

Staff Report: Feb. 24, 2022

January Awareness Month:

- Judicial Proclamation
- Podcasts
- One Interview



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS REFERRED TO AS A PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE. IN RECOGNITION OF THAT IMPORT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 IS HEREBY DECLARED "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH.

WHEREAS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS WHEN A PERSON IS RECRUITED, HARBORED, OBTAINED, OR TRANSPORTED THROUGH FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL OR LABOR EXPLOITATION, INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, DEBT BONDAGE, OR WHEN ANY COMMERCIAL SEX ACT IS COMMITTED UPON A MINOR; AND

WHEREAS, OUR STATE CONTINUES TO SEE CASES OF BOTH SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING CROSSING ALL DEMOGRAPHIC LINES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT WILL TAKE EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO END THIS VICTIMIZATION; AND

WHEREAS, THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARE WIDESPREAD AND ONGOING, AND INCREASE THE VULNERABILITIES OF NORTH CAROLINIANS TO EXPLOITATION THROUGH HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

WHEREAS, INCREASED COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON HOW TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO VICTIMS WITH APPROPRIATE SERVICES CAN HELP RESTORE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY TO IDENTIFIED SURVIVORS; AND

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION WORKS DILIGENTLY TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS ACROSS OUR STATE TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND END THESE HORRIFIC CRIMES; AND

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH IS A VITAL PARTNER IN THOSE EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND INCREASE AWARENESS WITH THE GOAL OF ROOTING OUT AND ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

NOW, THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THAT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 BE DECLARED "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THIS THE 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Newby'.

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Staff Report continued:

Training Conducted:

- National Guard
- Alpha Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- GAP Connections (with Growers)

Training Coming Up:

- Campbell University
- UNC-Pembroke
- National Guard
- NC Victim's Assistance Network (Academy Training)



Staff Report Continued:

Partnerships and Initiatives:

Regional Response Teams / Task Forces

SBI State Threat Assessment – Request for Data

Senator Ted Alexander Roundtable

Governor's Crime Commission Statements (12 issued)

Staff Report Continued:

Partnerships and Initiatives continued:

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC)

The Safe Shelter Collaborative

The Safe House Project and other housing certifications

Staff Report Continued:

Partnerships and Initiatives continued:

Human Trafficking In Correctional Institutions (article from the Journal of Human Trafficking)

ABC Commission's Annual Letter

Administrative Secretary Position is open

Staff Report Continued:

RAISE Project:

Project Description

The purpose of the “Listen, Learn and Lead to Action” RAISE project is to integrate proven strategies in mental health and substance use disorder service referral, treatment, trauma-informed care and prevention within federal support of state-level (Region IV states) anti-trafficking work.

Project Goal

Create one regional action plan that addresses regional coordination of AHT responses and linkages to SUD/MH.



Staff Report Continued:

2022 Annual Conference:

TBD dates (*September*)

Raleigh Planning

*Contracts in process to aid the commission with the conference and other tasks.



Standards for Direct Service Providers:

Standards for Direct Service Providers:

- Human Trafficking is a field that is gaining the attention and involvement of many people, both trained in providing services and untrained in providing services.
- Existing models of care for other areas of victimization don't completely match what is needed when providing for human trafficking victim-survivors.
- Some standardization is needed to bring all providers to the same level of care and minimize the risk of harm to victim-survivors.



Vetting System:

- Applying the standards of care
- Improving the referral process for new or potential cases
- National Hotline Inclusion and Efficiency of calls
- Process for Giving Grant Awards and for Issuing Letters of Support to agencies that are working within the strategic plan



Where will this get us?

- Contribute to the Strategic Planning to align all efforts in NC
- Continue to see grant funding for human trafficking that is used in way to build the state's response
- Increase amount and quality of services available to victim-survivors
- Better Regional Response & Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Standards for Direct Service Providers:

Original version was approved early 2019.

New Version:

- Improved layout and user-friendly format.
- Less duplication among sections.
- Foundational Standards and Specialized.
- Applies to more types of providers than previous version.
- Can still be built out more in the future for specializations.

Standards for Direct Service Providers:

2019 Version:

Categories are meets, exceeds, does not meet.

100 Total Standards

14 Sections (plus checklist and resources)

43 pages

New Version:

Categories are meets, exceeds, does not meet.

54 Total Standards in 22 pages

Section I – Foundational Standards
(#1 – 26)

Section II – Additional Service Areas

(24-Hour Hotline; Crisis Response; Case Management; Survivor Peer Support; Shelter and Housing)

Standards for Direct Service Providers:

Next:

- Commissioner Discussion and Vote
 - Do we want to go through these one by one?
- Publish the draft and distribute
- Issue Agency Self Assessment to accompany this document
- Create Training and/or Examples Tool
- Make sure our resource library has relevant links and materials