South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

2016 Annual Report

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I. Introduction

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that negatively impacts millions of lives worldwide. It destroys people's dignity, impedes their human rights, and obstructs their freedom. While many perceive human trafficking as a criminal activity that occurs overseas, this heinous crime is happening throughout the United States, including in South Carolina.

Traffickers do not discriminate; they victimize children and adults, males and females as well as individuals of all races and nationalities. Typically, those that are targeted lack a social support system. Victims include individuals who may be especially vulnerable because of immigration status, disability, poverty, a lack of English language skills or other such risk factors.

Human trafficking of adults in South Carolina involves force, fraud or coercion. It includes commercial sexual exploitation as well as labor-related entrapments. Examples of the most common forms of the crime include forced or coerced prostitution, involuntary domestic servitude, debt bondage, and other forms of peonage. In the case of a victim under 18 years of age, a third person need only benefit from the act for it to be classified as trafficking in persons.

South Carolina has taken a tough stance against the crime of human trafficking. In fact, South Carolina is perceived as having one of the strongest human trafficking laws in the United States. This report, in compliance with SC Code Ann. 16-3-2050 (D)(3), offers a historical perspective on the State's legislation, implementation of the legislation, the composition of the statewide task force, 2016 member accomplishments, and areas for continued focus 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-trafficking efforts 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 Human Trafficking Program Coordinator 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 South Carolina Human Trafficking Law, S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-2050(B)(1) provides 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 plan to address human trafficking. The task force disseminated the South Carolina State Plan to Address Human Trafficking in June of 2014.

The law requires 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 law requires representatives of the following groups be members of 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

The Office of the Governor

The Department of Employment and Workforce

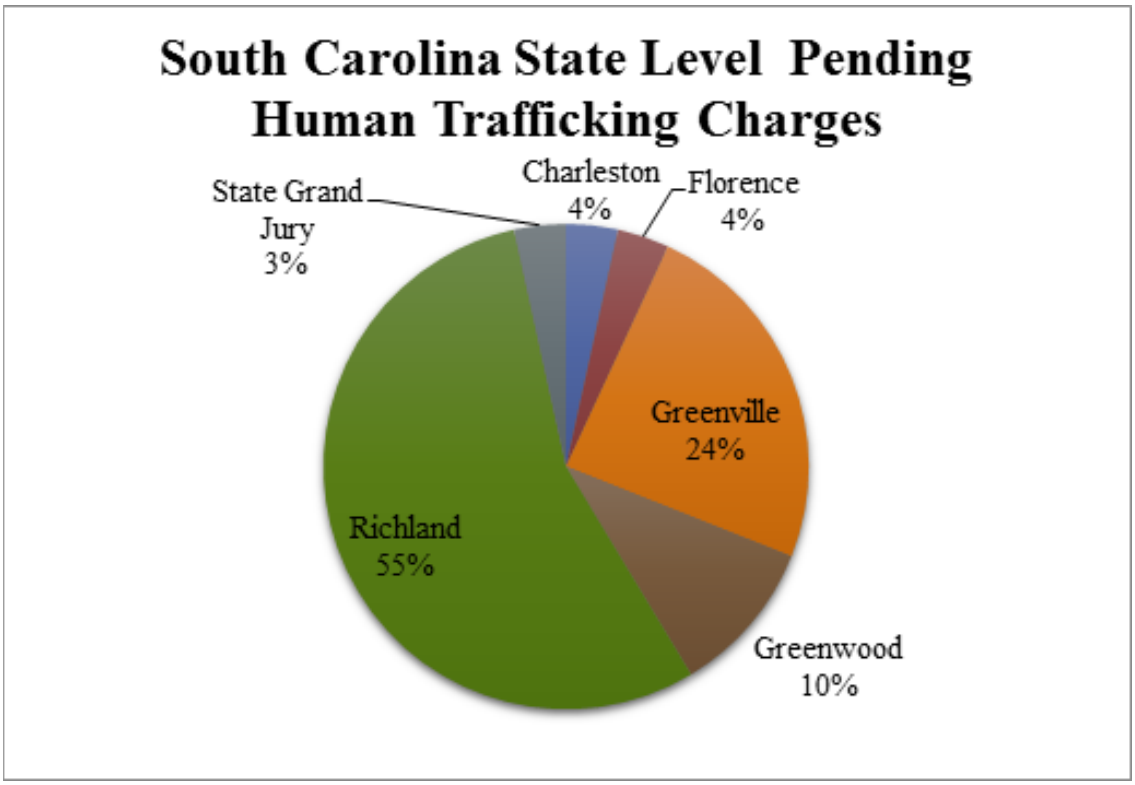
Besides the aforementioned members, two non-governmental organizations are appointed to the task force: The South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). An invitation of membership is also extended to representatives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

