, but rather a sample of actual incidences of trafficking occurring in the state.

- Female – 77%, Male 15%
- Females – Adults 68.83%, Minors 24.68%, Not Specified 6.49%
- Males – Adults 73.33%, Minors 26.67%

Means of Control, Relationships, and Recruitment

Means of Control

In some cases, individuals contacting the helplines shared information regarding methods of control including force, fraud and coercion. These methods were used to compel victims into engaging in commercial sex. Below is the number of victims who reported experiencing each method of control.

1. Potential Minor in Commercial Sex (31)
2. Taking or Withholding Earnings (29)
3. Monitoring or Stalking (23)
4. Withholding Needs or Wants (23)
5. Verbal Abuse or Manipulation (21)

Relationships between Victims and Traffickers

Callers also shared information about the relationship between victims and their potential traffickers. The numbers below provide insight into the types of relationships human trafficking victims reported having with their trafficker.

1. Family Member (14)
2. Employer (13)
3. Other (12)
4. Intimate Partner (11)
5. No Relationship Other than Exploitation (7)

Methods of Recruitment

Victims also shared methods of recruitment in some circumstances. The following is the number of victims who reported having experienced each method.

1. Familial (16)
2. Job Offer or Advertisement (15)
3. Posing as a Benefactor (13)
4. False Promises or Fraud (11)
5. Intimate Partner or Marriage Proposition (11)

Relationships between Victims and Recruiters

During calls to the helplines, individuals relayed information about their relationship with potential recruiters. The numbers below show the top five relationship victims reported having with their recruiter.

1. Family Member or Caregiver (16)
2. Intimate Partner (11)
3. Friend or Acquaintance (10)
4. Employer (9)
5. Labor Recruiter (6)

In conclusion, the data shared by the National Human Trafficking Hotline exposes the grim reality of human trafficking in South Carolina. The information does provide useful details that will undoubtedly shape awareness campaigns, professional trainings, and the development of services. It also speaks to the value of data collection and analysis moving forward in our efforts.

Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children - Los Angeles, California

It is well known within the anti-human trafficking movement that the Internet is a tool frequently used in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Internet must be vigilantly monitored, and innovative technology continuously developed, if we are to protect our children from predators. To this effect, law enforcement requires access to resources and training in how to utilize ever evolving technology.

Thorn is a unique non-profit leveraging technology to combat child sexual exploitation. They are partnered with 20+ international NGO partners and 40+ technology partners to stop the spread of child sexual abuse material and combat child traffickers who utilize the Internet in their crimes. In 2015, Thorn built a technological tool – Spotlight – to help law enforcement identify child sex trafficking victims and arrest their abusers. In 2016, 2,020 child victims of sexual exploitation were identified through the use of this innovative tool. It is estimated that Spotlight helps reduce

investigative time by nearly 50% positioning law enforcement to tackle more cases of child sexual exploitation within a shorter timeframe.

To actualize a vision where all of South Carolina’s law enforcement agencies are equipped to monitor the internet for child sex trafficking, the Stater Task Force elevated its collaboration with Thorn in 2017. Plans are in development to expand access and use of Thorn’s Spotlight technology throughout South Carolina through a series of regional trainings. In early 2018, the framework of the approach will be finalized, and the State Task Force will begin implementing a series of training opportunities for law enforcement agencies.

For more information, please visit:

www.wearthorn.org

Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking – South Carolina

Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST) is a network of multidisciplinary attorneys across South Carolina who provide high quality *pro bono* legal representation for survivors of trafficking. Through a case-by-case model, LAST works to secure justice for individual clients and to shape a justice system in our state that works for survivors of trafficking.

LAST was formed in April 2017 with a goal of providing every survivor of trafficking in South Carolina access to high quality, trauma-informed legal representation. The model of LAST is to perform intake, screening, and placement of legal needs for survivors with trained *pro bono* counsel. LAST also equips the private bar to participate in matters through statewide public engagements and Continuing Legal Education trainings, and through technical legal assistance and mentorship once matters are assigned to *pro bono* attorneys.

The network has seen encouraging success in its first year. Survivors have received legal consultations and successful outcomes in direct representations at the state and federal level in matters involving expungement and vacatur, restitution, custody and family court needs, tax counsel, immigration relief, and victim and witness advocacy in pending criminal prosecutions.

Initial leadership of LAST includes Elliott Daniels, Esq. of Murphy & Grantland, PA; Tricia Ravenhorst, Esq. of SCVAN; Matthew Couvillion of Wyche, PA; Hannah Rogers Metcalfe, Esq. of Metcalfe & Atkinson; and Jamie Schoen, Esq. of the United States Attorney’s Office. Initial partners include the South Carolina Bar, the Greenville Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

Number of Legal Trainings:	5
Number of Attendees:	193
Number of Public Engagements:	3
Number of Attendees:	120
Number of Victims Served:	19
Types of Service Provided:	Legal Representation

For more information, please contact:

last.southcarolina@gmail.com or (843) 790-LAST.

Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions – NY/CT

The Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions (CHTCS) supports court efforts to end human trafficking. The organization will continue the work started by the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative and its efforts with state courts around the country. CHTCS's primary mission is to secure funds and other resources for the benefit of state courts working to develop court-based solutions to human trafficking issues. The mission is guided by the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators. Implementation of programs is supported as directed by state and local courts.

The work of the Human Trafficking Collaborative focuses on four strategic priorities:

- Increasing understanding and awareness about the challenges faced by state courts in dealing with cases involving trafficking victims and their families, and traffickers;
- Developing and testing state and local approaches for assessing and addressing the impact of human trafficking victims and defendants in the state courts;
- Enhancing state and local court capacity to improve court services affected by human trafficking related case processing demands; and
- Building effective national, state, and local partnerships for addressing the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts.

CHTCS's successful partnership with the judiciary will help restore lives, reduce costs to the justice system and society, and advance justice. Judicial leadership and collaboration with key stakeholders will help end human trafficking in South Carolina and the nation.

For more information, please contact:

Marsha Rabiteau
President and CEO
Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions
P 860-216-5290
MRabiteau@htcourtsolutions.org

DHS Blue Campaign - Washington, DC

In 2015, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, as Chair of the statewide task force, established a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security to collaborate on anti-human trafficking efforts through the Blue Campaign. The Blue Campaign is DHS's unified voice for agency efforts to combat human trafficking through public awareness and education. The partnership between DHS and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force continued throughout 2017. We are committed to working in collaboration throughout 2018 to bring much needed awareness about human trafficking to citizens of our state.

In an effort to alert community advocates to the resources available through the Blue Campaign, the task force has chosen to highlight the Human Trafficking Awareness Month initiatives led by the Department of Homeland Security. For more information, please visit their website at www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign and view their Facebook page or Twitter account at DHS Blue

Campaign. These sites will provide added insight into available resources, online training opportunities, and other initiatives.

January 11th – National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

The Blue Campaign is encouraging those committed to abolishing human trafficking to bring awareness to the cause by wearing blue, taking photos of themselves, friends, and/or co-workers and sharing these images on social media accompanied with #wearblueday.

January 17th – Facebook Live Event

Join the Blue Campaign for a Facebook Live Event that will focus on identifying trafficking in your community and how to effectively respond to such incidents to protect the victims, bystanders, and yourself.

