



EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
Moving forward to combat this evil together

MEETING SUMMARY

Following is a summary of the highlights of the discussions that took place at Saturday, March 5th meeting of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force (ESHTTF).

ATTENDANCE:

Robin Dunning
Ellen Grunden
Michelle Harding
Kim and Kevin Hendricks
Ann Holladay
Ann Hynes
Carol Kunkel
Katie Moose
Ed Thomas
Julie Wheatley

DISCUSSION: Ann Holladay provided a brief overview of the January 30th awareness workshop held in Salisbury. She emphasized that trafficking is everywhere and a public awareness campaign comparable to “Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)” is needed to draw attention and action to eradicate Human Trafficking.

Ann and Michelle provided a brief history of the ESHTTF describing its prior awareness work, reaching out to the faith community, prayer walks, training and other activities etc.

Ed explained the participation of Aglow Mid-Atlantic in its Anti-Human Trafficking awareness activities.

Ann drew attention to the list of potential Goals for the ESHTTF which had been distributed prior to the meeting. She pointed out that this meeting was a start at meeting the first goal of “Growing” the ESHTTF and suggested that the ESHTTF may want to focus on raising Funds,

helping with Victim Services such as via the Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), Conducting Research (what is happening throughout the US) and Assisting Homeless Shelters.

The attendees outlined their reasons for getting involved in combating Human Trafficking including:

- Concern about what happens at truck stops, interest in providing information to the trucking industry.
- Response to grooming of youngsters for trafficking.
- Various techniques for increasing awareness to different public and private sectors.
- Working through the legislative processes.
- Assisting with child justice groups.
- Working within the medical system, particularly related to drug addiction.
- Need to assist victims.
- Bringing awareness to economic development organizations.
- Assisting with marketing, providing outreach materials.
- Expanding the application of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy with trafficking victims.

Ellen Grunden, Talbot County, Deputy State's Attorney, summarized her work in the area of crimes against persons including domestic and child abuse and her work with people who administer to the broken. In response to the question "how can we help" she said "reduce my case load" and offered several ways the public can help including:

- Volunteer at Children's Advocacy Centers and with other victims' service entities.
- Support, assist, and build relationships with vulnerable persons, those susceptible to being trafficked.
- Need for care and attention within the faith communities.
- Provide safe sanctuaries.
- Pay attention to the Sex Offender Registry.
- Provide training programs; for example, Empower Me, teach youngsters what to be on the alert for to avoid being trafficked.
- Interact at the adolescence stage.
- Talbot Mentors are available to help with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA Mid- Shore).
- Assist the safe home, Thrive at 25, in Denton.
- Report suspected abuse.
- Watch the behavior of family members, friends and associates.

LEGISLATION UPDATE: Katie Moose staff person in Delegate Johnny Mautz’s office, provided information regarding the following Human Trafficking related bills currently being consider by the General Assembly:

HB 101 – Human Trafficking and Related Crimes, Penalties

HB 219 – Adult Penalties, Human Trafficking

HB 292 – Police Training Requirements, Human Trafficking

SB 15 – Child Placement, Prohibition on Human Trafficking Restrictions

All four bills have received unfavorable committee reports.

NEXT STEPS: There was a group discussion of potential next steps for the Task Force to pursue which produced the follow:

- **Fund Raising** – Ann H. will look into the possibility of obtaining foundation funding.
- **Trucking Industry** – Carol Kunkel will explore ways that trucking firms and drivers can be challenged to address the Human Trafficking issues. Possible starting places include Trinity Transportation (Seaford, DE), Burris Trucking (Milford DE), Poultry firms and truck stops (MD & DE). Ed will send her contact information for two national Anti-HT organizations.
- **Awareness Products** – Julie Wheatley will draft some sample HT awareness brochures, messages tailored for specific target groups.
- **Media, Social Networking** – The group will develop suggestions for how to get the HT message out to the public; for example, press releases, media contacts, public service announcements, face book, twitter, Instagram other social media outlets and blogs.
- **Faith Community** – Michelle will look into ways to further reach out to and engage the faith community to become aware of work toward stopping Human Trafficking.
- **Website** – Ed will explore means whereby the Task Force website can be restarted/created.
- **Resources** – Develop a list of available books, films, DVDs, handouts etc. that can be used and made available to spread the Anti-HT message.
- **Membership** – Everyone was asked to provide names (to Ann H) of prospective Task Force members and to feel free to contact potential members and invite them to the next meeting.
- **Legislation** – The group needs to prepare a strategy for getting Eastern Shore members of the General Assembly engaged in and taking action to combat Human Trafficking.
- **Caged No More** – Kim and Kevin Hendricks asked for assistance regarding a showing of the movie “Caged No More” on May 16th in Salisbury. They will be providing promotional materials and letting us know how we can help make this event a success.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on April 6th beginning at 6:30 pm at the Church of the King, 7847 US 50 (Ocean Gateway) Easton.

NOTE: This meeting summary was prepared by Ed Thomas if you have additions, deletions or corrections send them to edtho@comcast.net.