III. 2016 Court Data: Pending and Closed Cases

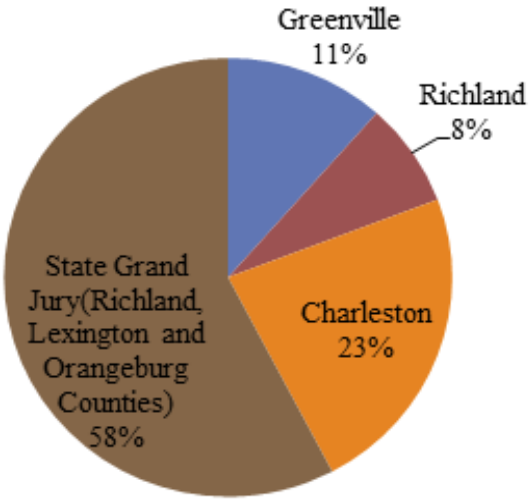
As South Carolina battles human trafficking, we are often reminded of the importance of the "4P" model – prosecution, protection, prevention, and partnership. This paradigm consistently remains the best utilized framework to combat human trafficking. This section highlights prosecution efforts made in South Carolina throughout 2016 with specifics by county.

In 2016, there were 50 charges of Trafficking in Persons closed in the State courts. Of the 50 cases, it should be noted that 36 of those charges involved victims under the age of 18 years of age. Currently, 28 charges are pending in the State courts with 22 involving minor victims.

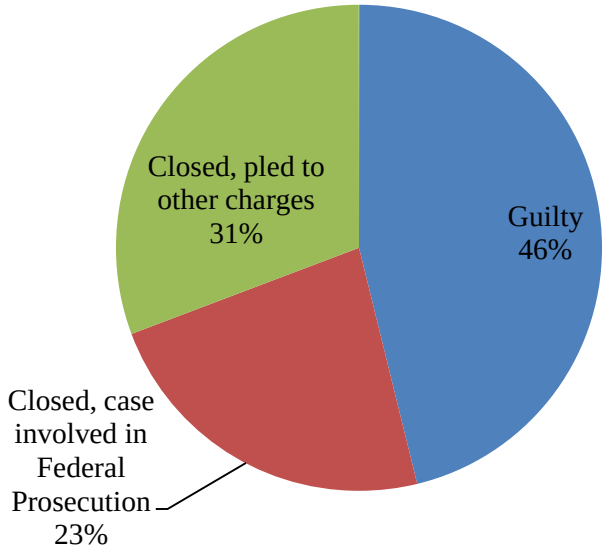
The Office of the United States Attorney for South Carolina currently has 12 open cases of human trafficking in Federal Court. The Columbia office convicted two traffickers in 2016 as part of one of its open cases. State and Federal law enforcement and prosecutors work closely in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking.



South Carolina State Level Dispositions of Human Trafficking Charges by County 2016



South Carolina State Level Type of Dispositions in 2016



IV. Highlighted Initiatives

Throughout the year, members of the Human Trafficking Task Force are busy coordinating numerous initiatives in their efforts to abolish trafficking in South Carolina. The task force's quarterly meetings allow a means for sharing these efforts. The following five initiatives were chosen for highlight in this year's annual report.

Human Trafficking in the South Carolina Courts Summit

In August of 2016, the Supreme Court of South Carolina and the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General hosted the Human Trafficking in the South Carolina Courts Summit. The event was funded through a State Justice Institute Technical Assistance Grant. The Honorable Costa M. Pleicones, Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, issued an order for all South Carolina Circuit and Family Court Judges to attend the summit.