January 31st – Act to End Human Trafficking Thunderclap

Through Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr, community advocates can support the Blue Campaign's efforts to bring awareness via Act to End Human Trafficking on Thunderclap. Sign up to automatically have an awareness message added to your account at 3 PM on January 31st. The more participants, the wider the scope of the impact.

Community Awareness Efforts – Website, Billboards, and Posters

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to supporting awareness efforts in communities across the state. The ultimate motivation is to educate South Carolinians so that we may prevent the crime. It is also critical that we support efforts to educate citizens as to how to appropriately and safely respond if they suspect human trafficking in their community. Beyond the hundreds of speaking engagements completed by Task Force members across the state, the following three awareness efforts were executed via leadership at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General.

Website

As the Chair of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, the Office of the Attorney General developed and launched the task force's inaugural website in September of 2017. The website (www.humantrafficking.scag.gov) provides access to an array of resources to educate the public and support leaders in the counter trafficking movement. It features such items as the structure of the State Task Force, regional task force efforts, the goals of state level sub-committees, materials to support direct service providers, news about human trafficking cases, and other useful information. There is also an option on the site for community members to request a speaker to present on human trafficking. In 2018, the website will be further developed to provide additional resources such as a calendar of events, vetted victim service providers, and funding opportunities for developing services for victims and survivors.



Billboards

In addition to launching the website, the Office of the Attorney General secured funding for three anti-human trafficking billboards for Myrtle Beach and Georgetown. The billboards, posted in July 2017, all feature campaign materials provided by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Two of the billboards focused on anti-sex trafficking and the third on anti-labor trafficking. This project helped bring awareness of the crime to thousands of tourists vacationing in the area while also familiarizing community members, including potential victims, with the national helplines.

Posters

In 2017, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General continued to disburse copies of the legislatively mandated human trafficking poster that provides knowledge of the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline. Task Force members and businesses across the state have contributed to these efforts. Regional task forces have coordinated efforts to deliver the posters to mandated businesses in their communities. Anti-human trafficking advocates in Horry and Georgetown counties contributed by distributing the posters to businesses prior to Bike Week. A local non-profit secured a donation of additional copies of the posters to allow for continued efforts. It has been a collaborative approach to saturating communities across South Carolina in hopes of ultimately providing victims access to help and, potentially, saving the lives of countless human trafficking victims.

VIII. South Carolina Regional Task Forces

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force recognizes the importance of a tiered approach to abolishing human trafficking. Namely, a multilevel system of representation, organization, and application. Local representatives synchronize at the state level. Further coordination and direct action are implemented on the ground in communities throughout South Carolina. To make the largest impact, regional task forces are established to ensure the overall coordination of multi-disciplinary tiered efforts.

In 2017, two regional tasks forces continued their stellar efforts to combat human trafficking in the Upstate and Richland County. Additionally, a new regional task force, Coastal Region, was established in Horry and Georgetown counties. There are plans to launch a Tri-County task force in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties in early 2018. There is also interest from community advocates in Orangeburg and Aiken to potentially launch later in the year. The following details current regional goals and accomplishments as well as the leadership guiding these efforts.

Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

The Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force held its first meeting in 2014 and has successfully combatted human trafficking since that time. The task force is composed of 103 members, up from 40 members in 2016. The Upstate Task Force's reach covers the following eight counties: Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, Greenwood, Abbeville, Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee.

Members include law enforcement, social service agencies, medical organizations, legal service providers, and others committed to abolishing modern-day slavery. The wide variety of

professionals represented allows for a multidisciplinary approach to the Upstate's collective anti-trafficking efforts. Ten agencies provided the state task force with 2017 service report data that is reflected later in the report under Task Force Member Accomplishments. Agency specific information is also provided in that section.

In 2017, the Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force established sub-committees and recruited chairs for each group. The sub-committees were chosen to align with the approach taken at the State Task Force. Eventually, the Upstate will have 10 sub-committees with the respective chairs representing their communities on the state level and, therefore, supporting a comprehensive tiered approach.

Committees

Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee Co-Chairs: Jennifer Combs and Neely Wright,
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Direct Services Chair: Lindsey Blair, SWITCH
Prevention Education & Outreach Chair: Taylor Beard, Love 146
Law Enforcement Co-Chairs: Steven Michaels, Department of Homeland Security, and
Jonathan Bastoni, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Human Trafficking Investigator and TFO
Homeland Security Investigations
Legislation Chair: Walter Smith, Bon Secours

2017 Upstate Task Force Meetings were held on the following dates: April 14th, July 14th, and September 7th.

2018 Meetings: The next Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force meeting will be held on January 18th at 10 AM.

For more information, please contact:

Co-Chairs, Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force
Zaina Greene
Executive Director
SWITCH
P 864-350-0281
Zaina@switchsc.org
OR
Diana Tapp
Bi-Lingual Victim Advocate
Greenville County Sheriff's Office
dtapp@greenvillecounty.org

Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

The Richland County Council funded Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT) was established in December 2014. In July 2016, Vicki Jackson was hired as the part-time Coordinator and relocated out of state in July 2017. In late August 2017, Alexis W. Scurry was hired as the new RCAHT Coordinator as funding was secured through Richland County CASA to increase the role from part-time to full-time.

The mission of the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force is to eradicate human trafficking throughout Richland County by promoting prevention through education and legislation, pursuing the prosecution of human traffickers and buyers, and providing protection and support to victims and survivors.

Via the RCAHT Task Force, the Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) reports that they began piloting the High-Risk Victims Model that was taught at the 2017 two-day Amber Alert training hosted by the RCAHT Task Force and Lighthouse for Life. RCSD has designated two officers who will have direct contact with children who have run away to help law enforcement better recognize high risk victims.

Committees

Prevention Committee, Chair: Kaneshia Green, South Carolina Commission on Minority Affairs
Prevention Committee Goal: Prevent the crime of human trafficking (sex and labor) through public awareness, education, collaboration with organizations and programs within Richland County.

Prosecution Committee, Chair: Reggie Gaymon, Richland County Sheriff's Department
Prosecution Committee Goal: Prosecute traffickers and buyers, and investigate allegations of sex and labor trafficking within local businesses and homes.

Specialized Foster Care Committee, Chair: Laurie Pineda, Pure Light Ministry
Note: This is a newly formed committee. Goals and objectives have not been formerly established at this time.

2017 RCAHT Task Force Meetings were held on the following dates: January 13th, March 24th, May 12th, September 22nd. and November 17th.

2018 Meetings: The next Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force meeting will be held on January 19th at 10 AM at the Richland County Coroner's Office.

For more information, please contact:

Project Coordinator, Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
Alexis Scurry
Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates (RCCASA)
P 803-439-5761
scurrya@rcgov.us

Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force

Launched on December 4th, 2017, the Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force is the most recently formed coalition in the state. It was designed to lead counter trafficking efforts in Horry and Georgetown counties. There are currently 223 members on the regional task force's listserv. Furthermore, the Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force has developed five sub-committees to coordinate local efforts and represent the area at the state level. They will also emulate the state task force through further development of regional sub-committees.

Committees

Healthcare Providers, Chair: Laura Fletcher, Emergency Nurse, Tidelands Health

Healthcare Providers Goal: To work with healthcare professionals in Horry and Georgetown counties to educate and promote best practices in the care of human trafficking victims.

