A decorative graphic consisting of three rows of blue squares. The top row has four squares, the middle row has four squares, and the bottom row has five squares. The squares are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with the bottom row being slightly offset to the left.

# 2020 Annual Report

OFFICE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Since its inception in 2012, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force has expanded its size and impact to respond to the evolving threat of human trafficking in our communities. The Task Force is currently composed of 11 mandated member agencies, over 450 individual members, 12 subcommittees, and nine regional task forces. The individuals and organizations that compose the State Task Force work in partnership with diverse community partners to tailor a multi-sector approach that is responsive to the complexities of the crime.

We know that human traffickers exploit their victims in communities across South Carolina, notably targeting the most vulnerable among us. Data reveal evidence of both sex and labor trafficking in our state, with victims representing all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The COVID-19 pandemic has only magnified pre-existing vulnerabilities, while also complicating the ability of victims and survivors to receive needed support services.

In 2021, the State Task Force will continue to expand its initiatives. South Carolina, as well as our regional and national partners, will increase efforts to combat labor trafficking. We will also create a knowledge repository to house virtual resources and sector-specific trainings. Furthermore, with the launch of the Advisory Council, the Task Force will leverage the experience of subject-matter experts to create innovative anti-trafficking strategies across sectors and industries.

I thank members of the State Task Force for their unwavering dedication to anti-human trafficking work amidst the challenges presented throughout 2020. Your efforts to prevent the crime, respond to victims' needs, and prosecute cases are admirable and deeply needed during this time.

We must continue to expand and strengthen our efforts in 2021 to prevent human trafficking, support victims/survivors, and hold traffickers accountable for perpetrating this insidious crime.

Attorney General Alan Wilson  
Chair,  
South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force



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## **I. Structure of the Task Force**

The 2012 human trafficking law, S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-2050(B)(1), states 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 State Plan to Address Human Trafficking. The Task Force disseminated the State Plan to Address Human Trafficking in June of 2014. The law dictates 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 Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, the following members were legislatively mandated to 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



Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



The Department of Social Services



A representative of the Office of the Governor



**HENRY MCMASTER**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A representative from the Department of Employment and Workforce



The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination



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 United States Attorney's Office, and federal law enforcement agencies within the state including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office.

## **II. 2014 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 State Task Force establishes its goals. It should be noted that while the State Plan reflects the most relevant issues during the time in which the document was drafted, some findings may currently be less germane than others in relation to ongoing efforts. 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 frustrate 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

### **III. 2020 Task Force Recommendations & Updates**

#### **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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

In 2019, the Data Management and Research Subcommittee continued efforts on multiple projects that will benefit efforts underway in our state. There will be an increased effort in 2020 to launch the first human trafficking data collection system in South Carolina. The data collection system will align with the Department of Health & Human Services' Office on Trafficking in Persons data project and be interoperable to best position State Task Force members to both contribute toward and receive statistics. The information will be shared with local, state, and federal stakeholders. The collection of such data will help shape law enforcement training opportunities and the development of support services in our state.

#### UPDATE

The Data Management and Research Subcommittee continued its efforts in 2020 despite challenges faced by stakeholders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that the State Task Force is better positioned to receive timely data pertaining to both sex and labor trafficking in South Carolina. This will be achieved via a more sophisticated system for both collecting and analyzing data. To coordinate efforts to inform such a system, the Data Management and Research Subcommittee contacted both legislatively mandated and non-mandated member state agencies to begin synchronizing data elements. The goal is to forge a comprehensive, coordinated statewide effort that can be translated into a technological platform that provides members a means of inputting data while ultimately limiting any information that might be detrimental to victims/survivors. The goal is to remain mindful of concerns for victim/survivor wellbeing in a law enforcement investigation, child welfare case, care from a medical provider, or other direct service provision while also gathering the data needed to better inform the efforts of these very sectors.

#### **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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Training is a critical element in elevating the response to human trafficking in South Carolina. The State Task Force will continue efforts to provide comprehensive training to first responders, medical professionals, labor agencies, and victim advocates through local, state, and national partnerships. It is important that ongoing efforts to inform the community continue to ensure that multi-sector professionals are able to identify and safely respond to human trafficking in their communities. This will ensure that law enforcement is notified, victims' needs are more rapidly addressed, and traffickers are prosecuted in South Carolina courts.

#### UPDATE

In 2020, the State Task Force faced numerous unexpected hurdles associated with multi-sector training plans. The pandemic forced many industries to move training online to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Task Force adapted to the need for a new means of training via various online platforms. Members offered law enforcement training, healthcare and community awareness presentations, and other such efforts. The Attorney General's Office also facilitated the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals. During State Task Force meetings, members were provided with national expert presentations regarding the impact of COVID-19 and insight into the dynamics of labor trafficking across industries. The latter informed plans to launch future initiatives to combat the crime in South Carolina.

- 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Throughout 2020, the State Task Force will actively seek opportunities for members to receive much-needed funding to support their efforts in implementing prevention education, offering professional training opportunities, and developing new support services across the state.

#### UPDATE

There has been little success in securing additional funding for current providers to expand services or for additional services to be developed in South Carolina. The State Task Force continues to advocate for additional funding to position programs to meet the needs of victims and survivors. This is especially true in light of diminishing federal grant monies. The loss of these funds effectively weakens the efforts of victim service providers across the state by forcing budget cuts that negatively impact existing services.

- Finding Three: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The lack of safe shelter space for victims and survivors of human trafficking continues to be an issue in South Carolina and across the nation. The State Task Force will continue efforts to support the development of shelter spaces that meet the unique needs of human trafficking victims and survivors. Furthermore, the Task Force will work diligently to ensure that these programs provide victim-centered, trauma-informed services that align with best and emerging practices in the field. The latter will be achieved through a formal vetting and certification process of direct service providers. A resource guide of those providing quality services will then be shared with judges, law enforcement, and other providers and partners at the regional and national levels.

#### UPDATE

South Carolina continues to suffer from a shortage of short and long-term specialized services, including shelters, residential placements, and community-based programs. This lack of shelters impacts victims of sex and labor trafficking across genders, ages, races, and ethnicities.

South Carolina is in dire need of programs that can support varying levels of need. Throughout 2020, this deficiency in services has been discussed often with stakeholders statewide and with those addressing this issue in other states. The Task Force continues to advocate for additional services that are trauma-informed, victim-centered, and utilize best and emerging practices in the field. As the State Task Force continues to provide specialized training for professionals working with victims and survivors of human trafficking, we are also finalizing the statewide requirements for both residential and community-based programs to ensure the continued safety of those who seek services. Until the standards are finalized and more providers are identified, the resource directory will continue to be a work in progress. We hope to launch a directory in 2021 on the State Task Force website that will be a living document updated as more specialized and supplemental providers are identified and certified.

- 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

There is an ongoing need to continue to educate direct service providers regarding immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking. In early 2020, the State Task Force will develop a brochure (offered in multiple languages) that details information to aid providers in supporting this population. The brochure will be posted on the Task Force website so that partners may reference and/or download the resource as needed.

#### UPDATE

Unfortunately, the brochure for non-citizen victims has not been completed. The Task Force did develop and upload resource materials in Spanish and English to the new online resource library. In early 2021, we hope to work with the newly restructured Legal Innovations Subcommittee and other Task Force members in effectively developing such a brochure. We will house the document online so that community members will have access and be able to download it for use in the field. We hope to also develop other items for dissemination to the public to aid in bringing awareness for non-citizen victims of human trafficking.

- Finding Five: Civil relief options for a trafficked victim are not well known or communicated.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Legal Innovations Subcommittee will continue its partnerships with stakeholders invested in this matter. Efforts will be made to include relevant information in trainings, during special events, and through other effective avenues.

#### UPDATE

In 2020, the State Task Force decided to restructure some of its subcommittees to align with the Statewide Strategic Response Model. The Legal Innovations Subcommittee is one of those identified as needing to align with the new response. Task Force leadership has been in discussions with numerous legal professionals as well as service providers to best determine next steps. We plan for the restructured subcommittee to be fully formed in early 2021 and align with the larger strategic plan statewide.

- Finding Six: Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.

#### RECOMMENDATION

After much work in 2019, this is an area that will continue to be further developed in 2020. More Memorandums of Understanding will be drafted and specialized programs vetted to ensure the Task Force endorses support services that are grounded in safe, quality practices. The Task Force will develop a list of service providers that meet specific criteria and post it on the website for reference by stakeholders in South Carolina, the Southeast, and across the nation. This information will be shared directly with law enforcement and members of the bar.

#### UPDATE

Beyond meeting a legislative mandate to set standards of care in South Carolina, the State Task Force developed a Strategic Response Model to improve coordination of services in our state. The model will help ensure that victims and survivors access needed support services in a more efficient manner within the limitations we currently face. Additionally, leadership of the State Task Force works closely with the National Human Trafficking Hotline to ensure that victims are referred to agencies who are meeting minimum standards within South Carolina. Leadership also maintains relationships with counterparts in other states to try to ensure victims are referred to safe alternatives out of state if our state does not have the services available.

#### **INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKERS**

- Finding One: The lack of resources available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges frustrate 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION (FINDING ONE, TWO AND THREE)

Resources will continue to be identified and disseminated to better support the efforts of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. Additionally, the law enforcement network will continue to be strengthened as to position local, state, and federal partners to share information, respond to case tips, and seek support on investigations as needed. This network will largely be developed during Law Enforcement Subcommittee meetings and training opportunities highlighting human trafficking investigative strategies.

#### UPDATE

The State Task Force's Strategic Response Model will continue to be developed and implemented throughout 2021. This plan will help ensure that networks continue to grow within four separate areas of the state while also flourishing within regional task forces. The Task Force will also offer additional training opportunities in 2021 to both provide knowledge that advances efforts to combat trafficking and allows for additional networking opportunities.

## **PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

- Finding One: There is inadequate enforcement of existing rules and regulations in South Carolina.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In 2020, efforts will continue to better educate law enforcement and prosecutors about the specifics of human trafficking legislation in South Carolina. Partners across the state will be better equipped to enforce rules and regulations if ongoing efforts continue in this area.

### **UPDATE**

We have made strides in trying to meet the needs of law enforcement and prosecutors as they continually learn more about human trafficking and seek guidance from others in their fields during both investigation and prosecution of these cases. We will continue efforts to develop additional trainings and networking opportunities that can better assist these professionals in their work.

- 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The State Task Force will continue public awareness initiatives throughout the state. A Speakers Bureau, composed of a trained cohort of speakers, will help ensure that ingrained societal perceptions are challenged and the public remains better informed on the complexities of human trafficking.

### **UPDATE**

In 2020, the State Task Force worked diligently to better inform the public about accurate, reliable facts. It was a trying year as misinformation was perpetuated online and through other events across the country. In response, the Task Force developed an online resource library with information, in both English and Spanish, for member use while educating themselves, young people, and others in their communities. Task Force leadership also worked with the Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group to develop recommendations for public awareness presentations and trainings on human trafficking. These recommendations can be found later in this report and will be shared in the online resource library.

## **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

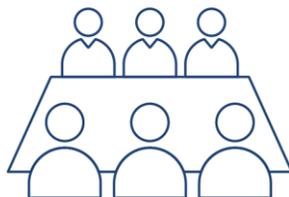
#### RECOMMENDATION

In 2020, the State Task Force will continue its efforts to support providers working with foreign national victims, fully launch its Strategic Response Model, and continue to highlight the need for online education and the use of technology in investigating human trafficking cases. We will also continue efforts to protect minor victims through partnerships with child welfare agencies and advocates, ensure both children and adolescents receive quality services that meet their unique needs, and encourage the prosecution of criminals who target children as victims of sex and/or labor trafficking.

#### UPDATE

The State Task Force continues to focus on issues at the nexus of immigration and human trafficking. We will carry on this work as we increase efforts primarily focused on sex trafficking to a greater emphasis on combatting labor trafficking. As the new Strategic Response Model develops, the rapid response teams will strengthen. The growth of regional task forces will also provide needed networks elsewhere in the state. As these advancements are made, our focus on the wellbeing of children and adolescents continues as a focus. There has been an increase in interagency collaboration in 2020 that will undoubtedly benefit efforts in 2021. Lastly, the State Task Force began the development of an Advisory Council this year and expects to finalize the appointment of subject matter experts in the coming year. One of the focus areas is technology. By consulting with experts in this area, we should be able to develop additional initiatives to address concerns involving the Internet.

## IV. 2020 QUARTERLY MEETING REVIEW & 2021 MEETING DATES



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force meets quarterly at the West Columbia City Hall, 200 12<sup>th</sup> Street, West Columbia. Meetings are scheduled from 10AM to 12PM. In June of 2020, the Task Force moved to virtual meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings were held on March 6th, June 5th, September 4th, and December 4th. The following is an overview of the topics discussed during each of the meetings.

### MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> (WEST COLUMBIA)

- 2019 Annual Report – Review
- Legislatively Mandated Direct Service Provider Criteria
- Strategic Response Model
- Trainings
- Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group
- National Compendium
- Updates
  - a. DSS
  - b. HEAL Trafficking Conference
  - c. USC Law School Symposium
  - d. Legislation - S194
- Regional Task Forces
  - e. Regional Task Force Standards
  - f. Updates
- State Task Force Subcommittees
  - g. Restructuring – Direct Service Providers (Adult and Minor), Law Enforcement, and Healthcare
  - h. Data & Research – Dr. Liyun Zhang & Megan Rigabar
  - i. Survivor – Kat Wehunt
  - j. Labor Trafficking – Megan Rigabar
  - k. Legal Innovations, Prevention Education & Outreach, and Youth Advocacy
  - l. Leadership
  - m. Interfaith – Roger Acton & Megan Rigabar
- Conferences
  - n. Victims’ Rights Week
  - o. Shared Hope

p. Bon Secours

- Listserv, Newsletter, & Social Media
- Member Announcements

**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> – EXECUTIVE SESSION (VIRTUAL)**

- Impact of COVID-19 (to date)
- Statewide Strategic Response Model

**SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> (VIRTUAL)**

- Attorney General Alan Wilson, Chair, SC Human Trafficking Task Force
- *Crisis in Human Trafficking During the Pandemic*  
Jenny Sell, Service Provider Partnership Manager, Polaris - National Human Trafficking Hotline
- *Impact of COVID-19 on the Online Underground Commercial Sex Economy*  
Rob Spectre, CEO, Childsafe.ai
- OVC FY2020 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking Award – Expansion of Services  
Sharon Rikard, Executive Director, Doors to Freedom

**DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> (VIRTUAL)**

State Update – Kathryn Moorehead, Office of the SC Attorney General

- 2020 Annual Report & January Release
- National Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- Task Force Branding Guidelines
- Online Resource Library
- Shared Hope International Advanced Legislative Framework
- 2021 Training Goals

Child Sex Trafficking Law Enforcement Training – Dr. Liyun Zhang, Children’s Law Center

Labor Trafficking Trends & Efforts – Megan Rigabar, Office of the SC Attorney General

Subcommittee Restructuring and Updates

- Labor Trafficking – Colin Trimble, US Department of Labor
- Healthcare – Dr. Stephanie Armstrong, MUSC
- Law Enforcement – Captain Connie Sonnefeld, SLED
- Direct Service Providers – Nikki Brown, DSS
- Interfaith – Roger Acton, SCVAN
- Leadership – Kathryn Moorehead, Office of the SC Attorney General

## 2021 MEETING DATES

In 2021, the State Task Force will continue to meet quarterly. The location of the meetings will either be online or in West Columbia. Leadership will assess the risk associated with in-person meetings and notify Task Force members about the location prior to each date.

The meeting dates will be March 5<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All meetings will begin at 10AM. Virtual meetings will be held on GoToWebinar and recorded. Meeting recordings will then be posted to the State Task Force website for future viewing by members and interested citizens.

If there is a need to change the date of a meeting, the Coordinator of the State Task Force will notify members currently on the listserv. If you would like to be included in the listserv, please email Megan Rigabar, Office of the SC Attorney General's Human Trafficking Program Assistant, at [meganrigabar@scag.gov](mailto:meganrigabar@scag.gov).

## V. State Task Force Response



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force response is multifaceted in its approach to preventing and combating the crime in our state. Throughout this report, there are references to the importance of leadership, multisector subcommittees, survivor input, a statewide strategic response, professional training, and the need for coordinated rapid response. Leadership is also mindful of the ongoing need to better educate members and the community about noteworthy factors that are relevant in South Carolina’s anti-human trafficking movement.

Historically, the U.S. anti-human trafficking field has embraced the narrative that human trafficking can happen anywhere and to anyone. While this is true, it is also important to recognize that some populations are more vulnerable to human trafficking than others. No vulnerability guarantees that an individual will be trafficked, but vulnerabilities can serve as routes to human trafficking victimization. The factors listed below may exacerbate such pathways.

### INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY

Traffickers often choose who to exploit based on potential victims’ unmet basic needs. For instance, if an individual lacks consistent access to food, water, or shelter, a trafficker may promise to feed and house them. This is a coercive tactic meant to gain the trust of the victim, so the trafficker can begin abuse. Individuals living in poverty have a host of unmet basic needs and are therefore vulnerable to fraudulent promises made by traffickers.

In 2019, an estimated 13.8% of South Carolinians were living in poverty, leaving the state with one of the worst poverty rates in the nation.<sup>1,2</sup> Recent estimates of child poverty in South Carolina revealed that children fared worse, facing a poverty rate of 23%.<sup>3</sup> State data also show that Black and Hispanic South Carolinians consistently experience poverty at far higher rates than white South Carolinians.<sup>4</sup> In fact, in some counties, Black and Hispanic South Carolinians faced poverty at over three times the rate of white South Carolinians.<sup>5</sup>

The recent onset of the COVID-19 pandemic means that robust data analysis linking poverty to the public health crisis is lacking. However, reports of high unemployment, housing instability, and economic strife suggest that at the very least, poverty is not likely to have improved in the past year. Given the magnitude of poverty in South Carolina, it is critical that human trafficking response and prevention efforts are cognizant of the intersection between poverty and potential human trafficking victimization.

## RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Like individuals living in poverty, individuals experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to traffickers who spot unmet basic needs—both physical and emotional—and promise to provide shelter, safety, and other necessities. This is especially true for runaway and homeless youth (RHY), who also lack ample peer support, consistent schooling, and relationships with trustworthy adults. Data from the National Runaway Safeline, the federal communication system for RHY, show a “close connection” between running away and vulnerability to human trafficking victimization.<sup>6</sup> A 2016 national study conducted by the Administration for Children and Families’ Family & Youth Services Bureau found that nearly a quarter of RHY traded sex for money or a place to spend the night.<sup>7</sup> A disproportionate number of participants in the study belonged to the

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<sup>1</sup> “U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: South Carolina.” *United States Census Bureau*, 2010-2019, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/SC/IPE120219>. Accessed 14 December 2020.

<sup>2</sup> “Individuals Below Poverty Level By State.” *2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?q=poverty+by+state&page=1&stateGeo=none&searchtype=web&cssp=SERP>, Accessed 30 Dec. 2020.

<sup>3</sup> “Child Well-Being Matters in South Carolina.” *Children’s Trust of South Carolina*, July 2020, <https://scchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/Child-Well-Being-Matters-in-South-Carolina-infographic.pdf>. Accessed 31 December 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Persons Below Poverty Level by Race and Hispanic Origin by County (2009-2013).” South Carolina Statistical Abstract: Income, *South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office*, <http://abstract.sc.gov/chapter13/income14.html>. Accessed 5 December 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> “The Overlap of Human Trafficking and Runaway and Homeless Youth.” *Family & Youth Services Bureau, National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families*, 16 July 2020, <https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2020/07/overlap-human-trafficking-and-runaway-and-homeless-youth>. Accessed 17 December 2020.

<sup>7</sup> “Final Report - Street Outreach Program Data Collection Study.” *Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families Archives*, 12 Apr. 2016, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/fysb/report/final-report-street-outreach-program-data-collection-study>. Accessed 18 December 2020.

LGBTQIA+ community.<sup>8</sup> Additional studies have indicated that youth experiencing homelessness are also trafficked for labor, sometimes at rates similar to sex trafficking.<sup>9</sup>

As with human trafficking, state-level prevalence estimates of youth homelessness can be difficult to generate. Nevertheless, in its 2019 report on the state of homelessness, the South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness reported serving 11,338 individuals statewide currently or formerly experiencing homelessness during fiscal year 2017. Of those served, 18% were under the age of 18.<sup>10</sup> An additional 7% were young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.<sup>11</sup> While additional data is needed, it is clear that anti-human trafficking prevention efforts and resources must work to reach South Carolina's RHY as well as youth at risk of running away and experiencing homelessness.

## FOREIGN NATIONALS

Traffickers often exploit vulnerabilities related to immigration status, and many foreign-born victims of human trafficking face language barriers, lack documentation, fear deportation, or do not have knowledge of their legal rights and the services available to them.<sup>12</sup> Some foreign nationals also may experience deep-seated fear of law enforcement, due to experiences with corruption and violence in their home countries.<sup>13</sup> Traffickers exploit all of these factors and more when recruiting and exploiting their victims, particularly if a potential victim is undocumented.

The 2019 American Community Survey found approximately 5.6% of South Carolina residents to be foreign-born.<sup>14</sup> The most common source region for foreign-born residents was Latin America, where over half (51.7%) of foreign-born South Carolina residents originated, followed by Asia (23.3%) and Europe (15.7%). Given the diverse origins of foreign nationals in South Carolina as

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<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> "The Overlap of Human Trafficking and Runaway and Homeless Youth." *Family & Youth Services Bureau, National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families*, 16 July 2020, <https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2020/07/overlap-human-trafficking-and-runaway-and-homeless-youth>. Accessed 17 December 2020.

<sup>10</sup> "2019 South Carolina State of Homelessness Report." *South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness*. [https://www.uway.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019\\_pit\\_count\\_state\\_report.pdf](https://www.uway.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019_pit_count_state_report.pdf). Accessed 17 December 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Id.

<sup>12</sup> "Foreign National Victims: Human Trafficking Task Force E-Guide." *Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center, Office of Justice Programs*, [www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/45-victim-populations/foreign-national-victims/](http://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/45-victim-populations/foreign-national-victims/). Accessed 18 December 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Id.

<sup>14</sup> "Selected Social Characteristics in the United States." *2019; American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles*. United States Census Bureau, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Foreign%20Born&g=0400000US45&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP02&hidePreview=false> Accessed 21 December 2020. Note: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "the term 'foreign born' refers to people residing in the U.S. at the time of the population survey who were not U.S. citizens at birth. The foreign-born population includes naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (i.e. immigrants), temporary migrants (e.g., foreign students), humanitarian migrants (e.g., refugees), and unauthorized migrants (i.e. people illegally present in the United States)."

well as the slight growth in South Carolina's foreign-born population in recent years,<sup>15</sup> it is imperative that anti-trafficking efforts and services address the unique needs of this population by expanding language access services, immigrant victim assistance, and other related programs. Prevention efforts targeted to this population will also be key, as traffickers often rely on potential victims' lack of knowledge of legal rights, social norms, and the English language during the initial recruitment process.

## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Individuals with physical, cognitive, emotional, or other disabilities face a number of unique risks to human trafficking. National anti-human trafficking agencies have noted that this population may face social isolation, rely heavily on caregivers to fulfill basic needs, struggle with communication, and experience desensitization to physical touch, all factors that traffickers may manipulate and exploit.<sup>16,17</sup> These risks are often compounded by the fact that individuals with disabilities may not be believed when they report potential victimization.<sup>18</sup> In recent years, there has been growing awareness in the anti-human trafficking community of these vulnerabilities. This was reflected in data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, which recorded 2,116 potential victims of human trafficking between 2015 and 2017 with pre-existing health issues or disability immediately before their victimization began.<sup>19</sup>

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 26.3% of South Carolina adults live with some type of disability, compared to 25.6% of American adults.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, according to the 2016 Child Count, 9,567 South Carolina children ages three through

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<sup>15</sup> "Selected Social Characteristics in the United States." 2019; *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles*. United States Census Bureau, 2019. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Foreign%20Born&g=0400000US45&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP02&hidePreview=false> Accessed 21 December 2020.

<sup>16</sup> "Victims with Physical, Cognitive, or Emotional Disabilities: Human Trafficking Task Force E-Guide." *Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center*, <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/45-victim-populations/victims-with-physical-cognitive-or-emotional-disabilities/>. Accessed 22 December 2020.

<sup>17</sup> "Individuals with Disabilities May Face Increased Risk of Human Trafficking." *Polaris*, 15 August, 2018, <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2018/08/individuals-with-disabilities-may-face-increased-risk-of-human-trafficking/>. Accessed 3 December 2020.

<sup>18</sup> "Victims with Physical, Cognitive, or Emotional Disabilities: Human Trafficking Task Force E-Guide." *Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center*, <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/45-victim-populations/victims-with-physical-cognitive-or-emotional-disabilities/>. Accessed 22 December 2020.

<sup>19</sup> "Individuals with Disabilities May Face Increased Risk of Human Trafficking." *Polaris*, 15 August 2018, <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2018/08/individuals-with-disabilities-may-face-increased-risk-of-human-trafficking/>. Accessed 22 December 2020.

<sup>20</sup> "Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data: South Carolina." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 16 Sept. 2020, [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/south-carolina.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/south-carolina.html). Accessed 23 December 2020.

five received special education services<sup>21</sup> as well as 93,921 children ages 6-21.<sup>22</sup> While South Carolina lacks data on the number of minors and adults with disabilities who have suffered human trafficking victimization, it is important that those working with this population remain vigilant for potential signs of exploitation and create safe mechanisms for potential victims to report abuse.

## LGBTQIA+

Persistent discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA+ community renders LGBTQIA+ individuals physically and emotionally vulnerable to human trafficking. Research has found that LGBTQIA+ community members often face disproportionately high rates of harassment and sexual victimization relative to the general population.<sup>23</sup> Transgender individuals in particular face high rates of violence, with an estimated one in two transgender individuals facing sexual abuse or assault at some point in their lives.<sup>24</sup> These trends are increasingly pronounced in the LGBTQIA+ youth population. For instance, LGBTQIA+ youth also face higher rates of discrimination and violence relative to their heterosexual peers<sup>25</sup> and make up a disproportionate number of runaway and homeless youth, due in large part to family rejection and bullying.<sup>26</sup> Traffickers not only may seek to fulfill basic, physical needs in the form of shelter and food, but they may also cultivate a sense of belonging and love to entice LGBTQIA+ youth who have been socially ostracized or bullied for their sexuality.<sup>27</sup> Runaway and homeless LGBTQIA+ youth therefore face multiple intersecting vulnerabilities that may increase the number of potential routes to human trafficking victimization.

It is critical that services available to both minor and adult victims/survivors of human trafficking are LGBTQIA+ friendly. Victims and survivors who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community have unique needs and experiences that deserve to be addressed. Though victims/survivors may not readily identify as LGBTQIA+ or even as victims of human trafficking, it is imperative that individuals and agencies involved in the multidisciplinary response to human trafficking are

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<sup>21</sup> “Report Summarizing Services Provided Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to Preschool Children with Disabilities 2016–17 School Year.” *South Carolina Department of Education*, 1 February 2018, <https://bit.ly/2WY4MBZ>. Accessed 22 December 2020.

<sup>22</sup> “Children with Disabilities, School Age (Ages 6-21), South Carolina Demographic Summary.” *South Carolina Department of Education*, <https://bit.ly/3o3h8oz>, Accessed 21 December 2020.

<sup>23</sup> “Sexual Violence and Individuals Who Identify as LGBTQ.” *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*, 2012, [https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications\\_NSVRC\\_Research-Brief\\_Sexual-Violence-LGBTQ.pdf](https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Research-Brief_Sexual-Violence-LGBTQ.pdf), Accessed 22 December 2020.

<sup>24</sup> “Responding to Transgender Victims of Sexual Assault.” *Office for Victims of Crime*, June 2014, [https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/forge/sexual\\_numbers.html](https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html), Accessed 18 December 2020.

<sup>25</sup> “Sex Trafficking and LGBTQ Youth.” *Polaris*, 2019, <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LGBTQ-Sex-Trafficking.pdf>, Accessed 17 December 2020.

<sup>26</sup> “Serving Our Youth.” *The Williams Institute*, June 2015, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/serving-our-youth-lgbtq/> Accessed 17 December 2020.

<sup>27</sup> “Sex Trafficking and LGBTQ Youth.” *Polaris*, 2019, <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LGBTQ-Sex-Trafficking.pdf>, Accessed 17 December 2020.

actively creating safe and comfortable environments for these individuals to disclose their experiences and receive quality, trauma-informed care.

## CONCLUSION

It is important to note that this is by no means a comprehensive list of the vulnerabilities that may contribute to human trafficking victimization. Individuals with a history of trauma, abuse, or domestic violence may also be at higher risk, as are youth living in foster care. Traffickers may exploit individuals who are addicted to drugs or alcohol, or those who have family members who abuse substances. Furthermore, increased study of human trafficking data reveal that in some areas of the country, people of color are trafficked at disproportionately high rates—additional data is needed at the state and national levels to understand the impact of systemic racism and discrimination on patterns of human trafficking victimization.<sup>28</sup> Yet, even individuals lacking all of the aforementioned experiences and identities may be vulnerable if they have low self-esteem and a deep desire for belonging, as traffickers are adept at spotting those who can be emotionally manipulated and groomed for exploitation.

For the sake of this report, the vulnerabilities discussed in this section have been divided into neat, isolated categories. However, this does not reflect the reality that vulnerabilities to human trafficking frequently intersect with each other. Traffickers are skilled at spotting these intersections and often use them to their advantage. As advocates in the anti-human trafficking field, it is imperative that we recognize when vulnerabilities intersect so we can provide victim/survivors with trauma-informed care and services that address their lived experiences.

By naming and analyzing a number of key vulnerabilities, the State Task Force aims to increase the ability of Task Force members and the general public alike to recognize potential victims before exploitation occurs in order to prevent human trafficking altogether. If high-risk individuals can be proactively identified, educated on the issue of human trafficking, and connected with services to address their underlying vulnerabilities, then this heinous crime and the trauma it inflicts could be prevented entirely.

## State Task Force Advisory Council

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force continually assesses its structure for modifications that could potentially improve the response to the crime and provide holistic services to victims and survivors. To fully address the aforementioned vulnerabilities, leadership decided on the inclusion of additional subject matter experts. The goal is for these experts to inform

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<sup>28</sup> “Racial Disparities, COVID-19, and Human Trafficking.” *Polaris*, 29 July 2020, <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2020/07/racial-disparities-covid-19-and-human-trafficking/> Accessed 10 December 2020.

subcommittees and regional task forces in regard to initiatives at the nexus of their specialty and human trafficking.

Below is a one page overview of the Advisory Council and the expectations for advisory members. To date, Task Force leadership has appointed subject matter experts in four of the focus areas and is in discussion with potential members in three other areas. It is expected that the remaining subject area experts will be appointed in the first half of 2021.

Those who have accepted an invitation to sit on the Advisory Council include:

- Mental Health —Louise Johnson, Director, Division of Children, Adolescents, and Families, SC Department of Mental Health;
- Transportation —Taryn Shekitka, Director of Operations, SC Trucking Association;
- Aging Population —Kay Hightower, Program Manager, Supportive Services and Outreach Unit, SC Department on Aging;
- Individuals with Disabilities —Phyllis Ross, Advocate, and Abigail Crawford, Advocate, with Disability Rights South Carolina (formerly People with Disabilities, Inc).

We will announce future appointments via the State Task Force website and quarterly newsletter as well as during quarterly meetings.



# STATE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COUNCIL



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Advisory Council convenes subject matter experts in order to leverage their sector-specific knowledge for the improvement and expansion of state anti-human trafficking efforts. The Advisory Council will provide feedback and assistance to the Task Force's specialized state initiatives on an ad-hoc basis.

## ADVISORY AREAS

- **Mental Health**
- **Hospitality**
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Transportation**
- **Technology**
- **Finance**
- **Underserved/Underrepresented Populations**
  - People of Color
  - Indigenous Population
  - LGBTQIA+
  - Runaway Youth
  - Homeless Populations
  - Individuals with Disabilities
  - Aging Population

**Additional Focus Areas:** Language Accessibility & Cultural Competency

## ADVISORY COUNCIL EXPECTATIONS

- Advisory Council members will attend quarterly State Task Force meetings and, as needed, will contribute updates regarding their field at the intersection of human trafficking.
- Advisory Council members will provide feedback, subject matter expertise, and assistance with training as requested by State Task Force leadership.
- As the State Task Force builds out targeted initiatives, Advisory Council members will guide and review initiatives pertaining to their subject matter expertise.



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## **VI. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The spread of COVID-19 in 2020 upended the status quo of our state, country, and world. As the U.S. shut down in the spring, the anti-human trafficking field was confronted with myriad problems: How should service providers safely assist survivors of human trafficking? How could anti-human trafficking education and prevention efforts reach a public in quarantine? What would statewide, targeted initiatives look like in a virtual capacity?

Since March, the State Task Force and the anti-human trafficking field writ large has responded to these and other challenges. Service providers across South Carolina have developed innovative and creative ways to reach and serve survivors, even in the midst of the ongoing public health crisis. The State Task Force created and launched a bilingual online resource library to educate the public in an increasingly virtual environment, while continuing to conduct online presentations, trainings, and meetings with local, state, regional, and national partners. For instance, the Task Force converted its second Victim Service Provider—Human Trafficking Training (VSP-HT) to a webinar format to ensure direct service providers still received the critical information and skills needed to provide quality services. The State Task Force also continued to develop multiple statewide initiatives by connecting with stakeholders virtually and converting meetings, resources, and presentations to online settings.

The State Task Force has adapted its statewide response to the new challenges brought on by COVID-19. Yet, as the pandemic worsens, it continues to wreak havoc across economies, healthcare systems, schools, and communities statewide. Such widespread disruption breeds vulnerability to human trafficking and exacerbates existing economic, social, and racial inequalities that can lead to victimization. Traffickers prey upon individuals who lack steady, or any, employment, and those who face financial instability, homelessness, or hunger. Traffickers look for those who are socially isolated and without a strong support network, and they promise companionship and a better life. While human trafficking can happen to anyone, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified a harsh reality: Those who already face physical, emotional, economic, social, or other vulnerabilities may face more routes to human trafficking victimization.

Given the profound lack of human trafficking data at local, state, and national levels, the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human trafficking is unknown. More data is needed to understand if and how human trafficking rates have changed across South Carolina, and how individual vulnerabilities have impacted rates of human trafficking victimization. At the state level, the Data Management & Research Subcommittee is working to bolster data collection efforts to better inform statewide response and initiatives to combat human trafficking, both in and beyond the pandemic. Nevertheless, while gaps in data remain amidst the ongoing pandemic, education and training on the potential vulnerabilities that can lead to human trafficking may aid overall human trafficking prevention and response efforts.

While the pandemic continues, the Task Force will continue to offer trainings, presentations, and meetings in a virtual format to accommodate safety concerns. Additionally, to address the ongoing need for online education, the State Task Force will continue adding to its Online Resource Library while also launching an online repository for recorded trainings, webinars, and presentations. The purpose of the repository will be to increase access to high-quality trainings among both the general public and specific industries who require specialized training on human trafficking. These resources, while key to the Task Force's continued pandemic response, will be increasingly beneficial post-COVID-19 as South Carolina expands its anti-trafficking efforts.

As 2020 ended, the challenges created by COVID-19 unfortunately continue. Nonetheless, the innovation, dedication, and creativity displayed by the anti-human trafficking efforts of Task Force members throughout the pandemic give hope for the future. The State Task Force remains confident in the ability of members statewide to continue protecting victims, prosecuting traffickers, and preventing the crime of human trafficking as the public health crisis continues.

## **VII. Task Force Initiatives**

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force seeks to engage in innovative initiatives each year to further anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. In 2020, the Task Force faced challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. While some plans were paused for future implementation, leadership was able to identify projects that would be beneficial to those working in the field as well as progress efforts in much-needed areas.

### **VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER CERTIFICATION FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROFESSIONALS**

The State Task Force, under the direction of the SC Office of the Attorney General, offered the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals (VSP-HT). The training was offered in September and October over five days with three hours of presentations on each day. The VSP-HT was held virtually and approximately 25 professionals completed the state-level certification. Leadership is appreciative of all those who presented during the 15 hour training.