The summit was designed as a method of convening multi-disciplinary stakeholders in the legal system. In addition to the judges, the following stakeholders were also invited: Circuit Solicitors, Criminal Sexual Conduct Prosecutors, Family Court/Juvenile Prosecutors, and Criminal and Family Court Public Defenders. Representatives of the following agencies were also invited to attend: State Law Enforcement Division, Adult Criminal Probation, Family Court/Juvenile Probation, Department of Mental Health, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Department of Social Services – Child Welfare, Child Advocacy Centers, Office of the US Attorney, South Carolina Department of Education, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The summit welcome was offered by the Honorable Costa M. Pleicones and the Honorable Alan Wilson, Attorney General of South Carolina. The Program Moderator was the Honorable Timothy Pogue, 12th Circuit Family Court Judge. The event agenda included a keynote address by Melissa Snow, Child Sex Trafficking Program Specialist at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia.

In addition to the keynote speaker, Heather S. Weiss, Deputy Attorney General, and Marie Sazehn, Assistant Attorney General, presented an awareness and legal update. The summit agenda also included sessions related to human trafficking specific victim profiles, identifying justice-involved victims and their needs, and an overview of what judges and attorneys can do to support human trafficking victims in the courtroom. The latter included insights offered by the Honorable Toko Serita of the Criminal Court of the City of New York, Queens County. There was also an examination of approaches taken by law enforcement and prosecution as well as facilitated group sessions expanding further on the aforesaid topics.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force would like to extend a special thank you to the following summit presenters and facilitators:

The Honorable Costa M. Pleicones, Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court

The Honorable Alan Wilson, Attorney General of South Carolina

The Honorable Timothy Pogue, Judge
12th Circuit Family Court, Marion, SC

Pamela Gregory, Victim Specialist
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Spartanburg, SC

CaraLee Murphy, US Aftercare Manager
The A21 Campaign, Charlotte, NC

Toni Lawrimore, Victim Advocate
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Columbia, SC

Tayla Fortenberry, Therapist/Consultant
Switch, Greenville, SC

Katie Reid, Coordinator of Systems Advocacy
South Carolina Coalitions Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Columbia, SC

Pamela Gregory, Victim Specialist
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Melissa Snow, Child Sex Trafficking Program Specialist
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, VA

Danielle Malangone, Director
National Anti-Trafficking Strategies, Center for Court Innovation, New York, NY

Ann Johnson, Assistant District Attorney
Harris County District Attorney's Office, Houston, TX

The Honorable Toko Serita, Justice
Criminal Court of the City of New York, Queens County, New York, NY

Shannon Piller, Human Trafficking Investigator
Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Greenville, South Carolina

Leonardo Livreri, Special Agent
US Department of Homeland Security, Columbia, SC

Casey Collier, Special Agent
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Columbia, SC

Kinli Abee, Assistant Attorney General
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Columbia, SC

The Honorable Letitia Verdin, Judge
13th Judicial Circuit Court, Greenville, SC

Additionally, the following members of the Summit Planning Committee should also receive special thanks and recognition for their efforts in ensuring a successful event:

The Honorable Timothy Pogue, 12th Circuit Family Court
The Honorable Letitia Verdin, 13th Circuit Court
Rosalyn W. Frierson, South Carolina Court Administration
Heather S. Weiss, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
Marie Sazehn, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
Michelle J. Pinkney, South Carolina Court Administration
Megan Rudd, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
Danielle Malangone, Center for Court Innovation

Workgroup for Direct Service Provision to Victims of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a complex issue in South Carolina and across the country. Efforts are underway more than ever to curtail and prevent victimization. Service provision involving advocates, criminal justice professionals, and social service agencies are making concerted efforts to recognize, respond to, and prevent trafficking in our state.

Purpose

The Direct Services Workgroup of the Human Trafficking Task Force was established:

- To inform and influence best practices in policy and provision of direct services to victims of human trafficking;
- To assess and identify the demand, the needs, and the existing gaps in services to victims of human trafficking and to make recommendations about how to meet the unmet demands for service;
- To support the process of meeting statutory federal and state obligations related to service provision to victims of labor and sex trafficking;
- To build upon existing state and national efforts to create frameworks that minimize damage to victims and support holistic multidisciplinary responses;
- To serve as a clearinghouse for state-wide information and resources so as to facilitate coordination and collaboration between service providers across the state;

- To provide updates and recommendations to the Office of the Attorney General and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force.