Direct Services, Chair: Ashley Hoshihara-Cruz, Sexual Assault Service Coordinator, Rape Crisis Center

Direct Services Goal: To work with victim advocacy agencies and victim advocates in Horry and Georgetown counties to educate and promote best practices in the care of human trafficking victims and survivors.

Legal Services, Chair: Mary-Ellen Walter, Senior Assistant Solicitor, 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office

Legal Services Goal: To work with legal partners in Horry and Georgetown counties to educate and promote best practices in the prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

Community Outreach, Chair: Kelly O'Neill-Bagwell, Founder and President of the Eastern Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking (ECCAHT)

Community Outreach Goal: To work with the community at large, key stakeholders, and faith-based organizations in Horry and Georgetown counties to educate regarding the complexities of human trafficking.

Law Enforcement, Chair: John M. Brantly, Detective, Major Crimes, Horry County Police Department

Law Enforcement Goal: To work with law enforcement officers and agencies in Horry and Georgetown counties to educate and promote law enforcement best practices in relation to counter human trafficking policies and procedures.

The next Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force meeting will be held on January 4th at 10 AM at Tidelands Health Conference Center, Murrells Inlet.

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force

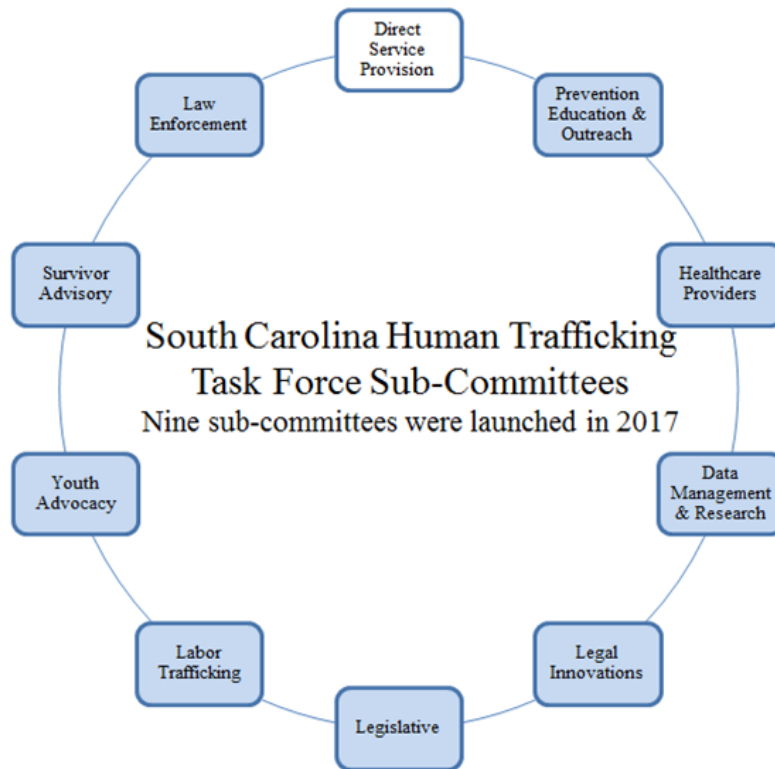
Gina Carbino, Statewide Forensic Coordinator

South Carolina Victims Assistance Network

P 518-565-6267

Gina@scvan.org

IX. Statewide Task Force Sub-Committees



Data Management & Research

Throughout the nation, there is a lack of comprehensive data that provides accurate insight into the scope of human trafficking. This includes information pertaining to rescues and convictions, services to victims/survivors, and other useful information. To better define the issue in South Carolina, the Data Management & Research Sub-Committee was established under the leadership of Dr. Liyun Zhang, Research Analyst with the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. The primary goal is to develop a system of accurately collecting and storing data as well as leading research projects unique to the field.

Mission

To understand human trafficking victimization and service needs through data and research; and to inform prevention, intervention, and policy making on human trafficking with data and research. (Note: The goals are aligned with the Federal Data Collection Project of the Office on Trafficking in Persons).

2017 Progress

Dr. Zhang led a research collaboration between the Children's Law Center and the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General. The research analyzed Richland County Sheriff's Department 2016 incident reports for runaways and incorrigibles by coding for high risk factors of human trafficking. The project findings will be released in 2018 for academic review.

Additionally, more sheriff's departments have contributed 2016 incident reports for continued analysis in identifying potential minor victims of sex trafficking.

2018 Goals

As previously mentioned in this report, Dr. Zhang and the Coordinator of the State Task Force have outlined an approach to address the need for a data management system in South Carolina. In early 2018, we anticipate the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) to release data variables that will be used in a federal level data project. The hope is to align South Carolina's data collection system with those at the federal level to avoid the need to modify after a collection system is developed and launched locally. Upon obtaining the data variables from OTIP, the Data Management and Research Sub-Committee will work with a local organization to develop a uniform depository that allows for multi-disciplinary contributions. Such a system will allow for cleaner data while providing task force members a more efficient method of submitting their data.

Direct Services Sub-Committee

The Direct Services Sub-Committee is comprised of service providers from across South Carolina who work in a cross-section of disciplines with survivors of labor and/or sex trafficking. The purpose of the workgroup is to assess and identify gaps in services, inform and influence best practices, serve as a clearinghouse of resources, and provide recommendations and updates to the Attorney General's Office.

The Workgroup believes that service provision must:

- Be trauma-informed, evidence-informed, and based on the empowerment model of service provision and recovery. An empowerment model of service provision is strengths-based, comprehensive, and respects individual autonomy and self-determination.
- Be victim-centered. Services should promote formal and informal collaboration with multidisciplinary organizations that are informed by organizational policies and protocols where the victim is at the center and their wishes, safety, and well-being take priority.
- Be focused on the dignity of individuals. Victims must be believed, protected from the accused, and their privacy must be respected throughout the process.
- Be offender-accountable. Services should help promote the protections in the SC Victim Bill of Rights, that requires victims be given accurate and timely information about their cases, equal protection under the law, and be provided with information about how to exercise their rights.
- Be culturally relevant. Services should take into account the victim's cultural and linguistic needs.

2017 Progress

Goal 1: The group will survey service providers (including ancillary service providers) on services provided, collaborations and referrals, and quality of services.

Progress: Completed

The sub-committee conducted a statewide survey to assess service provision and to identify perceived gaps in service. One hundred and twenty (120) professionals responded to the survey from a variety of disciplines including: law enforcement, medical services, sexual assault/domestic violence advocacy agencies, non-profit organizations, mental health centers, child advocacy and child welfare agencies, legal services and the criminal justice system. Survey highlights:

- 62% of respondents reported providing direct services to victims/survivors of trafficking;
- None of the respondents serve labor trafficking victims only;
- 89% of respondents reported collaborating with other providers to fill gaps in services;
- 38.1% of respondents reported they are certified by OVSEC as victim services providers (required by state law to serve any victim of crime);
- Most respondents perceived foreign born victims facing the most barriers to accessing services;
- Most respondents reported housing as the biggest need in South Carolina.

Goal 2: The group will create a recommended protocol/framework for service providers working with child trafficking victims (sex and labor) to distribute to the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Social Services, local task forces, and service providers.