### **STATEWIDE PUBLIC AWARENESS & OUTREACH**

In late 2020, the State Task Force prepared for a statewide public awareness and outreach initiative to begin in January 2021 during National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Throughout the month of January, as part of the Facts Matter campaign, there will be daily social media posts sharing human trafficking information with members of the virtual community. Furthermore, the Task Force will be launching a billboard campaign in four areas of the state, distributing both the mandated poster and new posters aligned with the campaign, and sharing brochures on the website for download. The goal is to educate communities across South Carolina about human trafficking through the use of accurate, reliably sourced information.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA: COVID-19 SURVEY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

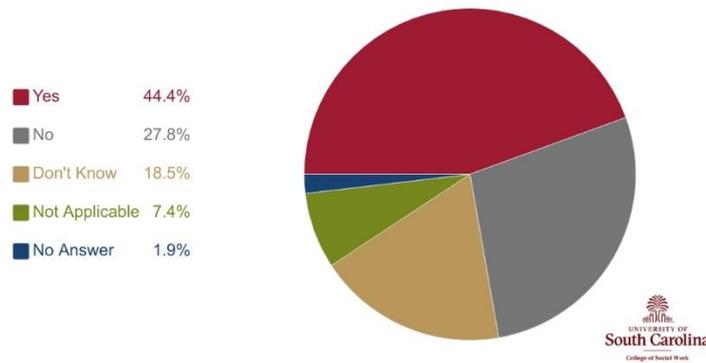
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Task Force formed a partnership with the University of South Carolina Master of Social Work program to design and disseminate a survey examining the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on service providers in the Task Force. The survey intended to capture trends in human trafficking victimization, understand any changes to service provision brought on by the pandemic, and provide additional information on demographic trends in human trafficking victims and survivors. The survey was distributed in October 2020 through the Task Force's service provider listserv.

It is important to note the limitations of this survey. There were 57 participants who responded to at least one question of the 27-item online survey. Of the 57 respondents, 45 self-identified as

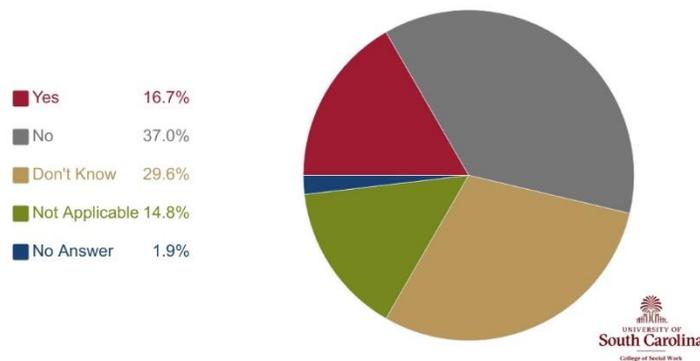
direct service providers and 12 self-identified as indirect service providers. However, three of the 57 were not counted in the data below due to insufficient responses or because the respondent's work did not pertain to human trafficking. Of the remaining 54 participants, there were often multiple respondents that submitted surveys on behalf of the same agency. Recognizing that the diverse work of responding agencies may mean that individuals within the same agency see different patterns of human trafficking victimization, the Task Force counted all responses as reflective of individual, not agency, opinions.

## SURVEY DATA

Have you seen an increased need for services to support victims/survivors of sex trafficking due to COVID-19?

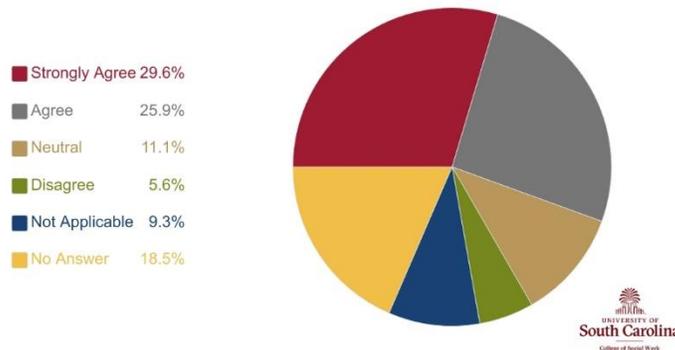


Have you seen an increased need for services to support victims/survivors of labor trafficking due to COVID-19?

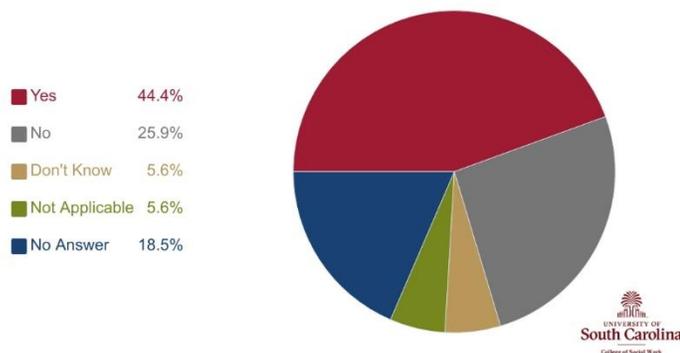


The data above reflect the disparity in services available for sex and labor trafficking. Twice as many service providers (14.8%) reported that they were unable to speak to a shift in the need for labor trafficking services because the services were ‘not applicable,’ compared to a smaller percentage (7.4%) who could not speak to a shift in the need for sex trafficking services. Likewise, a greater percentage (29.6%) reported that they did not know if there was an increased need for labor trafficking services, compared to the same question regarding sex trafficking services, where only 18.5% did not know. A far greater share of service providers (44.4%) said they saw an increased need for sex trafficking services. Only 16.7% of service providers reported that they saw an increased need for labor trafficking services.

COVID-19 has impacted the way in which our agency delivers services to human trafficking victims/survivors.



Have you seen an increase in victims/survivors of related forms of abuse, such as domestic violence or child abuse, due to COVID-19?



The data here reflect an array of responses to service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as potential changes in trends in related victimization, such as domestic violence or child abuse. The majority (55.5%) of service providers agreed that COVID-19 impacted their service delivery to some degree. Many service provider responses to the questionnaires later in this report give concrete examples of the particular protocols and methods that were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and promote safe service delivery. Regarding trends in related victimization, responses were also varied. While 44.4% of respondents reported they had seen an increase in related abuse, nearly a quarter (25.9%) reported that they had not. The combination of respondents who reported that they either did not know, did not find the question to be applicable to their work, or had no answer was large, representing 29.7% of respondents. It is important to note that this survey was sent out in October with responses collected in early November. This data therefore does not reflect the increase in COVID-19 cases that coincided with the holidays.

## CONCLUSION

While this data has significant limitations and represents only a small portion of South Carolina's anti-human trafficking response, it nevertheless provides a useful gauge for the ways in which the pandemic has impacted human trafficking across the state. As COVID-19 continues to spread in 2021, the State Task Force will work to bolster its data collection initiatives in order to augment this data. Efforts such as this will be needed at local, regional, and state levels to ensure that anti-human trafficking programs and initiatives are responsive to the reality of the crime on the ground, especially as the pandemic evolves.

The State Task Force plans to continue developing partnerships with institutions of higher education to engage both college-aged youth and educational institutions in combatting human trafficking. Though efforts to launch the Higher Education Initiative were paused in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Task Force is adapting its strategy to fit the pandemic environment so this program can move forward in the 2021. Once launched, the Higher Education Initiative will work to develop and provide human trafficking training and awareness materials, as well as guidance on the development of protocols to respond to potential human trafficking situations involving faculty, staff, and/or students. The aim of this initiative will be to ensure that systems within South Carolina's colleges and universities are prepared to prevent and protect against human trafficking.

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Nationwide, labor trafficking is an under discussed and underreported form of human trafficking. Relative to sex trafficking, labor trafficking is the subject of far fewer public awareness campaigns and trainings, which in turn hampers victim identification efforts. Low levels of victim identification translate into even lower numbers of labor trafficking cases brought forth. The failure to address labor trafficking in equal measure ultimately leaves victims and survivors

without critical services, often for months or years at a time. South Carolina in particular faces a dearth of labor trafficking-specific services, making it even more difficult for victims and survivors to find refuge.

To remedy these gaps in South Carolina, the State Task Force has placed high priority on anti-labor trafficking initiatives. The Task Force relaunched the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee in 2020 and began developing key initiatives to address this form of exploitation. This priority is shared by the Administration for Children and Families' Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group and the National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives. In 2020, both entities pledged independently to expand their efforts to combat labor trafficking.

The State Task Force's Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, chaired by the Department of Labor, coordinates anti-labor trafficking initiatives at the state level. In 2020, these initiatives included the development of labor trafficking-specific resources for the Task Force Online Resource Library and the inclusion of labor trafficking training in the 2020 VSP-HT webinars as well as other community presentations. In 2021, the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee plans to create and launch a publicly accessible webinar training on labor trafficking, develop labor trafficking public awareness campaigns, implement sector-specific labor trafficking trainings, and increase the collection of labor trafficking data. The goal of these initiatives is to bolster public engagement on the topic, increase labor trafficking victim identification, and equip Task Force members and the public to identify labor trafficking cases and serve survivors.

It is critical that anti-human trafficking programs at the local, state, and national levels adapt to fill the systemic gaps in labor trafficking response. By creating and promoting these initiatives, the State Task Force hopes to equalize the responses to sex and labor trafficking, and bolster criminal justice, victim service, and public education efforts that target labor trafficking.

## ONLINE RESOURCE LIBRARY

In the spring of 2020, the Task Force began developing materials for an online resource library in order to improve virtual human trafficking education and awareness during the COVID-19 crisis. The Online Resource Library launched in August and contains bilingual resources in English and Spanish on a variety of topics including human trafficking, sex & labor trafficking, and internet safety & human trafficking. These fact sheets are publicly available for download. They are designed to educate the public, augment Task Force members' online trainings, and reach Spanish-speaking community members.

The Task Force plans to continue adding resources to the library throughout 2021. The State Task Force has also uploaded recorded videos of its quarterly meetings to the Task Force website and will post future webinar trainings to the site as well. To house these resources, trainings, and recordings, the Task Force is working to launch a knowledge repository in 2021 to more efficiently centralize these materials. By making these fact sheets, resources, webinars, and meetings publicly accessible to the website, and eventually, to an online repository, the Task Force aims to reach a

broader audience with online learning opportunities and state updates. Though this approach was initially adopted to meet the unique needs of the ongoing pandemic, the State Task Force will continue to utilize online learning strategies beyond the COVID-19 crisis to expand the reach of its initiatives and engage wider, more diverse audiences.

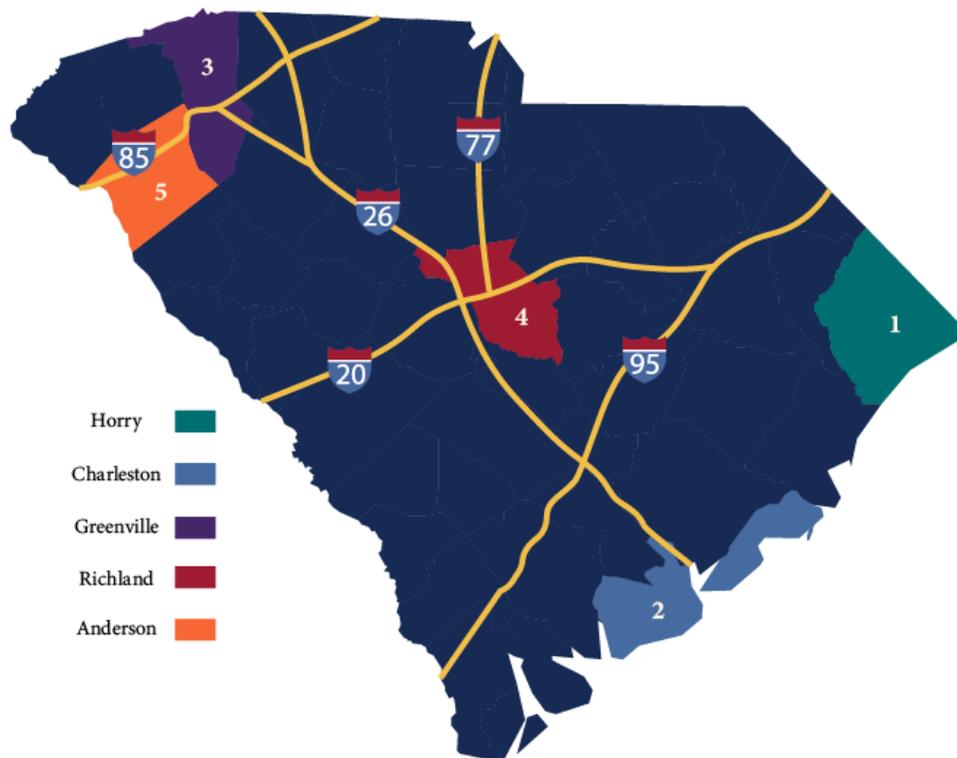
## VIII. National Human Trafficking Hotline Data

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force and the National Human Trafficking Hotline maintain an ongoing partnership. The Task Force promotes the use of the National Hotline, assists in effectively relaying tips to law enforcement in South Carolina, and vets direct service providers to prevent revictimization and connect victims and survivors to much-needed quality services. The National Hotline provides the Task Force with data that helps shape our statewide response to the crime as well as the development of support services for victims and survivors.

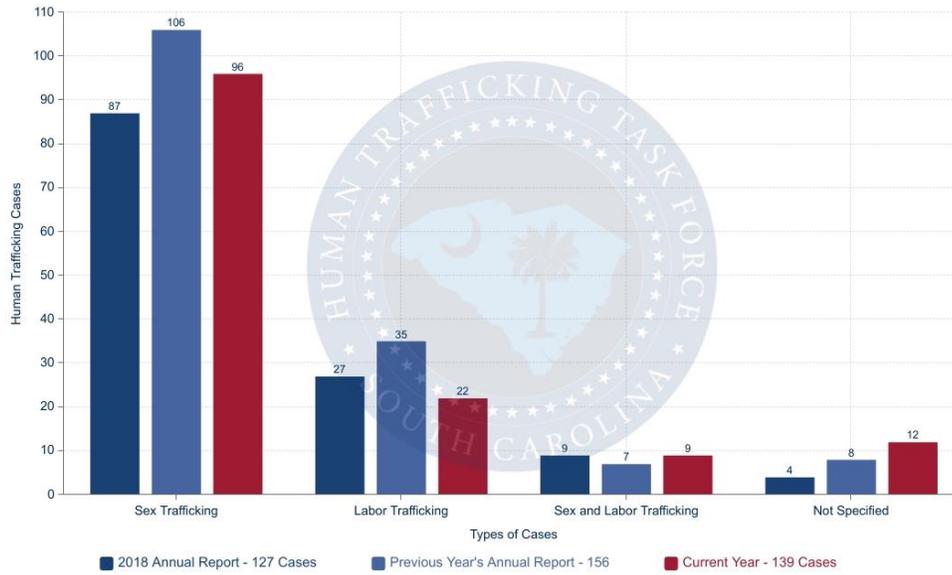
Given the complexities of maintaining and ensuring clean data, the National Human Trafficking Hotline provided 2019 statistics pertaining to human trafficking in South Carolina. The statistics provided *do not* represent a comprehensive report of trafficking cases in South Carolina throughout that period. They represent only signals and cases made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline during the time period. The statistics are accurate at the time of this report. However, situations of trafficking may be ongoing or new information may be revealed to the National Hotline at a later date. Consequently, statistics may be subject to change as new information emerges.

The charts below represent human trafficking cases with at least one location recorded in South Carolina. The numbers may differ from the numbers on the National Hotline website.

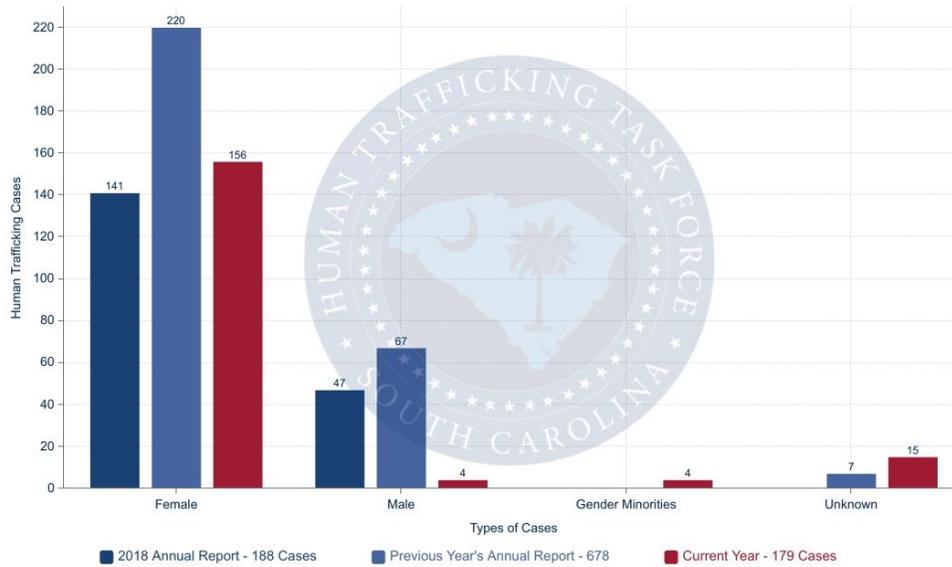
**Top 5 Counties for Reported Human Trafficking**



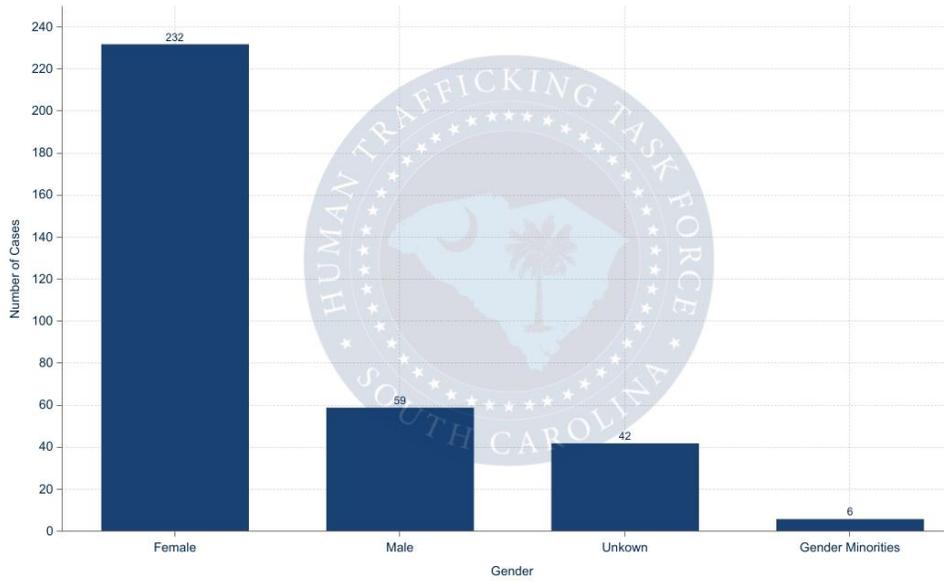
## Number of Human Trafficking Cases Reported in South Carolina



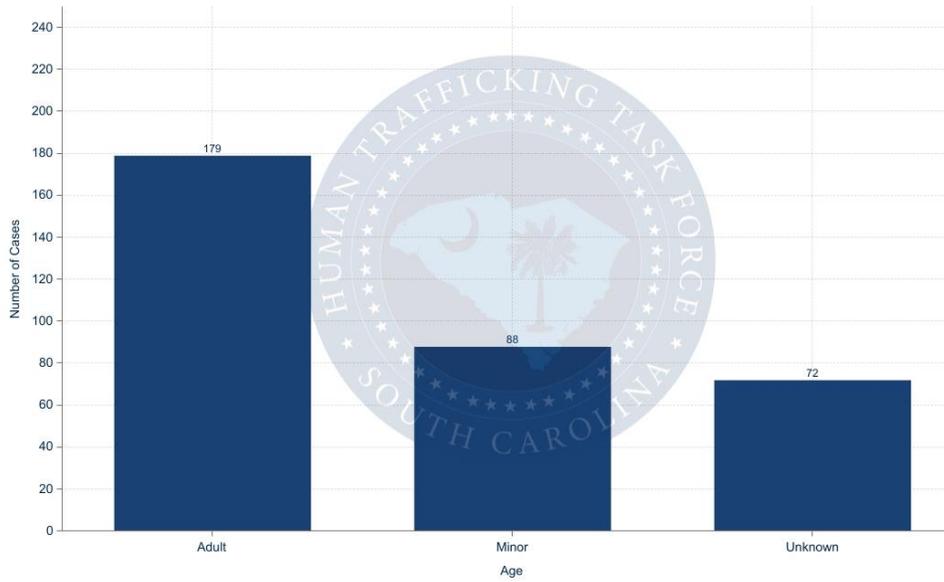
## Number of Human Trafficking Victims Recorded in South Carolina



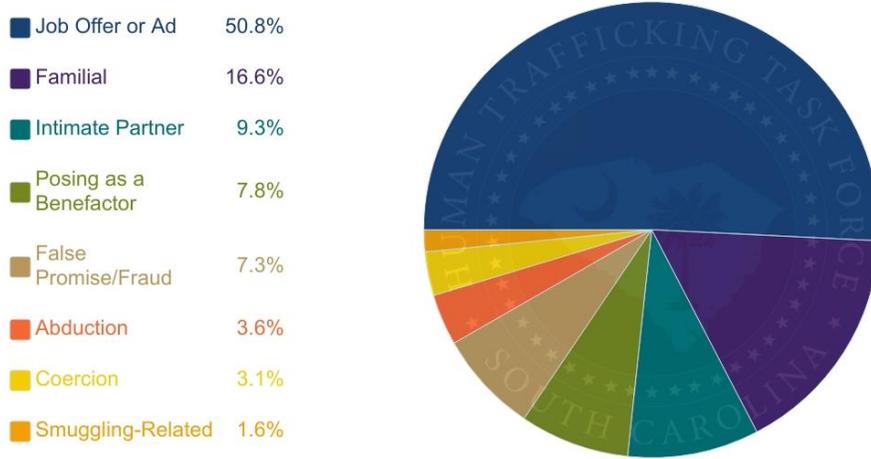
### Victim Demographics by Gender



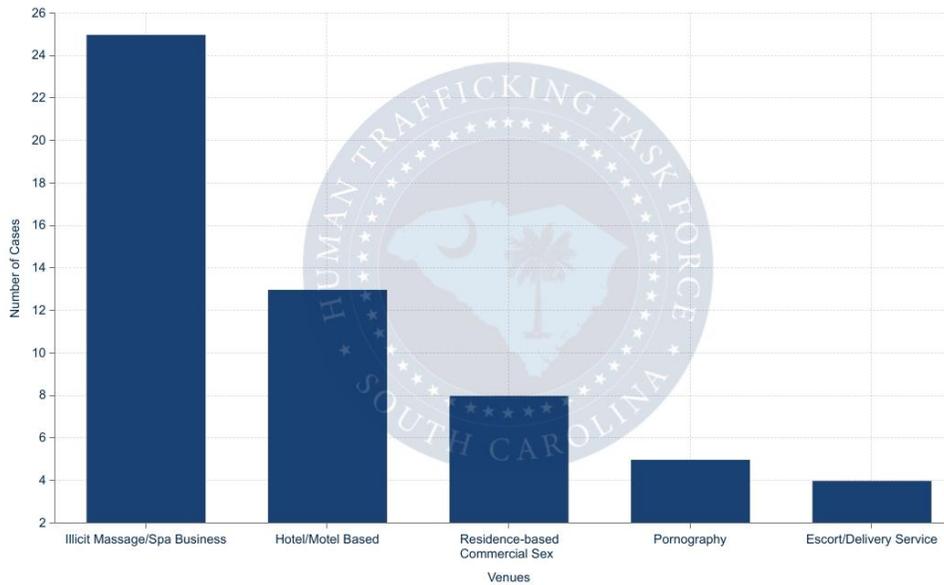
### Victim Demographics by Age



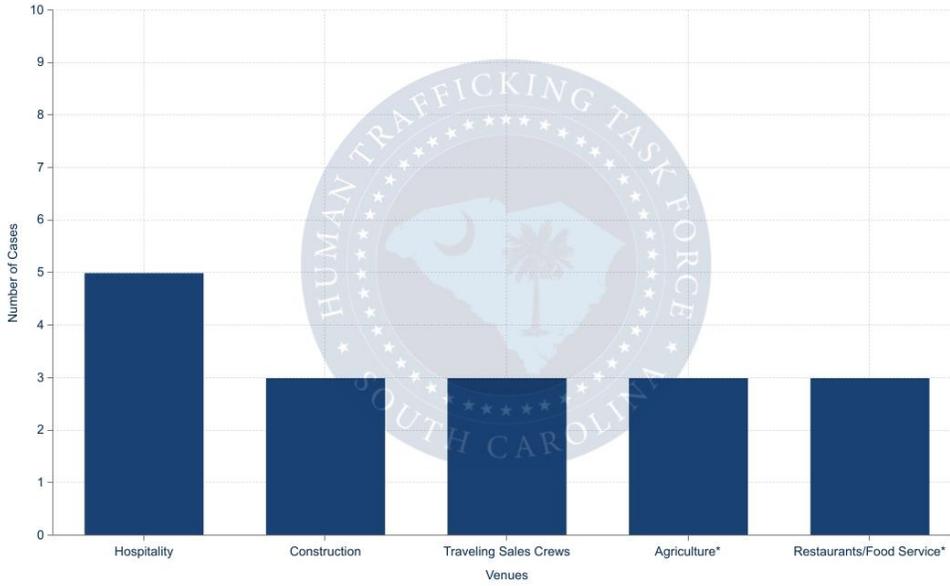
### Methods of Recruitment Top Listed Methods



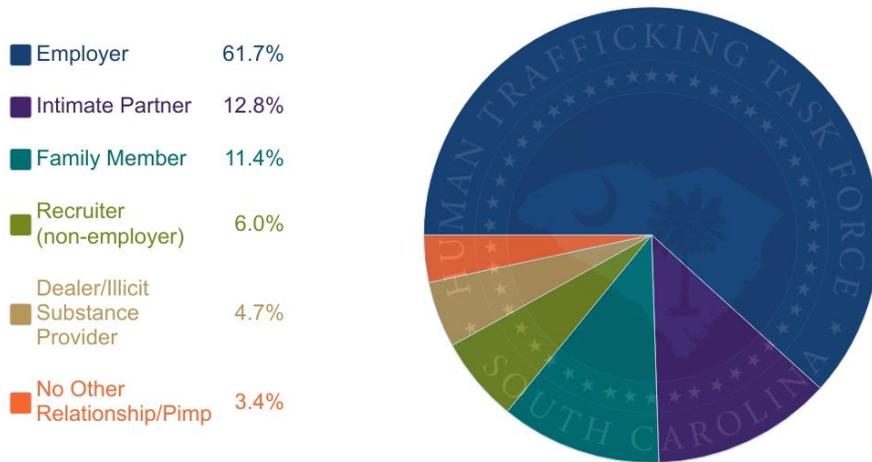
### Top Sex Trafficking Venues



### Top Labor Trafficking Venues



### Trafficker Relationship to Victim Top Listed Relationships



### Recruiter Relationship to Victim Top Listed Relationships

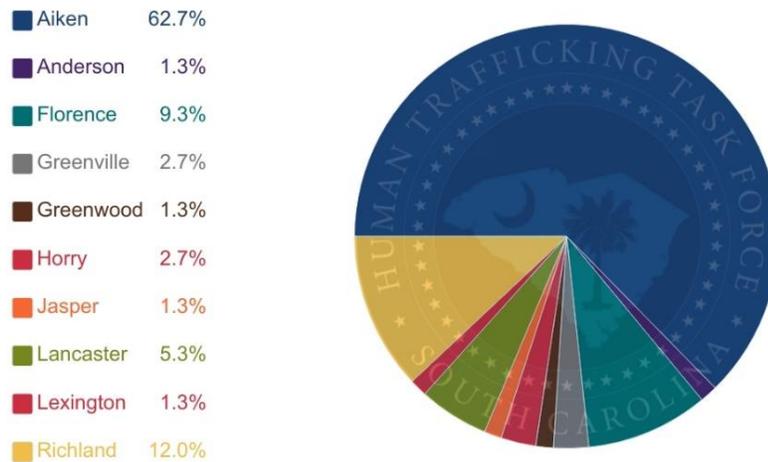
■ Labor Recruiter or Contractor	25.5%
■ Family Member or Caregiver	21.5%
■ Friend, Acquaintance, or Coworker	19.5%
■ Intimate Partner	12.8%
■ Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	8.7%
■ Another Victim of Trafficking	7.4%
■ Employer	4.7%



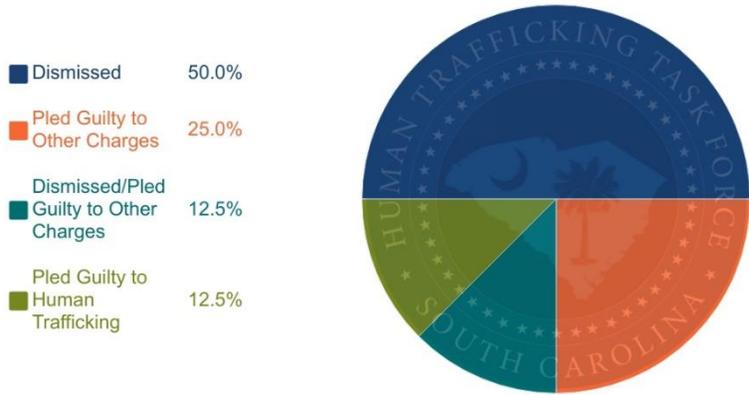
## IX. Court Data: Pending & Closed

In 2020, 10 different defendants were charged with human trafficking, some with more than one charge, totaling 13 charges of human trafficking in the South Carolina State Courts. Three defendants pled guilty in 2020 to charges related to trafficking. Five charges were dismissed, one because the defendant pled to a different charge for a total of eight cases closed. Local law enforcement worked with State and Federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases. The coordinated efforts resulted in successful investigations, even during the challenges of the pandemic. As of this report, there are 75 charges of human trafficking pending in South Carolina State Courts with 22 different defendants. While tips are starting to come in concerning labor trafficking, the pending charges all reflect sex trafficking allegations in South Carolina.

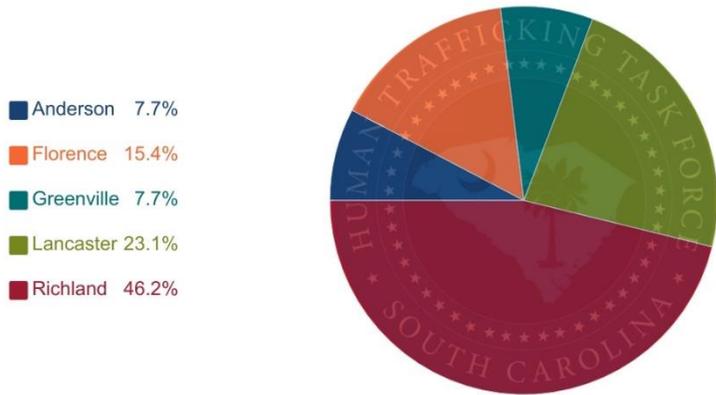
Human Trafficking Pending Cases  
by Charge



### Dispositions in Human Trafficking Cases in South Carolina



### Human Trafficking Cases Opened in South Carolina



### Human Trafficking Pending Cases by Defendant

■ Aiken	13.6%
■ Anderson	4.5%
■ Florence	4.5%
■ Greenville	9.1%
■ Greenwood	4.5%
■ Horry	9.1%
■ Jasper	4.5%
■ Lancaster	18.2%
■ Lexington	4.5%
■ Richland	27.3%



## **X. Highlighted Partnerships**

Each year, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, via the Attorney General’s Office, seeks opportunities to develop new partnerships while strengthening existing collaborations. Given obstacles faced by many industries in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-human trafficking efforts were unexpectedly interrupted to varying degrees.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force honors collaboration in its approach to combatting the crime and providing specialized services to victims and survivors. The goal of these partnerships is to ultimately aid in combatting human trafficking throughout South Carolina, the Southeast region, and our nation. In turn, such efforts will assist in building the capacity of law enforcement and other professional service providers to meet the specific needs of victims and survivors.

To effectively communicate and collaborate with partners across the nation, Attorney General Alan Wilson and his staff actively contribute to regional and national workgroups. While the following groups are focused on solving the complex challenges that factor into abolishing human trafficking, they vary in their approaches within the anti-human trafficking arena.

In 2021, the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General will continue its commitment to collaboration via participation in regional and national coalitions as well as maintaining and establishing new partnerships with those critical to efforts within South Carolina.

### NEW PARTNERSHIP



The South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA) works to enhance the quality of life for South Carolina’s senior population. SCDOA utilizes a network of local and regional organizations to provide services that promote senior citizens’ ability to live independently and remain in their communities.

In the fall of 2020, the State Task Force established a partnership with SCDOA. This partnership was formed with the recognition that while the aging population is particularly at-risk of human trafficking victimization, there are very few anti-human trafficking efforts underway in South Carolina to address their vulnerability. Together, SCDOA and the Task Force aim to share

resources, develop and implement trainings, and collaborate on additional efforts to ensure that South Carolina's aging population is educated on the issue of human trafficking and prepared to report any potential exploitation.

In 2021, the State Task Force and SCDOA will work to distribute human trafficking awareness magnets and brochures to approximately 19,000 individuals through SCDOA's Meals on Wheels initiative. The Task Force will also partner with the department to begin staggered human trafficking trainings for SCDOA staff throughout the spring and into the summer.



The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and insights on subjects of importance to the Attorneys General of the states, territories, and district. It fosters local, state, and federal engagement, cooperation, and communication on legal and law enforcement issues. It provides training, research, and analysis to members and their staff on a wide range of subjects relevant to the practice areas of the Attorneys General offices.

Attorneys General across the nation recognize that human trafficking is a scourge upon our communities. To proactively and collaboratively combat this crime, the Attorneys General have established the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee. The committee's goals are to investigate and promote best practices for combating human trafficking at the state level. Focus areas include law enforcement and prosecution strategies, educational outreach efforts, and alliances with partner agencies and non-governmental organizations.

As a longtime proponent of anti-human trafficking efforts and an active member of NAAG, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson continued to be a sitting member of the Human Trafficking Committee in 2020. The committee has compiled resources to help states abolish this crime and posted them on the national website ([www.naag.org](http://www.naag.org)). Along with Attorney General Wilson, the following Attorneys General have committed their offices to the cause of counter human trafficking by participating in the 2020 NAAG Human Trafficking Committee.

- **Attorney General Ashley Moody (FL), Co-Chair**
- **Attorney General Letitia A. James (NY), Co-Chair**
- Attorney General Sean Reyes (UT), Co-Chair
- Attorney General Chris Carr (GA)
- Attorney General Leevin T. Camacho (GU)
- Attorney General Clare E. Connors (HI)
- Attorney General Derek Schmidt (KS)
- Attorney General Brian Frosh (MD)

- Attorney General Maura Healey (MA)
- Attorney General Lynn Fitch (MS)
- Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem (ND)
- Attorney General Alan Wilson (SC)
- Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg (SD)
- Attorney General Ken Paxton (TX)
- Attorney General Bob Ferguson (WA)

**For more information, please contact:**

Janette Manning

NAGTRI Center for International Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration Director

National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute

National Association of Attorneys General

[jmanning@naag.org](mailto:jmanning@naag.org)



#### REGION IV - SOUTHEAST LEADERSHIP ADVISORY GROUP

The US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region IV office in Atlanta coordinates the Southeast Leadership Advisory Group representing eight states. Representatives from each of the participating states, namely state task force leads and other state agency representatives, typically meet four times a year. With two meetings hosted by member states and two meetings via conference call, the group regularly discusses pressing issues in the anti-human trafficking field. The eight states who participate in this coalition include: South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In 2020, the Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group met once via conference call after the pandemic had impacted all eight states. The states were joined by members of federal agencies and national partners. Discussions focused on the impact of the pandemic on service providers, state agencies, and efforts at the national level. The second meeting was scheduled to be held in Mississippi, but was canceled as a result of unsafe traveling conditions.