Principles

The Direct Service Providers Workgroup is a statewide alliance of multidisciplinary professionals with expertise in working with victims of trafficking. The Workgroup supports the following philosophy:

- Human trafficking violates a person's human rights.
- There are many conditions that foster human trafficking, including poverty, forced migration, racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and classism.
- The intersections of oppression (gender, immigration status, disability, history of abuse, economic status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, etc.) increase vulnerability to trafficking and present barriers to accessing services.
- Individuals and organizations alone cannot end the conditions that promote human trafficking.
- A broad community response is necessary to make social and institutional change.

Note: The terms victim and survivor are used to denote a person who has been exploited through human trafficking. However, it is important to note the implications of labeling and the need to approach each case on its own merit. Where applicable, the term "survivor" is employed for its recognition of the person's agency and self-efficacy. The term "victim" is employed in legal or statistical situations or when implying potential, ongoing, or hypothetical experiences of trafficking.

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 South Carolina 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.

Credit: These principles and best-practice guidelines have been adapted from the *Wisconsin Human Trafficking Protocol and Resource Manual*, the *North Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Manual*, and resources from the Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network.

2016 Workgroup Participants

Felicia Dauway, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Kelli Clune, Spartanburg Regional Health System
Tayla Fortenberry, Switch of the Upstate
Rachael Garrett, Dee Norton of the Lowcountry
Kathleen Heavner, Lutheran Services of the Carolinas
Maggie Malaney/Melanie Snipes, Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands
Greg Moore, South Carolina Department of Social Services
Melissa Moore, We are Family
Tim Nix, South Carolina Department of Social Services
Shannon Piller, Greenville County Sherriff's Department
Katie Reid, South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Marie Sazehn, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Court

As South Carolina increases its efforts to prosecute human trafficking cases, the reality of providing for the victims has become a challenge especially for juveniles. Those identified in sex trafficking cases are often times already involved in the juvenile justice or family court systems. If youth are not yet involved, they become so as part of the investigation either through the juvenile justice system or the Department of Social Services.

The mission of a youth diversion court would be to transform the lives of victims or potential victims. A safe and healthy survivor will be more likely to follow a positive trajectory while confronting their trafficker in court and establishing plans for a successful future. It would also better position law enforcement to identify, investigate, and punish traffickers.

In 2016, the State began working with Solicitor Ed Clements of the 12th Judicial Circuit, Judge Timothy Pogue of the 12th Circuit Family Court, and Drug Court Coordinators, for both adult and juvenile drug court, to identify what would be needed to start a youth diversion court in the Circuit. The State Justice Institute has a coordinator positioned to work with the parties to help best identify and establish the steps needed to create the court. Furthermore, there is interest from the 11th Circuit as well as other prosecutors and judges throughout South Carolina who are

prepared to get involved in the process once it has been fully developed and it is ready for implementation.

There are challenges inherent in the process. The two most prevalent include the need for safe, secure housing options for victims or potential victims and specialized training for those involved in the process. The court will need the following to effectively launch such efforts:

- Dedicated circuit judges and court staff who are trained on issues unique to a human trafficking diversion court.
- Increased engagement with the defense bar as well as identified attorneys interested in human trafficking issues.
- A trained prosecutor who knows the warning signs and risk factors prevalent when identifying youth trafficking victims or potential victims.
- Qualified service providers including group homes and shelters for use by the court.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice to provide suitable, secure facilities for high risk juveniles who have been identified as human trafficking victims or potential victims.
- Arbitrators who are trained to guide each juvenile through the program to ensure needed services, education, housing, and other support services at each step in the process. Guardian Ad Litems would be ideal for younger victims.

The Court will need to be prepared to work effectively with minor victims as they first appear. This means that the Court must first identify the at-risk youth who will often times not acknowledge or recognize themselves as victims and will not trust that the system wants to help. Minors would go through an initial intake evaluation to assess mental and physical health as well as security and educational concerns. Juveniles in the family court system, but not juvenile justice, will be identified and assigned an arbitrator to benefit from the assessment stage and referral system available through the court.

The court will meet on a weekly basis to assess each juvenile's progress. Throughout the week, arbitrators will ensure each child is receiving services such as mental health and medical services inclusive of substance abuse treatment as needed. The goal is to provide the required structure and services to best stabilize and prepare the young person for a successful transition back into society.