Progress: In Process

The sub-committee researched resources from across the country to locate promising and model practices for service delivery to child victims of trafficking. The workgroup compiled the resources and began writing a manual for the State, which will describe effective strategies for identification, assessment, and collaboration. The workgroup will continue to pursue this goal in 2018.

Goal 3: The group will research and create a list of recommended literature and tools for service provision to victims of human trafficking. The list will be completed and distributed to the Attorney General's Office, local task forces, and service providers.

Progress: Completed

The sub-committee conducted research and compiled a list of resources and tools that was shared to the Attorney General's Office and to members of the Human Trafficking Task Force. The resource list is currently posted on the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force website and will be updated annually.

Other accomplishments from the year and next steps:

- The survey responses from service providers identified housing as a large need; therefore, the workgroup has begun researching model practices for providing shelter/housing to adult survivors of trafficking. The group plans to use this information in 2018 to create tools to assist service providers and organizations that offer shelter to this population.
- The survey also demonstrated a need for better training to service providers and a desire on the part of service professionals for increased knowledge on this subject. The workgroup began creating a presentation for service professionals that will be completed in 2018. The training will assist service providers in better understanding the immediate

and long-term needs of trafficking survivors, the civil and criminal remedies, and potential referral resources in South Carolina.

2017 Direct Services Sub-Committee Participants

Dee Norton of the Lowcountry
Department of Juvenile Justice
Department of Social Services
Durant Children's Center
Greenville County Sheriff's Department (part-year)
Lutheran Services Carolinas
Safe Passage
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Chair)
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General (State Task Force Chair)
Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands
SWITCH
We Are Family (Consult)

For information, please contact:

Chair, Direct Services Sub-Committee
Kathleen Heavner
Linguistic Equity Specialist, SCCADVASA
htdirectservicessc@gmail.com

Healthcare Providers Subcommittee

Established in 2017, the Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee is one of the newer groups established at the state level. It is composed of forensic nurse coordinators from some of the largest and most respected medical institutions in South Carolina. The members recognized the importance of collaborating on much needed efforts within the medical field. Together, they have achieved much in a short timeframe.

2017 Progress

Under the leadership of Jennifer Combs, Forensic Nursing Coordinator at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's Emergency Center, the Healthcare Providers sub-committee was established, and members recruited to contribute their field specific knowledge. Once formalized, the group identified the needs of healthcare providers regarding their work with potential human trafficking victims, and developed a statewide protocol for the identification and response to victims in the healthcare setting. The protocol will be circulated to healthcare professionals in 2018 via coordinated trainings led by members of the sub-committee.

2018 Goals

In 2018, the Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee will begin work on two major projects. The group intends to first develop a training for healthcare providers that includes the new state protocol for identifying and responding to human trafficking victims. Secondly, the sub-committee members will map existing medical facilities around the state and then identify larger institutions within their regions to implement the training on human trafficking. The efforts to educate and promote on best practices will need to take a tiered approach to allow for a manageable method.

2017 Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee Participants

Jennifer Combs, Forensic Nursing Coordinator, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Gina Carbino, Statewide Forensic Nurse Coordinator, SCVAN
Gina Dyer-Goss, Regional Forensic Nurse Examiner Program Manager, Palmetto Health
Kathy Gill-Hopple, Forensic Nurse Examiner Coordinator, MUSC
Cassie Taylor, Forensic Nurse Program Coordinator, Aiken Regional Medical Centers

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee
Jennifer Combs, MSN, RN, CPN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Forensic Nursing Coordinator, Emergency Center
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
jcombs@srhs.com

Labor Trafficking Sub-Committee

Labor trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that involves forced labor through various forms of exploitation. Labor traffickers use threats, physical harm, debt bondage, and other methods of controlling and manipulating victims. It is estimated that there are more than 14.2 million people worldwide trapped in forced labor.

To date, labor trafficking has not been the primary concern for South Carolina's anti-human trafficking advocates. The main focus has been sex trafficking, specifically the sexual exploitation of children. Members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, as well as collaborating partners in the Southeast Region Coalition, recognize labor trafficking as deserving of increased attention and dialogue regarding needed efforts to thwart the crime.

Under the leadership of Jeremy Wierenga, Migrant Outreach Paralegal at South Carolina Legal Services, the Labor Trafficking Sub-Committee was formed in late 2017. It is early in the establishment of the group with members still being recruited to contribute toward efforts. The goals of the sub-committee will be outlined early in 2018 to provide regional and State Task Force members an understanding of how they can contribute to different initiatives.

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Labor Trafficking Sub-Committee
Jeremy Wierenga, Migrant Outreach Paralegal
South Carolina Legal Services
2803 Carner Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405
P 843-266-2176
jeremywierenga@sclegal.org

Law Enforcement Sub-Committee

In its early stage of development, the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee will officially launch in 2018. There has not been an official law enforcement group for more than a year given that past efforts to sustain a sub-committee resulted in stalled efforts. This result was due in large part to geographical challenges as well as the time restrictions faced by many in the field.

The state task force will implement a new sub-committee design that includes two larger events during the year that center around resource sharing, training, and other topics that law enforcement has specifically acknowledged as central to their counter human trafficking efforts. Ideally, regional task force representatives will assist the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force in offering specialized local training opportunities as well. Lastly, the State Task Force Memorandums of Understanding will include law enforcement agencies wishing to formalize their membership in the task force and, in doing so, their commitment to anti-human trafficking efforts. MOUs will include expectations around training, attendance at the two annual events, and data sharing to support continued research into child sex trafficking and other relevant topics in countering human trafficking.

For more information, please contact:

Coordinator, South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force
Kathryn A. Moorehead
Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211-1549
P 803-734-0306
kmoorehead@scag.gov

Legal Innovations Subcommittee

Mission of Subcommittee

Looking to best practices, and as the legal response to human trafficking in South Carolina matters; the Task Force recognized the need to support victims through innovative approaches in the field. This led to the creation of the Legal Innovations Subcommittee. The subcommittee recognizes that private attorneys, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and Court

Administration all have critical roles to ensure the justice system responds effectively and appropriately to human trafficking in our state. The subcommittee hopes to identify and support legal innovations to that end.

The subcommittee made its first presentation at the December 8, 2017 State Task Force meeting. In the coming months, it plans to recruit key members, identify goals, and begin working towards those ends. Below is a report on progress seen in our state in this field over the last year and an early report on what the subcommittee hopes to achieve in the coming year.

2017 Progress

The progress and momentum across 2017 in the legal field's response to trafficking in South Carolina is promising and clear:

- There has been a marked increase in coordination between prosecutors and civil attorneys who are trained to represent survivors of trafficking;
- Prosecutors have been increasingly successful in securing criminal restitution orders for victims of trafficking relative to prior years;
- Attorneys have organized Continuing Legal Education trainings in the Columbia and Greenville federal courthouses;
- Prominent law firms have invited regional and national leaders into their firms to train their lawyers on leveraging their legal expertise for the benefit of survivors of trafficking;
- Key stakeholders including the South Carolina Bar, leading Bar Associations, and the University of South Carolina School of Law have inquired how they may engage more deeply in this work;
- The Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions has organized a North Carolina-South Carolina workgroup to develop a model training program for lawyers and judges; And
- A network of attorneys who provide direct legal representation *pro bono* has organized and begun its work.

