

Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2017

Members in Attendance: Secretary John Wobensmith, Chairman, Secretary of State's Office; Senator Susan Lee, Member of the Maryland Senate; Rebecca Jones Gaston, Maryland Department of Human Resources; Secretary Lourdes R. Padilla, Maryland Department of Human Resources; Melanie Shapiro, Office of the Public Defender – Juvenile Division; Mona Long, Maryland State Education Association; Sarah Bendtren, Shared Hope International (representing Christine Raino); Doug Mohler, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; Meghan McCarthy, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; Teresa Woorman, Office of Delegate Morales; Michael Lore, Office of Senator Lee; Lisa Smith, Maryland State's Attorney Association (Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office); Lieutenant Matthew Kail, Maryland State Police; Walter J. Sallee, Maryland State Department of Education; Sara Kominers, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Tianna Mays, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Corporal Chris Heid, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force – Maryland State Police; Thomas Stack, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention; and Amelia Rubenstein, University of Maryland School of Social Work - Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

Other Guests in Attendance: Erin Andrews, Fair Girls; Nathaniel Erb, Task Force Legislative Committee; Rachel Kesselman, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention; Lauren Benjamin, Baltimore Police Department; Kimberly Sauer, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office; and Diane Banchiere, Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Welcome by Secretary Wobensmith

Secretary Wobensmith called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the 2017 Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup (Workgroup) and thanked Senator Lee and members of the Workgroup for their continual support and efforts. Secretary Wobensmith also commended Tom Stack for all his efforts on the Workgroup and, in partnership with Senator Lee, presented a citation to Tom Stack in "recognition of his outstanding service in the State of Maryland."

Secretary Wobensmith also thanked Caroline County for their successful prosecution of a human trafficking case and all their efforts. He indicated the importance to hear real cases that are occurring on the streets.

Secretary Wobensmith indicated the needed to come up with services that may be used to identify victims in need. This information may be used and included in the *Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup 2017 Final Report*.

Introduction of Each Workgroup Member

Workgroup members received the opportunity to introduce themselves to the attendees. While introductions were made, Senator Lee applauded Secretary Wobensmith for his efforts and commended everyone on their commitment and support.

Child Sex Trafficking Presentation

Amelia Rubenstein and Diane Banchiere provided statistics on reported cases of child sex trafficking made statewide through child protective services, and identified several efforts that are currently in place to assist victims of human trafficking. This presentation resulted in much discussion to include the potential breakdown of data, information on the population of children involved in sex trafficking compared to labor trafficking, and reports from child protective services to prosecutors.

Secretary Wobensmith thanked Amelia Rubenstein and Diane Banchiere for their presentation.

Case Presentation (Caroline County)

Secretary Wobensmith welcomed the folks from Caroline County to share their case with the Workgroup. Joey Riley, State's Attorney Ad Interim for Caroline County, Detective Justin Reibly with the Caroline County Sheriff's Office, and Sarah Porter with the Caroline County Department of Social Services provided information relating to this case and the cooperation of all partnering agencies that resulted in its success. Several discussions resulted from this presentation to include the State's Attorney's content with the outcome of the case, the injection of heroin representing an act of crime, and the resources and needs of Caroline County such as a centralized Child Advocacy Center and staff training.

Secretary Wobensmith thanked Caroline County for sharing their input and efforts with the Workgroup.

Public Forum and New Ideas for Recommendations

Secretary Wobensmith welcomed the public to bring new ideas for recommendations to the Workgroup. No new ideas were provided by the public.

Discussion

Secretary Wobensmith inquired about Internet recruiting. Tom Stack mentioned the possibility of fighting this in 11-303. Michael Lore supported this idea and mentioned the need to look at all concepts of this.

Secretary Wobensmith asked Rachel Kesselman to provide some input on the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017 which was introduced to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 1, 2017. In response to this Act, and after several issues were mentioned in reference to online solicitation, Secretary Wobensmith indicated the need to focus on a common agreement.

One lady in the public indicated that it is important to look at victim's rights for restitution which is currently not available at this level.

Workgroup Member's Forum and Closing Remarks

Secretary Wobensmith thanked everyone for their support and commitment. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.