In 2017, the Human Trafficking Task Force will look to identify funding sources to run the court. The funding would be used for training and payment of arbitrators as well as wrap around services for potential victims. The funding would also be utilized to create a database shared by multiple agencies to identify minors at-risk or already victims of sexual exploitation. The

database would also be used to track the services and activities of the minors across agencies. This system would not only promote statewide information sharing regarding minor victims and improve the coordination of services, but increase the protection of juveniles.

2016 Quarterly Meetings

Per South Carolina law, the Human Trafficking Task Force is mandated to meet on a quarterly basis throughout each year. The 2016 meetings occurred on March 18th, June 24th, September 16th, and December 9th with 42 members being the attendance average. Below, you will find highlights from each meeting.

March 18th

The first meeting of 2016 began with a networking session during which task force members were able to introduce themselves to one another, learn more about other organizations, and share resources. During the latter portion of the meeting, the group discussed upcoming training opportunities, pending legislation, and an overview of recent cases. The cases included a Greenville county sex trafficking guilty plea that was the first solicitor conviction under state law. Another case was the first indictment under the State Grand Jury and involved six individuals across four counties. Lastly, Richland County reported the sex trafficking of a minor guilty plea. The defendant received 15 years in prison with sex offender registration and lifetime GPS monitoring.

To conclude, updates were presented by the following task force members: Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands/CASA, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, Lighthouse for Life, Fresh Start Healing Heart, Westwood High School, US Department of Labor (federal), and International Justice Mission.

June 24th

The first portion of the June meeting was allotted to the Salvation Army to present on their anti-human trafficking efforts, Project FIGHT (Freeing Individuals Gripped by Human Trafficking) in North Carolina. Following the presentation, the task force reviewed upcoming meeting dates, subcommittee meetings, and announcements. Information was shared about the upcoming Human Trafficking in the South Carolina Courts Summit as well as the Shared Hope conference in Maryland.

Information was relayed regarding a data project involving the University of South Carolina Law Center, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, and the University of South Carolina Criminal Justice Department. The project would focus on human trafficking offenses, specifically minor sex trafficking, and related indicators documented in incident reports (between 2013–2015) and also include valuable information regarding demographics.

September 16th

The September meeting began with announcements related to upcoming statewide and regional task force meetings. The task force was presented with a reminder of who leads each regional task force and their contact information. The meeting then included updates about the Department of Social Services' revisions to the State Plan for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and the Task Force Workgroup for Direct Service Provision's efforts toward statewide consistency in screening, intake, and referral procedures.

Discussions continued with an update from the Statewide Coalition of the Immigrant Victim Network. The task force was then informed of a new project involving the creation of a group focused solely on issues related to victims of labor trafficking. Lastly, the group was informed of efforts by South Carolina Legal Services to expunge prostitution convictions for those incurred during trafficking. Contact information was provided for Jack Cohoon who is leading the efforts within the South Carolina Legal Service's office.

December 9th

Attorney Sarah Byrne, of the Law Firm of Moore & Van Allen and the Charlotte Metropolitan Human Trafficking Task Force, presented at the meeting to offer a glimpse into the collective successes and challenges faced in the Charlotte area. She shared information on the interagency collaborations needed to provide cohesive, impactful victim support services. Her presentation addressed some of the specific needs of the victims as well as the necessity for states to communicate in our efforts to educate stakeholders and support survivors.

The second portion of the meeting was utilized for regional task force updates including training reports and upcoming meeting dates. There was then an update regarding the Workgroup for Direct Service Provision to Victims of Human Trafficking. The workgroup has been collaborating on an upcoming survey to assess available victim services and other resources in the community. The task force members can expect to receive the survey in January 2017.

The task force also welcomed the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General's new Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, Kathryn Moorehead, who was recently appointed to lead the efforts of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force.

2017 Task Force Meetings

The upcoming meetings are scheduled for the following dates, but may be subject to change: March 10th, June 9th, September 22nd, and December 8th. The task force normally meets at the West Columbia Municipal Complex from 10 AM to 12 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign

As reported in the 2015 Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report, South Carolina continues to partner with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the promotion of The Blue Campaign. The DHS campaign is a coordinated effort toward abolishing human trafficking and prosecuting those who exploit human lives. It includes combined efforts from law enforcement, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private organizations.