2018 Goals

Principal among the goals for this new subcommittee is to recruit key members, identify a set of operating principals and goals, and to develop an action plan to achieve those ends. Among other initiatives, the subcommittee hopes to support *pro bono* efforts that provide access to counsel for survivors of trafficking as those programs reach new geographic regions of the state and new areas of law. The group is also engaged with the Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions as it develops on-demand video modules, with input from key state, regional, and national stakeholders, designed to train lawyers and judges in North and South Carolina.

For more information regarding the Legal Innovations Sub-Committee, please contact:

Chair, Legal Innovations Subcommittee

Elliott B. Daniels, Esq.

Murphy & Grantland, P.A.

edaniels@murphygrantland.com

803-454-1256

Legislative Sub-Committee

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force recognizes that its members are eager to initiate change at the legislative level. The aim of this sub-committee is to bring together relevant stakeholders from across the state to better coordinate efforts and provide a unified voice regarding human trafficking legislation and policies. The Task Force supports the notion that victim-centered, trauma-informed policies should be established and updated to better implement preventative measures, create quality victim services, and effectively prosecute traffickers in our communities.

Under the leadership of Brooke Mosteller Burris, East Coast Director, the Lynch Foundation for Children, the Legislative Sub-Committee is also a new group that was launched in September 2017. Each regional task force is asked to appoint a representative to the group to share the ideas and challenges of those working on efforts within their respective regions.

The sub-committee currently consists of representatives from the following organizations:

Salvation Army

University of South Carolina Law School

Richland County Human Trafficking Task Force

SWITCH

Bon Secours St. Francis Health System

USC Children's Law Center

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

South Carolina Legal Services, Migrant Outreach Paralegal

DSS Legislative Director

DSS Independent Living Specialist

Lynch Foundation for Children

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Legislative Sub-Committee

Brooke Mosteller Burris, East Coast Director

Lynch Foundation for Children

P 843- 822-3505

bburris@lynchfoundation.org

Prevention Education & Outreach

In January 2017, Task Force members engaged in dialogue about the need for human trafficking prevention education for middle and high school students across the state. Members recognized the need for young people to learn about warning signs, risk factors, available resources, and how to report human trafficking. The decision was made to create a sub-committee that would focus on prevention messaging, education, and outreach in South Carolina. Under the leadership of Charlene Jones, Evidence-Based Program Coordinator at Children's Trust, stakeholders were identified and others volunteered to join the group. It is now an active subcommittee of the South

Carolina State Human Trafficking Task Force with representation from all the regional task forces.

The sub-committee currently consists of representatives from the following organizations:

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General's Office

Children's Trust of South Carolina

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands

Lighthouse for Life

The Continuum of Care

Rape Crisis Center (Horry & Georgetown)

2017 Progress

The group created a Human Trafficking Prevention Education presentation that allows for one shared, accurate message about human trafficking in South Carolina. This project is a result of much research and partnerships amongst State Task Force members who shared presentations for use in the project.

2018 Goals

Another objective of this workgroup is to vet various human trafficking prevention education curricula to create a resource guide to be posted on the state task force website. It will be a tool to help guide schools and community agencies in selecting the approach that best suits their audience. Simultaneously, the sub-committee will also prepare next steps in mandating prevention education in all public-schools with students in 5th through 12th grades. Discussions are currently underway to select curricula to pilot in one large city and one rural area to allow for data collection in relation to effectiveness.

Lastly, the Prevention Education & Outreach Sub-Committee is prepared to assist in developing a "train the trainer" model to best position each regional task force in providing speakers when requested through the State Task Force. Once multi-disciplinary fields have further developed their supplements to the general presentation created by this workgroup, efforts will begin to formalize the process. Those interested in helping to launch this program within their communities are encouraged to reach out to the Chair of the sub-committee or the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force.

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Prevention Education & Outreach Sub-Committee

Charlene Jones

Evidence-Based Program Coordinator

Children's Trust of South Carolina

P 803-744-4054, Ext. 354

cjones@scchildren.org

Survivor Advisory Sub-Committee

Survivors are central to abolishing modern-day slavery in South Carolina and across our nation. They are not just recipients of specialized services. Survivors are active members of coalitions, manage non-profits, and advocate on behalf of victim rights while also leading a myriad of anti-trafficking initiatives. Survivors are often heard referencing the quote, “Nothing about us, without us.” This speaks to the importance of survivor voices in successfully countering human trafficking and providing the most impactful support services to victims.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force recognizes the need to continuously gain knowledge and feedback from individuals who have lived the experience. The Survivor Advisory Sub-Committee was launched in late 2017 under the leadership of Kat Tears, SWITCH Care Coordinator. Ms. Tears will represent, at the quarterly State Task Force meetings, the voices of survivors sitting on the sub-committee. Furthermore, the group will be available for consultation on all pivotal anti-trafficking efforts throughout South Carolina.

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Survivor Advisory Sub-Committee
Kat Tears, Care Coordinator
SWITCH
21 Ellison Street
Greenville, SC 29607
P 864-350-0281
kat@switchsc.org

Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee

Young people make up an ever-growing portion of the world population. It is important for them to play a role that helps shape the future they envision. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force believes in empowering youth through the provision of a voice in the anti-human trafficking movement. By engaging young people in advocacy efforts, there is potential for a pivotal difference in not only shaping the future, but preventing young people from falling prey to traffickers.

In 2017, the Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee was developed under the leadership of Samantha Gatton, a senior at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia. Miss Gatton developed a keen sense of the complexities of human trafficking during her work on a school project. She feels strongly about educating her peers about the dangers of the crime.

2018 Goals

To engage young people across South Carolina, Miss Gatton and the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force will create a Human Trafficking Youth Advocacy Network. The network will include student advocates from schools across the state who would like to lead anti-human trafficking efforts in their communities. Members of the network will also become regional representatives on the sub-committee.

In addition to the Youth Advocacy Network and further development of the sub-committee, Miss Gaton and the Coordinator will work with other young people and community partners to host the first Human Trafficking Youth Summit in the summer of 2018. Workshops at the summit will include prevention education and social advocacy through various artistic mediums as well as other related topics.

For more information, please contact:

Chair, Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee
Samantha Gaton
Heathwood Hall Episcopal School
samanthagaton@gmail.com

X. Task Force Member Accomplishments

In 2017, South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force members accomplished much in their efforts to meet the 4 P model consisting of prosecution, protection, prevention, and partnership. The task force acknowledges the hard work and dedication of many throughout the state. The following members reported information to be included in the annual report.