Throughout 2020, Advisory Group's Guide on Best Practices, released in 2018, continued to be a useful tool in efforts at the state-level in South Carolina. Specifically, it helps guide training and conversations around safe, quality care for victims and survivors of human trafficking. The State Task Force has made the resource available on its website and integrated the information into a section of the South Carolina Victim Service Provider certification for human trafficking professionals, the first of its kind in the nation. The guide continues to help influence those providing direct services as they seek to improve or further develop services for victims and

survivors. The resource can be found on the State Task Force website at [humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov).

The lead representative from South Carolina in 2020 continued to be Kathryn Moorehead of the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs/South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. Megan Rigabar, Human Trafficking Program Assistant at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, also represents the state and contributes to the groups projects. In 2021, representation will likely include delegates from other state agencies and Task Force subcommittee leaders. 2021 meetings of the Southeast Leadership Advisory Group are to be determined as the pandemic is continually monitored to ensure safety of its members.

#### GUIDANCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND AWARENESS

In 2020, the Region IV Southeast Leadership Advisory Group identified the need for greater consistency and standardization within state and regional human trafficking training and awareness efforts. This need was only amplified with the proliferation of viral online content on human trafficking in the summer of 2020. To address these issues, the Advisory Group collaborated to create a two-page document outlining key questions to guide training and awareness efforts, potential components to include in awareness and training initiatives, and additional important considerations and supplemental materials to aid advocates in developing this work.

The resulting document, “Guidance on Human Trafficking Training and Awareness,” was created by a training workgroup within the broader Advisory Group which consisted of representatives from South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida. Megan Rigabar, Human Trafficking Program Assistant at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, represented South Carolina in providing design assistance and content feedback. Once drafted, the document was edited and reviewed by all states in Advisory Group. Please see below for the final resource.

# GUIDANCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND AWARENESS



## Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group

Training and awareness on human trafficking are key to building capacity for communities to comprehensively address the issue. While training and awareness efforts on both sex and labor trafficking have existed for some time, guidance on structure, content, and important considerations has been limited. High quality training and awareness is necessary to ensure that information is accurate, survivor-centered, and helpful to the field; it also removes the harm caused by sensationalism or perpetuation of myths.

Human trafficking is a complex issue by nature, making it particularly important to maintain accuracy and clarity in all public education efforts. This tool provides a list of questions, considerations, and resources that should be addressed prior to initiating training or awareness initiatives. This resource is for all entities, including those currently engaged and those intending to engage in efforts to address human trafficking.

### Before initiating a training, ask the following questions:

- Are there any state/federally-recognized task forces or other vetted local organizations I can connect with to provide training in my community? If not, is there an expert I can partner with to review my training/awareness materials?
- Are there any state guidelines or requirements around providing human trafficking training?
- What are the local laws addressing human trafficking in my/this state?
- What is the intended audience and intended outcome of this effort?

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

### Awareness events and messaging include:

- Basic information sharing on the issue
- Messaging addressing a general audience
- Goals include:
  - Increasing public awareness of the nature and scope of human trafficking
  - Generating community support
  - Sharing resources on reporting cases and accessing services
- **Examples:** Brochures, posters,\* public service announcements, general education, and billboards
- **Considerations:**
  - Will this awareness effort bring helpful support and attention to enhance local efforts?
  - Is this awareness project duplicative of existing local efforts?
  - Are statistics or data being represented accurately and are the sources reliable and well-documented?
  - Do awareness materials utilize appropriate language/imagery and represent diverse populations?

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING

### Training events and messaging include:

- In-depth, skills-based information to improve systems, services, practices.
- Messaging addressing a targeted audience
- Requires presenters to be trained prior to facilitation
- Sector-specific training requires a facilitator partnership with someone from that sector
- **Example:** Training for law enforcement (LE) is facilitated or co-led by LE, includes sound data and guidance for the role of LE, and teaches skills to LE officers to better identify & respond to human trafficking.
- **Considerations:**
  - Are there experienced trainers (within the applicable sector) in the community that are able to provide this training?
  - Are training resources from reliable sources?
  - Does training include information on state requirements for reporting human trafficking and how to access services?

# GUIDANCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND AWARENESS



Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group

## Important Considerations for Human Trafficking Training and Awareness

Follow the links to see additional information on each consideration.

- [Survivor-centered and survivor-informed training and awareness](#)
- [Federal definition of sex and labor trafficking](#)
- [State legal definitions of human trafficking](#)
- [Venues in which human trafficking occurs](#)
- [Routes to human trafficking victimization](#)
- [Myths and misconceptions surrounding human trafficking](#)
- [Problematic imagery and language: sensationalizing and reinforcing false narratives](#)
- [Data and statistics usage](#)
- [Victim/survivor protection and confidentiality \(if citing cases\)](#)
- [Conflation of intersecting issues](#)
- [Cultural sensitivity and addressing marginalized populations](#)

## SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

The following national resources can provide further guidance in the development of human trafficking training and awareness materials.

- ✓ [Administration for Children and Families Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group: Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)
- ✓ [\\*Office on Trafficking in Persons: Look Beneath the Surface Resources](#) (posters, brochures, etc.)
- ✓ [Office on Trafficking in Persons: SOAR Resources](#)
- ✓ [Trafficking Matters: Resources to Combat Human Trafficking](#)
- ✓ [Office on Trafficking in Persons: Definitions and Principles to Inform Human Trafficking Prevention](#)
- ✓ [HEAL Trafficking Webinar: How should we talk about human trafficking statistics?](#)
- ✓ [National Human Trafficking Hotline: "The Victims"](#)
- ✓ [Office of Victims of Crime: Task Force E-Guide](#)

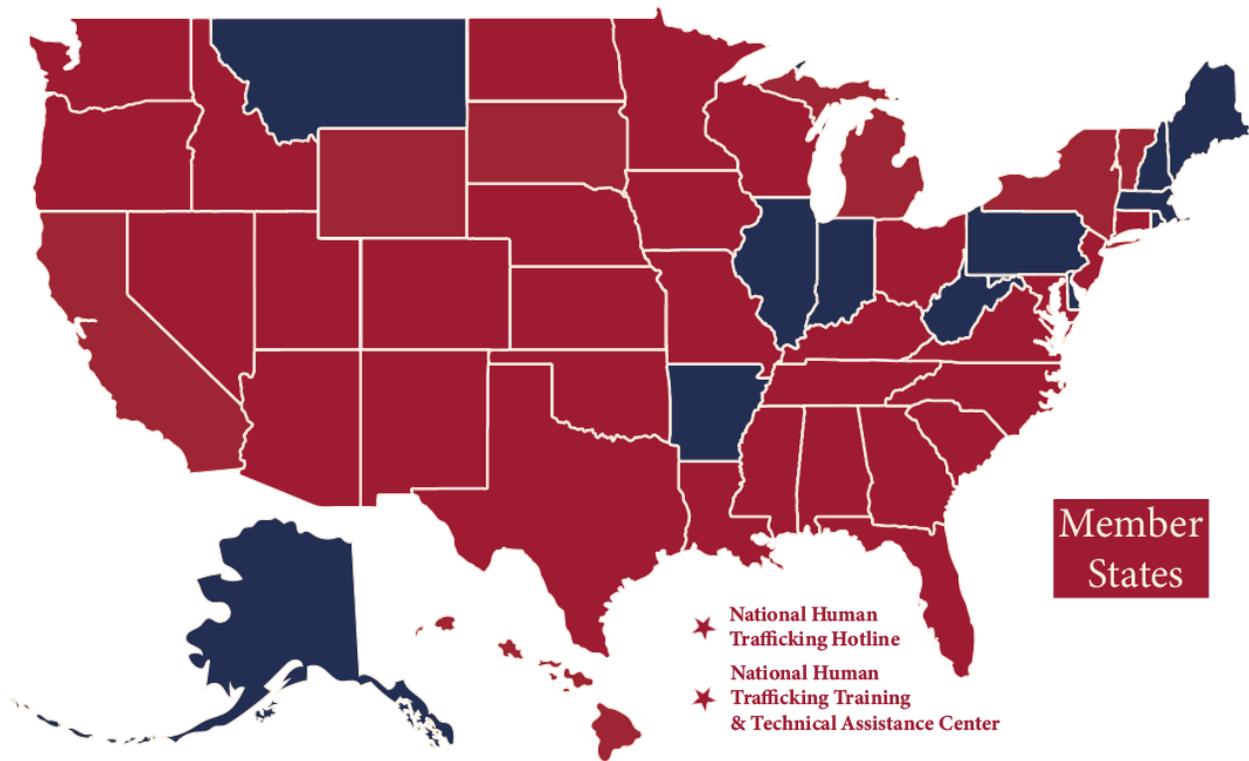
## WHO WE ARE

The **Administration for Children and Families Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group** has convened since 2016. This multidisciplinary group includes members from each of the eight Southeast Region states representing areas such as child welfare, juvenile justice, direct service providers, advocacy organizations, Attorneys General offices, state task forces, and other government agencies.

The **Region IV Advisory Group** seeks to advance anti-human trafficking efforts at the regional level by coordinating state strategic responses, sharing best practices, and improving service provision to survivors of labor and sex trafficking.

**Member States:** Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

**Prior Field Guidance:** [Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking \(2018\)](#)



## NATIONAL COMPENDIUM OF STATE-RUN ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES

A growing number of statewide initiatives have been created across the country that are generally housed within a state government agency. The National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives is a group of professionals, primarily operating at the state level, who work on human trafficking issues and inform state-level policy decisions on how to address the crime. The National Compendium is designed as an opportunity for leaders to share ideas with one another to boost anti-human trafficking efforts both nationally and within their own states. It is led by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs.

Currently, the National Compendium is composed of 37 states and two national agencies. South Carolina remains an active member. Kathryn Moorehead, Coordinator of the State Task Force, joined four other state leaders on the first Steering Committee of the National Compendium. The other states represented in the Steering Committee include North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Nevada. Each member will serve on the committee for two year terms.

The National Compendium meets throughout the year via e-meetings to discuss goals, challenges, resources, and other relevant topics that relate to the collective efforts of the states. In 2020, the meetings occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting topics included the following:

## 2020 NATIONAL COMPENDIUM MEETING NOTES

### FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

#### Steering Committee Update & Plans for 2020 Meetings

- Announce Steering Committee Members:
  - Nicole O'Banion, Nevada Office of the Attorney General
  - Christine Long, North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission
  - Sophia Papadimos, Ohio Dept. of Public Safety
  - Kathryn Moorehead, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
  - Julie Braun, Wisconsin Department of Justice
- Plans for 2020 Meetings
- Labor Trafficking Presentations
  - Labor Trafficking Protocol in MN (Advocates for Human Rights, MN)
  - Work in the Agriculture Sector: Seven Initiatives and Partnerships with State Agencies (Buffett-McCain Institute to Combat Modern Slavery, TX)
  - Farm Labor Contractors (Project NO REST, NC)

### MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

- Response from Federal Partners on Compendium COVID-19 Questions and Recommendations (OTIP, DOJ, DHS)
- Discussion of "What challenges have you encountered in your work to address human trafficking in your state during this pandemic and how did you overcome those obstacles?"

### AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

- Presentation on "Crisis in Human Trafficking During the Pandemic" (Polaris)
- Presentation on Impact of COVID-19 on Online Commercial Sex Marketplaces (Childsafe.ai)
- Human Trafficking Training and Survivor Engagement in a Virtual Environment (Colorado Dept. of Public Safety & Ohio Dept. of Public Safety)
- Virtual Case Management (Awaken, NV)

### NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

- National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (OTIP, NHTTAC, Bakhita Empowerment Initiative)
- News Coverage of Human Trafficking: Obstacles and Opportunities (The Irina Project, NC)
- Best Practices for Public Awareness Campaigns (NC Human Trafficking Commission & CO Department of Public Safety)



**The National Human Trafficking Hotline** and BeFree Textline (hereto referred to as “the hotline”) is the nationwide anti-human trafficking hotline and resource center serving victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community in the United States. Since 2007, it has been run by Polaris, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization.

The hotline provides human trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and services to get help and stay safe. They also equip the anti-human trafficking community with tools to effectively combat human trafficking. The hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help. Through the hotline, Polaris also provides innovative anti-trafficking trainings, technical assistance, and capacity building support.

#### **FORMAL PARTNERSHIP**

In May 2017, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, formalized its partnership with Polaris to strengthen statewide capacity to respond to and support victims/survivors. By entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, both parties officially recognized the importance of collaboration to identify and serve victims, promote greater public awareness, and increase the skills and capacity of law enforcement and professional service providers in understanding and responding to human trafficking in South Carolina.

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, under the leadership of the State Task Force Coordinator, continued to work in partnership with the organization throughout 2020. Specifically, collaboration was primarily in relation to the state’s connection to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Our partnership continues to effectively position stakeholders in South Carolina to better respond to potential incidents of human trafficking and provide victims and survivors access with much-needed services. Efforts include continuing to ensure law enforcement receives time sensitive tips for investigation and direct service providers are better accessed to help guarantee that victims are connected with safe, quality services.



In 2015, the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, as Chair of the State Task Force, established a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to collaborate on anti-human trafficking efforts through the Blue Campaign.

The Blue Campaign is DHS's unified voice for agency efforts to combat human trafficking through public awareness and education. The partnership between DHS and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force continued throughout 2020. In 2021, we are committed to working in collaboration to bring much-needed awareness about human trafficking to citizens of South Carolina and share resources available through the campaign that may benefit widespread efforts.

To alert community advocates to the resources available through the Blue Campaign, the State Task Force has chosen to highlight the Human Trafficking Awareness Month initiatives led by DHS. For more information, please visit their website and view their Facebook page or Twitter account at DHS Blue Campaign. These sites will provide added insight into available resources, online training opportunities, and other initiatives.

We would like to note that January 11<sup>th</sup> is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and the Blue Campaign is encouraging those committed to abolishing human trafficking to bring awareness to the cause by wearing blue, taking photos of themselves, friends, and/or co-workers and sharing these images on social media accompanied with #wearblueday.

For more information and resources, please visit:

[www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)



It is well known within the anti-human trafficking movement that the Internet is a tool frequently used in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Internet must be monitored, and innovative technology continuously developed, if we are to protect our children from predators. To this effect, law enforcement requires access to resources and training in how to utilize ever-evolving technology.

Thorn is a unique nonprofit leveraging technology to combat child sexual exploitation. They are partnered with international NGOs and technology volunteers to stop the spread of child sexual abuse material and combat child traffickers who utilize the Internet in their crimes. Their work is guided by three principals: accelerate victim identification, equip platforms, and empower the public.

In 2015, Thorn built a technological tool, Spotlight, to help law enforcement identify child sex trafficking victims and arrest their abusers. Currently, officers in all 50 states and Canada leverage

the tool in their investigations and have helped to identify at least 14,874 child victims of human trafficking in the past four years. The technology identifies ten children per day on average, generating more than a 60% reduction in search time. Ultimately, Spotlight has equipped law enforcement to tackle more cases of child sexual exploitation within a shorter time frame.

To actualize a vision where all of South Carolina's law enforcement agencies are equipped to monitor the Internet for child sex trafficking, the State Task Force continued its collaboration with Thorn in 2020. To expand access and use of Thorn's Spotlight technology throughout South Carolina, information on Spotlight has been incorporated into law enforcement trainings. In January 2021, the Task Force will continue to bring awareness to the benefits of using Spotlight in investigations by hosting a training led by Thorn that will center on the newest updates to the technology as well as investigative benefits that have resulted from these changes.

For more information, please visit:

[www.wearethorn.org](http://www.wearethorn.org)



**Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST)** is a network of multidisciplinary attorneys across South Carolina who provide high-quality pro bono legal counsel and direct representation for survivors of trafficking. Through a case-by-case model, LAST works to secure justice for individual clients and to shape a justice system in our state that works for survivors of human trafficking.

LAST was formed in 2017 with a goal of providing every survivor of human trafficking in South Carolina access to high quality, trauma-informed legal representation. The model of LAST is to perform intake, screening, and placement of legal needs for survivors with trained pro bono counsel. LAST also equips the private bar to participate through statewide public engagements and Continuing Legal Education trainings, and through technical legal assistance and mentorship once matters are assigned to pro bono attorneys.

**For more information, please contact:**

[last.southcarolina@gmail.com](mailto:last.southcarolina@gmail.com)



Human traffickers are increasingly targeting an especially vulnerable population: those with intellectual and physical disabilities. There have been grotesque examples in South Carolina of this crime perpetrated against disabled individuals. Knowledge of these crimes drew the attention of the Task Force leadership and motivated its increased focus in this area. In 2018, the Attorney General's Coordinator of the State Task Force became a member and representative of South Carolina on the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Work Group (NHTDWG).

The mission of the Work Group is to prevent the trafficking of individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals and to advance the health and well-being of trafficking survivors with disabilities and deaf survivors of trafficking through research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and training.

In 2020, the State Task Force continued efforts to recruit others in South Carolina who have an interest in joining state and national efforts to prevent individuals with disabilities from becoming victims. Additionally, the Task Force is engaging those interested in advocating on behalf of this population and shaping needed policy changes through the newly formed Advisory Council.

**For more information, please email:**

[NHTDWG@iofa.org](mailto:NHTDWG@iofa.org)



The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General and the South Carolina Trucking Association (SCTA) partnered in January of 2018 along with Truckers Against Trafficking for the first Coalition Build in South Carolina. Law enforcement from 26 agencies joined trucking industry workers in Columbia to learn about human trafficking, learn how to respond to potential incidents, and create a network ready to help combat this crime throughout our state. On the same day, Attorney General Wilson announced that the South Carolina Trucking Association was officially

joining the State Task Force to continue highlighting the need to combat human trafficking in the trucking industry.

The South Carolina Trucking Association is a nonprofit trade organization that represents all the various parties constituting South Carolina's vibrant trucking industry. The association was first formed in the 1930s when truck operators found it necessary to do collectively what they could not do individually. Since its inception, the SCTA has been dedicated to the protection, support, and enrichment of its collective membership, while promoting good public policy. The SCTA mission is to advocate, educate and collaborate for successful trucking operations in South Carolina.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.sctrucking.org](http://www.sctrucking.org)



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2018 with the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). The MOU officially welcomed the Hospital Association as a member of the State Task Force and recognized their commitment to supporting efforts to educate medical care providers across South Carolina about the complexities of human trafficking. This includes supporting specialized training efforts that center around the official state protocol for medical providers that was completed by the Task Force Healthcare Providers Subcommittee. The trainings will help those in the field identify potential victims and learn how to best respond to their needs. The Task Force continues to value its partnership with the Hospital Association and the impact our combined efforts will have on victims and survivors in South Carolina.

SCHA is a private, not-for-profit organization made up of some 100 member hospitals and health systems and about 900 personal members associated with their institutional members. The SCHA was created in 1921 to serve as the collective voice of the state's hospital community. The Association is proud to be a part of the state's hospital industry, adding value to efforts to care for the people of South Carolina. By helping to keep South Carolina's hospitals healthy, they are helping to keep our state healthy.

SCHA's mission is to support its member hospitals in creating a world-class health care delivery system for the people of South Carolina by fostering high quality patient care and serving as effective advocates for the hospital community. Their vision is that South Carolina's hospitals will

be national leaders in improving the quality and safety of patient care, and that SCHA will be a national leader in advocacy. SCHA's credo is 'we are stronger together than apart.'

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.scha.org](http://www.scha.org)



Nationally, professionals in the anti-human trafficking arena have recognized that vulnerable populations are most often targeted by traffickers. This includes Indigenous people who may be living in rural areas of the country and struggling to financially sustain themselves and their families. In 2018, the State Task Force partnered with the Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina to support Indigenous citizens of South Carolina through human trafficking awareness efforts. A goal was established to help prevent and protect human trafficking in their tribal communities and implemented in part during 2019.

The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina is a subcommittee under the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission. While the Commission focuses on unity among Native Americans, the Alliance focuses on serving Indigenous women in or from South Carolina. The primary goal is to support Indigenous women by bringing attention to issues such as human trafficking, intimate partner violence, and inadequate access to justice. The Alliance promotes skills such as advocacy, healthy living, and leadership.

**For more information, please contact:**

Bobbie Mauldin Spires, Chairperson, Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina

[Indigenouswomenofsc@gmail.com](mailto:Indigenouswomenofsc@gmail.com)

Instagram: @indigenouswomensallianceofsc

Facebook: South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force formally began its partnership with the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association in 2019. The goal is to bring awareness to the

members of the association regarding both sex and labor trafficking and to better position the hospitality industry to respond to incidents within their establishments.

The South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association (SCRLA) was formed in 2012 when the South Carolina Hotel & Motel Association and the South Carolina Restaurant Association merged into a single organization. SCRLA is a statewide, non-partisan trade organization. Their mission is to promote, protect, and educate the foodservice and lodging industries of the state and to ensure positive business growth for our members. SCRLA strives to represent the best interest of its members on small business issues, hospitality, and tourism concerns and towards the protection of South Carolina's quality of life.

The SCRLA mission is to provide superior value and effective communication by being the voice of the foodservice and lodging industry in government and public relations, offering operational benefits, and creating opportunities for educational opportunities and member involvement.

The South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association represents over 2,200-member restaurant and lodging companies and industry-related service providers. It is these members that help make the hospitality industry South Carolina's largest employer and one of the state's most politically active and public service-oriented industries.

**For more information about the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association, please visit:**

[www.scrsla.org](http://www.scrsla.org)



The South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association pledged their commitment in November of 2019 to help combat human trafficking in our state by partnering with the State Task Force. In 2020, the Association distributed posters across the state to help bring awareness of the crime as well as information on how to report an incident or seek help through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The delivery trucks had signage posted on them throughout January, National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, to further expose the public to the hotline number. Furthermore, the Task Force began training 16 distributors across the state about human trafficking, how to respond safely, and the best response protocols specific to their industry. Some

of the trainings were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities for future trainings will be available once the best method is confirmed.

The purpose of the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association is to provide leadership which enhances the independent malt beverage wholesale industry, to advocate on behalf of its members before government and the public, to encourage the responsible consumption of beer, and to provide programs and services that will enhance members' efficiency and effectiveness.

South Carolina's beer wholesalers operate in a unique regulatory environment that was established by the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the federal and state governments in the wake of the repeal of prohibition. Beer wholesalers occupy the middle tier of a three-tier system established for the distribution and sale of beer. This system was designed to insulate retailers from control by suppliers, encourage moderation in consumption, guarantee full collection of state and federal taxes, and permit states to impose rules and regulations on the licensed beverage industry that reflect their own practices and beliefs. This three-tier system has far exceeded its creators' expectations. It is highly efficient and extremely responsive to local concerns.

**For more information about the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, please visit:**  
[www.scbwa.com](http://www.scbwa.com)



In 2019, the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force met with representatives of the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to foster a relationship that would influence the state's response to foreign national victims in need of support services. The Task Force hopes to create a systemic response to connecting victims and survivors with safe, quality programming.

In 2020, USCRI hoped to coordinate with the Attorney General's Office to meet with direct service providers in South Carolina who would like to expand or develop programs to reach this population. The meeting was intended to feature opportunities for fiscal support as well as training on the requirements to receive ongoing funding and technical support. It is hoped that the meeting will be rescheduled in 2021 to position more organizations to provide much-needed services. Meanwhile, the State Task Force works with the Committee to connect victims and survivors with needed services in communities across South Carolina.

For over 100 years, the USCRI has advanced the rights and lives of those who have lost or left their homes. They believe we have a shared responsibility to clear obstacles and uncover opportunities for people everywhere. They achieve these goals by providing support to refugees, immigrants, unaccompanied migrating children, and victims of human trafficking.

USCRI administers the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) through the following grant awards: 90ZV0136, 90ZV0135, 90ZV0137. TVAP helps foreign national survivors of human trafficking achieve HHS certification and provides trauma-informed, person-centered, comprehensive case management services, facilitating timely access to vital services necessary to stabilize and re-establish their ability to live independently.

Services include emergency assistance, safety planning, basic needs (food, clothing), and access to legal services, housing, health, education, language instruction, etc. USCRI oversees the implementation of TVAP program operations and delivery of services working with a network of over 200 sub-recipients nationwide (including the five U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands). USCRI supports TVAP service providers with ongoing training and technical assistance to equip them with the skills, resources, and tools needed to provide the highest quality of services.

For more information on the USCRI TVAP Program, or to learn how to become a TVAP partner, please contact USCRI at [traffickingvictims@uscrdc.org](mailto:traffickingvictims@uscrdc.org)

To learn more about human trafficking, HHS certification, TVAP eligibility, and other federal resources, please visit: [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force has engaged with Shared Hope International throughout the years, namely through members attending the annual conference focused on issues related to juvenile sex trafficking. In 2019-2020, the relationship between the Task Force and Shared Hope grew and strengthened as a result of combined efforts.

#### RESEARCH TO ACTION

In 2019, Shared Hope International extended an invitation to the Coordinator of the State Task Force to attend a convening of national experts working in the anti-human trafficking movement. The first Research to Action meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona in April 2019. Stakeholders discussed obstacles and best practices in providing services to victims and survivors. There were

breakout sessions based on fields of expertise and the event ended with the reconvening of the larger group.

Following this convening, Shared Hope conducted a nationwide survey seeking a broad range of perspectives on issues in the anti-human trafficking field, including the implementation of laws focused on minor sex trafficking. There were over 200 responses to their survey. Shared Hope utilized the responses from the national outreach, along with input in Research to Action meetings, to develop a new legislative framework for grading state legislation.

Stakeholders were again invited to attend the follow-up Research to Action meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in October of 2019. The Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force was asked to present on a panel at the event. The panel focused on the diversity of approaches taken by states and identifying potential solutions and steps in meeting the challenges of connecting youth to appropriate services.

As a final step in developing the new Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework, Research to Action stakeholders were consulted to review and provide feedback on the draft framework.

#### REPORT CARDS ON CHILD & YOUTH SEX TRAFFICKING: ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

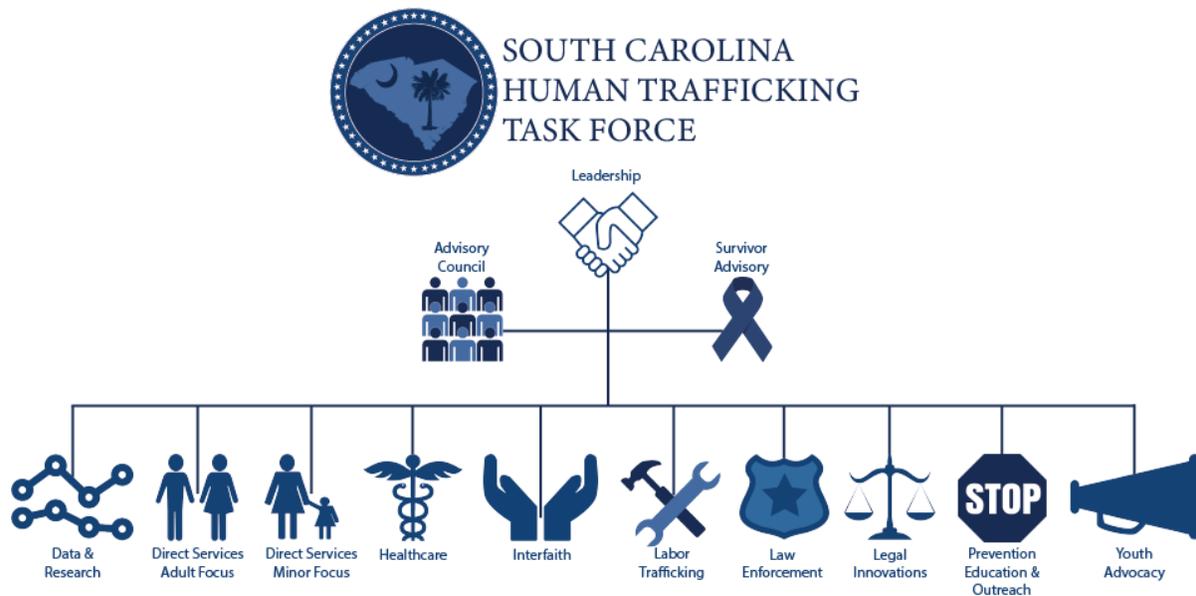
Shared Hope International did not review each state's legislation and give report cards in 2020. After the aforementioned meetings with national experts, nationwide outreach via a survey, and review by stakeholders, Shared Hope released the new Report Card on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework in November of 2020.

The new framework analyzes 40 legal components for each state and the District of Columbia and groups the laws into the following policy areas:

- Criminal Provisions
- Identification of and Response to Victims
- Continuum of Care
- Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors
- Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response
- Prevention and Training

The new criteria for grading states will be implemented in the fall of 2021.

# XI. State Task Force Subcommittees



## RESTRUCTURING OF SUBCOMMITTEES

In 2020, the State Task Force began modifications to existing subcommittee structures and goals to align with the new Strategic Response Model. The model will help ensure that state-level efforts are best coordinated to benefit the multiple sectors working to prevent and respond to human trafficking in South Carolina. Some of the subcommittees were more heavily adjusted to provide greater logistical oversight within their professional specialty areas. The restructuring will allow for the aforementioned logistical oversight, but also position more service providers throughout the state with an opportunity to build stronger networks and share resources.

There are three subcommittees that are still in the process of restructuring with partial new member recruitment and goal setting. We hope to have these subcommittees finalized in their composition in early 2021. This will allow for increased efforts within the areas of focus.



## LEADERSHIP

**Mission:** The Leadership Committee positions the State Task Force subcommittee and regional task force leaders to unite in an effort to prioritize initiatives, support legislation, and discuss other relevant topics that impact the larger anti-human trafficking movement in South Carolina.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** The Leadership Subcommittee is composed of the chairs of the 12 State Task Force subcommittees as well as the chairs of the nine regional task forces.

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:**

Kathryn Moorehead, Director, VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

[kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov) and 803-734-0306

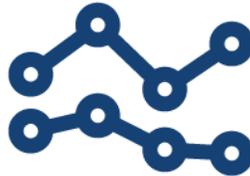
### SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020:
In 2020, many professionals in the anti-human trafficking movement were able to transition to either remote work or stricter policies within their organizations. The oddity of the new landscape provided opportunities for unique forms of communication as well as discussions about needed modifications to existing subcommittees. Regional task forces focused on the needs of their members and shared ideas as to how the State Task Force could support effort within their communities. Many of the new forms of communication resulted in improvements that will better equip leaders across the state as they continue their efforts to combat human trafficking and provide needed services to victims and survivors.
Please describe any challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020:
The most obvious challenge faced by the Leadership Subcommittee was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after the March 2020 Task Force meeting, many faced unexpected challenges in adapting to the circumstances. The majority of leaders in the subcommittees are employed in direct services, including victim services and law enforcement. These professionals faced numerous challenges within their professional fields in light of factors resulting from the pandemic's impact.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021:**

The Leadership Subcommittee goals for the coming year include:

- A minimum of two meetings
- Quarterly updates regarding subcommittee and regional efforts
- Input from both subcommittees and regional task forces in terms of community resources and candidates for state level certification.



## **DATA MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH**

**Mission:** To understand human trafficking victimization and service needs through data and research and to inform prevention, intervention, and policymaking on human trafficking with data and research. This statement is aligned with the purpose of the federal Data Collection Project of the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP).

**Number of Members and Organizations:** Children’s Law Center (the Center) at the University of South Carolina - School of Law, provided tremendous support to the Subcommittee’s accomplishments in 2020. Special thanks go to the amazing team members at the Center who work diligently on a child sex trafficking grant project to provide law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools in identifying and responding to child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking: Margaret Bodman (Senior Resource Attorney), Mandy Bowman (Children’s Justice Act Coordinator), Sydney Arsenault (Graduate Research Assistant), and Kelley Kilgore (Administrative Assistant).

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Liyun Zhang, Ph.D., Research Scientist at the Children's Law Center, University of South Carolina - School of Law; [zhang349@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:zhang349@mailbox.sc.edu).

Children's Law Center: University of South Carolina - School of Law,  
1300 Pickens Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208  
Phone: 803-777-1226

## SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

### Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020:

Led by the Chair of the subcommittee/the Research Scientist of the Children’s Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law (the Center), the Center was awarded the second year Federal Formula Grant by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of High Safety and Justice Program. The purpose of the grant project is to provide law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools to identify and respond to child victims and high-risk children of sex trafficking. In 2020, the major accomplishments of the grant project included:

There is no systematic data collection on child sex trafficking in South Carolina. To quantify the prevalence of child sex trafficking on the local level, the Center worked with local law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze redacted sex trafficking and runaway incident reports from local law enforcement agencies. Characteristics, red flags, and risk factors were identified from the incident reports. Findings were compiled in data reports to share with the agencies to increase their awareness and understanding of child sex trafficking locally.

To build a statewide cross-agency longitudinal dataset on high-risk juveniles of sex trafficking, the Center submitted data applications to the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) to create a cross-agency longitudinal cohort on high-risk juveniles of sex trafficking in year one of the grant project. The high-risk juveniles of sex trafficking were defined in the data applications as subjects who were born in the years of 1996, 1997, and 1998 with any charges of truancy, runaway, incorrigible and “prostitutions” with the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and an indicated finding of abuse or neglect with the Child Protective Services in the S.C. Department of Social Services. The RFA then linked the cohort data from the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and S.C. Department of Social Services to the selected variables from the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, the S.C. Law Enforcement Division, the S.C. Department of Corrections, and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. All agencies approved the Center’s data applications. Based on the data received, the Center completed a descriptive analysis. To increase understanding of the prevalence and characteristics of high-risk juveniles locally, the Center is working to format the analytical findings by the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force’s responding regions. Once the analyses and reports on state and regional levels are completed, findings will be distributed more broadly and published on the Center’s website so more local law enforcement officers can obtain data.

In year one, the Center developed two screening tools for law enforcement officers. The first tool was the Child Sex Trafficking Flagging Tool for Law Enforcement that was designed in pocket card format for patrol officers to use. The second tool was the Child Sex Trafficking Identification Tool for Law Enforcement that was designed for investigators to use. In year two, the Center piloted the two tools with local law enforcement agencies and received positive

feedback from the officers. In September and early October of 2020, the Center mailed more than 5,000 copies of the finalized pocket cards to 26 law enforcement agencies in the state to help law enforcement officers better identify and respond to juvenile victims and high-risk juveniles of sex trafficking. More tools will be distributed to law enforcement agencies in 2021 accompanied by relevant training.

To develop recommended practices in identifying and responding to child victims and high-risk children of sex trafficking, the Center established the Law Enforcement Child Sex Trafficking Workgroup (the Workgroup) in year one with law enforcement representatives from city, county, state, and federal levels. In year two, the Workgroup developed three additional tools with recommended practices for law enforcement officers to assist in their investigation and collaboration with the local Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) in child sex trafficking cases.

To develop training on child sex trafficking for law enforcement, in year two, the Center worked with the Workgroup to design a coordinated training curriculum for law enforcement that integrated local data collected, flagging and identification tools developed as well as investigation checklists and practices recommended in the aforementioned activities of the grant project. A total of 7.0 hours of continuing education credit has been approved by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for the training. The first statewide training was conducted online over the course of two days on December 15 and 16, 2020. Part I of the training provided an overview of South Carolina child sex trafficking law, prevalence of child sex trafficking, importance of law enforcement in identifying and responding to child sex trafficking, child victims and children at risk of sex trafficking, trafficker tactics, trauma and the effects on victims of child sex trafficking, and how to collaborate with local children's advocacy centers. Part II introduced tips for interacting with victims of child sex trafficking during investigation, interviewing suspects, internet investigation tools, and evidence collection. The curriculum culminated with the presentation of a South Carolina case. To assist in responding to child sex trafficking, local resources were also addressed. Participants will also receive a Child Sex Trafficking Law Enforcement Tool Kit to help respond to child sex trafficking. The training was well-received by training participants and similar training will be offered again in 2021.

**Please describe any challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020:**

Due to the pandemic, there were a lack of resources and time to work on the goal to engage stakeholders to collect statewide cross-agency comprehensive human trafficking data.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021:**

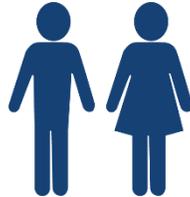
- 1) To continue to work towards engaging stakeholders to collect statewide cross-agency comprehensive human trafficking data;
- 2) To continue the grant project on identifying and responding to child victims and high-risk children of sex trafficking in South Carolina.

## SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK

### 1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?

To continue to prioritize the goal to collect statewide cross-agency comprehensive human trafficking data and continue to engage stakeholders to participate in this effort.