The Blue Campaign positions DHS to raise public awareness about human trafficking and educate the public in recognizing those who may be exploiting others. Additional efforts include: victim-centered investigations, a unified DHS effort, training initiatives, and resources that include a document library, Blue Campaign materials, and Blue Campaign videos. Resources may be found at https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/share-resources.

V. Task Force Member Accomplishments

The Human Trafficking Task Force is composed of members who bring diverse, specialized insight to South Carolina's anti-trafficking efforts. In this section, we provide a sample of the strides being made throughout South Carolina beginning with the two non-governmental organizations appointed to the task force.

South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is a statewide coalition composed of 23 domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organizations in South Carolina. For almost 35 years, SCCADVASA and member organizations have been representing the critical needs of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and their families. The coalition provides critical intervention services and primary prevention programs in communities across the state. (http://www.sccadvasa.org)

In 2016, SCCADVASA facilitated five trainings (reaching 272 people) and provided capacity building and technical assistance to 23 member organizations, allies, and other state partners on providing services to victims/survivors of human trafficking. In addition, SCCADVASA collaborated with the Office of the Attorney General to launch a direct services workgroup of the task force. This workgroup brings together a variety of key partners across the state to inform and influence policy development and service provision standards in South Carolina. The workgroup is also designed to support the process of meeting statutory and regulatory obligations for services, referrals, and to be a clearinghouse for information on human trafficking service providers across the state.

In addition, SCCADVASA's member organizations provided services to 79 survivors of human trafficking (sex and labor, child and adult) in 2016. Services ranged from comprehensive case management, emergency shelter, outreach, transitional shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, referral, and crisis services.

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. (www.scvan.org)

In 2016, SCVAN provided services to 48 human trafficking victims with 32 individuals continuing specialized services and 16 individuals new to the organization. Of the total, services included:

Emergency Financial Assistance: 4
Legal Services/Criminal Justice Advocacy: 22 (6 new victims)
Adult, female sex trafficking victims: 4 (1 US, 3 immigrants) (3 new cases)
Adult, male labor trafficking: 11 (all immigrants) (2 new cases)
Adult, female labor trafficking: 7 (all immigrants) (1 new case with significant sexual abuse)

Number of Trainings Provided: 10
Trainings included the following:

- Labor Trafficking, Civil Legal Needs of Victims of Trafficking and Immigration Protections for Immigrant Survivors (3 sessions including for SWITCH volunteers in Greenville, South Carolina Government Attorneys in Columbia, and the Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force)
- Serving Human Trafficking Survivors: Case Studies for Sexual Assault in Human Trafficking Seminar (sponsored by the Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, Columbia)
- Serving Human Trafficking Survivors: A Case Study (presented to the South Carolina Bar Foundation in Columbia)
- Judicial Role in U & T Visa Certifications (presented to South Carolina Judges at the SC Judicial Conference in Beaufort)
- Meeting the Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking (Community presentation at Greenville Technical College in Greenville)
- Human Trafficking Panel Discussion (presented to law enforcement, victim advocates, and the community at the Victims' Rights Week Conference in Columbia in collaboration with Marie Sazehn from SC Office of the Attorney General and Shannon Piller from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office)
- Labor Trafficking and Victim Assistance - Human Trafficking in South Carolina (presented to the City of Columbia Police Department in collaboration with Marie Sazehn from SC Office of the Attorney General and Shannon Piller from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office)
- Us and Ts Are Not Only for Victims of Domestic Violence: Labor and Sex Trafficking and other Workplace Crimes (presented at the American Immigration Lawyers Conference in Las Vegas, NV)
- Expanding the Use of the T Visa: Strategies for Identifying Human Trafficking in Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse Cases (presented at the SCVAN Immigrant Victim Coalition Meeting in West Columbia)
- Human Trafficking 101 for Solicitor Victim Advocates (presented at the South Carolina Solicitor's Conference in Myrtle Beach in collaboration with Diana Tapp from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office)

Non-mandated task force members:

Fresh Start Healing Heart

Located in the Low Country, Fresh Start Healing Heart's mission is to compassionately walk beside survivors of human trafficking while providing safe housing and restorative services for emotional, spiritual, physical, educational, and financial healing. (http://www.freshstarthealingheart.org/)

Number of Attendees Trained: 2500
Number of Victims Served: 6
Types of Services Provided: Case Management, Housing (3)