Fortenberry Counseling and Consulting Services

Tayla Fortenberry, M.Ed, LPCi, specializes in mental health counseling in the Upstate. With experience working for SWITCH in Greenville, Fortenberry brings knowledge specific to supporting victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Supported: 3 (Clinical Mental Health – 3)

Number of On-going Cases: 3

Number of Trainings: 5 (Clinical Mental Health)

For more information, please contact:

Tayla.Fortenberry@gmail.com

Greenville County Sheriff's Office

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office serves and protects throughout 724 of the 794 square miles of Greenville County. The Office is actively engaged in human trafficking investigations, public awareness initiatives, and law enforcement trainings in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims: 24

Number of Labor Trafficking Victims: 1

Number of On-Going Sex Trafficking Cases: 3

Number of On-going Labor Trafficking Cases: 1

Number of Foreign National Victims: 5

Awareness Events/Trainings: 20 (General Awareness – 10, Clinical Mental Health – 1, Law Enforcement – 7, and Healthcare Related – 2)

Number of Attendees: 1,524 (General Awareness – 1,186, Clinical Mental Health – 37, Law Enforcement – 272, and Healthcare Related – 29)

For information, please contact:

Jonathan Bastoni, Human Trafficking Investigator
and TFO Homeland Security Investigations
jbastoni@greenvillecounty.org

Greenville County Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has offices in each county and regional offices for adoptions, intensive foster care and clinical services, and child support enforcement. The mission of the South Carolina Department of Social Services is to efficiently and effectively serve the citizens of South Carolina by ensuring the safety of children and adults who cannot protect themselves and assisting families to achieve stability through child support, child care, financial and other temporary benefits while transitioning into employment.

Number of sex trafficking victims/survivors supported: 3 (Case Management)

Number of On-going Cases: 2

Number of Foreign National Victims: 2

For more information, please visit:

www.dss.sc.gov

Julie Valentine Center

The Julie Valentine Center (JVC) provides free, confidential services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors and their families. Located in Greenville, JVC is composed of a child advocacy center, rape crisis department (with a 24-hour hotline), and an adult therapy program. The center also offers programs for caregivers and education initiatives for students in Greenville County.

Number of sex trafficking victims/survivors supported: 4 (Case Management – 4, Clinical Mental Health Counseling – 1, Legal Services - 1)

Number of On-going Sex Trafficking Cases: 1

Number of Foreign National Victims: 1

Total number of trainings facilitated: 5 (Clinical Mental Health)

For more information, please contact:

Julie Valentine Center
24/7 Crisis Hotline: 864-467-3633
2905 White Horse Road
Greenville, SC 29611
www.julievalentinecenter.org

Lighthouse for Life

Established in 2014, Lighthouse for Life is a non-profit organization seeking to take steps against sex trafficking. Their desire is to see everyone joined together to put a stop to the trafficking of loved ones around us. They also desire to provide grace and restoration to victims being rescued

from trafficking. To these goals, Lighthouse for Life focuses much of their work on prevention education via speaking engagements and training opportunities. They are also in the process of launching a safe house for minor victims/survivors of sex trafficking. It is projected to open in 2018.

Number of Attendees at Awareness Presentations/Trainings: 11,044

(Presentations: 4,425 and Trainings: 2,407)

Youth Presentations – 1,181

Fundraiser Events – 2,390

Number of Resource Packets Distributed: 10,000+

Number of Freedom Bags Distributed: 240 (to law enforcement, advocacy agencies, and medical clinics to name a few)

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims Supported: 10

For more information, please contact:

Lighthouse for Life

7320 Broad River Road, Suite K 247

Irmo, SC 29063

P 803-900-0907

Lynch Foundation for Children

The Lynch Foundation is headquartered in San Diego, CA with an East Coast branch in the Carolinas. The organization's mission is to be a force multiplier for human trafficking prevention by advancing prevention curriculum in schools, educating lawmakers, locating missing and exploited children, and supporting victim services.

2017 Accomplishments include:

- Raised over \$150,000 for human trafficking prevention at the Foundation's inaugural fundraising event.
- Sent survivors to Washington, DC and Sacramento, CA to educate legislators on the trauma and prevalence of sex trafficking.
- Launched the East Coast branch in the Carolinas.
- Donated over \$50,000 to Saved in America to help assist in locating and recovering missing children.
- Supported human trafficking prevention education in schools by donating \$30,000 to PROTECT and KNOW MORE.
- Donated \$25,000 to Casa De Amparo, a home for foster youth who are victims/survivors of neglect, abuse and sexual exploitation.

Goals for 2018 (Specific to South Carolina)

- Support implementing human trafficking prevention education curricula in schools.
- Educate lawmakers on the importance of diminishing demand and providing shelter for victims in South Carolina.

- Assist efforts to position South Carolina to effectively address labor trafficking.
- Finish development of a services coordination tool for task force members to streamline the process of assisting victims and identifying gaps in services.
- Continue exploring the possibility of expanding efforts to assist in locating missing and exploited children.

For more information, please contact:

Brooke Mosteller Burris, East Coast Director
 Lynch Foundation for Children
 bburris@lynchfoundationforchildren.org

Murphy & Grantland, P.A.

Murphy & Grantland, P.A. is a statewide civil defense law firm based in Columbia that maintains a deep engagement in the anti-human trafficking field including through direct legal representation of survivors on a *pro bono* basis. The firm is committed to leveraging its resources to meet the high demand of legal representation for survivors of trafficking in South Carolina.

In the last year, Murphy & Grantland has provided direct representation and placed matters with outside counsel for survivors of trafficking in state and federal courts in matters involving expungement and vacatur, various disputes before state family courts, victim and witness advocacy in pending investigations and prosecutions, tax counsel, immigration relief, and through securing numerous services available for clients.

Attorneys at Murphy & Grantland have served on the Task Force since 2013 and presented at statewide conferences and Continuing Legal Education trainings on the subject. Attorney Elliott Daniels, with the firm, also Chairs the Legal Innovations Subcommittee of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. He also serves as the Chair of Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST), a statewide network of attorneys who provide direct legal representation to survivors.

Number of Legal Trainings:	5
Number of Attendees:	193
Number of Public Engagements:	3
Number of Attendees:	120
Number of Victims Served:	23
Types of Service Provided:	Legal Representation

For more information on the firm’s work in this area, please contact:

Elliott Daniels, Esquire
 edaniels@murphygrantland.com
 P. 803-454-1256
 www.murphygrantland.com

Office of the United States Attorney

The United States Attorney's Office has bureaus in Columbia, Greenville, Florence and Charleston. The office represents the interests of the United States in civil, criminal, and appellate litigation. The Office of the US Attorney receives civil and criminal referrals from federal agencies and law enforcement. They then review the referrals in deciding whether to bring or defend an action. Beth Drake currently serves as the Acting United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

Number of Open Criminally Charged Cases: 9

Number of Defendants: 21

For more information, please visit:

www.justice.gov/usao-sc

Pickens County Sheriff's Office

It is the mission of the Pickens County Sheriff's Office to serve all persons within their jurisdiction by providing fair, efficient, and impartial law enforcement and to perform their duties with respect and compassion. The Pickens County Sheriff's Office's commitment is to the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order, and safety; and the enforcement of local, state, and federal laws with honesty and integrity while maintaining regard for human dignity and the individual rights of their citizens.

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims Supported: 2 (Case Management – 1, Housing – 1, Financial Assistance – 1)

Number of On-going Sex Trafficking Cases: 1

Number of Foreign National Victims: 1

For more information, please contact:

Pickens County Sheriff's Office

216C David Stone Road

Pickens, SC 29671

www.pickenssheriff.com

Non-emergency phone 864-898-5500

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is the federally recognized coalition of 22 organizations in South Carolina providing direct services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. As the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in the state, SCCADVASA works with its member agencies, affiliates, and other allies to end domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina and beyond through engaging individuals and communities in advocacy, collaboration and education.