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## DIRECT SERVICES—ADULTS

**Mission:** The Direct Service Providers Subcommittee (Adult Focus) mission is to help coordinate service providers across the state to better respond to the needs of victims and survivors through improved communication and information sharing. Additionally, the subcommittee provides input to help shape State Task Force initiatives through reference to best and emerging practices in the field.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** The subcommittee is composed of four area representatives who work directly with adult victims and survivors of human trafficking. Additionally, there are adult serving professionals within those regions who provide consultation and input to help guide efforts at the state level.

- Upstate: Lindsay Blair, Program Director, Jasmine Road
- Midlands: Rebecca Gibson, TVAP Team Lead, Lutheran Services Carolinas—Survivors Assistance Program
- Lowcountry: Kat Wehunt, Executive Director, The Formation Project
- Pee Dee: TBD

### **Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:**

Lindsay Blair, Program Director, Jasmine Road

[Lindsay@jasmineroad.org](mailto:Lindsay@jasmineroad.org)

## SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

### Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020:

- In 2021, the subcommittee was able to begin aligning the new composition with the State Task Force Strategic Response Model. The model required a smaller composition in terms of designated professionals in each of the four areas.
- There was an additional member added to the subcommittee to represent the Midlands.

- The subcommittee provided input regarding standards for state-level certification.
- Members mapped next steps in implementing the Strategic Response Model.

**Please describe any challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020:**

The Direct Service Providers Subcommittee (Adult Focus) is composed of those working in programs that provide services to adult victims and survivors of human trafficking. COVID-19 presented numerous challenges that many needed to navigate for the first time. Additionally, the subcommittee was still reorganizing to align with the new Strategic Response Model when the pandemic began impacting South Carolina.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021:**

- Finalize a survey for survivors gathering feedback regarding program services that provided most helpful and those that were least beneficial to their needs.
- Finalize a list of agencies that provide either specialized or supplemental services to victims and survivors of human trafficking. The list will be comprehensive, but split into the four areas that fall within the Strategic Response Model.
- Establish a stronger referral process within areas and across the state of certified direct service providers (specialized and supplemental).
- Develop training that will be beneficial for those providing direct services as well as other professions that intersect with service providers such as healthcare, law enforcement, and state agencies that provide services to adults.



**DIRECT SERVICES—MINOR FOCUS**

**Mission:** To provide a holistic and integrative approach to assist minor victims of human trafficking. It is our hope to enhance the quality and quantity of services to address safety, security and healing needs to minor victims of human trafficking in South Carolina.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** Approximately 20 members and eight organizations represented.

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:**

Angela B. Hugie: 803-896-9544, [AngelaBHugie@djj.sc.gov](mailto:AngelaBHugie@djj.sc.gov)

Jennequia S. Brown: 803-898-3812, [Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov).

## SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

<b>Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.</b>
Met with Nikki Brown, Program Coordinator with DSS, and have identified other partners to join this committee. We have collaborated and worked with a DJJ/DSS crossover youth workgroup to begin to address the individual and systematic needs related to minor human trafficking victims. We have also identified 2021 goals for this committee and agreed to schedule monthly meetings starting January 2021.
<b>Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
No challenges identified as a direct result of COVID-19.
<b>Please describe any additional challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020.</b>
Challenges we continue to face are gaps in services, lack of resources, (i.e placement), agency responses and responsibility (i.e. – between DJJ/DSS).
<b>Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Training Implementation</li><li>(2) Universal Screening Tool</li><li>(3) Statewide MDT</li><li>(4) Assess Child Advocacy Centers MDT Models.</li><li>(5) Establish/identify roles and responsibilities (protocols) of each agency involved in serving minor victims and develop a training based on these identified protocols.</li><li>(6) Expansion of placement and specialized treatment options.</li><li>(7) Expansion of support services.</li></ol>

## SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK

1. **What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?**

Statewide Resource Directory



## HEALTHCARE

**Mission:** The mission of the Healthcare Subcommittee is to increase the opportunity for trafficked persons seeking healthcare in South Carolina to have their trafficking situation recognized, be provided with care and respect, and offered or provided assistance, as legally indicated.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** The Healthcare Subcommittee has been comprised of 11 members from nine organizations located throughout the state.

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Stephanie Armstrong, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)  
99 Jonathan Lucas Street, MSC 160, Charleston, SC 29425  
[armstrst@musc.edu](mailto:armstrst@musc.edu), 843-792-7598

### SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

<b>Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.</b>
In 2020, the Healthcare Subcommittee had a change in leadership and restructured the format of the subcommittee. The restructuring included the establishment of various work groups according to healthcare discipline, with one member of each work group designated to serve as the group's representative on the Healthcare Subcommittee. This restructuring strives to ensure that the Healthcare Subcommittee is comprised of an interprofessional, multi-disciplinary group that represents the needs and challenges of all healthcare professionals addressing human trafficking within healthcare facilities.
<b>Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
The Healthcare Subcommittee's members and partner agencies faced unprecedented demands upon their time due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Such constraints significantly reduced the amount of time that volunteer members had to dedicate toward accomplishing the Healthcare Subcommittee's 2020 goals.

**Please describe any additional challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020.**

With the restructuring of the Healthcare Subcommittee and the demands placed upon healthcare professionals due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment for the Healthcare Subcommittee work groups has proven to be challenging. However, with the COVID-19 vaccines now in distribution, the Healthcare Subcommittee is hopeful that there will be increased responsiveness toward participation in the coming year.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.**

The Healthcare Subcommittee goals for 2021 include:

- Recruitment for various work groups to allow for multi-disciplinary representation on the Healthcare Subcommittee.
- Review and refinement of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Response Protocol (Healthcare Protocol) to ensure that it meets all suggested criteria to provide safe, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered care.
- Development of an Implementation Guide to coincide with dissemination of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Response Protocol to all acute healthcare facilities within the state.
- Development of standardized training requirements and materials that will be available to all healthcare professionals within the state.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

### **1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?**

Access to a Learning Management System (LMS) and the creation of a "Knowledge Repository" where standardized training materials for healthcare professionals could be housed, accessed, and data collected from, would provide us with a huge step forward toward training all healthcare professionals across the state.



## INTERFAITH

**Mission:** The purpose of the Interfaith Subcommittee is to coordinate the efforts of South Carolina’s faith-based organizations within the larger statewide anti-human trafficking movement by partnering with local crime victim services. The Interfaith Subcommittee will assist in developing human trafficking response protocols and trauma-informed practices within houses of worship and will coordinate state and regional anti-human trafficking trainings and awareness efforts with members of the faith community.

**Number of Members and Organizations:**

Pee Dee Quadrant Human Trafficking Task Force Liaison: Patty Jackson, faith community leader;

Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force: Arelis Alcantara: Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee Chair;

Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force: Ministers Tim McCray and Shelbia Wiley, Interfaith Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force: Josef Wehunt - Tri-County Faith-Based Subcommittee Liaison; Sarah Oliver - The Formation Project Faith-Based Alliance Liaison; Cindy Mosteller - Tri-County Faith-Based Subcommittee Community Member

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Roger Acton: (803) 394-9903; [roger@scvan.org](mailto:roger@scvan.org).

### SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.
In spite of the pandemic, one of the four Interfaith Quadrant Liaisons and several of the regional human trafficking task force teams were able to establish new Interfaith Subcommittees.
The Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force had Patty Jackson as their interfaith liaison prior to this year’s initiation of the Interfaith strategy. In the new 2020 Interfaith strategy, Patty was assigned as the first Interfaith Quadrant Liaison for the Pee Dee Quadrant. The Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force then interviewed and assigned Pastor Tim McCray and Shelbia Wiley, Minister/Educator and human trafficking survivor, as their

Interfaith Subcommittee Co-Chairs. Together, and individually, with great support from Sherri Smith, the Chair of their task force, they have provided trainings for multiple faith communities initially in-person, and then in a virtual format as the pandemic ended large group in-person trainings.

The Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force officially established Arelis Alcantara as their Interfaith Subcommittee Chair after her multiple years of involvement on the task force as SCVAN's Faith Based Victim Services Assistant Project Director and Community Outreach Coordinator, based in the Upstate.

The Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force initially added Cindy Mosteller as their Interfaith Subcommittee Chair, and then over the year established three other team members, adjusting responsibilities, as listed in the earlier portion of the report.

Another task force that had already seen the priority of faith leaders engaged with their task force team was the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force. Task force co-chair Sheila Roemeling partnered with Pastors Ki Coleman and Daryl Hunt. Pastor Ki has been involved with Savannah Women Against Human Trafficking and the Savannah Traffick Jam project, held at the Savannah State University this year, which was hosted by The Savannah Interagency Diversity Council. This event gave the public tools to spot the signs of human trafficking in a range of situations and give the public confidence to know who to call. Pastor Coleman was also involved with a project related to helping victims self-identify.

The Foothills Human Trafficking Task Force partnered with the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network's Faith Based Victim Services team to provide a virtual roundtable held in early September. This training helped refresh their team and work in Anderson County with faith and victim service leadership, along with some education and mental health community leaders, too.

The Richland County Anti- Human Trafficking Task Force did a major event in January with Shandon Baptist Church in Northeast Columbia during Human Trafficking Awareness month. This event provided great awareness to the staff and congregation. They also provided several trainings for faith communities prior to the pandemic along with canvassing their community with posters including several faith communities.

**Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The most dramatic challenge faced by a regional subcommittee team as a result of the pandemic happened in the Coastal region when the new Interfaith Team had scheduled a human trafficking awareness training with AME Zion churches, and had an estimated 700 faith leaders and members planning to attend in-person. The event date was right when the decision was made in late March to cap in-person attendance to ten or less people. This group had previously prepared with anti-bacterial stations, spacing of seating, and all the best efforts to make it a safe training event for all, yet the event was cancelled to protect the overall safety and health of everyone. With Zoom technology, many of those leaders have been reached this fall by the task force leadership and will continue to be reached moving forward.

The other more widespread impact was the ending of all faith group gatherings around the country that also impacted our state. Ease of reaching, connecting, training, and supporting faith leaders on human trafficking was removed. The faith leaders themselves were disconnected from new issues within their own communities. Plus, the simple issue of task force teams unable to meet in-person made it difficult until virtual meetings started to effectively plan strategies for the new Interfaith initiative.

**Please describe any additional challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020.**

Though the media has communicated that people are now safe at home and protected from the pandemic, support and help for human trafficking victims, like programming by schools and houses of worship, is not available. Victims may not be safe in their homes. Efforts were made to encourage faith leaders to call, not email or text their members, and really listen to their needs, and be ready to ask for law enforcement support, if they suspect a member is not safe within their home.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.**

The following are subject to change based on the evolving nature of the pandemic:

1. Provide a virtual pre-training meeting with all existing and interested Regional and Quadrant Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs/Teams on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Discussion to also include all Regional Chairs of each task force in this meeting)
2. Provide a virtual training/overview of the Interfaith Strategy for the second year to all human trafficking task force leaders, related agency leadership and faith community leaders, led by Kathryn Moorehead, Megan Rigabar, Roger Acton and several interfaith leaders to be assigned for a panel discussion.
3. Provide a quarterly update Zoom meeting with all Interfaith Subcommittee leadership.
4. Request that each quadrant and regional subcommittee interfaith chair/co-chair email to the state interfaith subcommittee chair a monthly report of activity for their subcommittee in their respective communities.
5. Provide at least one virtual training event per month, by a regional interfaith subcommittee leadership, rotating through each regional task force, with roughly two per region at year's end. (Desired to have in-person trainings, yet dependent on pandemic status and state/community leadership decisions.)
6. Foothills Human Trafficking Task Force: with new rapport with the local Interfaith group developing, there are current plans to establish one of the leaders as the new Interfaith Subcommittee Chair in the first quarter of 2021.
7. Within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force, Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, and new LEMS Regional Task Force, there are plans to establish new Interfaith Subcommittee Chair/Co-Chairs in the first half of 2021.
8. Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force: With continued efforts and hopeful changes in the impact of the pandemic, additional team members will be set up and will engage in outreach using virtual meeting space.

9. In the Coastal, Tri-County and Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force regions, creative efforts will continue to be used to partner, train, and reach their faith communities against human trafficking.
10. Opportunity to promote Faith in Action resource from Shared Hope International, through training/virtual events, web support, etc.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

### **1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?**

- a. A monthly report form for the Quadrant and regional Interfaith Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs to complete and email to State leader.
- b. Access and support for a virtual quarterly update meeting for all Interfaith regional and quadrant leadership, plus regional chair/co-chairs to attend that the state interfaith leader would be responsible for in organizing and leading.
- c. Access to and support in providing monthly virtual training events led by Interfaith subcommittee leadership or outside of the state faith leaders and victim service leadership on human trafficking awareness and response.



## **LABOR TRAFFICKING**

**Mission:** The purpose of the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee is twofold: to increase attention and collaboration around the issue of labor trafficking and to develop and implement specific strategies to reduce its prevalence.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee is in the midst of redevelopment and is currently composed of seven members representing six agencies.

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Colin Trimble, Department of Labor: [Trimble.Colin@dol.gov](mailto:Trimble.Colin@dol.gov).

## SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

<b>Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.</b>
In 2020, the Task Force relaunched the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee and appointed a new chairperson, Colin Trimble, from the Department of Labor. The subcommittee recruited new members representing a variety of agencies and has scheduled the first subcommittee meeting for January 2021. The Attorney General’s Office also began incorporating labor trafficking content into a variety of trainings, presentations, and meetings to increase focus on the issue.
<b>Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
COVID-19 made the recruitment and planning for the relaunch of the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee more difficult. However, planning meetings were adapted to a virtual environment and labor trafficking presentations and trainings were moved online.
<b>Please describe any additional challenges faced by the subcommittee in 2020.</b>
Due to the pandemic, the State Task Force did not have as much time to focus on labor trafficking initiatives as initially anticipated. Key in-person events, such as the Labor Trafficking Roundtable, had to be cancelled and efforts were shifted to aid the pandemic response.
<b>Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.</b>
The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee goals for 2021 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuing recruitment as needed for the subcommittee.</li><li>• Strengthening the State Task Force strategic response model by identifying point people in each of the quadrants to bolster South Carolina’s capacity to respond to labor trafficking and victim needs.</li><li>• Create a general public awareness campaign in English &amp; Spanish to define labor trafficking, how to recognize it, and how to appropriately report the crime.</li><li>• Train key stakeholders who may interact with potential victims of labor trafficking to appropriately identify and meet victims’ needs.</li></ul>

## SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK

### 1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee’s efforts?

The subcommittee would like to see further development of the Online Resource Library and other virtual resources to augment the development of labor trafficking awareness materials.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Mission:** To collaborate and assist all law enforcement and social service agencies across the state with ongoing human trafficking investigations and training. To join and assist local or regional human trafficking task forces.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** 18 total members including: Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force; York County Sheriff's Office; 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force; Aiken Public Safety; Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force; Horry County Sheriff's Office; Myrtle Beach Police Department; Horry County Police Department; Surfside Beach Police Department; Conway Police Department; Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force; Charleston County Sheriff's Office; Berkeley County Sheriff's Office; Dorchester County Sheriff's Office; SLED

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Chairperson: Captain Connie Sonnefeld, SLED; [csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov](mailto:csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov) and 803-896-5591

### SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

<b>Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.</b>
The subcommittee has developed a statewide law enforcement contact list in order to collaborate and work cases together. All human trafficking investigations have moved to a victim centered approach. Members of the subcommittee have assisted with or conducted training on behalf of the subcommittee for law enforcement professionals across the state to become more aware of the crimes associated with human trafficking.
<b>Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
The subcommittee has adapted to ongoing COVID-19 protocols and necessary precautions. The subcommittee has moved all meetings to a virtual system and continues to adapt to operational needs.

**Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.**

- 1) Work with our social service partners to move towards providing expedited continuing care.
- 2) Continue to assist with building regional task forces and providing law enforcement contacts in areas of the state that are not already covered.
- 3) Assist with the coordination of specialized training for the human trafficking investigative process for law enforcement officers across the state.

**SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

**1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?**

A coordinator to assist with victim services across the state so that there is a seamless flow of information for investigators, social service providers, etc. in an effort to close the gap with case management.

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**SURVIVOR ADVISORY**

**Mission:** Provide feedback and recommendations on policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking to the SC Human Trafficking Task Force. To ensure survivors have a seat at the table, *leading* initiatives and making change.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** Six members and four organizations represented.

**Subcommittee Chairperson (s) and Contact Information:** Kat Wehunt,  
[kat@theformationproject.org](mailto:kat@theformationproject.org)

## SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS

<b>Please list subcommittee accomplishments in 2020.</b>
Held consistent virtual meetings on a quarterly basis. Began developing recommendations for measurable outcomes and tools to engage survivors in programmatic structure and growth. Launched a survivor peer support platform and engagement tool.
<b>Please describe challenges faced by the subcommittee as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
COVID-19 made it difficult for us all to meet due to many different circumstances. Some members had to move and relocate.
<b>Please list subcommittee goals for 2021.</b>
We hope to present a tool to organizations to engage survivors in programming and policies. We hope to have a representative from each region as a member. We aim to create more opportunities for survivors to engage in peer support across the state.

## SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK

**1. What would your subcommittee like to see created at the state level to support your subcommittee's efforts?**

Funding to compensate survivors for training and consulting.

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## PREVENTION EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The Prevention Education & Outreach Subcommittee will be composed of co-chairs each responsible for one of the two subcommittee goals. Prevention education will be focused on providing support to educators and working with children and youth. Community members interested in integrating formal anti-human trafficking lessons into their classrooms or other youth serving programs will be provided guidance from members familiar with best practices in the field of education. Public outreach will be primarily focused on supporting efforts at the state and regional level, allowing more localized efforts to be managed by regional task forces. Outreach

efforts will include the development of ideas for brochures, posters, and billboards after consulting with specific point people across the state. It will be important that the subcommittee members collaborate across focus areas to ensure communities are adequately supported both within child and youth serving organizations and the population at large.

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### **LEGAL INNOVATIONS**

The Legal Innovations Subcommittee has been directly impacted by the restructuring under the Strategic Response Model. The subcommittee will begin meeting in early 2021 with area point people that work directly with victims of human trafficking. Each point person will be the lead for network building within their areas of the state while ensuring diverse representation of professionals within the legal field. Members of the subcommittee will share resources and help the State Task Force identify gaps in services as well as communities that are lacking in access to legal services. As networks are continually strengthened, members of other sectors will know who to contact if they are working with a victim or survivor that needs a referral for legal support. As the State Task Force Online Resource Directory is composed, legal services will be added to highlight potential referral agencies as well as contact people that can help navigate the system within the four areas of the state.

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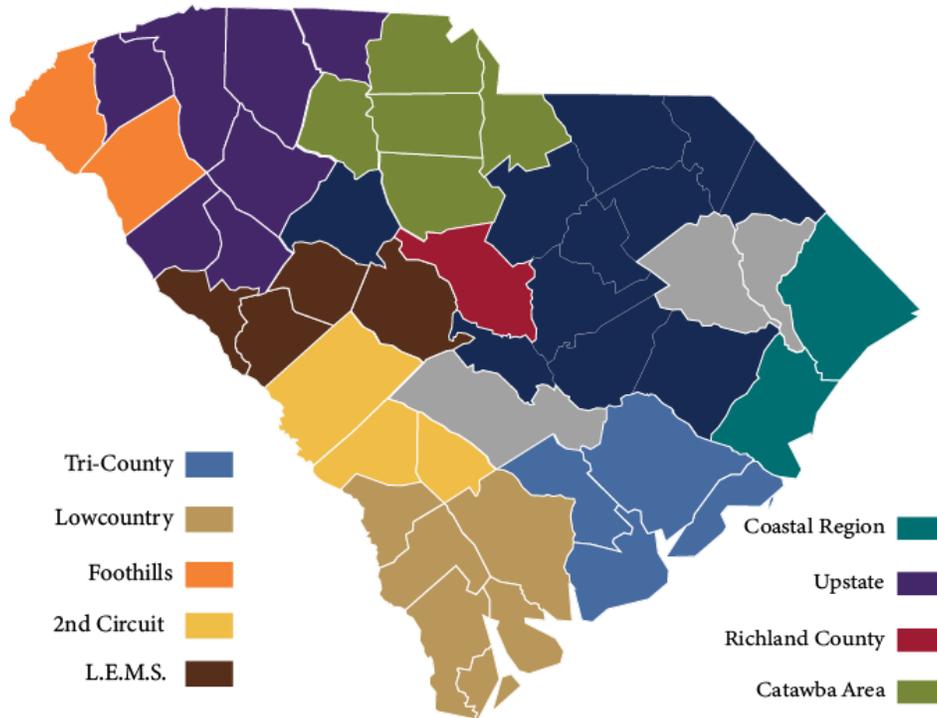


### **YOUTH ADVOCACY/HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Youth Advocacy Subcommittee will be replaced with the Higher Education Subcommittee in 2021. The State Task Force recognizes the ongoing need to engage and educate youth on the topic of human trafficking and will continue these efforts under the Prevention Education & Outreach

Subcommittee. There has been significant interest to increase efforts within higher education to prevent the crime through awareness campaigns and training opportunities for employees. The transition from Youth Advocacy to Higher Education was stalled in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on campuses across the state. However, efforts must progress forward in 2021 given the increased risks of potential victimization as a byproduct of the pandemic. More information about the transition of this subcommittee and its first initiatives will be shared with Task Force members through quarterly meetings and newsletters.

## XII. REGIONAL TASK FORCES



### CATAWBA AREA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

In early 2020, there were discussions about relaunching the Catawba Area Human Trafficking Task Force after a change in leadership. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a delay in plans. There are numerous stakeholders interested in reorganizing efforts through a relaunch in 2021. Information will be shared when plans are finalized and a meeting is scheduled.

**Counties Served:** York, Union, Chester, Lancaster, and Fairfield counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson(s):** York County Sheriff's Office & Co-Chair TBD

**Contact Information:**

Detective Amy Smith  
Criminal Investigations Division  
York County Sheriff's Office  
[amy.smith@yorkcountygov.com](mailto:amy.smith@yorkcountygov.com)

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## COASTAL REGION HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

**Mission:** The Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force provides leadership and education for the eradication of human trafficking in communities in Horry and Georgetown Counties through prevention, protection, and prosecution.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** 47 members and 38 agencies/organizations

**Counties Served:** Horry and Georgetown counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Chair Lt. Sherri Smith, Horry County Sheriff's Office. Facebook Page: SC Coastal Region Task Force on Human Trafficking

### REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS

Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):
<p><u>Public Education and Awareness:</u> Brooke Holden, Horry County Sheriff's Office; Anna Strickland; and Shannon Davis, LPC</p> <p><u>Law Enforcement:</u> Lt. Jade Roy, SLED; Sgt. Chris Graham, Horry County Sheriff's Office; and Inv. Beth Davis, Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p><u>Legal:</u> Mary-Ellen Walters and Cara Walker, 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office</p> <p><u>Healthcare:</u> Natalie Darby, SANE Nurse, Tideland Hospital</p> <p><u>Direct Services:</u> Angela Brown, Horry County Sheriff's Office and Renae Searcy, Horry County Police Department</p> <p><u>Youth Advocacy:</u> Beverly Wilhelm, Coastal Carolina University and Tammy Elswick</p> <p><u>Interfaith:</u> Shelbia Wiley and Tim McCray</p> <p><u>Taskforce Mentor:</u> Honorable Melissa Buckhannon, Family Court Judge</p>

**Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:**

1. Participated in several outreach/awareness events in January and February 2020.
  - All Saints Church, Pawley’s Island, SC, co-presenter with No Boundaries International. Event for youth group and parents.
  - End Abuse Summit – Bucksport, SC. Awareness event for youth and adults
  - Youth Summit – Howard Adult Center, Georgetown, SC. Awareness event for youth ages 11-18.
  - Awareness/Information Booth at annual Women in Professional Leadership event at Myrtle Beach Convention Center.
  - St. James High School – Trafficking Presentation to approximately 100 parents, teachers, and students. Guest speaker for the event was Family Court Judge, Melissa Buckhannon.
2. Youth Advocacy and Interfaith subcommittees worked together with Family Court Judge, Melissa Buckhannon and Lighthouse for Life, to create a “Pastor Preview Presentation” for churches in Horry County. The goal was to preview a training designed specifically for youth with the expectation of teaching the presentation to the church youth groups. The presentation was cancelled due to COVID-19. However, Jennifer Thompson with Lighthouse for Life recorded part of the presentation to be used when the event is re-scheduled.
3. Increased social media awareness by adding weekly and/or daily awareness tips. Also added a monthly Facebook live event the third Wednesday of the month. The monthly live event offers awareness information and answers questions left by viewers.
4. Increased awareness and training by participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor’s Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) Change Program.
5. Developed Interfaith Subcommittee in February 2020, chaired by Shelbia Wiley and Tim McCray.
  - Organized two pastor preview virtual presentations for AME and ZION pastors of both Horry and Georgetown Counties. Presentations were held in November 2020, with guest speaker, Roger Acton, State Chair of Interfaith Subcommittee.
6. Public Education and Awareness Subcommittee organized several awareness opportunities in October and December 2020.
  - Participated in Conway Golf Cart Parade on October 31, 2020
  - Entered “Awareness Float” in both the Conway Christmas Parade and the Surfside Beach Christmas Parade on December 12, 2020.

**Please describe the Regional Task Force’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The task force switched to zoom executive meetings and presentations beginning in the summer of 2020.

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

1. Develop a multi-disciplinary response team (MDT) that includes law enforcement, direct services, and other governmental agencies such as the Department of Social Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice.
2. Identify and enhance direct services for victims of human trafficking.
3. Increase awareness campaigns and trainings in Georgetown County and continue the awareness efforts in Horry County.

## **REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

### **1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes. We anticipate the number of exploitation crimes to increase.

### **2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

January 9, 2020- Winyah Auditorium, Georgetown, SC

- Guest Speaker – Georgetown City Police Chief, Kelvin Waites
- Agenda items – Review of subcommittees from previous three months.
- Invitation to participate in January 11, 2020 events.

The task force was unable to have other full meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, the task force held several executive committee meetings throughout the year.

Executive committee agenda items included:

- Developing a mission statement for the task force
- Amber Alert Training – Scheduled for March 2020, rescheduled for October 2020 and then cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Developing a Pastor Preview event for pastors of area churches.

### **3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

TBD

### **4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

- Proclamation by Horry County Council naming January 2021 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- Facebook Live Event – January 11, 2020

### **5. Contact Information:**

Lt. Sherri Smith, Horry County Sheriff's Office  
1301 Second Avenue, Conway, SC 29526  
843-915-8571 and [smithsh@horrycounty.org](mailto:smithsh@horrycounty.org)

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## FOOTHILLS HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

**Mission:** Implementing a coordinated community response to identify, prevent, and eliminate human trafficking in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties by supporting law enforcement, service providers, and survivors.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** Approximately 90 involved participants; five organizations.

**Counties Served:** Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Chairperson Maria Torres-Green. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FoothillsHTTFSC](https://www.facebook.com/FoothillsHTTFSC). Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/foothillshttfsc/>. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FoothillsHTTF>.

### REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS

Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):
<p><b>Chair:</b> Maria Torres-Green <b>Data Management:</b> Steve Newton, City of Anderson Administrator <b>Survivor Advisory:</b> Michelle Benzin <b>Faith Response:</b> Denise Loggins</p>
Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2019 Shine the Light Awareness Event</li><li>• Oconee County School Counselors Human Trafficking Simulation and Presentation</li><li>• Quarterly Meeting: January, March, October</li><li>• Presentation for Leadership Anderson-Anderson Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• Presentation for Anderson First Steps</li><li>• Presentation for Pride Link</li><li>• Interfaith Roundtables</li><li>• Faith Based and Victim Services Committee</li><li>• Provided resources to help five victims</li></ul>
Please describe the Regional Task Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
<p>We had several training and meetings scheduled with law enforcement, schools, and other community organizations that unfortunately were cancelled. Restrictions caused delays and complications during the initial intake process.</p>

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

- Assign chairs for Law Enforcement, Direct Services, Healthcare, Labor, and Legal Innovations Committees.
- Increase awareness of human trafficking in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties.
- Increase training library to offer variety of training including health professionals, counselors, and legal.
- Continue to support service providers, law enforcement, and survivors
- Conduct Quarterly Task Force update meetings and monthly meetings (alternating counties) on human trafficking awareness topics.

**REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes, it will still be difficult to meet with potential victims for intake and provide resources. Training and meeting will need to continue online which works for some but not all.

**2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

Quarterly Meetings: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup> (postponed), Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

**3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

Quarterly Meetings: March 25<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>

**4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

We will be hosting the Shine the Light Awareness Series in January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The Series will be conducted via Zoom every Thursday evening at 7pm.

- Human Trafficking in the Upstate
- Human Trafficking Parent Awareness Seminar
- Human Trafficking and the Faith Community
- Human Trafficking and Service Providers: The Importance of Empathy

**5. Contact Information:**

Maria Torres-Green: [Foothillshttf@gmail.com](mailto:Foothillshttf@gmail.com) and 864-841-8404

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## **LEXINGTON, EDGEFIELD, MCCORMICK, AND SALUDA (LEMS) HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda (LEMS) Human Trafficking Task Force was launched at an event in Lexington. The Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center and the 11<sup>th</sup> Solicitor's Office are the co-chairs of the new task force. At the event, the co-chairs were supported by leadership from the Attorney General's Office, local police departments, sheriffs' offices, SLED, and DJJ as well as state politicians from the area. There are plans to hold the first meeting in January or early February. The State Task Force will assist the LEMS Task Force in notifying those who may be interested in attending the meeting.

**Counties Served:** 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda)

**Regional Task Force Chairperson(s):** Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center & 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office

**Contact Information:**

Eric Russell, Director of Forensic Services

Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center

[erussell@dickersoncac.org](mailto:erussell@dickersoncac.org)

803-358-7240

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## **LOWCOUNTRY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Mission:** To bring agencies, businesses of the Lowcountry that work in the community to fight human trafficking while becoming a force where survivors can receive services and traffickers fear conviction.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** 20

**Counties Served:** Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Chair Sheila Roemeling; 2020 Chair Shane Roberts; 2021 Chair Sgt. Ed Marcurella, Colleton County Sheriff's Office. Website: [www.sclchttf.wixsite.com /website](http://www.sclchttf.wixsite.com/website)

## REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS

<b>Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):</b>
None at this time.
<b>Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:</b>
Due to COVID-19, we did not finish as much as expected. One accomplishment was our community address in January that had a great turnout of over 75 members and citizens for education and collaboration.
<b>Please describe the Regional Task Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
Many agencies began online services and chat support. Our task force meetings became virtual as well.
<b>Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:</b>
<u>Goals for 2021</u> 1. January Community Address to have 75+ attendance 2. Increase attendance and participation to 30+ agencies 3. Begin active committees 4. Support new chairs

## REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes, service providers' services and the meetings to stay online.

**2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

-January 22: Community Address: State update, local update, citizen education

-April 22: Canceled

-July 22: Zoom meeting—Update on team and service changes, state update

-October 21: Zoom meeting—Local update, state update, vote in new chairs and committees, community address planning

-December 2: Check in on community address progress, vote in chairs for the second time.

**3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

-January 13: Community Address

-January 20: State update, local update, and overview of the community address, actively sign teams to contact heads to begin taking part in task force

-April 21: Updates state and local, committees added back in if possible and protocol set up.

-July 21: Updates, protocol approval or update, speaker on purchasing side or labor trafficking in the state, and start thinking of new chairs to vote in.

-October 20: Update, vote in chairs for January, community address planning

**4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

Community Address on January 13.

**5. Contact Information:**

Sheila Roemeling, Executive Director of Fresh Start Healing Heart: 843-644-1991

Sgt. Ed Marcurella, Colleton County Sheriff's Office: Investigations Narcotics/ Special Victims/ Child Victims/ SWAT Office: 843-549-1203 Ext: 2069 Cell: 843-908-3479

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**RICHLAND COUNTY ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Mission:** Through a united community effort, the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force will relentlessly pursue human traffickers and buyers, prevent human trafficking through increasing community awareness, advocate for laws to end human trafficking in Richland County, and protect and support all survivors.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** 180 members

**Counties Served:** Richland County

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Elizabeth Rummel

**REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS**

<b>Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education &amp; Awareness—Emma Rush, MSW</li><li>• Law Enforcement—Captain Heidi Jackson, Richland County Sheriff's Department</li><li>• Legislation &amp; Advocacy—Bob Healy</li></ul>
<b>Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implemented a host of community awareness events to increase public awareness of human trafficking throughout the year to include Canvas the County, Freedom Sunday, No More Silence, Movie Review and Panel Discussion, and presented at local and state trainings</li><li>• Sustained and established partnerships with community agencies.</li><li>• Adopted to COVID-19 work environment and held meetings virtually in order to continue efforts of the task force.</li><li>• Former Task Force Coordinator Alexis Scurry was promoted. There was a successful recruitment and smooth transition of a new coordinator to continue the work of the task force.</li></ul>

**Please describe the Regional Task Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Adapted to the COVID-19 work environment and held meetings virtually in order to continue efforts of the task force. Continued to advocate for survivors of trafficking and assist in providing resources and made placement recommendations.

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

- Educate and increase public awareness of human trafficking in Richland County to create an effective response to this crime.
- Build capacity in Richland County to investigate and prosecute traffickers and buyers and to recover human trafficking victims.
- Create a system of support for survivors of human trafficking.
- Develop partnership with the interfaith community.
- Advocate for legislation and ordinances that prevent and prosecute human trafficking while supporting survivors.

## **REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

### **1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

The largest impact will be virtual task force meetings and trainings.

### **2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

#### January 17, 2020

- State Task Force updates
- Subcommittee updates
- Training

#### September 18, 2020

- A. Introduction of New Task Force Coordinator – Elizabeth Rummel
- B. Training: *How COVID is Impacting Human Trafficking*
  - School System – Abby Cobb, Lead Social Worker
  - DSS – Anna Bristow, Foster Care Program Coordinator
  - Law Enforcement – Heidi Jackson, Richland County Sheriff's Department
  - Policy – Bob Healy
- C. Update from SC State Task Force
  - Summary of Sate Task Force Training by Rob Spectre and Jenny Sell
  - Online Resource Library Launch
  - Partnership with the UofSC to create a COVID-19 survey
  - Labor Trafficking Subcommittee & Initiative
  - Silent Witness Date Announcement
- D. Update from Committees

November 20, 2020

A. Resource Share: Legal Services for Survivors

- Pamela Larson – Staff Attorney at Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
- Kat Wehunt – Director of The Formation Project

B. Update from State Task Force

C. Update from Committees

- Law Enforcement – Heidi Jackson
- Legislation & Advocacy – Jim Manning & Bob Healy
  - Updates on S. 194
  - Introduction of Sexual Cyber Harassment
- Education & Awareness– Emma Rush
- Survivor Support – Looking for chair

D. Education & Awareness Break out Session:

- Planning January Human Trafficking Awareness Month Events

**3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

Task force meeting will be held on the third Friday of every other month from 10am-12pm. Until further notice, all meetings will be held virtually. Meeting dates are: 1/15/21; 3/19/21; 5/14/21; 7/16/21; 9/17/21; and 11/19/21.

**4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

Paint the City Blue – January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm: Individual volunteers will paint a small blue ribbon and hang a poster in windows of store front businesses around the Columbia area to be displayed for the month of January.

No More Silence Demonstration at Soda City- January 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm: Volunteers will wear all black and a provided mask to symbolize the silence victims and survivors face while living amongst the general population. The demonstration will take place at Soda City Farmers Market.

Canvas the County January 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Individual volunteers or pairs will post the National Human Trafficking Hotline Posters in mandated locations in Richland County.

**5. Contact Information:**

Elizabeth Rummel, LMSW, Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator  
Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov, 803-876-0305

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**TRI-COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Mission:** Implementing a coordinated continuum of care to identify, prevent, and eliminate human trafficking in the Tri-County area by supporting law enforcement, service providers, and survivors.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** 272 specialized points of contact; 900+ community listserves; 60+ organizations. “Members” is still being defined.