Greenville County Sheriff's Office

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office serves and protects throughout 724 of the 794 square miles of Greenville County. (http://www.gcso.org/)

Conducted by Diana Tapp
Number of Trainings: 16
Number of Attendees: 203
Number of Victims Served: 2
Type of Services Provided: Case Management (2)

Conducted by Shannon Piller
Number of Attendees Trained: 1420
Number of Victims Served: 12
Type of Services Provided: Investigation (15)
Number of Tips Received (that led to investigation): 10 tips led to 15 investigations

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. Their mission is to serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. (https://dss.sc.gov/)

Number of Trainings: 1

Number of Attendees Trained: 30
Number of Victims Served: 3
Type of Service Provided: Investigation

Greenville Health System

Greenville Health System's mission is to heal compassionately, teach innovatively, and improve constantly. The employees of the system are striving to transform health care for the benefit of the people and communities they serve. (https://www.ghs.org/)

Number of Trainings: 1
Number of Attendees Trained: 90
Number of Victims Served: 6

Greenville Police Department

The mission of the Greenville Police Department is to collaborate with the community to prevent crime, promote safety, and enhance the quality of life. The department strives to be the most effective community-focused police agency in America.
(http://police.greenvillesc.gov/149/Police-Department)

Number of Victims Served: 1
Type of Service Provided: Housing, Investigation

Greer Police Department

The Greer Police Department mission is to provide quality services in partnership with the community to ensure safe and secure neighborhoods -- a city safe for *all* to live, work, and play.
(http://www.cityofgreer.org/departments/police.php)

Number of Victims Served: 1
Type of Service Provided: Case Management, Housing, Investigation

Julie Valentine Center (JVC)

The Julie Valentine Center 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.
(http://www.julievalentinecenter.org/)

Number of Victims Served: 12
Type of Service Provided: Case Management (9), Investigation (3)

Murphy & Grantland, P.A.

Murphy & Grantland, P.A. is a state-wide 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. In the last year, attorneys at Murphy & Grantland have represented survivors of trafficking in state and federal courts including in matters involving record expungement and expungement analyses, various disputes pending before state family courts, advocacy and representation of victims in pending investigations and prosecutions, and through securing numerous services available for clients.

Attorneys at Murphy & Grantland have served on the statewide Human Trafficking Task Force since 2013 and presented at statewide conferences and Continuing Legal Education trainings on the subject. The firm is committed to leveraging its resources to meet the high demand of legal representation for survivors of trafficking in South Carolina. For more information on the firm's work in this area, please contact attorney Elliott Daniels at edaniels@murphygrantland.com or visit www.murphygrantland.com.

Number of Trainings:	1
Number of Attendees:	100
Number of Victims Served:	7
Types of Service Provided:	Legal Representation

Safe Harbor

Safe Harbor's mission is to provide a continuum of services for victims of domestic violence and their children. 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. (http://safeharborsc.org/)

Number of Human Trafficking Victims Served: 5
Type of Service Provided: Housing

Spartanburg Regional Health System Forensic Nursing

Spartanburg Regional Health 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. (https://www.spartanburgregional.com/)

Number of Trainings: 4

Number of Attendees Trained: 302
Number of Victims Served: 6
Type of Service Provided: Investigation

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. (http://switchsc.org/)

Number of Trainings: 65
Number of Attendees: 3065
Number of Victims Served: 20
Type of Service Provided: Case Management

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 Victims Served: 19
Type of Service Provided: Case Management (19), Housing (12)
Housing Provided in: Greenville (5), Anderson (1), Florence (1), Greenwood (1), Charlotte (1), and Alabama (1)

Triune Mercy Center is in partnership with Christ Church Episcopal to establish a restoration home in Greenville. It is modeled after Thistle Farms in Nashville TN, a long term, housing first model. They are in the process of purchasing the first residence that will house five women. The new program will provide two year, rent free housing as well as medical and dental care, trauma informed services, counseling, mental health, employment, and job skills training. Triune Mercy Center and Christ Church Episcopal are also creating a social enterprise that will employ the women. They hope to add another home once the first is in full operation.