As experts in trauma-informed systems of care and advocates for models of primary prevention and intervention that are survivor-focused and offender-accountable, SCCADVASA addresses the intersection and interdependence of the crimes of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. SCCADVASA provides leadership in the state by serving as a mandated member of the Human Trafficking Task Force and chairs the Direct Services Sub-Committee.

Number of SCCADVASA Trainings: 4

Number of Attendees: 161

Number of Member Organization Trainings: 61

Number of Attendees: 2,119

Number of Capacity Building/Technical Assistance Cases: 31

Number of Survivors Supported: 103 (sex and labor, child and adult)

Emergency Shelter: 27 Survivors

Hospital Accompaniment (during a medical examination/forensic evidence collection): 19

Counseling Services: 44

Advocacy services: 62

Referral Services: 103

Other services included legal advocacy, crisis hotline support, forensic interviewing, coordinating services locally and nationally, and supporting with financial assistance through the State Office of Victim Assistance.

SCCADVASA Member Organizations (County Jurisdiction):

Beyond Abuse (Greenwood, Laurens, Abbeville)

CASA/Family Systems (Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg)

Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons (Edgefield, Saluda, McCormick, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale)

Family Justice Center (Georgetown, Horry)

Family Resource Center (Kershaw, Lee)

Foothills Alliance Center (Anderson, Oconee)

Hopeful Horizons (Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Jasper)

Julie Valentine Center (Greenville)

Laurens County SAFE Home (Laurens, Saluda, Abbeville)

Meg's House (McCormick, Edgefield, Greenwood)

My Sister's House (Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley)

Palmetto CASA (Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield)

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault (Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Williamsburg, Clarendon)

People Against Rape (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester)

Pickens County Advocacy Center (Pickens)

Safe Harbor, Inc. (Greenville, Oconee, Chester, Fairfield)

Safe Homes –Rape Crisis Coalition (Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union)

Safe Passage, Inc. (York, Chester, Lancaster, Union)

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands (Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Sumter, Clarendon)

Sistercare, Inc. (Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield, Kershaw)

The Rape Crisis Center (Horry, Georgetown)

YWCA of the Upper Lowlands (Sumter, Clarendon, Lee)

For more information, please contact:

SCCADVASA
P.O. Box 7776
Columbia, SC 29202
P. 803-256-2900
www.sccadvasa.org

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

The duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General are described by common law, the state Constitution, and state statutes. The Attorney General is South Carolina's Chief Criminal Prosecutor, Chief Legal Officer and Securities Commissioner. The South Carolina Constitution defines the Attorney General's role as "chief prosecuting officer of the State with authority to supervise the prosecution of all criminal cases in courts of record."

In 2006, South Carolina passed its first human trafficking legislation. Six years later, it was legislatively mandated that the South Carolina Attorney General chair a statewide task force to address the crime within our state. The Attorney General appoints a Coordinator of the task force. As well as the coordination of statewide task force efforts, the Office of the Attorney General also prosecutes human trafficking cases and engages in public awareness and training efforts to build capacity throughout South Carolina.

In addition to leading the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, Attorney General Alan Wilson is a sitting member of the National Association of Attorneys General Human Trafficking Committee.

Presentations by Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General: 20
Presentations by the Coordinator of the statewide task force: 23
Presentations/trainings by Criminal Prosecutors: 19
Number of Total Attendees: 4,800+

For more information, please contact:

Kathryn Moorehead, Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs
Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force
PO Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211-1549
P. 803-734-0306
kmoorehead@scag.gov

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) coordinates for representatives of agencies that are involved with victims/witness services. SCVAN does this through advocacy, victim assistance functions, and collaboration. SCVAN also provides training, events, and managing of grant-funded programs that provide services to crime victims throughout South Carolina.

Number of Trainings by Patricia Ravenhorst: 10

Number of Individuals Trained: 750+

Number of Sex Trafficking Cases: 3

Number of Continuing Services from 2016: 1

- 1 adult female, immigrant - prostitution ring

New in 2017: 2

- 1 adult female, immigrant – prostitution ring
- 1 minor female, immigrant – intra-family

Number of Labor Trafficking Cases: 18

Number of Continuing Services from Prior Years: 10

- 1 adult male, immigrant – restaurant
- 5 adult males, immigrant – student visa holders
- 2 adult females, immigrant – student visa holders
- 1 adult male, immigrant – (occurred in Pennsylvania) landscaping
- 1 adult female, immigrant – kidnapping/sexual assault/domestic servitude

New in 2017: 8

- 1 adult female, immigrant – kidnapping/sexual assault/domestic servitude/ (with 2 minor children)
- 1 adult female immigrant – domestic violence/marital rape/ domestic servitude & workplace labor
- 5 adult males, immigrant – impersonation of ICE officer/forced labor/extortion
- 1 adult female, immigrant – impersonation of ICE officer/forced labor/extortion

For more information, please contact:

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

PO Box 8574

Greenville, SC 29604

P 803-750-1200 ext. 6454 *or* ext. 6456

www.scvan.org

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System – Forensic Nursing

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System incorporates evidence-based practice in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of their patients' medical conditions. They provide care to patients in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties

Number of victims served: Unavailable at time of report

Number of trainings: 7 (2 in collaboration with SWITCH)

Number of attendees: 668

For more information, please contact:

Spartanburg Regional Health System – Forensic Nursing

101 E Wood Street

Spartanburg, SC 29303

P 864-560-6000

www.spartanburgregional.com

Safe Harbor

Safe Harbor's mission is to provide a continuum of services for victims of domestic violence and their children and influence a culture where all people feel safe and valued in their relationships. They offer safe emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and transitional housing. Safe Harbor also provides community outreach and teen dating violence education. Services are offered in Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee counties.

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Supported: 13 (Case Management – 13, and Financial Assistance – 3)

Number of On-going Sex Trafficking Cases: 1

Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Supported: 1 (Case Management – 1, Clinical Mental Health Counseling – 1, Housing – 1, and Financial Assistance - 1)

Number of Foreign National Victims/Survivors: 1

For more information, please contact:

Safe Harbor

Field Plaza Shopping Center

2111 N Pleasantburg Drive

Greenville, SC 29609

P 864-242-1751

www.safeharborsc.org

SWITCH

Switch's mission is to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Upstate of South Carolina through awareness, prevention, intervention, and restoration. The organization believes that the following core values are central to their ability to achieve their mission: the best interests of the client, integrity, collaboration, service, empowerment, teamwork, hope, and excellence. Switch is focused on the Upstate of South Carolina given that the area is along I-85 between Atlanta and Charlotte, both noted locations for human trafficking activity.

Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served: 53 (Case Management – 34, Clinical Mental Health – 17, Housing – 14, Legal Services – 10, Financial Assistance – 33, Coaching/Mentorship – 53)

Number of On-going Sex Trafficking Cases: 4

Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served: 1

Number of Foreign National Victims/Survivors: 2

Number of Awareness Events: 114 (General Awareness – 74, Prevention Awareness – 25, Clinical Mental Health – 5, Law Enforcement – 4, and Healthcare Related – 6)

Number of Attendees at Awareness Events: 7400+ (General Awareness – 5700+, Prevention Awareness – 1211 youth, Clinical Mental Health – 159, Law Enforcement – 136, and Healthcare Related – 156)

For more information, please contact:

SWITCH

21 Ellison Street

Greenville, SC 29607

P 864-350-0281

www.switchsc.org

Triune Mercy Center

Triune Mercy Center provides case management services to sexually exploited women inside the Greenville County detention center. The center also coordinates intake, provides clothing/toiletries, and transport to restoration houses throughout South Carolina and the Southeast. Triune Mercy Center advocates through the court system and local probation, pardon, and parole to coordinate services for defendants identified as victims. The center offers legal, mental health, counseling, medical, and dental services onsite.