**Counties Served:** Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Co-Chair Brooke Burris (Executive Director, Lincoln Tubman Foundation) and Co-Chair Lauren Knapp (Counter Threat Coordinator, Charleston County Public Safety)

Website & Social Media:

-Website: tricountyhttf.org

-Twitter/Instagram: TriCountyhttf

-Facebook: Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force

**REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS**

**Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):**



8 Subcommittees, 2 Action Groups

 Prevention	 Prosecution	 Protection	 Partnerships
1. Prevention/Education 2. Research & Data	3. Law Enforcement 4. Legal Innovations	5. Child Services 6. Adult Services 7. Healthcare	8. Faith-Based 1. Supporter Action Group 2. Patron Action Group

**Prevention:** Prevention & Education Subcommittee  
College of Charleston Communication Interns (Avery Johnson, Sydney Seminar, and Grace Daughtry)

Research & Data Subcommittee  
Leslie Hill - Citadel Criminal Justice Dept. and Kristen Hefner - Citadel Criminal Justice Dept.

**Prosecution**  
Law Enforcement Subcommittee: Lauren Knapp - Charleston Co. Sheriff; US Attorney’s Office; and 1st and 9th Solicitors’ Offices  
Legal Innovations Subcommittee: Pam Larson - Charleston Pro Bono and Rene Stuhr Dukes - Rosen Hagood Law Firm

**Protection**

Child Services: Rachael Garrett & Anna Smalling - Dee Norton CAC; Millicent Walker, Sydney Reynolds, & Nicole Hoffman - Dorchester CAC

Adult Services: Kat Wehunt - The Formation Project and Adriana Mattingly - National Crime Victims Center

Healthcare: Jason Betts – MUSC; Karen Drozd - MUSC Sexual Abuse Pediatrics; and Kris Oleksyk - Holistic Health Practitioner

**Partnerships**

Faith-Based: Sarah Oliver; Supporters; Patrons

**Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:**

- Brought in funding to support the creation of The Formation Project. The Formation Project provides case management for aging out youth and adults, housing, survivor-informed consultation, and emergency coordination.
- Worked to establish funding for:
  - A human trafficking-focused victims' rights attorney, Pam Larson, housed at Charleston Pro Bono
  - Law enforcement training by former FBI Special Agent, Barbara Brown, with evaluation performed by the Citadel's Criminal Justice Department's professors, Leslie Hill and Kristen Hefner. We had 32 Partners Letters of Support to apply for this funding.
  - We sincerely appreciate everyone's conviction for this injustice and are grateful for the Attorney General's leadership to generate focus for addressing this exploitation occurring in our state and community. These resources have been instrumental in equipping our community for establishing an emergency response - grateful to The Formation Project, the National Crime Victims' Center, the Departments of Charleston/Dorchester & Berkeley Mental Health, and People Against Rape.
- Became part of the National Human Trafficking Coordinator group affiliated with the U.S. Dept. of Justice and the International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Conducted a Community Mapping Survey to garner a baseline measurement of the knowledge of, experience with, and assets for human trafficking; we received responses from over 240 respondents.
- Provided training for over 400 stakeholders (in-person or via Zoom)
- Conducted a law enforcement Sheriffs/Chiefs Tour to support law enforcement partners and request a task force point of contact investigator from key agencies
- Solidified structure of the task force with active subcommittees
- Continued the creation of systematic human trafficking responses by working/training key stakeholders like homeless shelters, mental health, sexual assault centers, and at-risk stakeholders in schools (homeless liaisons, truancy panels, counselors, etc.)

**Please describe the Regional Task Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- We tailored many trainings to be online-compatible
- We changed our task force meetings from in-person to Zoom

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

- Support for housing initiatives
- Support for specialized foster care and the acute care center model
- Focused, actionable awareness to increase key stakeholders' comfortability in serving victims and recognizing human trafficking vulnerabilities
- Proactively identifying potential venues for labor trafficking and creating sector-specific contacts to assist in addressing this issue

**REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

We will not meet in person as much as we would hope.

**2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

Feb. 28, 2020 @ 10:00am

**10:00 – 10:25** Welcome, Introductions, Updates, The Task Force going forward

- Barbara Brown, FBI (retired)
- Ashley Hughes, The Formation Project
- Alissa Lietzow, Charleston Pro Bono

**10:25 – 10:45** Barriers to Human Trafficking Investigations

- Lauren Knapp, Charleston Co. Sheriff/Law Enforcement Chair
- Logan Fey, SLED Human Trafficking Regional Detective
- Zach Khan, Charleston Co. Sheriff/Homeland Security Investigations Human Trafficking Detective

**10:45 – 11:10** Discussions

Fireside Table discussion (5-10 minutes)

1. Designate a secretary to write down your table's ideas
2. Discuss at your table how you can support law enforcement and/or your reaction to their presentation (information-sharing? relationship building? education/training?)

Group discussion (approx. 15-20 minutes)

**11:10 – 11:25** – Barriers to First Response (child and adult)

- Anna Smalling, Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, CSEC Coordinator/Child Services Co-Chair, Kat Wehunt, The Formation Project, Exec. Director /Adult Services Chair

**11:25 – 11:50**

Fireside Table discussion (5-10 minutes)

1. Designate a secretary to write down your table's ideas
2. Discuss at your table your reaction to their presentation and how you can be a part of the solution (Are you or your agency a part of barriers that impact investigation, placement, safety, etc. or can be part of a solution to breaking down those barriers?)

Group discussion (approx. 15-20 minutes)

**11:50 – 12:00** Feedback

May 15 at 10:00am

Objective: Provide (1) an overview of human trafficking, (2) the Tri-County area's protocol to address it, and (3) actionable engagement opportunities for partners and the community

**Agenda**

- Federal/State/Regional response to Human Trafficking
- Human Trafficking 101
- Considerations for Identification and Referral Processes
- Community Engagement
- Questions

August 14 @ 10:00am - Community Mapping Survey Presented by Erin Albright

November 13 @ 10:00am - Community Mapping Results

**3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

1st Quarter:

- Subcommittee Touch Base: Monday, Feb. 8th, from 3:00 - 4:00pm
- Task Force Meeting: Friday Feb. 12th, from 10:00 - 11:00am

2nd Quarter:

- Subcommittee Touch Base: Monday, May 10th, from 3:00 - 4:00pm
- Task Force Meeting: Friday May 14th, from 10:00 - 11:00am

3rd Quarter:

- Subcommittee Touch Base: Monday, Aug. 9th, from 3:00 - 4:00pm (or a lunch)
- Task Force Meeting: Friday Aug. 13th, from 10:00 - 11:00am

4th Quarter:

- Subcommittee Touch Base: Monday, Nov. 8th, from 3:00 - 4:00pm (or a lunch)
- Task Force Meeting: Friday Nov. 12th, from 10:00 - 11:00am

**4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

Announcement of Awards; Community Mapping Report published; social media campaigns

**5. Contact Information:**

Brooke Burris, [bburris@tricityhttf.org](mailto:bburris@tricityhttf.org); (843) 822-3505

Lauren Knapp, [lknapp@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:lknapp@charlestoncounty.org)

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## UPSTATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

**Mission:** The Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force's mission is to collaborate with service providers and the general public within our community to educate, protect against, and prevent human trafficking.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** There are 198 members on our listserv and 62 agencies.

**Counties Served:** Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Greenwood, Laurens, Cherokee, Union, and Abbeville counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Co-Chair Zaina Greene; Co-Chair Diana Tapp; Secretary Michelle Cunningham. [www.uhttf.org](http://www.uhttf.org).

### REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS

<b>Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walker Smith, Bon Secours – Legislation</li><li>• Jennifer Combs, Spartanburg Regional Hospital – Healthcare</li><li>• Rick Floyd, Greenville County Schools– Prevention</li><li>• Arelis Alcantara, SCVAN – Interfaith</li></ul>
<b>Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:</b>
Held an Awareness Celebration meeting with the task force in January at PRISMA Hospital. We provided breakfast for attendees and asked for feedback from members on what trainings and needs our community has in the fight against human trafficking.
<b>Please describe the Regional Task Force’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</b>
We did not meet in April or July but returned to meeting in October with a virtual meeting. Attendance was definitely down as we believe many have been overwhelmed in navigating the pandemic in their agencies. It is hard to move the needle forward in some of our goals and initiatives until meetings can come back to a normal rhythm. Our subcommittee leaders are working on their goals with their volunteers and will be presenting those in the January meeting. In addition, our subcommittee chairs are actively recruiting volunteers. We are also exploring avenues to promote education, awareness, and outreach in a safe, sustainable and economical manner for 2021.

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

- 1.) Re-establish subcommittee work and initiatives.
- 2.) Hold a community fair in the fall to help others identify what resources and are available for further trainings.
- 3.) Plan a 2022 January awareness event.

## **REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

### **1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

We hope not, however, we will be meeting virtually in January and possibly beyond that. We are hopeful later in the year we could host some in person meetings and trainings to help bring new energy into our initiatives.

### **2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

#### January 23, 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Legislation -Walker Smith
  - b. Healthcare -Jennifer Combs
  - c. Prevention - Dena Rapp – report by Dena on behalf of Rick Floyd
  - d. Direct Services
3. Group Discussions:
  - a. Human Trafficking Training Focus needs
  - b. Community Awareness and Outreach needs
  - c. Educational needs
4. Next Steps
  - a. Community Event
5. Questions/Announcements

#### October 23, 2020

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Subcommittee updates:
  - a. Walker Smith – Legislation
  - b. Jennifer Combs – Healthcare
  - c. Rick Floyd / Dena Rapp – Prevention
  - d. Arelis Alcantara – Interfaith
3. COVID -19 Agency Updates
4. Updates
  - a. Guest speaker, Kathryn Moorehead, Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs at the SC Attorney General’s Office
5. Questions / Announcements

### **3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

January 15, 2021; April 16, 2021; July 16, 2021; October 10, 2021

**4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

Due to the pandemic, we have not scheduled any events.

**5. Contact Information:**

[upstatehttaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:upstatehttaskforce@gmail.com); Diana Tapp: [dtapp@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:dtapp@greenvillecounty.org); Zaina Greene: [zaina@switchsc.org](mailto:zaina@switchsc.org)

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

**Mission:** To help victims of human trafficking find a voice and receive services to become survivors, as well as aiding in the effective prosecution of traffickers.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** We consistently have about five to ten members attend Zoom meetings this year. We have invited all local law enforcement, DSS, Aiken Barnwell Mental Health, South Carolina Department of Mental Health, Tri-Development, Victim’s Advocates, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Children’s Place Inc., Aiken County Public School District, SLED, the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County and The Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons.

**Counties Served:** Aiken, Barnwell, and Bamberg counties

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** Chair: Captain Maryann Burgess. Co-Chair: Officer Eleanor Hunter. No social media or website currently.

### REGIONAL TASK FORCE EFFORTS

Please list Regional Task Force Subcommittees and Chairperson(s):
We have not yet broken into subcommittees. We will do this in the upcoming year as we focus on building a solid following and commitment to the task force after the relaunch of this regional task force.
Please list Regional Task Force accomplishments in 2020:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We conducted three Zoom meetings. The last one included a trauma focused training presentation by Aiken Barnwell Mental Health.</li><li>• We were invited to partner with the Child Advocacy Center to assist them with a grant to fund services for juvenile sex trafficking and pornography victims. The CAC Director is no longer with the Center and we will attempt a follow up discussion when appropriate.</li><li>• Attended a local survivor’s graduation from a local rehab facility.</li></ul>

**Please describe the Regional Task Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The task force utilized Zoom to conduct all meetings virtually in effort to retain momentum and interest in the task force. There has been good response since this platform protected everyone from unnecessary exposure while allowing task force meetings to continue.

**Please list Regional Task Force goals for 2021:**

- Promote awareness in the community for National Human Trafficking Month in January. We will be hanging ribbons and banners in Aiken to accomplish this and provide banners to other areas who might be willing to display them along traffic routes.
- We will continue our effort to provide needed training to task force members.
- We will continue our effort to expand task force membership to support the forming of subcommittees.

## **REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS & FEEDBACK**

### **1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your region in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes. As the virus increases and decreases, I feel we will continue to need to be flexible in service delivery, use online platforms to accomplish meetings, and once again see the ceasing of in-person interviews temporarily during building closures.

### **2. Please list 2020 meetings and agenda items:**

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Very brief meeting to get back on track with regular meetings

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Asked for resource lists from task force members; talked about the number of tips and victims identified during COVID and how it has affected efforts; shared a local survivor's story of success, and talked about providing training at the next quarterly meeting.

December 18<sup>th</sup>: Trauma Informed Training by Aiken Barnwell Mental Health; update on National HT Awareness month activities (plans to place ribbons and a banner in downtown areas); mentioned there will be meetings in March, June, September and December in 2021; and update from the State Task Force.

### **3. Please list 2021 meetings:**

March 10<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will be at 10AM and all meetings will be held virtually until the pandemic is over (or it becomes safe to meet in person).

### **4. Please list any special events or initiatives your regional task force is hosting in January related to Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

We plan to place awareness ribbons in downtown areas and post a banner with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number. We will also coordinate social media posts with numerous member agencies to aid in awareness.

### **5. Contact Information:**

-Chair: Captain Maryann Burgess; Email: [mburgess@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:mburgess@cityofaikensc.gov); Phone: (803)632-7667

-Co-Chair: Officer Eleanor Hunter; Email: [ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov); Phone: (803)643-2183

**6. Additional Information:**

The relaunch of this task force in June was successful even though COVID-19 did impact everyone with mobility. We hope as the pandemic decreases in severity, the membership will increase and allow us to continue to achieve task force goals.

### **XIII. Task Force Member Accomplishments**

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General is the lead for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In addition to coordinating these efforts, the office prosecutes human trafficking cases and provides victim advocates on each of the cases. In 2020, Attorney General Alan Wilson and his staff also presented to hundreds of community members on the topics of both sex and labor trafficking.

A statewide collaborative approach is needed to effectively prevent the crime, investigate cases, respond to the needs of victims/survivors, and prosecute human trafficking cases. Members of the State Task Force worked diligently in 2020 which is especially commendable given the complexities many encountered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this section, Task Force member accomplishments and challenges are highlighted in more detail as well as member recommendations.

#### **GENERAL AGENCIES**

##### **AIKEN BARNWELL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER (ABMHC)**

**Mission Statement:** To support the recovery of persons with mental illness.

**Organizational Overview:** ABMHC is a healthcare organization committed to providing quality mental health services to the residents of Aiken and Barnwell counties. We have a talented team of psychiatrists, mental health counselors, nurses, case-managers, administrative, and support staff who are passionate about helping people.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Aiken and Barnwell counties.

**Contact Information:** 1135 Gregg Hwy, Aiken SC 29801.

##### **AGENCY EFFORTS**

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
Participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force to collaborate with community partners and support anti-human trafficking efforts. Provide mental health treatment to persons in need of services.

**Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:**

**Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center Achievements FY20 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)**

- Provided mental health services to 3,859 patients with a total of 44,423 contacts to such patients.
- Provided School Mental Health Services in Aiken and Barnwell counties serving a total of 25 schools and 439 children/adolescents. ABMHC increased number of schools served by 56% and number of students served by 105%.
- Established a Mental Health Court in Aiken County in partnership with Aiken County Government, Aiken County Public Defender, Second Circuit Solicitor's Office, Aiken County Probate Court, Aiken County Detention Center, and South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Started FRST Responder's Program offering behavioral healthcare services to First Responders in Aiken and Barnwell Counties.
- Provided Mobile Crisis Services via the Community Crisis Response Intervention Program in Aiken and Barnwell counties.
- Embedded a mental health professional at Wagener Medical Clinic.
- Embedded a mental health clinician at Aiken Public Safety.
- Four staff certified as trainers for Mental Health First Aid- Youth, Mental Health First Aid-Adult, Safe TALK, and Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk.
- Provided transportation to mental health appointments for indigent patients.
- Provided for 36 housing placements via Housing First Program (rent assistance).
- Participated in and/or facilitated 70 community and public relations events in Aiken and Barnwell counties (health fairs, festivals, presentations, back to school events, walks, and depression screenings).
- Provided care-coordination services assessing all needs of patients served (medical, legal, housing, food, clothing, etc.)

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

- Impacted ability to see patients in school setting due to schools going to virtual model and/or hybrid models.
- Impacted willingness of patients to be seen face to face for appointments.
- Impact of the pandemic on everyone's (staff, patient, community) wellbeing due to prolonged event and sustained stress.
- Impacted recruitment/retention efforts.
- Increased access to mental health services via the use of telephonic and telehealth services.
- Increased costs due to COVID-19 (purchase of PPE, purchase of additional equipment for telehealth)

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 thus we will be working on strategic planning and developing goals for FY22 in the first 6 months of 2021.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**

Yes. A) Ability to see all patients face to face; B) Increased costs; C) Sustained stress due to prolonged event; D) Recruitment/retention

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

-Tamara Smith, Executive Director/ABMHC (2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force)  
-Karlin Cummings, Program Director- Child, Adolescent, Family and Adult Services/ABMHC (2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force)

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**AIKEN COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES**

**Mission Statement:** Provide quality comprehensive professional support, notification, and referral service for all victims of crimes whose cases are heard by Aiken County Summary Court.

**Organizational Overview:** Support victims of crime at the earliest onset of victimization. We help victims understand their rights and to make the criminal justice process as easy as possible for them.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Aiken County

**Contact Information:** 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1518, Aiken, SC, 29801

**AGENCY EFFORTS**

**What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?**

We notify victims of arrest and bond hearings. We also assist the victims with services through the victim state emergency services and assist in completing applications for the Department of Crime Victim Compensation. We also have a victim advocate attend the local 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force meetings.

<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
Attended 2 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force meetings.
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
Masks are worn by all employees. Limits the amount of people that can attend bond court/prelims. Attend meetings via Zoom.
<b>Please list agency goals for 2021:</b>
Continue to attend 2 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force meetings. Hoping to join in on community outreach programs.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**  
Yes. Continued zoom meetings. Less one-on-one contact.
- 2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
Victim Advocate representation for 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force.

**AIRLINE AMBASSADORS INTERNATIONAL**

**Mission Statement:** Educate airline workers how to recognize a human trafficking victim and to take advantage of our passes to escort children to the U.S. for medical care.

**Organizational Overview:** We have given over 400 presentations worldwide to airline workers on how to recognize human trafficking awareness. Our members also give presentations in their communities.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Worldwide

**Contact Information:** Michele Watson Klein

**AGENCY EFFORTS**

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
Give presentations to women’s club groups, Rotary club, and teen groups. Met with the First Lady of South Carolina to discuss our efforts.

<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
Over 40 Zoom presentations.
<b>Please list agency goals for 2021:</b>
More Zoom education on human trafficking awareness worldwide.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. **Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**  
Yes
2. **Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
State Task Force
3. **Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Michele Watson Klein

**BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEMS (BSSFHS)**

**Mission Statement:** To extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bringing good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying, and underserved.

**Organizational Overview:** BSSFHS has two acute care hospitals in Greenville, as well as ten Urgent Care centers and 57 affiliated physician practices. BSSFHS is part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems, serving seven states and Europe.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Greenville County

**Contact Information:** Jessica Weingartner: 864-608-8342.  
1 St. Francis Drive, Greenville, SC 29601

## AGENCY EFFORTS

### What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?

- Medical staff are trained to recognize red flags of potential trafficking situations in patients and respond appropriately.
- Increase community awareness and knowledge about human trafficking by hosting an annual seminar at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena.
- Close partnership with Jasmine Road to provide a residential restoration program for victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and addiction.

### Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:

- We were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Bon Secours Mercy Health Foundation to restore a property owned by the health system to be the second restoration home for our community partners, Jasmine Road. We were then able to partner with two other local faith-based organizations to obtain a 2-for-1 match on our initial grant, for a total of \$300,000 to cover the entire cost of this renovation project. Once completed, this second home will more than double Jasmine Road's residential capacity. In addition, the property will have two studio apartments for transitional housing for program graduates, and a large workshop space for the residents to expand their social enterprise, which provides additional funding for the program as well as income for the residents. The goal of the program is to foster an environment which will allow full reintegration of people who successfully complete the program back into society.
- We also partnered with Greenlink, Greenville's public transit, on a grant from the FTA to train bus drivers to recognize potential human trafficking situations and increase public awareness. The grant kicked off in September with a rider survey to gauge the public's knowledge about human trafficking. In November, Bon Secours St. Francis participated with Greenlink and other local agencies in two community charrettes to obtain bus rider input and ideas for using the grant money on trainings and bus signage. Jessica Weingartner, Director of Mission, developed a training presentation specifically tailored to human trafficking and public transit. All of Greenlink's bus drivers were trained over the course of six training sessions, presented together with representatives from BSSFHS and other agencies including the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Finally, a training for the public was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> in-person at the Greenlink office for customers without access to the internet for online training. The training was also recorded for future use. Additional trainings and awareness events will be held in 2021 for both Greenlink staff and the general public.
- BSSFHS initiated a local forensic nursing program at our Downtown hospital. The program has developed slowly given the COVID-19 pandemic situation, but we plan to continue to grow the program to meet the needs of victims in our community.

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

As a result of the limitations on in-person events, we were unable to host what would have been our fourth annual human trafficking seminar in August. Situation permitting, we intend to resume hosting our annual seminar in 2021.

While architectural plans for the renovation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> restoration home for Jasmine Road were submitted prior the initial shutdown in the Spring, COVID held up the approval of those plans and delayed construction. We expect the renovation to be completed by the end of April 2021.

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

- In 2021 we will complete renovation on the second restoration home for Jasmine Road and expand the program to more residents
- We are in the process of applying for an additional \$100,000 grant from the Bon Secours Mercy Health Foundation. If awarded, this grant money will be used to integrate Medically Assisted Treatment for substance use disorders into the Jasmine Road program, so that the residents can receive substance abuse treatment within the sanctuary of their residence. By doing this we hope to reduce relapse and recidivism that occurs when survivors are re-recruited into the life by people they meet in external drug rehab programs.
- Pandemic conditions permitting, we plan to resume our annual Seminar on Human Trafficking in-person at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena. In the event that conditions will still not allow us to safely gather in person, we will hold our seminar virtually.
- Continued expansion of the forensic nursing program at our Downtown hospital.

## **REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**

We will need to continue to innovate and adapt as long as the pandemic continues.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

Member of State Task Force and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Jessica Weingartner, Director of Mission: [Jessica\\_weingartner@bshsi.org](mailto:Jessica_weingartner@bshsi.org) & 864-608-8342.

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## DISABILITY RIGHTS SOUTH CAROLINA (DRSC)

**Mission Statement:** We protect and advance the legal, civil, and human rights of people with disabilities in South Carolina.

**Organizational Overview:** We are the protection and advocacy system for South Carolina. We are here to help people with disabilities understand and defend their rights. We provide a variety of services to include client assistance, training, abuse & neglect investigation, legal assistance, and advocacy for change. We envision a society where all people, regardless of type or severity of disability:

- Live free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Are empowered through self-determination and self-advocacy
- Have equal access to services such as education, public transportation, and healthcare
- Live, learn, work, and play independently in an integrated barrier-free community

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208, Columbia, SC 29204.

Email: [info@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:info@disabilityrightssc.org);

Help Line: 866-275-7273; Office: 803-782-0639; TTY: 866-232-4523

### AGENCY EFFORTS

#### What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?

Our work at Disability Rights South Carolina (DRSC) tends to be advocating for appropriate aftercare services for youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system and have severe mental health issues or other disabilities. Phyllis Ross (Advocate) and Alysia English (Advocate) regularly attend Interagency Staffing meetings regarding youth who have been involved in sex trafficking. In these meetings, we advocate for other agencies to divert the youth from being committed to Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). If the child is committed to DJJ and has severe mental illness or an intellectual disability, we advocate for Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), Department of Social Services (DSS), and other agencies to provide services in the least restrictive environment.

**Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:**

DRSC's sex trafficking involvement is a new focus for the organization. This effort was spearheaded by Ms. Ross, who noticed a lack of coordination and services for sex trafficking survivors who were involved in the juvenile justice system. Not only has she advocated for other agencies to provide services for sex trafficking survivors, she has also advocated for DRSC to give focus to youth with disabilities who are also involved in sex trafficking. This year, DRSC advocated for services for 17 children who are currently involved in or at-risk of becoming involved in sex trafficking.

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

The rise of COVID-19 has changed the ways in which DRSC employees work as well as how we deliver services. From March to August, all DRSC employees worked remotely and connected to clients and each other through conference calls or video conferencing. In August, the choice for employees to return to the office in September was offered, but not required. Beth Franco, DRSC's executive director, released office opening guidelines which were based on OSHA and CDC COVID-19 guidelines and reviewed by our Team Leaders. All employees are required to follow these guidelines to ensure safety of staff and clients in the office. In terms of service delivery and communication with clients and other agencies, most everything is done remotely, either through conference calls or video conferences. If it is necessary to schedule a face-to-face meeting with a client, the meeting must be approved by the employee's supervisor and they are required to follow specific protocols and safety guidelines related to in-person meetings.

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

DRSC has many goals for 2021, but sex trafficking falls under the following Protection and Independence Team goals and priorities:  
GOAL: Reduce incidents of serious abuse, neglect and exploitation of individuals with disabilities, including inappropriate restraint and seclusion in residential and day program settings.  
GOAL: To facilitate the community integration of individuals with disabilities by protecting their rights to receive appropriate supports and services in the most integrated settings.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**

We predict that COVID-19 will continue to impact the way in which we work and deliver advocacy services. The protocols regarding service delivery will remain the same until further notice. Staff will be required to adhere to the COVID-19 safety guidelines mentioned above. We have also encountered challenges that are exacerbated by COVID-19, including a lack of available services for clients, lengthy waitlists to receive services, children falling through the cracks of the remote learning school-system, and families receiving less support in the community due to social distancing requirements.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

Phyllis Ross (Advocate), Alysia English (Advocate), and Abigail Crawford (Advocate) have attended interagency Human Trafficking Work Group meetings which include representatives from DSS, DJJ, and DMH. We are also involved in the State Task Force.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Phyllis Ross – [ross@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:ross@disabilityrightssc.org)  
 Alysia English – [english@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:english@disabilityrightssc.org)  
 Abigail Crawford – [crawford@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:crawford@disabilityrightssc.org)

**4. Additional Information:**

Phyllis Ross (Advocate) and Alysia English (Advocate) regularly attend Interagency Staffing meetings regarding youth who have been involved in sex trafficking. In these meetings, we advocate for other agencies to divert the child from DJJ. If the child is committed to DJJ and has severe mental illness or an intellectual disability, we advocate for DMH, DDSN, DSS and other agencies to provide services in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the youth.

DRSC has designated personnel for presentations. As of this moment, the presenter has not ventured into the realm of sex trafficking, limiting presentations to generalized advocacy services provided by DRSC.

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please do not combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	14	0	1
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 1 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0

### Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

January: 0      April: 1      July: 2      October: 1  
February: 0      May: 0      August: 3      November: 0  
March: 0      June: 3      September: 2 U.S. minors, 1 foreign national minor  
December: 1

### Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2019.*

#### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
1	14	0	0

#### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
5	7	2	0	1	0	0	0

#### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

- DRSC has advocated for DMH to provide mental health services to sex trafficking survivors.
- We have advocated for agencies to provide family planning education to sex trafficking survivors.
- We have also advocated for the organization of interagency staffing meetings to coordinate services for sex trafficking survivors.
- We have provided education and resources to state agencies to help a client access citizenship.
- We have advocated for state agencies to coordinate a forensic evaluation for sex trafficking survivors.
- DRSC has advocated for appropriate DSS involvement for confirmed sex trafficking survivors.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have advocated for diversion from DJJ for sex trafficking survivors, and for their records to be expunged if the charges were obtained while they were trafficked.</li> <li>• We have advocated for residential treatment at a program specialized for survivors of sex trafficking. We have advocated for the Catawba Nation to provide residential sex trafficking services.</li> <li>• We have provided education to a client regarding CHAFEE benefits.</li> </ul>			
Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
0		NA	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0

## JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAM, 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT

**Mission Statement:** Juvenile Arbitration holds young offenders **accountable** for their actions; increases **competency** and learning of young offenders so they can become productive, law abiding citizens; and increases **public safety** by strengthening a community’s capacity to prevent and control crime.

**Organizational Overview:** Our office is housed in the Office of the Solicitor – Family Court Division. The Juvenile Arbitration Director works in coordination with the Senior Family Court Solicitor in managing juvenile cases. Each circuit across the state has a form of JAP or JPTI.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Second Circuit—Aiken, Barnwell, and Bamberg counties.

**Contact Information:** Nina Spinelli, Director: [nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov), 803-642-1512. PO Drawer 3368, Aiken, SC 29802.

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
In our yearly training of new volunteer arbitrators that handle youth cases, we dedicate a component to recognizing human trafficking and how to report those concerns. In addition, we offer a yearly workshop for youth on learning about human trafficking and community resources. Last year, we worked with community partners, including Lighthouse for Life, to hold a workshop entitled ‘What Every Girl Needs to Know about Trafficking.’”
<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
Volunteer training and youth classes on human trafficking; incorporating the topic of trafficking into our 2021 Teen Dating Month Vision Board Class. Participated in the Teen Maze with a focus of refusal skills and resiliency.
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
We will move the classes and training remotely for the time being.
<b>Please list agency goals for 2021:</b>
Hold two classes for youth on trafficking remotely, and, incorporate the topic of trafficking into Girls Circle. Hold our February Workshop on Teen Dating Violence and incorporate trafficking into the conversation.

## REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- 1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**  
I believe our classes will continue to be held online for the next six months (we tend to follow the school schedule in how we follow in-person vs. remote).
- 2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force.
- 3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Julie Stutts, Elizabeth Hart and Nina Spinelli

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## PICKENS COUNTY ADVOCACY CENTER (PCAC)

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to support survivors of sexual assault and abuse through treatment services and to end sexual violence in the Pickens County community through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

**Organizational Overview:** The Pickens County Advocacy Center provides immediate 24-hour response to sexual assault victims and their families through medical, court and law enforcement escort, educational programs, information and referral, legal advocacy and support services. PCAC also provides training for medical personnel, social service and law enforcement agencies on the dynamics of sexual assault. All of our services are complimentary and confidential.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Pickens County

**Contact Information:** 5190 Calhoun Memorial Hwy. Suite A, Easley, SC 29640. 864-442-5500

### AGENCY EFFORTS

What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Delivers presentations to community partners, parents, students, health care workers, group homes, individuals, etc. in the community about human trafficking.</li><li>2. Shares information about human trafficking at tabling events.</li><li>3. Works and meets with other local human trafficking agencies in the upstate to see how we can help each other out or work together.</li><li>4. Attends the Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force meetings.</li><li>5. Attends trainings and webinars to get more educated on human trafficking.</li><li>6. Hosts many activities in the month of January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.</li></ol>
Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Delivered presentations about human trafficking to the Pickens community.</li><li>2. Passed out displays about human trafficking to local businesses and community partners for them to display in their office(s) about human trafficking and how a victim can get help. Gave displays to those that did not receive them in 2019.</li><li>3. Attended webinars, trainings, and conferences through Zoom about human trafficking.</li><li>4. Held many activities and events in January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month for the community and professionals.</li></ol>

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

COVID-19 has definitely put a halt on our efforts with human trafficking this year here at PCAC. We have not been able to:

1. Accompany survivors to the hospitals
2. Attend in-person trainings in other states that would have offered a wealth of knowledge to our staff
3. Educate the community as we did in 2019
4. Educate more students and staff at local schools
5. Attend tabling events
6. Serve walk ins

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

1. Attend more trainings or webinars on human trafficking.
2. Get VSP certified for human trafficking.
3. Get into more schools to present on human trafficking.
4. Spread more awareness in Pickens County about human trafficking.
5. Distribute more materials.
6. Educate more parents, guardians, and foster parents.
7. Be better prepared when a human trafficking survivor comes into the ER or office.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**

Most definitely. I do not see us being able to enter the hospitals any time soon to accompany a survivor. I believe it is going to limit the amount of survivors we hear from on our hotline or see in-person for counseling. We probably will not be allowed back into the schools any time soon to continue our education on healthy relationships and human trafficking. It will definitely limit our in person efforts to educate the community on human trafficking.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force.

Contact: Cristel Stancil at [cstancil@pcadvocacy.org](mailto:cstancil@pcadvocacy.org).

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## **RIVERS OF JUSTICE**

**Mission Statement:** To end domestic minor sex trafficking through prevention, education demand and action.

**Organizational Overview:** Our primary goal is prevention. Everything that we do is geared toward preventing children in the United States from becoming victims of sex trafficking.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Upstate of South Carolina and Honduras. For the purposes of this report we will only report on what we do in the Upstate of South Carolina.

**Contact Information:** P.O. Box 1614, Greenville, SC, 29602

### **AGENCY EFFORTS**

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
<p>We educate the public (adults and teens) about child sex trafficking. We raise awareness through the following: Billboards strategically placed around the Upstate; hotel and motel outreach; mentor program for at-risk students in the Oconee County school district; distributing state posters to hotels and motels; serving children who at-risk for becoming victims of sex trafficking; and encouraging and empowering people in our communities to work with us to put an end to child trafficking. Since 90% of child trafficking victims have been sexually abused before being trafficked, we provide Darkness to Light training and offer it free to those who work with vulnerable children. It teaches people how to recognize, respond to, and prevent child sex abuse. We also work along with other non-profits on legislation related to human trafficking.</p>
<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
<p>Due to COVID-19, we were not able to accomplish all of our goals. However, via Zoom and in-person presentations we have educated people in the medical field, foster families, people in churches, and various organizations. We have sponsored 12 billboards across the upstate. In March, the schools were closed to mentors due to COVID-19. We worked with the school district to set up computers in the schools so that the mentors and mentees could meet virtually. Before COVID-19, we distributed about 75 state human trafficking posters in Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson Counties. Before COVID-19, we educated 25 people on child sex abuse using the Darkness to Light Curriculum. We provided two special events for at-risk children: one before COVID-19 and one in December using masks and social distancing.</p>

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

It prevented us from doing many of the presentations that were scheduled. It prevented us from doing Darkness to Light training. We had to stop our hotel and motel outreach due to COVID-19. We were unable to do some of the events that we planned for at-risk children. Our mentors were not permitted to go into the schools. A conference that planned for April was postponed.

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

- Educate at least 1,000 adults and teens about domestic minor sex trafficking.
- Educate 100 people using the Darkness to Light training materials.
- Visit 150 hotels with information on child sex trafficking which includes talking to the general manager, giving him/her a packet of information on human trafficking, a poster with red flags for their break room and cart tags for housekeeping with red flags to look for. All materials contain the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.
- Add 50 mentors to our mentoring program.
- Provide four special events for at-risk children.
- Place 12 billboards in the Upstate.
- Begin a transition program for children in foster care. This program would begin at age 15 and prepare them for life outside of the foster care system.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**  
People are beginning to request more Zoom presentations, but not at the rate that we have seen them request in-person presentations. I believe that if COVID-19 continues, we will see 2021 look similar to 2020.
- 2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
We are members of the State, and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Forces. We also are members of the Update Prevention Subcommittee and our President is Co-Chair.
- 3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Dena Rapp, info@riversofjustice.org.

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## **SOUTH CAROLINA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (SCIAC)**

**Mission Statement:** In order to promote the unity of Native American People living in South Carolina; the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission shall strive to protect our cultures and the environment, advocate for the unique human rights of Native Americans, and preserve the history and heritage of our people.

**Organizational Overview:** South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission in the early 90's by Chiefs Gilbert Blue [Catawba], Frank Pye [Santee], Harold Hatcher [Waccamaw], Matthew Creel [Edisto], David Locklear [Pee Dee] and Gene Norris [Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Tribe]. The purpose of the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission (SCIAC) is to allow South Carolina's State Recognized Tribes complete autonomy in decision making processes that impact them, as there is not a stand-alone commission for Indian Affairs in South Carolina.

The SCIAC sought to unify the state's original historic tribes and welcomed other state recognized tribes as they became organized. The SCIAC worked diligently to pressure the South Carolina state government to officially extend state recognition to these tribes, as well as a myriad of other issues. It continues to further its effort in as many ways as possible to improve the lives of our tribal citizens.

The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission consists of the following Committees:

- **The Council of Chiefs:** The Council of Chiefs advocates for State Recognized Tribes in South Carolina and Native American issues in general. Cathy Nelson of Keepers of the Word is the SCIAC seated representative at large on the Council of Chiefs for inter-tribal (Native Americans who are from other tribes but are living in South Carolina) individuals living in South Carolina.
- **The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina:** The Indigenous Women's Alliance exists to support and advocate for specific issues affecting Indigenous Women and Families.
- **Idle No More South Carolina:** Idle No More South Carolina addresses environmental issues, especially those which affect Indigenous Peoples as well as Land Acknowledgment/ Reclamation, Repatriation of Artifacts and Human Remains, Preservation of Sacred Sites, and River Keeper Liaison
- **Native American Veterans and Active Duty Association of South Carolina** which advocates for the unique concerns of South Carolina's Native American Veterans and active duty personnel.