Office of the United States Attorney (Greenville)

The United States Attorneys Office has offices 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. (https://www.justice.gov/usao-sc)

Number of Trainings: 7
Number of Attendees: 200
Number of Victims Served: 15
Number of Open Cases: 9

Regional Task Force Efforts

Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

The Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force is composed of 40 members including law enforcement, social service agencies, medical professionals, and legal services providers. The wide variety of professionals represented allows for a multidisciplinary approach to the collective anti-trafficking efforts. Thirteen agencies provided the task force with 2016 service report data that is reflected in the following breakdown. Agency specific data can be found in the prior section of this report.

Number of Trainings Provided: 104
Number of Attendees Trained: 5310
Number of Victims Served: 125
Types of Services Provided:
- Case Management: 51
- Legal Services: 22
- Investigation: 28
- Housing: 19

2017 meetings are scheduled every two months to allow members to collaborate on how to better serve victims of human trafficking. For more information regarding the Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force, please contact: Shannon Piller, Greenville County Sheriff's Office

Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

The Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking (RCAHT) Task Force is composed of law enforcement, social service agencies, legal service providers, medical professionals, and representatives from other fields in the community. The mission of the RCAHT Task Force is to eradicate human trafficking throughout Richland County by promoting prevention through education and legislation, prosecution of human traffickers and buyers, and providing protection and support of victims and survivors.

The RCAHT Task Force has seen a substantial increase in their membership since the Richland County Council funded a part-time Coordinator to manage the task force's efforts. The role was filled in July and, since the hire, the task force's membership has grown from 30 to its current 68 members. The RCAHT Task Force also educated nearly 175 individuals through the following trainings:

- Human Trafficking Definitions, Myths, Identifying Traffickers, and What You Can Do (presented to 17 Court Appointed Advocates/Guardian ad Litem)

- Human Trafficking Overview (presented in collaboration with Lighthouse for Life to approximately 50 faculty, staff, and students at Midlands Technical College)
- Two day human trafficking training looking at multi-disciplinary responses to high risk victims (presented in collaboration with Amber Alert Technical Training Assistance and Lighthouse for Life to 106 participants)

2017 meetings are scheduled on the following dates: January 13th, March 17th, and May 12th, but may be subject to change.

For more information regarding the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, please contact: Vicki Jackson, Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator

Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force

The Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force is located in the 14th judicial circuit and is composed of members spanning five counties. The task force welcomes individuals from local churches, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, and others invested in combatting human trafficking. The Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force's mission is to bring together agencies, organizations, and businesses that work in the community to help fight against human trafficking and serve survivors of human trafficking. The task force hopes to achieve their mission while becoming a force from which survivors can receive immediate services and traffickers will fear conviction.

2017 Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force Meetings are scheduled to be held on the following dates: January 25th, April 26th, July 26th, and October 25th. Meetings are regularly from 10 AM – 12 PM at USCB Bluffton, but may be subject to change.

For more information, please contact: Sheila Roemeling at Fresh Start, Healing Heart

VI. 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 statewide 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 now less relevant 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 frustrates 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.

VII. 2017 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations

Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- **Data Collection**

Much like other states, South Carolina does not currently have comprehensive statistics on human trafficking. However, this has begun to change 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 would also allow for a uniform depository for current and future information.

Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking

- **Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Court**

As mentioned earlier in this 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.

- **Increased Residential Services**

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.

- **Minimum Standards and Protocols**

Unfortunately, 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.

Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers

- **Professional Training**

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.

Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- **Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach**

To date, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force has done well in its attempts at increasing public awareness of human trafficking in the state. It is recommended that we continue our 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 in an attempt 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.

Other Areas for Consideration and Study

- **Foreign National Victims**

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.

- **Rapid Response Teams**

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.

- **Child Victims**

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.

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Katie Reid, Coordinator of Systems Advocacy
South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Vicki Jackson, Coordinator
The Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

Patricia Ravenhorst, Attorney
Legal Assistance to Victims Program
South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

Rosalyn Frierson, Director
South Carolina Court Administration

Y. Elizabeth Wellman, Staff Attorney
South Carolina Court Administration

Marie Sazehn, Assistant Attorney General
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

By reporting a tip or assisting a victim, you can contribute toward the greater efforts of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force.

Help save a life.

To report suspicious human trafficking activity:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip Line 866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423) or submit the tip at www.ice.gov/tips

And for victim assistance and other resources:

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Toll-Free Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

If you have questions or comments about the 2016 South Carolina Human Trafficking Annual Report or any Statewide Task Force related inquiries, please contact:

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