Number of sex trafficking victims supported: 35 (Case Management – 35, Clinical Mental Health Counseling – 6, Housing – 17, Life Coaching/Mentorship – 10)

Number of On-going Cases: 52 (Sex Trafficking)

Number of Presentations: 6

Number of Attendees: 400

Triune Mercy Center, in partnership with Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville, plans to open its first safe house, Jasmine Road, in the summer of 2018. The house will have space for five women that have survived trafficking, prostitution, drug addiction and/or incarceration. It is a two-year program that is rent free, includes trauma-informed care, individual counseling, addiction treatment, financial literacy, a social enterprise that employs the women at a living wage, and free medical care from their healthcare partner, Bon Secours. Jasmine Road has already been purchased and is almost fully renovated.

For more information, please contact:

Triune Mercy Center

222 Rutherford Street

Greenville, SC 296089

P 864-233-8020

XI. 2018 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations

Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina

Data Collection & Management

Given the general lack of data regarding human trafficking in the state, the recommendation is for continued emphasis in this area. The Data Management & Research Sub-Committee of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall identify a platform and technology to use for the data collection system. The goal will be for the system to be interoperable among task force agencies so that they may communicate relevant data and other useful information. South Carolina is also urged to align the state data collection system with a federal template developed by the Office of Trafficking in Persons.

Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking

First Responders, Medical Professionals, Labor Agencies

It is critical that first responders, medical professionals, and labor agencies be able to identify potential victims and respond appropriately to their unique needs. Through the efforts of task force sub-committee members, these professionals shall receive specialized training on both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The State Task Force will continue to back such training initiatives and, in 2018, use a portion of a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award to support specialized opportunities.

Grant Opportunities

There is a lack of sufficient funding for services that need to be offered to victims and survivors of human trafficking. The state task force will share information about available and potential resources via its new website www.humantrafficking.scag.gov. By sharing available funding opportunities amongst task force members, the goal is to position more organizations to increase their service capacity in an effort to meet the needs of the most vulnerable of victims and survivors.

Development of a Continuum of Care

As previously discussed, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force recognizes the need for an established continuum of care in our state that addresses the unique needs of human trafficking victims and survivors. We need to best position our rapid responders, have alternative emergency placements for young people, pilot a youth diversion court, vocational opportunities, and launch a mentoring program that provides support to those reintegrating back into mainstream society. These services shall be holistic in nature and require collaboration amongst major stakeholders.

Memorandums of Understanding

In 2018, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are specific to the multi-disciplinary fields of anti-human trafficking advocacy and service provision. The MOUs will formally recognize task force members and position the Task Force to list the organizations as such in brochures and on the website as well as allowing for inclusion on a list of referral sources with Polaris. This will not only provide a

vetted list of service providers, it will allow for the acknowledgement and accessibility of quality multi-disciplinary partners throughout South Carolina.

Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers

Advanced Law Enforcement Training

As human traffickers use more complex methods of exploiting individuals, law enforcement needs to be provided with up-to-date opportunities to build their knowledge of best practices and their applicable skill base. In 2018, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall provide advanced law enforcement training to agencies across the state. Focus areas will include investigative techniques, the use of technology in solving cases, and building a case for successful prosecution.

Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

Public Awareness Campaign

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall use a portion of a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award toward increased public awareness campaign resources including billboards, public service announcements (television and radio), and new brochures and posters. Focus areas around the state will be chosen based on data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline.

Youth Advocacy Initiatives

The Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee, under the state task force, shall begin building the Youth Advocacy Network of schools and student representatives from throughout South Carolina. Additionally, the first Youth Advocacy Summit, focused on human trafficking prevention education and social advocacy, shall be held in the summer of 2018.

Other Areas for Consideration and Study

Foreign Nationals

The Direct Services Sub-Committee discovered in their 2017 survey of service providers, most respondents perceived foreign born victims as facing the most barriers to accessing services. This speaks to the need for continued development of culturally-sensitive and linguistically appropriate resources for foreign nationals. Additionally, the State Task Force shall continue to provide immigration updates via victim advocates specializing in this area of the law.

Rapid Response Teams

The Task Force believes it is critical that we build a rapid response network composed of teams in regions of the state. As more regional task forces are developed, we need to also focus on the creation of specialized residential facilities that can potentially house victims of human trafficking upon their rescue. Otherwise, a rapid response model will be ineffective if we do not have safe spaces for teams to transport victims.

Child Victims

The State of South Carolina, including members of the state task force, must continue efforts to meet the needs of child victims of human trafficking. This shall be achieved through research, academic reviews, supporting legislative initiatives, and building support services specific to this population's unique needs. Additionally, progress will require continued communication and collaboration amongst the state's child welfare stakeholders.

Technology

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, as the Chair of the statewide task force, has elevated its collaboration with Thorn to bring Spotlight technology to law enforcement agencies across the state. By providing technological training and resources, we better position law enforcement to tackle the complexities of human trafficking cases, specifically those involving child sexual exploitation.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force for advocating on behalf of victims/survivors, educating members of our communities through trainings and presentations, and supporting efforts to create a continuum of care in South Carolina. Together, we made a lot of progress in 2017 and the upcoming year bodes well considering our recent achievements.

In closing, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force would like to recognize contributions made to this report by the following individuals. Thank you for your dedication to the cause and ensuring that anti-human trafficking efforts across the state are recognized each year.

Sub-Committee Chairs

Katie Reid – Direct Services

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA),
Columbia, SC

Charlene Jones – Prevention Education & Outreach

Children's Trust, Columbia, SC

Jennifer Combs – Healthcare Providers

Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Greenville, SC

Elliott Daniels – Legal Innovations

Murphy & Grant land, P.A., Columbia, SC

Liyun Zhang – Data Management & Research

Children's Law Center, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Brooke Mosteller Burris – Legislation

Lynch Foundation for Children, North and South Carolina

Jeremy Wierenga – Labor Trafficking
South Carolina Legal Services, Charleston, SC

Samantha Gatton – Youth Advocacy
Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC

Kat Tears– Survivor Advisory
SWITCH, Greenville, SC

Regional Task Force Chairs

Zaina Greene – Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force
SWITCH, Greenville, SC

Gina Carbino – Coastal Region Task Force
South Carolina Victims Assistance Network (SCVAN), Myrtle Beach, SC

Alexis Scurry – Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
CASA Family Services, Columbia, SC

A special thank you to:

Jamesetta Lovett
South Carolina Judicial Department
Office of Information Technology

In case of an emergency, dial 911 for local law enforcement response
For victim assistance and similar resources:
The National Human Trafficking Hotline
Call 1-888-373-7888
Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)



**ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

If you have questions or comments about the 2017 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:

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