Projects: The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission has ongoing projects at any given time. Two of our current major projects are:

- Restorative Justice: The Restorative Justice Program advocates and provides on-site support for incarcerated Native Americans to practice Native American Spirituality while imprisoned, seeks to identify Native American students who may be vulnerable to the school to prison pipeline, and conducts Forgiveness Ceremonies for the previously incarcerated to help with their re-entry into their tribes.
- Spirit of Eagles: The Spirit of Eagles Project is a cancer awareness and prevention initiative under the Mayo Clinic. It serves to increase community-based participatory research opportunities addressing culturally relevant education, training, and research. The long-term goal is to reduce cancer health disparities by maintaining and expanding tribal community networks and coalitions established by the Spirit of Eagles.

Staff: We are an all-volunteer operation with no paid staff or overhead. The SCIAC gives 100% of its proceeds to its programs.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

T. Lilly Little Water, CEO

817 Pembroke Ave. Columbia, SC 29205; [scindianaffairscommssion@gmail.com](mailto:scindianaffairscommssion@gmail.com)

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
We work to raise awareness regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and closely with those who are working to find a resolution to this epidemic.
<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
The Soft Projects: Providing culturally appropriate comfort kits for women who are sexually assaulted or victims of domestic violence. Training for two women to become sexual assault victim advocates. Survey with the USC College of Social Work regarding School to prison pipeline. Virtual trauma counseling for both veterans and women who have been sexually assaulted or abused.
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
It has been difficult. Without being able to have cultural gatherings we are not able to disseminate or gather information. Our funding is a tenth of what it has been so we have been unable to carry out some crucial needs projects.

**Please list agency goals for 2021:**

- Raise awareness and educate law enforcement in tribal areas regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- Begin a health and wellness program about good nutrition and exercise.
- Create a Youth Leadership Mentorship Program
- Work with state river keepers on river health in tribal areas.
- Continuing our work on the human trafficking of Native American children into South Carolina for unethical and illegal adoptions by abuse of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how? Yes.**  
Funding is miniscule.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

State Task Force

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

T. Lilly Little Water, Chief Executive Officer  
[scindianaffairscommission@gmail.com](mailto:scindianaffairscommission@gmail.com)

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**Mission Statement:** To protect and serve the citizens of the District of South Carolina through the ethical, vigorous and impartial enforcement of the laws of the United States and in so doing to defend the national security, improve the safety and quality of life in our communities, protect the public funds and financial assets of the United States, maintain a courteous and professional working environment, and, with skill and integrity, seek to do justice in every matter.

**Organizational Overview:** Offices in Columbia, Greenville, Florence, and Charleston

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** Columbia—Elliott Daniels; Greenville—Carrie Fisher Sherard; Florence—Lauren Hummel; Charleston—Katie Orville

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
The US Attorney's Office prosecutes human trafficking cases and participates in anti-human trafficking task forces throughout the state.
<b>Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:</b>
The US Attorney's Office prosecuted several trafficking related cases. Notably, a federal indictment was brought in US v. Brian Watson. The Watson case involves numerous victims and the defendant utilized a drug based coercion scheme to recruit and hold his victims. The office also indicted US v. Garland et al which involved at least two victims and five defendants. The Garland case marks the first time the office has brought trafficking charges against trafficking customers (johns).
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
The US Attorney's Office is fully operative on a telework basis.
<b>Please list agency goals for 2021:</b>
The US Attorney's Office intends to build upon its anti-trafficking efforts and will aim to increase is trafficking prosecutions and to bring labor trafficking charges in appropriate cases.

## REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**

The US Attorney's Office is operating on a telework basis, but remains fully functional.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

The US Attorney's Office is a member of the State Task Force and the regional task forces.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Columbia – Elliot Daniels; Greenville – Carrie Fisher Sherard; Charleston – Katie Orville;  
Florence – Lauren Hummel

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## ZONTA OF COLUMBIA

**Mission Statement:** Empowering women and girls locally and worldwide through service and advocacy.

**Organizational Overview:** Zonta of Columbia is affiliated with Zonta International. We offer support, programming and monetary awards to young women in public affairs and in business. We meet monthly for a luncheon to plan events including collaborative efforts to address human trafficking. While we primarily serve the midlands, we do collaborate with other Zonta Clubs in the state (e.g. Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head).

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Our primary area served is the Midlands region to include Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry and Fairfield counties.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 1164 Columbia, SC 29201

### AGENCY EFFORTS

#### What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?

Zonta of Columbia provides support, education and financial contributions to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. We have participated in hanging posters in hotels and other locations as required by law. We attend the State Task Force meetings and attend community awareness events through the Attorney General's Office. We train and educate women at Killingsworth using a program called Enhancing Your Assets, and we also distribute two monetary awards for the Young Women in Public Affairs and the Jane M Klausman award to women in business.

#### Please list agency accomplishments in 2020:

- We continue to recruit new members of like-minded women and welcomed three new members in 2020.
- Attended Zonta district meetings on Zoom to gather information and resources.
- Participated in Human Trafficking Awareness Day at the Statehouse.
- Awarded the Jane M Klausman Scholarship for Women in Business.
- Held our annual fundraiser, Zonta Zinger, at the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center and featured our scholarship winner's mother as a speaker.
- Presented "Enhancing Your Assets" winter/spring programs in person at Killingsworth Home, and fall programs with USC student nurses on Zoom.
- Partnered with USC anti-human trafficking student organization prior to quarantine.
- Had monthly membership meetings on Zoom.

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

Due to COVID-19 we have been unable to host or attend in-person meetings, activities, or events. Zonta conferences were cancelled, including the Zonta International Convention scheduled for July 2020 in Chicago. Two of our members contracted COVID-19, fortunately with mild symptoms. On the local and international level, Zonta has had to make adjustments, be creative and flexible. We will not be able to hold our annual Zonta Zinger in person in March 2021, so we are working on an alternative.

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

**Goal 1:** Recruit additional members

**Goal 2:** Hold our Zonta Zinger event on March 8th (International Women's Day and Zonta Yellow Rose Day) at the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center. Due to the pandemic, this most likely will not be possible to be an in-person event.

**Goal 3:** Continue to make additional connections with partners including the Girl Scout Leadership Center, universities, and community stakeholder groups.

**Goal 4:** Make progress on our four pillars of membership, advocacy, service, and increase community awareness of human trafficking.

## **REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency? If so, how?**  
COVID-19 will continue to have a negative impact on our ability to meet in person, to participate in service and advocacy activities and events, and to hold successful fundraisers.
- 2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
We attend the State Task Force meetings.
- 3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Dr. Pam Imm, 803-603-3896 and [drpamimm@gmail.com](mailto:drpamimm@gmail.com).

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### AIKEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**Agency Description:** Municipal police, fire, and first responder government agency.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** The City of Aiken, to include portions of the county for fire and emergent first aid response.

#### CASE DATA

Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 2	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 1 U.S. minor
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>							
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>							
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0				
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0				
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0				
<b>Number of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2020</b>							
<b>Sex Trafficking</b>				<b>Labor Trafficking</b>			
<u>Minors:</u> 0				<u>Minors:</u> 0			
<u>Adults:</u> 0				<u>Adults:</u> 0			
<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>		<b>Other</b>		<b>Unknown</b>	
0		3		0		0	
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
2 adults	1 minor	0	0	0	0	0	0

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your agency? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

The pandemic caused our work schedules to change, our homes became makeshift offices, and most face to face contact with the public all but ceased except for uniformed patrol. Schools were shut down at this time and utilizing online learning platforms. Our School Resource Officers through OJT learned how to investigate crimes against children and were able to work on a large back log of old division cases. Once restrictions were lifted a bit, we resumed in office work and interviews and interrogations. We also saw an increase of online

issues with children due to the increase of internet use, online schooling, and limited mobility due to the pandemic.

**2. Has your agency implemented new policies/practices as a result of COVID-19? If so, please describe.**

Like most agencies, we restrict unnecessary visitors, we only have a 24-hour lobby open (main lobby closed and would normally have a person at desk during normal business hours), and everyone must be screened for symptoms before entering the secure portions of the building.

**3. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Chair and Co-Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force

**4. Additional Information:**

We did work several sex trafficking leads throughout the year but could not confirm they were trafficking or did not have the resources/time to continue the investigations.

**5. Contact Information:**

Captain Maryann Burgess: Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force

Email: [mburgess@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:mburgess@cityofaikensc.gov); Phone: (803)642-7667

Officer Eleanor Hunter, Co-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force.

Email: [ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov); Phone: (803)643-2183

## CITY OF CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Agency Description:** Municipal Law Enforcement

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** City of Charleston

### CASE DATA

Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 1	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

Number of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2020							
Sex Trafficking				Labor Trafficking			
<u>Minors:</u> 0				<u>Minors:</u> 0			
<u>Adults:</u> 0				<u>Adults:</u> 0			
Victim/Survivor Demographic Information							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
Gender Identity							
Male		Female		Other		Unknown	
0		1		0		0	
Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your agency? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

The use of social media increased and numerous new apps were discovered, creating new challenges in obtaining/preserving evidence. Also restricting in-home visits to only those absolutely necessary was difficult; talking on the phone helps but does not replace in person rapport building.

- 2. Has your agency implemented new policies/practices as a result of COVID-19? If so, please describe.**

Utilization or easing of taking reports remotely, which has both positive and negative consequences. People may be inclined to report as it is easier but it is difficult to catch the nuances of an incident when not in person.

- 3. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force

**4. Contact Information:**

Eric Tuttle | Detective Sergeant  
 City of Charleston, Police Department  
 Central Investigation – SVU  
 180 Lockwood Blvd.|Charleston, SC 29403  
 T:(843) 720-2455|F:(843) 577-0117| [tuttle@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:tuttle@charleston-sc.gov)

**RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

**Agency Description:** Law Enforcement  
**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Richland County

**CASE DATA**

Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 9 (FBI: 8 US adults, 1 US minor)		<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 1 U.S. minor
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 4 (SLED: 2 U.S. minors & 2 traffickers charged)		<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 1 (SLED: 1 US minor)
<u>December:</u> 0			
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>							
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>							
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0				
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0				
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0				
<b>Number of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2020</b>							
<b>Sex Trafficking</b>		<b>Labor Trafficking</b>					
<u>Minors:</u> 7		<u>Minors:</u> 0					
<u>Adults:</u> 8		<u>Adults:</u> 0					
<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>				
0	13	0	0				
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your agency? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**  
 No impact.
- 2. Has your agency implemented new policies/practices as a result of COVID-19? If so, please describe.**  
 No.

**3. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**  
State Task Force, Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

**4. Contact Information:**

Heidi Jackson: [hjackson@rcsd.net](mailto:hjackson@rcsd.net), 803-576-3113

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## SERVICE PROVIDERS

### BEYOND ABUSE

**Mission:** To lead our community beyond sexual violence and child abuse through awareness, advocacy and action.

**Organizational Overview:** Beyond Abuse provides the following services:

- 24/7 Crisis Response — Hotline and Emergency Department on-call support
- Advocacy
- Therapy
- Assistance with filing victim's compensation
- Education and awareness programs

In addition, children ages 17 and under who are referred by law enforcement agencies or the Department of Social Services may receive:

- Forensic Interviews
- Child Maltreatment Medical Exam
- Multidisciplinary team case review

**Area Served:** Greenwood, Laurens, Abbeville, and Newberry counties.

**Contact Information:** 115 E Alexander Ave., Greenwood, SC 29646  
864-227-1623 and [www.beyondabuse.info](http://www.beyondabuse.info)

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	4	0	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 2	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 2	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	0	0	0
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u>	0	<u>April:</u>	0	<u>July:</u>	0	<u>October:</u>	0
<u>February:</u>	0	<u>May:</u>	0	<u>August:</u>	0	<u>November:</u>	0
<u>March:</u>	0	<u>June:</u>	0	<u>September:</u>	0	<u>December:</u>	0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	0	0	0

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Services Provided**

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

N/A

**Referrals**

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
0	0

Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0			

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Because of COVID-19 we have had to implement new ways of providing services by use of technology and virtual telehealth and advocacy. COVID has also impacted our ability to respond in-person to victims of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and child abuse due to the current restrictions our three-hospital service area has in place in regards to visitors, etc. We have seen a trend in child sex trafficking through the pandemic but not sex trafficking of adults. We feel this is because adults may be in situations where they can't get out of to seek services and support.

**2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

In the beginning, we all had to work from home and adjust to a fully virtual work experience. Eventually we were able to return to the office but we still had restrictions in place and were only allowing in those with scheduled appointments or crisis situations. Our current system and restrictions are still in place for social distancing, etc. However, we are seeing more clients in-person than when the pandemic first started.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Not at this time, I feel we will continue to do what we've been doing and following CDC and DHEC guidelines in an effort to keep our staff, volunteers, and clients safe.

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## CHARLESTON PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

**Mission:** Access to justice and legal services builds strong, vibrant communities. Charleston Pro Bono serves the vital legal needs of Charleston’s economically disadvantaged. We empower people by providing aid, representation, and an array of legal services that grant access to the protections and benefits of our justice system.

**Organizational Overview:** Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services is the recipient of a DOJ OVC Grant, and a match grant from the Ackermann Foundation. As a result of these grants, we were able to create a position for a full-time Victim Rights Attorney. The goal of this attorney is to provide wrap-around legal representation to victims of human trafficking. Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services’ Victim Rights Attorney provides the following legal representation services to victims of human trafficking:

- Personal Injury;
- Immigration Law;
- Housing Law;
- Public Benefits Representation;
- Employment Law;
- Family Law;
- Pardon/Expungement Representation;
- Victim Rights/Victim Witness Representation;
- Legal Referral Services

**Area Served:** Charleston, Berkley, and Dorchester counties

**Contact Information:** 111 Church Street, Charleston, SC 29401. 843-853-6456

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
3*	0	1	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 2
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 1	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 1*

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	4	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 4
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

## Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
4	4*	0	0

### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
1*	2	5	0	0	0	0	0

### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

- Four adult victims of labor trafficking, two adult victims of sex trafficking - victim witness representation for reporting trafficking to law enforcement and continued participation in the prosecution of the trafficker(s);
- Four adult victims of labor trafficking, one adult victim of sex trafficking - immigration law;
- Four adult victims of labor trafficking, four\* adult victims of sex trafficking – legal advice and counsel;
- One adult victim of sex trafficking – personal injury law;
- One adult victim of sex trafficking – housing law;
- One adult victim of sex trafficking – public benefits law;
- Two adult victim of sex trafficking – family law;
- Four adult victims of labor trafficking, one adult victim of sex trafficking – employment law;
- Four adult potential victims of sex trafficking (these potential victims are not included in demographic or cases open information referenced above because no case was opened by Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services never physically met with the potential victims to do an intake) – referral services to private volunteer attorneys across the state/country;
- One minor potential victim of sex trafficking (this potential victim is not included in demographic or cases open information referenced above because no case was opened by Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services never physically met with the potential victims to do an intake) – referral to a Human Trafficking Guardian Ad Litem;
- Four adult victims of labor trafficking, one adult victim of sex trafficking – referrals to the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP);

- Two adult victims of sex trafficking – referrals to social service providers.

**\* One potential adult victim of sex trafficking has an application pending an intake as of the date of this report.**

Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
11		Social services assistance; TVAP assistance; mental/physical well-being; legal needs to be addressed out of the state/immediate Charleston area.	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 18	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 260	<u>In Person:</u> 2 <u>Virtual:</u> 4	<u>In Person:</u> 80 <u>Virtual:</u> 230

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Due to COVID-19, our office had to adjust policies regarding client meetings, in-office staffing, and office protocol with regard to health and safety. Despite COVID-19, we were able to hire Pamela Larson as the human trafficking victim rights attorney and she began in August 2020. Even though the first year was intended to be for planning, Pam began seeing clients beginning in late August.

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Due to COVID-19, some of our staff are working from home; though most of our staff is physically present in our office during the work week. Our protocols were altered to the extent that no clients are allowed in staff office space; rather, clients are only meeting with staff in a conference space. Additionally, we staggered client meetings to reduce the

possibility of overlap and avoid unnecessary exposure. Further, upon entry of our building, everyone must wear a facemask and have their temperature checked.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services will continue to monitor the COVID-19 trends and adjust services accordingly. As of now, no organizational changes are expected.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

- Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services is co-chair of the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force Legal Innovations Subcommittee;
- Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services is the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force's volunteer panelist on the Charleston County School District's Truancy Board to assist schools with identifying potential minor trafficking victims who are dealing with truancy issues. This partnership is integral to identifying minor victims because one of the key red flags of minor trafficking victims is truancy issues.

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Pamela Larson, Esq. – Victim Rights Attorney

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1116, Charleston, SC 29202

Physical Address: 111 Church Street, Charleston SC 29401

843-853-6456 and [PLarson@charlestonprobono.org](mailto:PLarson@charlestonprobono.org)

**6. Additional Information:**

It is important to note that Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services did not begin providing services to victims of human trafficking until the end of August 2020.

## CUMBEE CENTER TO ASSIST ABUSED PERSONS

**Mission:** To support and empower domestic violence and sexual violence victims and their families by providing services, reducing the tolerance of abuse, and advocating for social change.

**Organizational Overview:** Services including shelter, case management, crisis intervention, hotline, counseling, support group, prevention groups, and more.

**Area Served:** Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
3	0	0	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 3	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>							
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>				
0	0	0	0				
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>							
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>				
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0				
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0				
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>							
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.</i>							
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0				
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0				
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0				
<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>				
0	3	0	0				
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Services Provided			
<i>(Ex: “One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing”)</i>			
Three adult sex trafficking victims—case management and clinical mental health			
Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
0		0	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 has impacted survivor reporting. Although our caseloads have remained high, services have not slowed down, given the community’s rising crime rates it is apparent that more violence is occurring. Our agency has not seen many setbacks in the face of the pandemic, we have successfully continued providing services to our victims through a variety of technological resources and programs. Although it has been challenging at times and frankly, difficult not being able to have face to face human contact, we have really grown as an agency and have learned to overcome these barriers together.

- 2. How were your organization’s staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Other than working remote for a short time, and increasing social distancing methods by using programs such as DOXY and Zoom, we did not change very much.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to provide the same services, honoring the CDC’s guidelines.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Elizabeth Lemacks: 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force. In 2021, Elizabeth hopes to join the State Task Force.

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Elizabeth Lemacks; Case Manager (Replacing Vianca Anderson)

[elemacks@cumbeecenter.org](mailto:elemacks@cumbeecenter.org)

(803) 641-4162 ext. 7006

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE  
(SCDJJ)**

**Mission:** It is the mission of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

**Organizational Overview:** The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is a state cabinet agency, and by law, it is also a treatment and rehabilitative agency for the state's juveniles. DJJ is responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense.

**Area Served:** Statewide

**Contact Information:** PO Box 21069, Columbia, SC 2922; 803-896-9749

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
7	43		
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>
<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u>	<u>April:</u>	<u>July:</u>	<u>October:</u>
<u>February:</u>	<u>May:</u>	<u>August:</u>	<u>November:</u>
<u>March:</u>	<u>June:</u>	<u>September:</u>	<u>December:</u>

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>	<u>Active:</u>
<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>	<u>Closed:</u>

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u>	<u>April:</u>	<u>July:</u>	<u>October:</u>
<u>February:</u>	<u>May:</u>	<u>August:</u>	<u>November:</u>
<u>March:</u>	<u>June:</u>	<u>September:</u>	<u>December:</u>

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
3	47		

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
24	19	5	1	1	0	0	0
Services Provided							
<i>(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")</i>							
Services the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice utilizes for suspected/confirmed cases of minor victims of human trafficking are mental health services, alternative placement when available and necessary. Within our internal system, clinical staff use Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy.							
Referrals							
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies				Purpose of Referrals Made			
Unknown				Suspected cases of human trafficking of minors			
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)							
Number of Presentations Given		Number of Attendees at Presentations		Number of Trainings Given		Number of Attendees at Trainings	
<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>		<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>		<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u> (3)		<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u> 58	

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Due to COVID restrictions, there have been delays in securing Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities. The delays are caused by testing requirements or facilities being under quarantine.

**2. How were your organization’s staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**  
N/A

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

N/A

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Memberships include Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, State Task Force, Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force, and Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force.

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Angela B. Hugie, Victim Services Manager, 803-896-9544

Tanisha M. Tate, Victim Services Coordinator, 803-896-6761

**6. Additional Information:**

DJJ has initiated ongoing meetings with DSS to discuss roles, responsibilities, training needs, protocols and service delivery. There is now an established workgroup that will continue to meet in 2021. All youth who come into contact with DJJ and are suspected victims of human trafficking, will be referred to the DJJ Regional Special Needs Coordinators (RSNC's). The RSNC will facilitate an interagency meeting with all appropriate state agencies to develop a plan of care and services for these youth. DJJ will make a report to the DSS HUB of all cases of suspected human trafficking.

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## **DOORS TO FREEDOM**

**Mission:** Doors to Freedom provides a safe place for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life.

**Organizational Overview:** Doors to Freedom provides:

- 24/7 residential care facility
- Education, life skills, personal growth, case management, and advocacy
- Partnerships with the medical community to provide medical care for residents
- Partnerships with Children's Advocacy Centers to provide appropriate therapy for residents

**Area Served:** Statewide

**Contact Information:** 1317 M North Main Street #263, Summerville, SC 29483

### **VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	18	0	1
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors: 8</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors: 1</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 1	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 1
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 7	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 1	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 1	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 1	<u>May:</u> 1	<u>August:</u> 1	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 1	<u>June:</u> 2	<u>September:</u> 2	<u>December:</u> 0
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	19	0	0

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
7	11	1 Honduras	0	0	0	0	0

**Services Provided**

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

All victims participate in the following:

Education, Life Skills, Therapy

Victims also participate in activities, unless they otherwise desire not to participate.

Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

We implemented a COVID-19 protocol – Fever checks, handwashing, disinfect frequently.

- 2. How were your organization’s staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

We implemented a COVID-19 protocol – Fever checks, handwashing, disinfect frequently.  
There have not been any significant staffing issues due to COVID-19.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue protocols currently set in place.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

State Task Force and Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force.

- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Sharon Rikard and/or Becky Bonavida

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## FRESH START HEALING HEART

**Mission:** To walk beside survivors of human trafficking during their healing process. Providing basic needs and housing while contacting them to restorative services.

**Organizational Overview:** We provide the following:

- Safe Housing: Host family model
- Basic needs: Food , clothing, hygiene
- Case Management: Mentors/ Support Team
- Partnered Services: trauma counseling, parenting classes, rehab for addictions, continued education, transitional housing, exercise, church, personal care, financial planning and education, work readiness, car care, medical
- Programs: Support groups, economic and healthy living education, personal positive growth and goal setting.
- Transportation
- Advocacy- We will accompany our clients to any meetings, court hearings, medical, attorney, church, support groups etc.
- 24 hour helpline
- Languages: We currently serve English, Spanish, Hebrew, 2 forms of Cantonese, 2 forms of Mandarin, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese languages.
- Community Education and Prevention- We have set up a 5+ week program amid at runaways and at-risk youth. Geared towards self esteem and healthy boundaries.

**Area Served:** Primarily the Lowcountry; also Georgia, statewide, and nationally.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 754, Port Royal, SC, 29935  
843-644-1991 and [healingheartstart@gmail.com](mailto:healingheartstart@gmail.com)

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
6	2	1	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 4	<u>Active:</u> 1	<u>Active:</u> 1	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 1 U.S. Minor
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 1 U.S. Adult	<u>November:</u> 1 U.S. Adult
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	0	1	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 1 Adult	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

### Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

#### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	10	0	0

#### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
2	6	2	0	0	0	0	0

#### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

1 Minor (sex trafficking) – family services and advocacy  
 6 Adult (sex trafficking)- case management  
 4 Adult (sex trafficking)-housing  
 4 Adults (sex trafficking)- transportation  
 4 Adults (sex trafficking)- advocacy  
 1 Adult (labor trafficking)- advocacy, case management, translation, transportation

#### Referrals

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
3 lawyers, 4 housing, 4 counseling	

#### Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)

Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 2 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 85+ <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 1 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 250+ <u>Virtual:</u> 0

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

A quarter of the people educated than any other year. No youth educated when normally at least 50 are.

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Volunteers dropped in half.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

No changes to services but implement online trainings and presentation.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

State Task Force and Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force

- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Sheila Roemeling: [director@freshstarthealingheart.org](mailto:director@freshstarthealingheart.org), 843-644-1991

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## HUSH NO MORE

**Mission:** HUSH No More's primary mission is to provide a platform for Survivors to share their experience with the "HUSH Topics" and to receive support from other Survivors and Victim Advocates. As well as provide training that will lead to awareness and prevention of the "HUSH Topics."

**Organizational Overview:** HUSH No More is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2019 to provide a platform for Survivors to share their experience with the "HUSH Topics," to receive support from other Survivors and victim advocates, and provide training that will lead to awareness and prevention in our community. HUSH Topics are those topics that individuals, families, and organizations have a hard time discussing, such as sexual assault, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, etc.

**Area Served:** Statewide

**Contact Information:** 2712 Middleburg Dr., Ste 105, Columbia, SC 29204  
Dr. Vanessa Guyton: 1-888-285-2161

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

**Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	4	0	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 1	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 2	<u>August:</u> 1	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
0	4	0	0

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Services Provided**

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

Four minor sex trafficking victims- free individual counseling  
 One minor sex trafficking victim-free family counseling  
 Four minor sex trafficking victims- clothing closet  
 One minor sex trafficking victim- provided art therapy  
 One minor sex trafficking victim-GED program

**Referrals**

<b>Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies</b>	<b>Purpose of Referrals Made</b>
4	Clothing

Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 2 <u>Virtual:</u> 7	<u>In Person:</u> 20 <u>Virtual:</u> 62	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 4	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 40

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

We are unable to actually be out in the community in high-targeted areas. We are also unable to provide in-person training. Some organizations are not comfortable with virtual training/presentations, but some organizations welcome the presentations/training.
- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Our office is currently closed. Instead we work from our home office. When we meet victims, we ensure that everyone has on masks, remain six feet apart, and use hand sanitizer.
- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will still provide the same services with caution.
- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

State Task Force
- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Dr. Vanessa Guyton, Executive Director, HUSH No More  
[admin@thehushtopics.com](mailto:admin@thehushtopics.com) and 1-888-285-2161

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## JASMINE ROAD

**Mission:** Jasmine Road’s mission is to offer women who are trapped in a cycle of sexual exploitation and addiction a path to freedom, a haven for healing, and the opportunity to flourish, leading to generational change and the betterment of our community.

**Organizational Overview:** Jasmine Road (JR) offers a two-year “housing-first” residential program for adult female survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. JR’s mission is to heal, empower, and employ survivors by providing safe housing, time, and space to heal, meaningful employment, and a lifelong community of support. In 2020, JR graduated three residents from the two-year program who are all sober, safely housed, employed, and contributing members of the community. Graduates have become survivor leaders and are employed by JR in the residential program and affiliated social enterprises.

JR partners with many agencies in our community, providing holistic restoration services. This includes comprehensive healthcare, psychiatry, and medication management (Bon Secours St. Francis), clinical mental health counseling (Julie Valentine Center, Compass of Carolina, Canterbury Counseling), dental healthcare (Strausbaugh and Hamrick, DMD), outpatient addiction treatment (Phoenix Center), addiction recovery coaches and support (FAVOR Greenville, Re-gen Grace Church), wellness and exercise opportunities (Caine Halter YMCA, Integrative Yoga Therapy, Women 4 Women) Horticulture Therapy, Music Therapy (Heartstrings), Equine Therapy (Hope Remains Ranch), GED tutoring and classes, employment readiness, financial literacy (United Ministries), continuing education opportunities (Greenville Technical College), and creative outlets in art and theatre (Applied Theatre Center and Triune Mercy Center), sustainable housing partnerships (Grace Church, Homes of Hope).

JR utilizes a coercion resiliency curriculum designed by survivor leaders for survivors exiting trafficking and exploitation (Ending the Game). In 2020, JR launched Jasmine Kitchen, a social enterprise lunch cafe and an apprenticeship program whereby residents learn transferable job skills necessary to sustain independent living. In addition, JR expanded its social enterprises in 2020 by launching a new candle scent and additional social enterprise products as well as an online store. Social enterprises provide a community of support and sustainable employment opportunities in a safe environment for residents and graduates as well as generate revenue to sustain the operations of the nonprofit. JR has received over 120 residential applications since opening in May 2018 and is responding to this need by opening a second home in May 2021. JR, in partnership with Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, will be opening a second residence that will triple residential capacity from five to 15, and also includes two transitional living apartments for graduates.

**Area Served:** Jasmine Road is located in Greenville County but services the entire state of SC as well as referrals from partner networks throughout the U.S.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 25452, Greenville, SC, 29616.

Beth Messick, Executive Director: 864-325-6916

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
83	0	0	0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 11 <u>Closed:</u> 4	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 9	<u>April:</u> 4	<u>July:</u> 4	<u>October:</u> 7
<u>February:</u> 1	<u>May:</u> 5	<u>August:</u> 8	<u>November:</u> 8
<u>March:</u> 2	<u>June:</u> 12	<u>September:</u> 7	<u>December:</u> 5
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0

Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019							
U.S. Adults		U.S. Minors		Foreign National Adults		Foreign National Minors	
<u>Active:</u> 0		<u>Active:</u> 0		<u>Active:</u> 0		<u>Active:</u> 0	
<u>Closed:</u> 0		<u>Closed:</u> 0		<u>Closed:</u> 0		<u>Closed:</u> 0	
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020							
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.</i>							
<u>January:</u> 0		<u>April:</u> 0		<u>July:</u> 0		<u>October:</u> 0	
<u>February:</u> 0		<u>May:</u> 0		<u>August:</u> 0		<u>November:</u> 0	
<u>March:</u> 0		<u>June:</u> 0		<u>September:</u> 0		<u>December:</u> 0	
Victim/Survivor Demographic Information							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
Gender Identity							
Male		Female		Other		Unknown	
0		83		0		0	
Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
48	27	4	1	0	0	0	3

## Services Provided

*(Ex: “One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing”)*

### Residential Service Delivery:

-13 adult survivors received housing in the Jasmine Road program (includes basic needs such as food, clothing, clinical mental health therapy, psychiatry care, addiction recovery support, physical healthcare, dental healthcare, medication management, employment readiness and financial literacy, physical and mental health and wellness classes and activities, advocacy within the criminal justice system, and legal support, job placement, long term housing support)

-8 residential survivors participated in intensive outpatient addiction treatment

-2 residential survivors graduated from local community college and one completed Peer Support Specialist training

-4 residential survivors continuing education for GED, financial literacy and other services from United Ministries

-5 residential survivors received advocacy within the criminal justice system.

-4 residential survivors secured employment in Jasmine Road Enterprises

### Non-resident service delivery:

-66 adult survivors applied for residential program and were provided case management services and resources

-17 adult survivors received referrals to secure placement in other programs

-3 adult survivors accessed clinical mental health services

-5 law enforcement referrals received case management services

-11 adult survivors received services inside Greenville County Detention Center

-9 adult survivors referred from Sheltered Alliance and sister communities received case management services and resources

## Referrals

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
100+	Housing, inpatient addiction recovery, detox, clinical counseling, medical treatment, legal issues, employment

## Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)

Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 17 <u>Virtual:</u> 3	<u>In Person:</u> 549 <u>Virtual:</u> 105	<u>In Person:</u> 7 <u>Virtual:</u> 4	<u>In Person:</u> 494 <u>Virtual:</u> 111

## **FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 has impacted many operational facets of Jasmine Road. We have implemented new policies within all aspects of the organization due to CDC guidelines. We have had limited work from home options for key staff that are not involved in daily residential operations. We have had an increase in expenses related to cleaning and sanitizing procedures, PPE, online grocery ordering, and innovative social distanced outdoor programming. We adapted the way we do volunteer and community presentations and trainings to mostly online platforms. We had an increase in applications for services in 2020 and clearly traffickers are not taking a break and continuing to exploit vulnerabilities, particularly those created by the pandemic. Also, loss of jobs and increased online presence of victims and traffickers has resulted in an increase in victimization. We have also adapted intake processes, COVID screening applicants before integrating them into community. One of the biggest challenges JR has faced has been the isolation with the pandemic and its effect on our residential community and coming up with creative ways to address the mental health issues related to feeling trapped and isolated. Many addiction recovery meetings have been cancelled or meeting virtually which presents its own set of triggers and challenges. We have increased our in-house recovery meetings and employed peer support specialists to respond to challenging mental health issues.

In addition, our social enterprise café Jasmine Kitchen had to close for six months due to COVID-19 and this impacted our planned business model. Jasmine Enterprises quickly responded by expanding social enterprise products during this time and was able to continue to employ all residents and graduates without them losing wages. The kitchen re-opened in December with a new concept of Box lunch catering, takeout and expanded social enterprise offerings as well as an online store.

**2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Strict protocols have been put in place for responding to residents during COVID-19 as per CDC guidelines. Staff protocols for possible COVID-19 exposure have been put into place as well as quarantine and return-to-work procedures per CDC guidelines. We have worked closely with our HR agency to ensure that all employee guidelines as it relates to the pandemic are strictly followed. Residents in the home have additional requirements for sanitizing common spaces, cooking, cleaning, and living in community during COVID-19 as well as guidelines for interaction outside the community. We have employed Peer Support Staff to provide critical support to residents during nights and weekends and offer more options and access to recovery meetings since many have been cancelled.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to offer best practice, trauma informed services to all residents, applicants, and referrals and will continue to adapt to challenges and protocols put in place by the CDC. We will continue to screen potential residents for COVID-19 before integrating them into the community and work with partner and referring organizations to provide holistic case

management services for survivors. We will also be opening a second house in 2021 and this will increase our ability to take more immediate referrals that meet residential criteria. We will also continue to expand service offerings and address the ongoing mental health issues related to the isolation, fear, and uncertainty the pandemic has created.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**  
State Task Force and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Beth Messick- Executive Director [beth@jasmineroad.org](mailto:beth@jasmineroad.org) 864-325-6916

Lindsay Blair- [lindsay@jasmineroad.org](mailto:lindsay@jasmineroad.org)

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## LIGHTHOUSE FOR LIFE

**Mission:** Our mission is to educate the community about the realities of human trafficking while restoring victims to wholeness.

**Organizational Overview:** We provide free awareness presentations and trainings to any audience and tailor it to meet the needs of the audience. We also have a long-term residential program (opening soon) for female survivors of sex trafficking who are between the ages of 12-21. We are developing our non-residential Survivor Care program to assist survivors with their other various needs.

**Area Served:** We provide services across the State of South Carolina, although our safe home is located in Richland County.

**Contact Information:** 7320 Broad River Rd, Ste K 247, Irmo, SC 29063  
803.669.0110 and [info@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:info@lighthouseforlife.org)

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
10	0	0	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 6	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 4	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>		<b>Other</b>		<b>Unknown</b>	
0		10		0		0	
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Services Provided</b>							
<i>(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")</i>							
Tattoo cover-up (1 sex trafficking survivor) Counseling Assistance (3 sex trafficking survivors) One-on-one support (4 sex trafficking survivors) Transportation Assistance (2 sex trafficking survivors) Legal Assistance Referral							
<b>Referrals</b>							
<b>Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies</b>				<b>Purpose of Referrals Made</b>			
26				Counseling, legal, housing, substance abuse treatment			
<b>Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)</b>							
<b>Number of Presentations Given</b>		<b>Number of Attendees at Presentations</b>		<b>Number of Trainings Given</b>		<b>Number of Attendees at Trainings</b>	
<u>In Person:</u> 41 <u>Virtual:</u> 3		<u>In Person:</u> 1739 <u>Virtual:</u> 2527		<u>In Person:</u> 13 <u>Virtual:</u> 6		<u>In Person:</u> 543 <u>Virtual:</u> 171	

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 caused us to dramatically push back an open date for our residential program as we had to put a freeze on hiring staff for a while. It also caused us to go more digital with our administrative and business platform, both of which have made us much stronger in our operations. We had an increase in calls requesting services for survivors since the beginning of COVID-19, which caused us to put more effort into developing our Survivor Care Program for survivors who will not be a part of our residential Karis Home program. The delay in opening Karis Home, wisdom on how to help protect the health and well-being of our staff and clients, as well as having to shift some of our fundraising efforts have been our biggest challenges due to COVID-19.

