

Safe Harbor Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Members in attendance: Secretary John Wobensmith, Secretary of State; Lt. Matthew Kail, Maryland State Police; Asha Reynolds, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Melanie Shapiro, Office of the Public Defender; Doug Mohler, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; Mona Long, Maryland State Education Association; Dr. Michael Ford, Maryland State Board of Education; Amanda Rodriguez, Turnaround Inc.; and Thomas Stack, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Meghan McCarthy, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;; Rebecca Gaston Jones, Department of Human Resources; Christine Raino, Shared Hope International.

Other guests in attendance: Anne Hoyer, Secretary of State's Office; Michael Lore, Senator Lee's Office; Lisa Smith, Baltimore City States Attorney's Office; Robin Dunning, Kevin and Kim Hendricks; Jeanette Sternberg Lamb, Sexual Assault Legal Institute; Margaret Cairns, Md Coalition Against Pornography; Ava Murphy; Abigail Hill, Judiciary/AOC; Rebecca Riemer, Judiciary/AOC; Suzanne Plez, Judiciary/AOC; Brian Alexander, Governor's Office of Children.

I. Welcome

Secretary Wobensmith called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. He welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2016 Safe Harbor Workgroup, and thanked Senator Lee and Delegate Morales for sponsoring the Bill that extended the sunset of the workgroup. He talked about the tremendous success of the last workgroup and encouraged this workgroup to build upon the recommendations already established last year.

II. Short Introductions

Every member had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the attendees.

III. Review of the 2015 Final Safe Harbor Report

Thomas Stack read through all of the ten recommendations that were in the 2015 Safe Harbor final report.

IV. Review of Last Year's Legislation

Thomas Stack reviewed all of the legislation that was introduced in the 2016 session that was related to the Safe Harbor Workgroup.

- **HB 292 Police Training Commission- Training Requirements for Human Trafficking**
 - A Bill by Delegate Robinson was introduced this past session with little success. The bill was opposed by the Chiefs and Sheriffs association. The bill did not have any Safe Harbor members testify for it and it received an un-favorable report from Committee.
- **HB 811 Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Immunity)**
 - Delegate Morales sponsored this Bill that was withdrawn due to unfavorable report from Judiciary
- **SB 863 / HB 786 Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Sunset Extension**
 - Bills sponsored by Senator Lee and Delegate Morales that was passed and signed in to law by Governor Hogan

- **SB 864 / HB 1490 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force- Establishment (Alicia’s Law)**
 - Bills sponsored by Senator Lee and Delegate Lierman, Alicia’s Law was passed and signed by the Governor - Establishing the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Fund to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for salaries, training, and equipment to be used for the investigation and prosecution of Internet crimes against children, to support a specified task force and for grants to specified child advocacy centers; requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2018 and annually thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of not less than \$2,000,000 to the Fund.
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- **SB 865 / HB 1089 Solicitation for Prostitution – Fine**
 - Senator Lee and Delegate Morales introduced legislation this past session. The Bill did not make it out of committee in the House or Senate.
- **SB 1084 Adult Entertainment Establishments – National Human Trafficking Recourse Center Hotline Information – Sign Posting Requirements**
 - Senator Lee introduced legislation this past session. The Bill did not make it out of committee in the Senate.

V. Public Forum

Kimberly Hendricks

She spoke about how her daughter was groomed by a trafficker and that there should be a law against grooming of children.

Peggy Cairns

Peggy talked about the connection between pornography and sex trafficking and that more statistics show the connection.

Robin Dunning

Robin talked about her equine therapy that she does on the Eastern Shore and that she would like to keep offering her services. The therapy is for victims who have suffered trauma. She needs more funding to keep her efforts going.

VI. New Ideas

Michael Lore from Senator Lee’s office talked about data collection for children who are charged with prostitution and the lack of service in Maryland to help victims of sex trafficking. He also talked about an affirmative defense for non violent charges for those crime committed while being trafficked.

VII. Recommendations Discussion

- **Provide immunity for youth age 17 and under who are charged with prostitution or prostitution related charges with immediate referral to services.**
 - There were many different opinions on this issue. Melanie Shapiro, sighting brain research feels that the age should be as high as age 26. Other members of the workgroup feel that the age should be as recommended (17 and under). Thomas Stack made a recommendation to appeal to the Maryland State Police and the States Attorney Association of immunity for 15 and under and diversion for 16 and 17 year old children.
- **Establish statewide protocols for dealing with missing or runaway children.**

- Thomas Stack talked about some of the protocol that the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention is trying to implement across the State. Mandatory screening by a detective of all runaway children who runaway 3 times or more, or children who are missing for more than 30 days.
- **The Department of Juvenile Services should expand the use of its risk assessment tool to all community and detention locations within the State, provided services are available to support identified victims.**
 - Doug Mohler spoke about the current screening tools already in place at several juvenile facilities across the State. He also stated that there is a need for more service providers to assist in the program.
- **Require human trafficking awareness training for all entry level law enforcement, followed up by mandated in-service training.**
 - Thomas Stack spoke about the training that currently exist in the State and that is only reaching a small percent of the 16,000 plus law enforcement officers in the State. Lt Kail suggested producing an online training program that the Maryland Police Training Commission can offer to satisfy the mandatory training.
- **Identify and apply for appropriate federal funding streams to support funding priorities.**
 - Thomas Stack talked about the two Federal grants that were currently being applied for. Prince Georges County Human Trafficking Task Force has applied for an OVC grant with FairGirls. The University of Maryland, School of Social Work, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and other State and local agencies have applied for a large OVC grant to set up pilot MDTs in the Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Baltimore Counties as well as Baltimore City.

VIII. Conclusion

Secretary Wobensmith told the workgroup members to come to the next meeting prepared to strengthen the current recommendation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.