**2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Our staffing models have not changed; however, we have implemented safety measures such as wearing face masks, taking temperatures, etc. and established an accountability system.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Very little. We will provide more virtual trainings/presentations and some of our interactions with non-residential survivors will be virtual as well. But we will move forward with our residential program as planned and continue to assist survivors and provide trainings as we can.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

We participate in the State Task Force and the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

- Vicki Jackson, Survivor Care Director: [vjackson@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:vjackson@lighthouseforlife.org) and 757-372-1725
- Heather Pounds, Survivor Care Coordinator: [hpounds@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:hpounds@lighthouseforlife.org) and 803-729-6110
- Bob Healy: [robertlhealy@rocketmail.com](mailto:robertlhealy@rocketmail.com) and 908-625-1133
- Lisa Kejr: [lisa@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:lisa@lighthouseforlife.org) and 803-900-0907

**6. Additional Information:**

Our organization has received 57 calls in 2020 in regard to potential victims of human trafficking, suspected victims of human trafficking, family, friends, or community members seeking advice on how to help or what to do, and survivors.

- January: 3
- February: 0
- March: 3
- April: 5
- May: 5

- June: 7
- July: 6
- August: 10
- September: 12
- October: 6
- November: 2
- December: 3

25 calls requested resources, 14 calls requested support, 17 calls requested guidance, and 1 call requested law enforcement assistance

## MUSC CHILD ABUSE PEDIATRICS

**Mission:** The mission of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is “to preserve and optimize human life in South Carolina and beyond through education, research, and patient care.”

**Organizational Overview:** To serve abused and neglected children through evaluation, treatment, and referral for services to improve patient outcomes.

**Area Served:** Tri-County Area of Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties. (though we accept patients from all over who need our services).

**Contact Information:** MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital: 10 McClennan Banks Drive, Charleston, SC 29425.

-Karen Drozd: 843-876-0239

-Kathy Fabrizio: 843-723-3600

-Dr. John Melville: 843-723-3600

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	68	0	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 3	<u>April:</u> 3	<u>July:</u> 6	<u>October:</u> 4
<u>February:</u> 6	<u>May:</u> 16	<u>August:</u> 5	<u>November:</u> 1
<u>March:</u> 4	<u>June:</u> 6	<u>September:</u> 12	<u>December:</u> 2

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

Male	Female	Other	Unknown

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown

**Services Provided**

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

Our PSANE Program Coordinator and a Nurse Practitioner serve on the Medical Subcommittee of the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force. Our PSANE Program Coordinator is a Co-Chair for the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force Medical Subcommittee. Our Nurse Practitioner serves on a CSEC multi-disciplinary team (MDT) committee. We serve human trafficked patients in our clinics and the Peds Emergency Department at MUSC for both acute and non-acute care. Our team collects evidence when it is appropriate. We also care for patients in the non-acute clinical setting for medical evaluations and STI testing. We refer for follow up services that include medical and psychological support for these patients. Our team also aids in safety issues and bridging the gap in services when children cannot follow up with our team (located at facilities outside our area). We also partner with social workers who specialize in abuse when the patient is seen in acute hospital setting.

**Referrals**

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
68	We refer all our patients for mental health services

Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0			

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Our organization is well-versed in accommodating infectious diseases. We altered contact but continued to provide the same level of services for human trafficking victims and survivors in the Peds ED. Clinics at the CACs were closed for a few weeks while accommodations were made to properly distance people.

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

There were alterations in the clinic services that pushed much communication to be virtual. All face-to-face evaluations in the Peds ED at MUSC continued without change except for social distancing requirements. We met all the altered protocols issued by MUSC for protection during contact.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to be on modified services (virtual meetings and such) and policy held distancing until this pandemic is under control. Peds ED services will remain unaltered except for appropriate distancing in the Peds ED, less visitors in rooms, required masks, etc.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force- Kathy Fabrizio, NP is a member of their medical subcommittee. Karen Drozd, MSN is a co-chair for the medical subcommittee. Kathy Fabrizio participates as a medical advisor in the Tri-County Human Trafficking CSEC MDT.

- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Karen Drozd and Kathy Fabrizio: [drozdk@musc.edu](mailto:drozdk@musc.edu) & [fabrizi@musc.edu](mailto:fabrizi@musc.edu)

## PEE DEE COALITION

**Mission:** Pee Dee Coalition is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to the needs of its victims.

**Organizational Overview:** Pee Dee Coalition provides emergency and transitional shelter, community victim services, criminal justice advocacy, 24/7 crisis hotline, hospital response, and Child Advocacy Center core services.

**Area Served:** The Coalition operates in eight counties: Florence, Darlington, Marion, Dillon, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Williamsburg, and most recently, Sumter.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 1351, Florence, SC 29503 & 220 S. Irby St. Florence, SC 29503

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
2	4	0	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 1	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 1	<u>June:</u> 3	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 1

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

**Gender Identity**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
3	3	0	0

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Services Provided							
<i>(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")</i>							
4 Minors received forensic interviews, medical exam, and case management 1 Minor received info and referral services. 3 Minors received criminal justice advocacy 2 Adults received crisis counseling 2 Adults received safety planning 2 Adults received crisis hotline services 1 Adult received housing advocacy 1 Adult received personal advocacy 1 Adult received information about victim rights 1 Adult received transportation assistance							
Referrals							
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies				Purpose of Referrals Made			
1 (Minor)				SLED follow-up			
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)							
Number of Presentations Given		Number of Attendees at Presentations		Number of Trainings Given		Number of Attendees at Trainings	
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

1. **How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 has impacted our organization by the stay at home orders and social distancing protocols limiting access to full staff services on-site. Additionally, hospital response was also impacted by the pandemic protocols at local hospitals preventing full response services due to the limited amount of visitors a victim can receive while at the emergency room. Training presentations were postponed due to the inability to gather.

2. **How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**  
The staffing model was a staggered presentation of staff at each site locations that allowed for call-ins, remote sessions/visits, and appointments. The ability to walk-in was limited to protect staff, volunteers, and clients.

3. **In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to follow the current pandemic protocols as mandated by the CDC and state regulations.

4. **Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

N/A

5. **Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Ana Andonie, [aandonie@peedeecoalition.org](mailto:aandonie@peedeecoalition.org)

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## RICHLAND COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (RC CASA)

**Mission:** Advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children in Richland County Family Court by providing quality volunteer and legal representation to ensure each child a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

**Organizational Overview:** RC CASA works to:

- Investigate the child's situation by talking to relevant parties in the case
- Advocate for the welfare and rights of individual
- Attend court on the child's behalf, submitting reports with recommended treatment and services
- Monitor compliance with the orders of the court.
- Protect and promote the best interests of the child until formally relieved by the court.

- Promote partnership: DSS, law enforcement, RC CASA Foundation, media outlets, and volunteers

**Area Served:** Richland County

**Regional Task Force Chairperson (s), Website, and/or Social Media:** 1701 Main St, Room 407, Columbia, SC 29202

[Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov) & 803-876-0305

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	26	0	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 11	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 6	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>February 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>March 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>April:</u> 0			
<u>May 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>June 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>July 1</u> U.S. minor			
<u>August 1</u> U.S. minor			

<u>September</u> 1 U.S. minor			
<u>October</u> 1 U.S. minor			
<u>November</u> : 0			
<u>December</u> : 0			
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active</u> : 0	<u>Active</u> : 0	<u>Active</u> : 0	<u>Active</u> : 0
<u>Closed</u> : 0	<u>Closed</u> : 0	<u>Closed</u> : 0	<u>Closed</u> : 0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January</u> : 0	<u>April</u> : 0	<u>July</u> : 0	<u>October</u> : 0
<u>February</u> : 0	<u>May</u> : 0	<u>August</u> : 0	<u>November</u> : 0
<u>March</u> : 0	<u>June</u> : 0	<u>September</u> : 0	<u>December</u> : 0
<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>			
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>			
<b>Gender Identity</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
1	19	0	0

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
3	13	4	0	0	0	0	0
Services Provided							
<i>(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")</i>							
Family court advocacy							
Referrals							
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies				Purpose of Referrals Made			
0				NA			
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)							
Number of Presentations Given		Number of Attendees at Presentations		Number of Trainings Given		Number of Attendees at Trainings	
<u>In Person:</u> 3 <u>Virtual:</u> 2		<u>In Person:</u> 68 <u>Virtual:</u>		<u>In Person:</u> 14 <u>Virtual:</u> 3		<u>In Person:</u> 280 <u>Virtual:</u> 324	

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Virtual visitation, staff working from home, decrease court hearings, increase in cases.

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Reduced hours in office or staff working from home, virtual visitations, virtual court hearings.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

At this time, it is unknown due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 its impact.

4. **Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**  
State Task Force and Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
  5. **Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Elizabeth Rummel: [Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov) and 803-876-0305.
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## SAFE HARBOR

**Mission:** To provide a continuum of services for victims of domestic violence and their children. To eliminate cultural acceptance of domestic violence through a coordinated community response, prevention and education.

**Organizational Overview:** Safe Harbor provides emergency shelter and advocacy groups, free counseling and groups, transitional housing, prevention education programs, and education and outreach.

*Note: Services are primarily offered to domestic violence victims, but are available to human trafficking victims experiencing elements of domestic violence. All human trafficking victims receiving services in 2020 were serviced by our Emergency Shelter and Advocacy Program.*

**Area Served:** Upstate South Carolina, specifically Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

**Contact Information:** 429 N. Main St, Greenville, SC, 29601  
Michelle Gilbert, Director of Shelter Advocacy: 864-385-7168, [www.safeharborsc.org/](http://www.safeharborsc.org/)

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
2	0	0	0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 1 U.S. Adult	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 1 U.S. Adult
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

### Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

#### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	2	0	0

#### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
1	1 <small>* identified as Black/Hispanic</small>	1 <small>*identified as Black/Hispanic</small>	0	0	0	0	0

#### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

Both victims served in 2020 received emergency shelter and advocacy services

#### Referrals

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
7	Service coordination including human trafficking-based advocacy services, mental & physical health, and housing services.

#### Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)

Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0			

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

All the things we normally share with those experiencing domestic violence, like staying connected, avoiding being alone, reaching out for help and other general safety tips are challenging amidst the landscape of COVID-19. Coupled with financial strain, increased stress, and an enormous amount of uncertainty, and it can be a recipe for disaster. Isolation and social distancing may be ideal for preventing COVID-19, but it's also a powerful tactic utilized by abusive partners. It is imperative that we acknowledge the additional layer of complexity that COVID-19 brings in working with victims of domestic violence and take the necessary steps to increase overall safety efforts. At Safe Harbor, we recognize that our services are more important than ever and we are creatively working to meet this need through a variety of platforms.

- *Shelter Program:* Decreased bed counts. Temporary shelter closure. Integration of a hotel program to meet the needs of victims.
- *Across all programs:* Utilization of various platforms to meet the needs of clients and ensure adequate service delivery
- *Human Trafficking:* Overall decline in human trafficking victims serviced

COVID- 19 has changed the landscape of how we provide services.

**2. How your organization staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

Advocacy services were offered remotely and various protocols were revamped to meet the unique needs of serving victims of domestic violence during a pandemic.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

As we prepare to enter 2021, it is our intention to continue to offer services virtually and utilize various platforms to safely meet client needs.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

We have attended meetings, but no active memberships outside of SCCADVSA affiliation.

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## SAFE HOMES—RAPE CRISIS COALITION (SHRCC)

**Mission:** Our mission is to use our collective to address the impact of domestic and sexual violence by providing quality services to those affected and to create social change through education, training, and activism. Our values are excellence, integrity, compassion, equity, and collaboration.

**Organizational Overview:** SHRCC provides:

- A 24-hour crisis line.
- Up to 60 days+ of emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children including: food, clothing, transportation, limited day care, and tutoring
- Hospital accompaniment and advocacy for sexual assault victims during the medical/legal protocol
- Police and court accompaniment and advocacy
- Crisis counseling; individual and family psychotherapy
- Case management and follow-up
- Information on employment, housing, financial aid, budgeting, child support, legal, medical, and social problems
- Community support/psychotherapy groups for adults and children
- Assistance in completing Order of Protection petitions
- Primary Prevention and community education about domestic violence and sexual assault
- Training for law enforcement, medical personnel, social services agencies, and other professionals

**Area Served:** Providing services to victims of domestic violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties and victims of sexual assault in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

**Contact Information:** 236 Union St., Spartanburg, SC 29302

Phone: 864-583-9803 and 800-273-5066

Email: [shrcc@aol.com](mailto:shrcc@aol.com)

Website: <https://shrcc.org>

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
8 (2 were trafficked as children)	0	0	0

<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 4	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 1	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 1
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 2	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

### Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

#### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
1	7	0	0

#### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1 (Biracial)

#### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

- 8 = Safety planning and referrals
- 4 = Shelter
- 2 = Medical accompaniment/assistance
- 6 = Therapy

#### Referrals

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
Numerous	SC Legal Services, Transitional Living Programs, DSS, Social Security, alcohol and drug programs

#### Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)

Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0			

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Due to COVID-19, SHRCC as well as the area hospitals we serve have temporarily stopped in-person hospital accompaniment for victims. Our available shelter space is limited as we are housing only one individual/family per room and if we exceed this space, we house residents in a hotel. SHRCC has established COVID-19 safety policies procedures and adapts those based on current CDC recommendations. We have very limited in-person contact with clients and most therapy is conducted through teletherapy (doxy.me)

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

SHRCC requires staff and clients to wear masks when in the building. All equipment, door handles, light switches, etc. are cleaned before use by another individual. SHRCC has limited number of staff in each office every day and clients may come to the office by appointment only. Advocacy is provided by phone/computer whenever possible. Staff and residents who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 quarantine per CDC guidelines. Shelter residents remain on shelter premises during their stay and are asked to only leave for vital appointments/work.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue the same COVID-19 protocols that are in place until the pandemic is under control.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

NA

- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

We are represented by SCCADVASA.

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## SWITCH

**Mission:** SWITCH's mission is to end human sex trafficking and exploitation in the Upstate of South Carolina.

**Organizational Overview:** SWITCH addresses the issue of human sex trafficking and exploitation holistically through our four programs: Awareness, Prevention, Intervention and Restoration.

**Area Served:** Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Greenwood, Laurens, Cherokee, Union, and Abbeville counties.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 5394, Greenville, SC 29606  
 843-350-0281; [info@switchsc.org](mailto:info@switchsc.org)

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA**

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
35	0	1	0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 10 <u>Closed:</u> 14	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 1 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 1	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 3
<u>February:</u> 2	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 1	<u>November:</u> 1
<u>March:</u> 2	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 1
*All are U.S. adults			
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**  
*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

<b>Gender Identity</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
0	35	1	0

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
27	5	3	0	0	0	0	1

### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

The Restoration Program at SWITCH offers Holistic Case Management that guarantees three things:

- 1) Trauma counseling from community-based trauma trained therapist
- 2) Mentor program through trauma trained volunteers
- 3) Survivor classes

Anything outside of this we refer to community partners. Those things include:

- 1) Dental
- 2) Medical
- 3) Housing
- 4) Drug Recovery
- 5) Legal Assistance
- 6) Job skills and readiness programs
- 7) Food programs

We continuously seek to assess needs and make partnerships as they arise as well.

### Referrals

Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies	Purpose of Referrals Made
Dental: 13 Medical: 1 Therapy: 9 Long Term Programs: 3 Shelter Services: 8 Drug Recovery Programs: 5 Job skills and readiness: 3 Food programs: 3 Legal Assistance: 4 Housing options: 26	Each referral made is to help a participant work towards their Individual Restoration Plan.

### Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)

Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 26 <u>Virtual:</u> 3	<u>In Person:</u> Varied <u>Virtual:</u> Varied

## **FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

In terms of direct services, COVID impacted every piece. From being able to meet in person, to having open resources for participants, to not being able to go into partner sites, there were many impacts from COVID that directly impacted the ability to help the women we serve. Survivor classes were impacted as well as therapy for most transitioned to telehealth which was not ideal for many participants who do not have access to technology. Partner sites and resources were closed to outside visitors. We know that we lost contact with some of the women we served with the pandemic as well with all of the uncertainty and stress. In reality COVID has been traumatic in itself and as a result created new traumas for participants that have had so many hard things happen throughout their lives. It is still not clear that we have seen the extent of impact that all of this has had on participants.

- 2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

We had to shift to some working at home for periods of time and finding creative ways to serve our participants while following COVID protocols for a time. However as we have returned to the office to better serve the participants, we have implemented temperature checks, safety masks, social distancing, limited people in office space, etc.

- 3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to assess the number of cases and make plans accordingly to follow the CDC's recommendations while working to be trauma informed and serve the participants to the best of our ability.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

-Zaina Greene, Executive Director, State Task Force and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force Co-Chair

-Erin Kornahrens, Clinical Director, State Task Force and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force member

-Carlie Boyd, Prevention Coordinator, State Task Force and Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force member, also on the Upstate Prevention Subcommittee

- 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Zaina Greene, Executive Director

## 6. Additional Information:

We would also like to include info for our other programs that are doing great work in the fight to end human trafficking in the upstate of South Carolina.

**AWARENESS:** SWITCH educates community members and agencies on how to recognize red flags for human trafficking, how to report suspected human trafficking cases, and how to respond with appropriate resources to individuals who have experienced sexual exploitation. This year even with COVID-19 there were 54 Awareness Education events.

**PREVENTION:** SWITCH works with students in middle schools, high schools, SWITCH educates students in middle schools, high schools, church youth groups and at-risk youth centers through our certification in Love146 #NotANumber evidence-based youth prevention curriculum. This year with the challenges of COVID using technology and in person there were 24 Prevention classes taught.

**INTERVENTION:** SWITCH provides intervention services at several different sites throughout the Upstate. These sites serve those who may be homeless, young people in foster care, at-risk and runaway youth, those who are currently incarcerated, and women in business settings where sexual exploitation is happening. While many sites were closed to outside people during COVID, the Intervention team was still able to serve 141 new women at various partner sites and through technology options in the upstate.

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## THE A21 CAMPAIGN

**Mission:** To abolish injustice everywhere in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Organizational Overview:** A21 provides the following:

- Short and long-term case management
- Drop in day center—"The Freedom Center" based in Charlotte, NC
- Extensive referrals to free/low-cost resources within a survivor's respective community due to A21 partnerships
- Life skills program and Peer Support Program (Flourish and Thrive)
- Spanish translation services and TVAP provider
- Financial assistance, transportation services, emotional support both virtually and in-person, legal services either through payment of an attorney or referral to partner pro-bono legal services, and court/legal support and coordination

**Area Served:** Southeast Region of the U.S. Primarily North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina.

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

**NOTE: A21 has only listed survivors that lived in or were from South Carolina as this is a report focused on South Carolina.**

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
6	0	0	0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 1 <u>Closed:</u> 2	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 1 case	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 1 case	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 1 case	<u>December:</u> 0
<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
0	0	0	0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>			
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>
<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0

### Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

### Victim/Survivor Demographic Information

*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

#### Gender Identity

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	6	0	0

#### Race and/or Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

#### Services Provided

*(Ex: "One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing")*

- One adult sex trafficking victim – court support, life skills, transportation services, case management, referrals to community resources, use of the Freedom Center, financial assistance
- One adult sex trafficking victim – court support, life skills, transportation services, case management, referrals to community resources, use of the Freedom Center, financial assistance, mental health services
- One adult sex trafficking victim – transportation services, case management, referrals to community resources, financial assistance, coordination of housing
- One adult sex trafficking victim – legal support, transportation services, case management, referrals to community resources, use of the Freedom Center, peer support services, life skills, financial assistance
- One adult sex trafficking victim – legal support, case management, referrals to community resources, financial assistance

<b>Referrals</b>			
<b>Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies</b>		<b>Purpose of Referrals Made</b>	
8+ referrals made to each survivor		Food, clothing, substance misuse treatment, housing, public benefits, legal resources, medical resources, child resources.	
<b>Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)</b>			
<b>Note:</b> To our knowledge, no presentations were given within the state of South Carolina			
<b>Number of Presentations Given</b>	<b>Number of Attendees at Presentations</b>	<b>Number of Trainings Given</b>	<b>Number of Attendees at Trainings</b>
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

In comparison to 2019, human trafficking methods and trends have not changed significantly, even due to COVID-19. We have witnessed an increase of cases for foreign national victim-survivors subjected to labor trafficking, however, this increase was mainly due to a newly formed partnership with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants where the victim-survivors referred are always foreign nationals.

In response to COVID-19, Global Pandemic A21 provided survivors with essential packages that included cleaning supplies, toilet paper, baby wipes, and snacks. Victim-survivors to receive at home activity packages. Victim-survivors were provided a checklist from Caseworkers that included information on Financial, Physical Health, Mental Health, Prevention, Resources for Children, Public Transportation, Hotel or Motel Assistance, Internet, Meals for Kids, Food Pantries and 211 Information regarding COVID-19 if they needed additional resources. Victim-survivors were asked by caseworkers if they needed assistance with payment for internet/Wi-Fi or purchase of tablet or laptop.

**2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

When the shelter in place order went into effect, A21 temporarily closed its Freedom Center in Charlotte, NC to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Once staff re-entered the facility, there were several protocols put in place to ensure the safety of survivors and staff. Masks are now worn at all times, handwashing, and hand sanitizer is required when coming into the A21 Freedom Center from outside, temperatures are taken of every individual entering the building, and only one survivor is allowed in the building at a time. Additionally, staff has ensured the placement of their workstations to be six feet apart from one another. For survivor comfort, if they prefer to have meetings virtually, staff will accommodate them as needed.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We believe the policies and protocols A21 has put in place in 2020 will sustain through 2021. We will now be expanding to separate our regional offices and Freedom Center to allow for more space and social distancing between staff.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Kailey Kelley, [Kailey.k@a21.org](mailto:Kailey.k@a21.org), Senior Caseworker for Southeast Region

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## THE FORMATION PROJECT

**Mission:** The Formation Project exists to reach, connect and equip survivors and allies, in the fight to end human trafficking.

**Organizational Overview:** We have specialized services for females, males, transitional aged youth, immigrants, U.S. Citizens, LGBT population, and those who experienced labor, sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. Our programs provide survivor-centered and empowerment-based services to strengthen and support survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. Our services are currently offered to those living in the Tri-County area or wanting to re-locate to the Tri-County area. It is our goal to expand our services and offer crisis intervention and emergency shelter to victims statewide. We are now a member of Lowcountry Continuum of Care and will be planning to open an emergency shelter and resource center by January 2021.

**Area Served:** Tri-County Area: Berkley, Charleston, and Dorchester.

**Contact Information:** P.O Box 80876, Charleston, SC 29416, [info@theformationproject.org](mailto:info@theformationproject.org)  
843-375-6635

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please do not combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
13	4	2	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 2 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 2	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0		<u>July:</u> 2 U.S. adults	
<u>February:</u> 1 U.S. minor		<u>August:</u> 1 U.S. adult, 1 foreign national adult	
<u>March:</u> 0		<u>September:</u> 2 U.S. adults, 1 foreign national adult	
<u>April:</u> 1 U.S. minor		<u>October:</u> 0	
<u>May:</u> 0		<u>November:</u> 1 U.S. adult	
<u>June:</u> 3 U.S. adults		<u>December:</u> 2 U.S. adults	
Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
1	0	2	0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 1	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**  
*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 1 foreign national adult	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 1 foreign national adult	<u>December:</u> 0

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**  
*For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.*

Gender Identity			
Male	Female	Other	Unknown
1	18	0	0

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
9	7	3	0	0	0	0	0

Services Provided			
<i>(Ex: “One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing”)</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One minor: Screening, intake, case management, long-term placement advocacy and emotional support.</li> <li>• One minor: Screening, intake, family support, community service, advocacy and referral.</li> <li>• One U.S. adult labor and sex trafficking victim: Intake, screening, personal items, emergency intervention and coordination, emergency shelter, transportation, housing/rental assistance, housing advocacy, social service advocacy, emotional moral support, and peer support groups.</li> <li>• One U.S. adult sex trafficking victim: Intake, screening, personal items, emergency intervention and coordination, emergency shelter, transportation, housing/rental assistance, housing advocacy, social service advocacy, emotional moral support, and peer support groups.</li> </ul>			
Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
15		Mental health, social services, legal, restoration homes, emergency shelters, medical, and job skills/training.	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 4 <u>Virtual:</u> 11	<u>In Person:</u> 274 <u>Virtual:</u> 214

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 is not shutting down the commercial sex industry, it is just adapting and even profiting off of this pandemic. We know traffickers seek out the opportunity to exploit those most vulnerable and certainly won't stop working right now. Victims are more exposed to contracting the virus, less equipped to prevent it, and have less access to healthcare to ensure their recovery. For victims, this can place themselves into a financial crisis; preventing from even having the financial option to leave their traffickers and the inability to support themselves on their own. COVID-19 has not only been difficult on housing options, but the

lack of community opportunity has created a mental health crisis amongst participants. That is why we decided to apply for the Homelessness Emergency Solutions Grant and was awarded and accepted into the Low Country Continuum of Care. We plan to use this funding to open an emergency shelter and resource center.

**2. How were your organization's staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

We altered protocols to ensure the safety of our participants and staff as health is one of The Formation Project's core values. This included virtual case management, peer support groups, and staff working both remotely and onsite. We have needed to increase staff personnel as we received an increase in referrals and crisis calls.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will be increasing our capacity by staffing and we plan to open an emergency shelter and resource shelter in 2021.

**4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Chair of the State Task Force Survivor Advisory Subcommittee

Co-Chair of Adult Direct Services Subcommittee (Tri-County Task Force)

**5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Kat Wehunt: [kat@theformationproject.org](mailto:kat@theformationproject.org), 843-936-1673

## WACCAMAW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (TIDELANDS)

**Mission:** We help people live better lives through better help.

**Organizational Overview:** Community hospital serving patients with all medical, psychological, and emotional needs. Serve those who have experienced acts of violence.

**Area Served:** Horry and Georgetown counties

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Note: Please **do not** combine foreign national adult and minor numbers with the numbers for U.S. adult and minor victims, and please only report **confirmed** cases of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
2	1	0	0
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.</i>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 1
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 2

<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>							
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>				
0	0	0	1				
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>							
<b>U.S. Adults</b>	<b>U.S. Minors</b>	<b>Foreign National Adults</b>	<b>Foreign National Minors</b>				
Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown	Active: unknown Closed: unknown				
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>							
<i>For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, and foreign national minors.</i>							
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0				
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 1				
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0				
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>				
1	3	0	0				
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Services Provided			
<i>(Ex: “One minor sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health; one adult labor trafficking victim—housing”)</i>			
Medical care, trauma informed care, emotional and psychological support.			
Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSS</li> <li>• Immigration</li> <li>• Hospital medical assistance</li> <li>• Suboxone therapist</li> <li>• OB/GYN</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get the child in school</li> <li>• To help citizenship</li> <li>• Does not have insurance</li> <li>• Suboxone administration and therapist for treatment and follow up</li> <li>• Pregnancy follow up</li> <li>• Family assistance</li> </ul>	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 4 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In Person:</u> 4 for each <u>Virtual:</u> 0

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

COVID-19 has restricted our visitor policy, so it has made it easier to assess patients for risks of trafficking. However, those that need an advocate have not been able to have anyone at their bedside due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure. There is a disconnect with a phone call; it would be better to have someone physically present with them during a difficult time.

**2. How were your organization’s staffing models and protocols altered due to COVID-19?**

We are short staffed and exhausted. The sickest patients take priority. Those without training on how to identify victims may miss potential victims coming in.

**3. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Being vigilant with all patients. We are seeing a rise in human trafficking and domestic violence over past few months and need to question everything.

- 4. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**  
Natalie J Darby RN, BSN, CLNC, SANE-A, SANE-P, Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Chair. There are 18 additional members.
  
  - 5. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**  
Natalie J Darby RN, BSN, CLNC, SANE-A, SANE-P Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Chair  
609-617-5470, [nursing4nat@gmail.com](mailto:nursing4nat@gmail.com)
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## CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

### DEE NORTON CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

**Mission Statement:** To prevent abuse, protect children, and heal families. The goal of the IMPACT program (Improving Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Address Child Trafficking) is to increase the availability and coordination of effective, tailored services for minor victims of human trafficking and their families to support recovery and healing after the crime. This includes training child direct service professionals, providing intensive case management and trauma-informed interventions, and convening multidisciplinary case coordination meetings. The IMPACT program serves both at-risk and confirmed victims of trafficking.

**Organizational Overview:** Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center is an accredited children's advocacy center providing immediate support and assistance to children and their families through forensic interviews, medical examinations and mental health assessments, along with multidisciplinary case coordination. Dee Norton also provides therapy to child victims and their families where appropriate. Dee Norton is a community-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and coordinates with more than 30 partner agencies to take appropriate action and deliver the critical services needed for the child and family. We also strive to increase public awareness of the issue of child abuse.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center serves the Ninth Judicial Circuit which includes Charleston and Berkeley counties

**Contact Information:** 1061 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403 and 677 Long Point Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. Phone: 843-723-3600

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

Please only list *confirmed* victims of human trafficking.

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020		Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020	
29		1	
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019		Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019	
8		1	
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<u>January:</u> 4	<u>April:</u> 2	<u>July:</u> 2	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 4	<u>May:</u> 1	<u>August:</u> 2	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 3	<u>June:</u> 1	<u>September:</u> 1	<u>December:</u> 0
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
Victim/Survivor Demographic Information			
<i>(For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020)</i>			
Gender Identity			
Male	Female	Other	Unknown
5	25	0	0

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
12	12	3	0	0	0	0	0
Location of Victimization							
<i>(Please specify the county within each region where the child's victimization occurred. If the victimization spanned multiple regions, please list the most recent region where the incident was reported.)</i>							
<u>Upstate:</u> 2		<u>Midlands:</u> 2		<u>Lowcountry:</u> 19		<u>Pee Dee:</u> 1	
Services Provided							
<i>(Ex: "One sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health")</i>							
<p><b><i>*In addition to confirmed victims, Dee Norton served 55 youth that were either at risk of, and/or had red flags for, sex or labor trafficking.</i></b></p> <p>Youth who are referred to the IMPACT program at Dee Norton receive a multitude of services that include intensive case management, forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, mental health assessments and treatment, ongoing case coordination (to include coordination of multidisciplinary team case reviews), and consultation to the parent/legal guardian as well as to outside service providers.</p>							
Referrals							
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies				Purpose of Referrals Made			
Unknown				Housing (to include psychiatric residential treatment facilities out of state), Juvenile Justice, Community Mental Health Providers, Other Child Advocacy Centers throughout SC, Survivor- Led Programs and Victim's Assistance Programs			

Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
<i>(Please only count presentations that include information on human trafficking)</i>			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In-Person</u> : 0	<u>In-Person</u> : 0	<u>In-Person</u> : 4	<u>In-Person</u> : 159
<u>Virtual</u> : 0	<u>Virtual</u> : 0	<u>Virtual</u> : 4	<u>Virtual</u> : 43

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy/staffing changes, observed trends in child trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Dee Norton experienced a significant increase in referrals to the IMPACT Program during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges included securing emergency, safe housing due to local domestic violence shelters not accepting new clients, as well as barriers with placing youth at group homes due to virus outbreaks, and youth being released from detention back into their environments where they were at increased risk for being re-victimized. Virtual schooling and attending school from home, perhaps without adequate supervision, has also created new avenues for online exploitation.

- 2. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to organizational policies and/or services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Due to the pandemic, Dee Norton established new procedures and adapted the service delivery model to conduct forensic interview and therapy services virtually. Most staff worked (and continue to work) remotely from home, with in-office work kept to minimum, necessary activities. Additionally, Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) case review staffings continued to be held by virtual platform. Dee Norton follows CDC guidelines for operation during COVID-19. Any future changes to the Dee Norton service delivery in 2021 will be based on CDC guidelines.

- 3. Does your center have a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator? If yes, please list his/her contact information. If not, is there a specific person who works with trafficked clients and/or do you plan to hire a CSEC Coordinator in 2021?**

Yes: Anna Smalling, LMSW (CSEC Program Coordinator), [asmalling@deenortoncenter.org](mailto:asmalling@deenortoncenter.org) (Desk) 843-723-3600; (Work cell) 843-214-5432

**4. What are the most common services provided for victims of human trafficking? For non-emergency services (such as ongoing therapy or case coordination), what is the average timeframe that victims of human trafficking receive such services?**

Youth who are referred to the IMPACT program at Dee Norton receive a multitude of services that include intensive case management, forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, mental health assessments and treatment, ongoing case coordination (to include coordination of multidisciplinary team case reviews), and consultation to the parent/legal guardian as well as to outside service providers.

**5. What added resources are needed in your community to effectively address issues of child exploitation?**

Many youth are placed in specialized psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) out of state which makes continuity of care (which is imperative for these youth) very difficult. There is a need for a psychiatric residential treatment facility in our region that specializes in providing services to survivors of trafficking.

**6. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center co-chairs (with Dorchester Child Advocacy Center) the Child Direct Services Subcommittee for the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force.

**7. Do you have a specific person that represents your center at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Anna Smalling, LMSW (CSEC Program Coordinator), [asmalling@deenortoncenter.org](mailto:asmalling@deenortoncenter.org)  
(Desk) 843-723-3600; (Work cell) 843-214-5432

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## **DICKERSON CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center is to provide comprehensive assessment and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children up to age 18 throughout the Midlands of South Carolina.

**Organizational Overview:** We are a Child Advocacy Center providing forensic evaluations, interviews and medical exams, children up to age 18. These evaluations are provided at the request of law enforcement and/or the Department of Social Services. Additionally, we provide counseling services for these children as well as the non-offending caregiver.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Mainly the SC 11th Judicial Circuit which includes Lexington, Saluda, Edgefield, and McCormick counties. On an occasional basis we provide services to clients from all South Carolina counties.

**Contact Information:** 140 Gibson Rd. Lexington, SC 29072. 803-358-7200

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

Please only list *confirmed* victims of human trafficking.

<b>Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>		<b>Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020</b>	
0		0	
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>		<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019</b>	
0		0	
<b>Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
<b>Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020</b>			
<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0
<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>			
<i>(For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020)</i>			
<b>Gender Identity</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>

Race and/or Ethnicity							
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown
Location of Victimization							
<i>(Please specify the county within each region where the child's victimization occurred. If the victimization spanned multiple regions, please list the most recent region where the incident was reported.)</i>							
<u>Upstate:</u> 0		<u>Midlands:</u> 0		<u>Lowcountry:</u> 0		<u>Pee Dee:</u> 0	
Services Provided							
<i>(Ex: "One sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health")</i>							
We did not provide any services to any documented case of human trafficking in the year 2020.							
Referrals							
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies				Purpose of Referrals Made			
NA				NA			
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)							
<i>(Please only count presentations that include information on human trafficking)</i>							
Number of Presentations Given		Number of Attendees at Presentations		Number of Trainings Given		Number of Attendees at Trainings	
<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0		<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy/staffing changes, observed trends in child trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, our facility completely shut down for several weeks. We slowly reopened providing face-to-face forensic evaluations and virtual counseling sessions via telehealth. In December, due to the rising percent positive cases of COVID-19, we have once again scaled our operations back. Currently we evaluate all referrals to determine the urgency of providing a forensic evaluation, a triage if you will.

- 2. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to organizational policies and/or services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We will continue to monitor and adapt to the pandemic as it unfolds. As previously discussed, we have reduced the number of clients we are seeing in an effort to keep, not only our staff, but any potential clients risk of exposure to a minimum. We are cautiously optimistic that 2021 will bring a reduction in COVID cases and that we will be able to return to full capacity.

- 3. Does your center have a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator? If yes, please list his/her contact information. If not, is there a specific person who works with trafficked clients and/or do you plan to hire a CSEC Coordinator in 2021?**

No

- 4. What are the most common services provided for victims of human trafficking? For non-emergency services (such as ongoing therapy or case coordination), what is the average timeframe that victims of human trafficking receive such services?**

Our services are the same for human trafficking victims as they are for any other form of abuse. We provide a forensic evaluation along with therapy.

- 5. Does your center engage in advocacy work? If so, please describe.**

Yes. Our center has victim advocates that work with the client and their family throughout the entire process from initial reporting/disclosure through the court process and beyond.

- 6. What added resources are needed in your community to effectively address issues of child exploitation?**

We believe our community, just like all others statewide, are in need of housing for survivors of human trafficking. We have no dedicated facilities operating for this purpose.

- 7. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

L.E.M.S. Regional Human Trafficking Task Force.

- 8. Do you have a specific person that represents your center at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

No

## **9. Additional Information:**

As with any other large-scale victimization of a particular demographic or population of society, the human trafficking pandemic cannot be defeated through law enforcement and criminal prosecutions alone. Although of the utmost importance, these efforts must be partnered with awareness and educational efforts. If we as a society have any glimmer of hope in eradicating human trafficking, we must educate the public and we must begin with our most vulnerable members, our children. We must find a way to get into our schools and daycares with programs designed to educate our children in what to look for as it pertains to human trafficking and, what to do if they see this. Education of potential victims to prevent them from falling prey to traffickers should be our number one goal. To use a phrase that has become prevalent in 2020, the education of these potential victims is our best method to “flatten the curve.”

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## **DORCHESTER CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Dorchester Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC) is to provide a coordinated, evidence-based response to child abuse that reduces trauma and offers healing to children and their families in a safe environment.

**Organizational Overview:** DCAC is nationally accredited Children’s Advocacy Center that offers an array of services including forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, mental health therapy (individual and group), family advocacy, multidisciplinary team meetings, community training, and case coordination for children at high risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). DCAC mental health therapists are trained to provide trauma screenings and numerous types of individual and group therapy. DCAC provides trainings to multidisciplinary team partners, community organizations, youth-serving organizations, and the general public. DCAC works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations in order to provide immediate follow-up of abuse reports and professional medical and mental health evaluations.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** DCAC primarily serves children and families residing in Dorchester County and Berkeley County, but has also served children and families residing in outlying counties.

**Contact Information:** 303 East Richardson Avenue, Summerville, SC 29485. Phone: 843-875-1551; Fax: 843-851-5963

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

Please only list *confirmed* victims of human trafficking.

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020		Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020	
14		0	
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019		Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019	
2		0	
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<u>January</u> : 1	<u>April</u> : 1	<u>July</u> : 1	<u>October</u> : 0
<u>February</u> : 0	<u>May</u> : 0	<u>August</u> : 2	<u>November</u> : 3
<u>March</u> : 1	<u>June</u> : 1	<u>September</u> : 2	<u>December</u> : 0
Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<u>January</u> : 0	<u>April</u> : 0	<u>July</u> : 0	<u>October</u> : 0
<u>February</u> : 0	<u>May</u> : 0	<u>August</u> : 0	<u>November</u> : 0
<u>March</u> : 0	<u>June</u> : 0	<u>September</u> : 0	<u>December</u> : 0
Victim/Survivor Demographic Information			
<i>(For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020)</i>			
Gender Identity			
Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	13	1 (M-t-F Transgender)	0

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
4	7	0	0	0	0	0	3 (Mixed)

**Location of Victimization**  
*(Please specify the county within each region where the child's victimization occurred. If the victimization spanned multiple regions, please list the most recent region where the incident was reported.)*

<u>Upstate</u> : 0	<u>Midlands</u> : 5	<u>Lowcountry</u> : 7	<u>Pee Dee</u> : 2
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**Services Provided**  
*(Ex: "One sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health")*

- One minor sex trafficking victim - Cognitive Processing Therapy
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC Engagement Assessment, Forensic Medical Exam, Forensic Interview, CSEC MDT Case Review, In Person, RRFT Assessment
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, Forensic Interview, CSEC MDT Case Review, Forensic Medical Exam
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC Engagement Assessment, Forensic Medical Exam, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Forensic Interview, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, Forensic Medical Exam, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC In-Person Engagement, Forensic Medical Exam, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC MDT Case Review (2), Forensic Interview
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, Mental Health Assessment, Risk-Reduction through Family Therapy, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim – Forensic Medical Exam, CSEC In-Person Engagement, Case Coordination, Engagement Assessment, Mental Health Assessment, Forensic Interview, Risk Reduction through Family Therapy
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC In-Person Engagement, Forensic Medical Exam, CSEC MDT Case Review
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC MDT Case Review, Forensic Medical Exam
- One minor sex trafficking victim - Case Coordination, CSEC MDT Case Review

Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
3		New Medical Referral, Therapeutic Referral, Referral to neighboring CAC due to safety concerns regarding our location.	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
<i>(Please only count presentations that include information on human trafficking)</i>			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In-Person:</u> 0 <u>Virtual:</u> 0	<u>In-Person:</u> 5 <u>Virtual:</u> 3	<u>In-Person:</u> ~80 <u>Virtual:</u> ~17

**FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy/staffing changes, observed trends in child trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Our center implemented strategic changes during the onset of COVID-19 that have carried on throughout the entirety of the year. Our normal reception process has been altered to minimize foot traffic within our building and thereby minimize COVID-19 exposure for both our clients and staff. Visitors who enter our building for essential in-person services participate in a COVID health screening, are greeted in their vehicles, and are required to sign a waiver acknowledging our new policies regarding COVID-19 prior to entry. Masks are required in our building for all visitors and staff.

Essential in-person services that still take place in our office include forensic medical exams and forensic interviews. For children ages 8 and above, forensic interviews take place in our center, but with the child and interviewer in separate rooms communicating over our HIPAA compliant online platform. All therapy services have been modified to be offered via tele-health, with consent from clients’ legal guardians.

In addition to the operational adjustments listed above, we also made adjustments to our staffing procedures. In-person multi-disciplinary team staffings were not an option for us after the pandemic onset. Fortunately, despite the pandemic, we were able to maintain all of our scheduled CSEC MDT staffings by quickly shifting to a HIPAA compliant online platform. We also continued to hold urgent staffings through that same online platform.

As COVID-19 has prevented children from attending school and many other community activities, we recognize that they have not had access to the mandated reporters with whom they would normally come in contact. Due to this, we suspect that we may not fully comprehend the impacts of COVID-19 until those activities resume. Additionally, the increase in distance learning and diminished amount of in-person activities have increased children's already high involvement in online platforms. This increased virtual access to minors may result in an increase in online exploitation compared to years past. As a result of the pandemic, we have also experienced challenges regarding funding. This is in connection to the financial strain of 2020 as well as the cancellation or modification of our traditional fundraising and awareness events.

**2. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to organizational policies and/or services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

Our therapists will continue seeing clients via tele-health as needed until it is deemed safe to adjust to meeting in person once again. We will continue holding our multi-disciplinary team staffings virtually, and continue following all aforementioned protocols to minimize exposure within our office building. We will adjust our model as needed to provide services in the safest way possible according to the current health climate.

**3. Does your center have a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator? If yes, please list his/her contact information. If not, is there a specific person who works with trafficked clients and/or do you plan to hire a CSEC Coordinator in 2021?**

Yes: Nicole Hoffman, Office: (843) 875-8551 | Cell: (843) 991-5731  
[nhoffman@dorchesterccac.org](mailto:nhoffman@dorchesterccac.org)

**4. What are the most common services provided for victims of human trafficking? For non-emergency services (such as ongoing therapy or case coordination), what is the average time frame that victims of human trafficking receive such services?**

Case coordination, forensic medical exams, engagement assessments, forensic interviews, mental health assessments, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Risk Reduction through Family Therapy and multi-disciplinary team case reviews are the most common services that we provide for victims of human trafficking.

For non-emergency services, case coordination begins immediately and other services like therapy are scheduled promptly once proper consent from a legal guardian is received. For example, if a child needed a mental health assessment, we would first need to obtain consent from the legal guardian for the child to participate in DCAC services and engage in tele-health therapy. This year, it was common for a child to be scheduled for a mental health assessment the week after consents were returned.

**5. Does your center engage in advocacy work? If so, please describe.**

Dorchester CAC has two full time victim advocates on staff who engage with families that receive services at our center. Our advocates coordinate with these families to determine any additional needs and resources that can be provided. For all cases involving confirmed sex trafficked youth or youth who are high risk for commercial sexual exploitation, our CSEC Program Coordinator assumes the role of victim advocate for those clients. Our CSEC Program Coordinator also engages with both youth and their families to discuss needs, connects them with resources in our community and represents their requests in professional multi-disciplinary team staffings.

**6. What added resources are needed in your community to effectively address issues of child exploitation?**

Continued training for frontline workers in a variety of fields (law enforcement, DSS, DJJ, medical responders, etc.) is consistently needed to assist in identifying victims and improving our community's understanding of how children and adolescents respond to trauma. Many times these youth are misidentified as incorrigible, problem children or even "child prostitutes." These misconceptions from within our own system are by far the largest hurdle to providing efficient, effective services for human trafficking victims.

**7. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

- Member of South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force
- Co-Chair of Child Direct Services Subcommittee for Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force

**8. Do you have a specific person that represents your center at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Nicole Hoffman, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Program Coordinator  
Office: (843) 875-8551 | Cell: (843) 991-5731  
[nhoffman@dorchestercac.org](mailto:nhoffman@dorchestercac.org)

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## HOPEFUL HORIZONS

**Mission Statement:** Protect, Treat and Prevent. Our mission is inspired by the goals of providing safety, hope, and healing to survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault through evidence-based practices and leading in ending abuse through primary prevention and education.

**Organizational Overview:** Hopeful Horizons serves adult and child survivors of abuse through a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, transitional housing and legal services. We can serve trafficking survivors if they qualify as victims of child abuse, domestic violence or sexual assault under VOCA/VAWA.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper.

**Contact Information:** PO Box 1775, Beaufort, SC 29901  
843-770-1070 and [info@hopefulhorizons.org](mailto:info@hopefulhorizons.org).

### VICTIM/SURVIVOR SERVICE DATA

*Please only list **confirmed** victims of human trafficking.*

Total Number of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020	Total Number of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2020		
3	3		
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019	Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019		
0	0		
Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020			
<u>January:</u>	<u>April:</u>	<u>July:</u>	<u>October:</u>
<u>February:</u>	<u>May:</u>	<u>August:</u>	<u>November:</u>
<u>March:</u>	<u>June:</u>	<u>September:</u>	<u>December:</u>

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

<u>January:</u>	<u>April:</u>	<u>July:</u>	<u>October:</u>
<u>February:</u>	<u>May:</u>	<u>August:</u>	<u>November:</u>
<u>March:</u>	<u>June:</u>	<u>September:</u>	<u>December:</u>

**Victim/Survivor Demographic Information**

*(For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020)*

**Gender Identity**

Male	Female	Other	Unknown
0	6	0	0

**Race and/or Ethnicity**

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern or North African	Unknown

**Location of Victimization**

*(Please specify the county within each region where the child's victimization occurred. If the victimization spanned multiple regions, please list the most recent region where the incident was reported.)*

<u>Upstate:</u> 0	<u>Midlands:</u> 0	<u>Lowcountry:</u> 6	<u>Pee Dee:</u> 0
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**Services Provided**

*(Ex: "One sex trafficking victim—clinical mental health")*

- Therapy services for all 6 victims
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing

Referrals			
Number of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies		Purpose of Referrals Made	
3		Survivors called our support line, but they were out of our service area (hours away). We offered resources closer to them as well as human trafficking agencies around the state and outside the state.	
Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)			
<i>(Please only count presentations that include information on human trafficking)</i>			
Number of Presentations Given	Number of Attendees at Presentations	Number of Trainings Given	Number of Attendees at Trainings
<u>In-Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In-Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In-Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>	<u>In-Person:</u> <u>Virtual:</u>

## FEEDBACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? Please describe any relevant policy/staffing changes, observed trends in child trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

We closed our emergency domestic violence shelter on April 1 and moved shelter clients to motels. We moved staff to virtual work in mid-March. We only did forensic interviews (in person) on an emergency basis in April and May. We have not seen changes related to trafficking victims but have seen a 30% increase in domestic violence victims needing housing. Our Forensic Interviews and child therapy clients have remained on par with 2019. Our transitional housing program grew tremendously in 2020.

**2. In response to the ongoing pandemic, will your organization implement any changes to organizational policies and/or services in 2021? If so, please describe.**

We remain in remote working mode, with staff going into our offices on an as-needed basis. Therapy remains remote for the most part. We are continuing to analyze our shelter program and do not plan to re-open it at this point. We will continue to offer virtual therapy as an option.

**3. Does your center have a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator? If yes, please list his/her contact information. If not, is there a specific person who works with trafficked clients and/or do you plan to hire a CSEC Coordinator in 2021?**

We do not have a coordinator. Melody Hernandez is our point person.

**4. What are the most common services provided for victims of human trafficking? For non-emergency services (such as ongoing therapy or case coordination), what is the average timeframe that victims of human trafficking receive such services?**

Therapy services

**5. Does your center engage in advocacy work? If so, please describe.**

Yes, we are a member of SCCADVASA

**6. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

We attend the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force meetings.

**7. Do you have a specific person that represents your center at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Melody Hernandez [hernandezm@hopefulhorizons.org](mailto:hernandezm@hopefulhorizons.org)

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## LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED MEMBERS

### **SOUTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (SCCADVASA)**

**Mission Statement:** SCCADVASA serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina.

**Organizational Overview:** Established in 1981, SCCADVASA is a leader in representing the critical needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and is a pivotal voice in violence prevention. We advance our work through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** Marie McDonald, Language Access & Trafficking Survivor Coordinator  
PO Box 7776, Columbia, SC 29202

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
<p>We have staff dedicated to supporting human trafficking efforts to include providing technical assistance, support, capacity building, training to our 22 member organizations. SCCADVASA is represented at each State Task Force meeting and many of the regional task force meetings around the state. Additionally, our general counsel and staff attorney assist trafficking survivors with legal needs directly and through the contract attorney program.</p>
<b>Please list any 2020 agency accomplishments related to human trafficking:</b>
<p><b>SCCADVASA Provided:</b> Technical Assistance – 81 separate instances of assistance Training – 5 provided Number of people trained – 257 individuals Direct legal services – 3 survivors</p> <p><b>Our 22 Member Organizations Served:</b> 52 (sex and labor trafficking and minors) <b>Services provided:</b> Emergency services, shelter, mental health counseling, transitional housing, hotline, case management, victim compensation information, hospital accompaniment, follow up, prison support group, personal advocacy, legal intakes, referral to outside agencies, request for records, needs assessment, safety planning, criminal/legal/civil advocacy and support, referral to children’s counseling, domestic violence/sexual assault case management, and general administration.</p>
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
<p>SCCADVASA was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic like most organizations. We continue to work remotely and support our members as they had to quickly adjust to direct service provision under very challenging circumstances. We have been working with the domestic violence shelters and sexual assault programs to better serve survivors needing crisis services, hospital accompaniment and shelter. We are fighting to secure funding and continued operations support of our member agencies.</p>
<b>Please list 2021 agency goals related to human trafficking:</b>
<p>For the upcoming year, SCCADVASA maintains our commitment to serving on the State Task Force, supporting our 22 member organizations to provide quality, evidence-based direct services to survivors for human trafficking. We will continue to provide technical assistance, legal assistance, training and support for advocates and survivors. We will continue to help educate service providers and other community stakeholders on the dynamics of trafficking and increase our prevention and education efforts.</p>

## REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes, as we continue to work remotely and try to protect the critical funding for our agency's services. Furthermore, housing/shelter and hospital accompaniment has been greatly impacted by pandemic – it will require a continuous effort and creativity to adequately meet the diverse needs of all survivors.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

State Task Force; Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force. We have also participated in regional task force meetings in Foothills, Tri-County, Lowcountry, and Aiken.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Marie McDonald, Language Access and Human Trafficking Survivor Coordinator  
803.256.2900, [mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org](mailto:mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org).

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## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC)

**Mission Statement:** To improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment

**Organizational Overview:** DHEC is charged with promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment in South Carolina. With more than 3,400 employees working in 100 locations across the state, our vision is healthy people living in healthy communities. This vision is supported by the agency's four divisions:

- **Environmental Affairs** issues and enforces environmental permits and operates the state's ocean and coastal resource management program.
- **Health Regulation** oversees the licensing and certification of healthcare facilities, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, and drug control enforcement.
- **Public Health** operates the agency's public health and state laboratory functions, including 72 local health departments.
- **Operations** provides strategic planning, project management, information technology, communications, legal services, human resources, and facility support.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** 2100 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
<p>The DHEC Sexual Violence Services Program distributes a monthly resource email about a variety of topics related to sexual violence; some of these resources are related to commercial sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking/prostitution and pornography.</p> <p>The DHEC Sexual Violence Services Program oversees South Carolina's Rape Prevention Education (RPE) project, which focuses on sexual violence prevention efforts. Because sex trafficking/prostitution is a form of sexual violence, the DHEC Sexual Violence Services Program includes information about sex trafficking/prostitution in the guidance and technical assistance that it provides to SC's rape crisis centers.</p> <p>The DHEC Sexual Violence Services Program sends a representative to attend the State Task Force meetings.</p>
<b>Please list any 2020 agency accomplishments related to human trafficking:</b>
<p>The DHEC Sexual Violence Services Program continued its efforts to support South Carolina's fifteen rape crisis centers and state coalition, through management of federal and state funds related to sexual violence prevention and response.</p>
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected DHEC.</p> <p>Many employees spent a substantial amount of time and energy responding to the pandemic to help keep South Carolinians as safe and healthy as possible.</p>
<b>Please list 2021 agency goals related to human trafficking:</b>
<p>Disseminate more resources and information to South Carolina's rape crisis centers and state coalition so that employees and volunteers are better educated about sex trafficking/prostitution response and prevention efforts.</p> <p>Educate the rape crisis centers about End Demand programs and how sex trafficking/prostitution is a form of sexual violence, so that they can expand their sexual violence prevention efforts to include a focus on sex trafficking/prostitution.</p>

## REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes, we anticipate that many DHEC employees will continue to spend a substantial amount of time and energy responding to the pandemic to help keep South Carolinians as safe and healthy as possible.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

Mahri Irvine, PhD, is a member of the State Task Force.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Mahri Irvine, PhD, Sexual Violence Services Program Coordinator  
Division of Women's Health, Office O-330  
2100 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201  
[irvinema@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:irvinema@dhec.sc.gov) and 803-898-3918

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## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

**Mission Statement:** Serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. This mission is accomplished through core principles of competence, courage, and compassion.

**Organizational Overview:** DSS provides an array of services to children and their families who have experienced abuse and/or neglect.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** DSS Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff recognize and assess all incidents involving children known or suspected to be victims of child trafficking, regardless of the child's immigration status. CWS coordinates with law enforcement, juvenile justice, and service providers to provide comprehensive services for children who are victims of child trafficking.

## AGENCY EFFORTS

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
The SCDSS has implemented the federal law and definition of human trafficking into its policy and procedures. SCDSS created several processes to monitor children and youth entering and exiting foster care, involved in other program services such as Investigations or Family Preservations, and data reporting.
<b>Please list any 2020 agency accomplishments related to human trafficking:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-publication of the Child Trafficking Policy to extend beyond sex trafficking and include labor trafficking, establishing standard operating procedures in a work-aid, and expanding our screening tool to include risk factors of labor trafficking.</li><li>• Creation of a systemic approach to tracking child trafficking data from point of entry at intake and following case through specific program areas and exit from the system.</li><li>• Implementing support structures for frontline child welfare staff the county, regional, and state levels to assist with establishing safety, permanence, and well-being for this complex cases.</li><li>• Developing a comprehensive five-module compulsory training for child welfare staff to complete over an extended time frame.</li></ul>
<b>Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.</b>
In the reporting months after the mandated stay at home orders due to COVID-19, SCDSS saw an increase in the number of children trafficking intake reports. From March 2020 to April 2020, the number of intake suspected or confirmed of trafficking went from 14 reports to 25 reports, a 178% increase. (See Chart)
<b>Please list 2021 agency goals related to human trafficking:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Continue to develop staff capacity through training and development of policies and procedures.</li><li>2. Expand placement and specialized treatment options for youth impacted by child trafficking through collaboration.</li><li>3. Expand support services for frontline staff, therapeutic foster parents, and children who are victims of child trafficking.</li><li>4. Heighten the communication and education efforts on the prevalence of labor trafficking happening in South Carolina.</li></ol>

## REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency in 2021? If so, how?**

Yes. SCDSS has a mix of staff working in person and remotely. In-person case manager contacts will resume in January. We anticipate that COVID will continue to impact trafficking victims disproportionately because more youth are online and may be unsupervised.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**

State Task Force, Co-Chair of the Direct Service Providers (Minors) Subcommittee.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

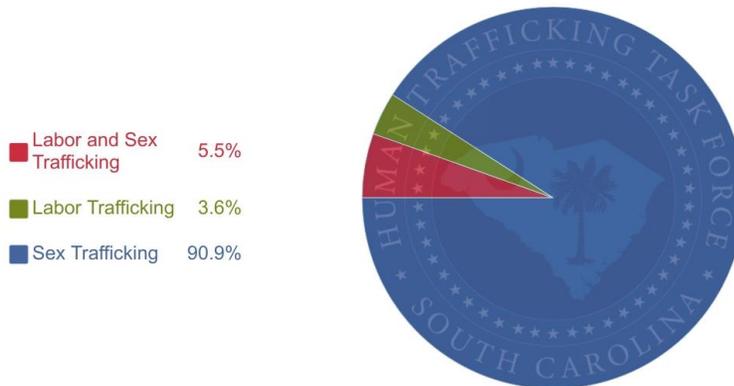
Jennequia “Nikki” Brown, MA  
Child Trafficking Program Coordinator  
Office of Child Health and Well-Being  
[Jennequia.s.brown@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Jennequia.s.brown@dss.sc.gov)

Amanda Koon, MHS  
Child Trafficking Program Coordinator  
Office of Child Health and Well Being  
[Amanda.Koon@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koon@dss.sc.gov)

**4. Additional Information:**

Please see additional data below.

**Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims**  
Type of Trafficking



Through November 30, 2020

### Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims Region

- Midlands 38.2%
- Low Country 22.7%
- Pee Dee 10.0%
- Upstate 29.1%



Through November 30, 2020

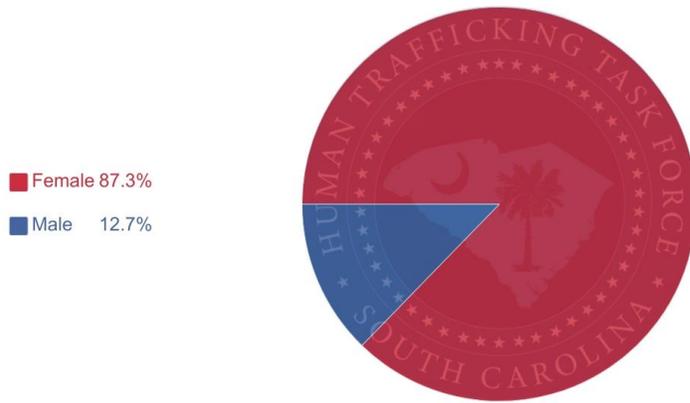
### Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims Service Type

- Investigations 40.0%
- Family Preservation Services 29.1%
- Foster Care 30.9%



Through November 30, 2020

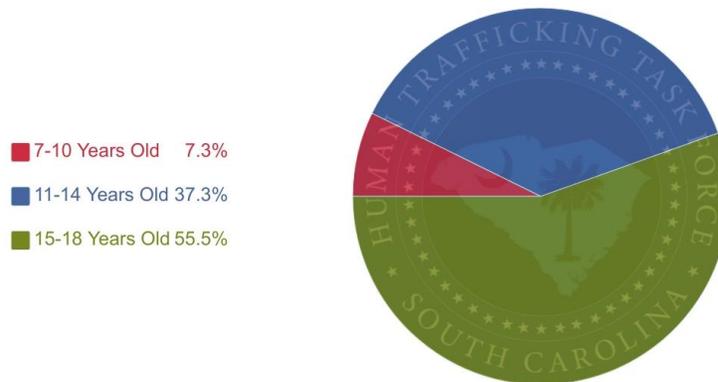
### Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims



Through November 30, 2020

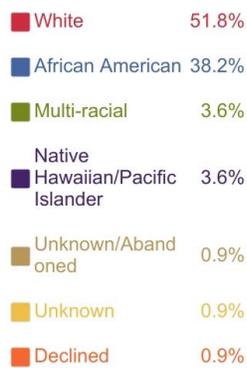
### Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims

Age



Through November 30, 2020

**Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims**  
Race



Through November 30, 2020

**SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

**Agency Description:** State law enforcement agency with agents trained to investigate human trafficking related crimes. These agents investigate human trafficking complaints/referrals/tips from the SC Department of Juvenile Justice, SC Attorney General’s Office, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Agents also partner with local and federal law enforcement agencies across South Carolina to combat crimes related to human trafficking.

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**CASE DATA**

Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019			
U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 1 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 8 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0 <u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Sex Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 1 U.S. Minor
<u>February:</u> 1 U.S. Minor	<u>August:</u> 1 U.S. Minor/1 U.S. Adult
<u>March:</u> 3 U.S. Minors/5 U.S. Adults	<u>September:</u> 3 U.S. Minors
<u>April:</u> 3 U.S. Minors/1 U.S. Adult	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>May:</u> 1 U.S. Minor	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>June:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2019**

U.S. Adults	U.S. Minors	Foreign National Adults	Foreign National Minors
<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0	<u>Active:</u> 0
<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0	<u>Closed:</u> 0

**Number of Labor Trafficking Cases Opened in 2020**

*For each count, please specify whether the victims are U.S. adults, U.S. minors, foreign national adults, or foreign national minors.*

<u>January:</u> 0	<u>April:</u> 0	<u>July:</u> 0	<u>October:</u> 0
<u>February:</u> 0	<u>May:</u> 0	<u>August:</u> 0	<u>November:</u> 0
<u>March:</u> 0	<u>June:</u> 0	<u>September:</u> 0	<u>December:</u> 2 U.S. Adults

**Number of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2020**

Sex Trafficking	Labor Trafficking
<u>Minors:</u> 6	<u>Minors:</u> 0
<u>Adults:</u> 0	<u>Adults:</u> 0

<b>Victim/Survivor Demographic Information</b>							
<i>For each demographic, please list the total number of victims/survivors served in 2020.</i>							
<b>Gender Identity</b>							
<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>		<b>Other</b>		<b>Unknown</b>	
0		22		0		0	
<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
9	11	1	0	0	0	0	0

**REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. How has COVID-19 impacted your agency? Please describe any relevant policy changes, observed trends in trafficking victimization, and challenges your organization has faced as a result of the pandemic.**

Our organization has been impacted by COVID-19 on how we are able to conduct operations to combat human trafficking as well as how we respond to human trafficking related incidents. We have realized an uptick in human trafficking victims involving juvenile runaways since the pandemic started.

**2. Has your agency implemented new policies/practices as a result of COVID-19? If so, please describe.**

We are in the process of implementing new safety precautions with regards to conducting operations to combat human trafficking.

**3. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force:**

Member of all regional task forces and the State Task Force.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIME VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION**

**Mission Statement:** Support to victims of crime service providers and the provision of direct services to victims.

**Organizational Overview:** Within the Division—Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification and Statistical Analysis; Department of Crime Victim Compensation; Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants; Department of Crime Victim Ombudsman

**Area Served (Statewide or Counties):** Statewide

**Contact Information:** Burke Fitzpatrick, Director: [BFitzpatrick@scag.gov](mailto:BFitzpatrick@scag.gov)  
Division Address: 1201 Pendleton St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

**AGENCY EFFORTS**

<b>What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina?</b>
<p>The Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST) continues to issue and monitor certification for human trafficking specialized victim service providers (VSP-HT). CVST continues to provide training and consultation upon request.</p> <p>The Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) administers the federal Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act programs as well as the State Victims Assistance Program. Subgrants can be awarded from these programs to address anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina (see below).</p>
<b>Please list any 2020 agency accomplishments related to human trafficking:</b>
<p>CVST collaborated with the State Task Force coordinator to ensure core training for VSP-HT could be available in a virtual format to meet the need during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>DCVAG funds 140 subgrants throughout the state to direct service providers. This includes domestic violence shelters and other agencies (e.g., Child Advocacy Centers) who include victims of human trafficking as part of their client population. Two direct examples are: (1) Doors to Freedom - This is a residential home specifically for minor survivors of human trafficking and, (2) a South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault project which funds a Language Access and Trafficking Survivor Coordinator who has several roles but works mainly to address the systemic barriers impacting survivors of domestic and</p>

sexual violence who have limited English proficiency. The coordinator also develops and present trainings on human trafficking.

**Please describe the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on your agency.**

COVID-19 has required that most staff telework with only a minimal number of staff coming into the office as required. The effect of this has been to slow productivity, particularly in the area of crime victim compensation as measured by days to process claims. We are also unable to provide in-person grant monitoring and technical assistance to subgrantees but this has resulted in only minimal administrative impairment.

**Please list 2021 agency goals related to human trafficking:**

CVST anticipates that trainings will continue to primarily be conducted virtually in 2021. CVST will work with agencies to ensure Victim Service Provider—Human Trafficking credit can be attained in a virtual setting.

The Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants awarded 140 one-year grants which commenced October 1, 2020 totaling approximately \$36 million. Most of these projects include, but are not exclusively targeted toward, human trafficking victims and survivors. The department will release another solicitation for grant funded projects in February 2021 and anticipates making new awards October 1, 2021.

## **REFLECTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. Do you anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to impact your agency in 2021? If so, how?**

We anticipate that most staff will continue to work remotely into 2021 and until instructed otherwise. This will continue to hamper effectiveness and productivity, particularly in the area of crime victim compensation. Further, we expect to have to continue to rely on desk monitoring of our subgrantees for both financial and programmatic accountability, which is less than ideal from a supervisory and technical assistance perspective. We do not expect the Department of the Crime Victim Ombudsman to be significantly impacted during 2021 although case closure rates are expected to be less than pre-COVID rates. Concerning CVST, we anticipate that trainings will continue to primarily be conducted virtually in 2021. CVST will work with agencies to ensure VSP credit can be attained in a virtual setting.

**2. Please list membership in the State Task Force and/or a Regional Task Force.**  
State Task Force.

**3. Do you have a specific person that represents your agency at State Task Force meetings? If so, please list their name and contact info.**

Kim Hamm, Deputy Director for the Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification and Statistical Services: [khamm@scag.gov](mailto:khamm@scag.gov).

## **XIV: 2021 Human Trafficking Task Force Recommendations**

### **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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

There have been efforts by state agencies serving children and adolescents to collect more data that can better inform the human trafficking landscape in South Carolina. However, we lack comprehensive data specifically focused on adult victims, the homeless population, the aging population, and other vulnerable individuals. The Task Force hopes to also gather better data regarding labor trafficking in South Carolina. The State Task Force will continue efforts to encourage state agencies to align their data elements while collecting data within their programs. Furthermore, the Data Management and Research Committee will continue efforts to develop a more sophisticated data collection system.

### **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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Efforts will continue in South Carolina to better inform first responders, labor agencies, and victim advocacy groups. The State Task Force will offer additional trainings in 2021 for multiple sectors while highlighting issues at the intersection of different professions. Many of the trainings will likely need to be held via virtual platforms given considerations around COVID-19 safety measures. While this may be less than ideal in some situations, it will position those in more rural areas and with less resources to attend trainings with more ease.

- 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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

In 2021, the State Task Force will continue efforts to identify funding opportunities for direct service providers. It is likely this will be achieved through notification to Task Force members regarding state and federal grants aimed at increasing human trafficking victim/survivor access to needed services. The Task Force will also share any additional funding opportunities for service providers that may arise in the coming year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Finding Three: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Lack of human trafficking specific shelter space continues to be a problem in South Carolina. The Task Force will continue to support provider efforts to expand existing quality services

and encourage those who may be interested in starting specialized programs that meet the state's standards. Increased data efforts will help better inform those who may be interested in providing much-needed services to victims/survivors.

- 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

In 2021, the Task Force will create materials for inclusion in the Resource Library currently housed on its website. There will also be efforts to develop a more comprehensive knowledge repository that will include webinars on various topics with one of the recordings focused on benefits specific to non-citizen victims of human trafficking.

- Finding Five: Civil relief options for a trafficked victim are not well known or communicated.

#### RECOMMENDATION

To better inform victims of the civil relief options available to them, this topic will also be incorporated into the current Resource Library and future knowledge repository. The Legal Innovations Subcommittee should be positioned in 2021 to help in efforts to better inform direct service providers and, ideally, provide such support for trafficked victims.

- Finding Six: Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.

#### RECOMMENDATION

As we move into 2021, there are plans to launch the online directory for judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, and others seeking resources for victims. There will also continue to be ongoing communication with the National Human Trafficking Hotline to ensure victims are referred to safe, quality services.

### **INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKERS**

- Finding One: The lack of resources available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges frustrate opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.

#### RECOMMENDATION

A lack of resources is an issue that the State Task Force continues to focus on to better equip those investigating, prosecuting and sentencing human trafficking cases. There will be additional trainings in 2021, increased strategic networking, and other efforts to identify ways to benefit these professionals.

- Finding Two: The lack of information sharing among law enforcement officers and prosecuting offices hinders opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The State Task Force's Strategic Response Model will continue to be strengthened as we move into 2021. The strategy being implemented should help with network building and strengthening communication between law enforcement and prosecution offices. The continued growth of regional task forces will also contribute to better information sharing.

- Finding Three: The lack of trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges prevents opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.

#### RECOMMENDATION

In 2021, there will be an increased number of trainings for those working within the legal field. The Task Force will offer trainings that include introductions to sex and labor trafficking as well as more advanced opportunities for those who have been working the cases and/or already completed more basic training. The training should help law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges with 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

As law enforcement and others within the legal field learn more about the changes in legislation and are trained in specific rules and regulations, there should be a continued increase in enforcement of such rules and regulations.

- 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

In 2021, the Task Force will launch a Facts Matter campaign to try to better inform the public. It is critical that accurate information is shared from reliable sources. The State Task Force will also share recommended guidelines for public awareness campaigns and trainings to ensure that those conducting them are mindful of the importance of sourcing reputable sources. This year, we hope to launch a knowledge repository that will include additional webinars, brochures, and other useful information for members and community advocates.

#### **OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION AND STUDY**

- Foreign national victims: Consider how current immigration laws can affect victims of severe human trafficking.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Task Force will continue to be mindful of how immigration laws affect victims of human trafficking and work to inform members of such information.

- **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.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Strategic Response Model, coupled with increased regional task forces, will better prepare communities to respond in a coordinated, well-informed fashion.

- **Child Victims:** Analyze how South Carolina juvenile law affects juvenile victims of human trafficking, particularly those victims who might be arrested for a crime.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Task Force will stay informed of issues impacting juvenile victims and support legislation that calls for improvements to the system in terms of ensuring their wellbeing and potential need for restorative care.

- **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.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Task Force will continue to manage tips from the National Human Trafficking Task Force. In 2021, leadership will access the current list of tip recipients and include others from the four zones outlined in the Strategic Response Model. Furthermore, The Task Force will engage the subject matter expert on ways to better employ technology in cases. Lastly, there will be continued efforts to better inform communities, specifically young people, of the dangers of the Internet in relation to human trafficking.

## **XV. Acknowledgements**

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General would like to thank all the members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force for their hard work and dedication to the cause. Collaboration is critical in the anti-human trafficking movement to successfully prevent the crime, protect our communities, and prosecute the cases. Together, we continue to make progress in combating human trafficking in South Carolina.

We are eager to continue our leadership of the State Task Force in 2021. Additionally, we look forward to creating new partnerships and initiatives that will effectively contribute to the anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina, the Southeast Region, and across our nation.

In closing, we would like to recognize contributions made to this report by the following individuals. Thank you for your dedication to the cause and ensuring that anti-human trafficking efforts across the state are recognized each year.

**Megan Rigabar**, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

**Matt Wills**, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

**Heather Weiss**, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

**Jamesetta Lovett**, South Carolina Judicial Branch

**Elizabeth Gerrior**, Polaris/National Human Trafficking Hotline

**Support Services**, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

**State Task Force Subcommittee Chairs**

**Regional Task Force Chairs**

**In case of an emergency, dial 911 for local law enforcement response.**

**For victim assistance or report potential human trafficking, please contact:**

**The National Human Trafficking Hotline**

**Call 888-373-7888**

**Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)**

If you have questions about the 2020 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:

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