



# SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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## I. Introduction

Human trafficking is often referred to as modern day slavery. It is a crime that poses immense human rights, public safety and public health concerns across the globe. In the United States, it has been reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Traffickers target children and adults without regard to age, race, gender or socioeconomic status. Their primary concern is exploiting individuals for profit through labor and/or sex trafficking. It is a profitable business for criminals and often perceived as lower risk than trafficking in drugs or weapons.

Throughout the State of South Carolina, traffickers are targeting the vulnerable, including young people in the child welfare system, runaways and the homeless, individuals with disabilities, and those battling alcohol and drug addiction. Furthermore, traffickers are targeting migrant workers, foreign nationals, and members of tribal communities. While they notoriously target the vulnerable in our society, nobody is immune to this crime.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force was legislatively mandated in 2012 to combat this crime through the combined efforts of state agencies, non-profit leaders, and community advocates. To date, we have employed a multi-sector approach given the complexities of the crime. This includes new partnerships with those in the trucking industry, hospital administration, advocates supporting indigenous women, and those presiding over the family courts. The State Task Force also continues to support the efforts of regional task forces and the launch of new coalitions throughout the state.

This year we celebrate significant wins in our collective efforts to prevent human trafficking, protect South Carolinians, and prosecute those who perpetrate these horrendous crimes. We also recognize efforts to fill the gaps in services for victims and survivors while developing standards of care to protect individuals from potential re-victimization. Legislators in South Carolina took action that was recognized at the national level by Shared Hope International who ranked South Carolina as the most improved state in the nation. Young people were provided the opportunity to engage on the topic at the first South Carolina Human Trafficking Youth Advocacy Summit. Thousands of people across South Carolina gained newfound awareness about human trafficking and its impact on our state through the diligent efforts of community advocates.

South Carolinians are working hard to combat this crime. However, we cannot become complacent as a result of our successes. There is much to acknowledge in terms of our accomplishments in 2018. There is also much to achieve in 2019. In this report, you will find details of our progress and goals for the upcoming year. We encourage you to continue your efforts and, if not yet a member of the anti-human trafficking movement, engage on the topic to help prevent, protect, and prosecute. We need your participation to continue the momentum underway in combatting human trafficking in our state.

## II. 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 South Carolina Office of the 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  
The State Office of Victim Assistance  
The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination  
The Department of Social Services  
A representative of the Office of the Governor  
A representative from the Department of Employment and Workforce

Besides the aforementioned members, two non-governmental organizations are appointed to the Task Force: The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). An invitation of membership is also extended to representatives of the United States Department of Labor, the 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.

### III. 2018 Quarterly Meeting Overviews & 2019 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 always scheduled from 10 AM to 12 PM. In 2018, the Task Force met on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. The following is an overview of the topics discussed during each quarterly meeting.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **Kathryn Moorehead**, the Coordinator of the Task Force, reviewed the highlights of the 2017 Annual Report, discussed resources available through Polaris and the DHHS Office on Trafficking in Persons, and provided an update on the status of Backpage. She then updated attendees regarding the DHHS/ACF Region IV Leadership Advisory meeting that was held at the Attorney General's Office in January.
- **Heather Weiss and Matt Gates**, Deputy Attorneys General, spoke about legislation that relates to the counter-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina.
- **Elliott Daniels**, Legal Innovations Sub-Committee Chair, introduced **Family Court Judge Michele Patrao Forsythe**.
- Judge Forsythe spoke about lessons learned at the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking that was held in Asheville, NC. Judge Forsythe, along with three other family court judges, gained added insight into the plight of child victims. She shared perspectives from the bench on the topic.
- **Taryn Shekitka**, South Carolina Trucking Association, spoke about the successful Coalition Build in January (in partnership with the SC Attorney General's Office and Truckers Against Trafficking) as well as efforts in the trucking industry moving forward.
- **Virginia Funk Currie**, Crime Victims Services Division at the Attorney General's Office, spoke about VAWA and VOCA grant opportunities and deadlines.
- The Task Force sub-committee chairs and the regional task force chairs provided updates regarding efforts in their respective areas. The meeting ended with community advocate announcements.

June 1<sup>st</sup>

- **Attorney General Alan Wilson** spoke to Task Force members and thanked them for their continued efforts in combatting human trafficking across the state.
- The General was joined by two youth advocates, outgoing Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee Chair **Samantha Gatton** and incoming Chair **Reilly Arford**. Both young people shared their perspectives on educating their peers about the crime and how to prevent it from happening in their schools and larger communities.
- Kathryn Moorehead then spoke about the upcoming 2018 Human Trafficking Youth Advocacy Summit.
- **Beth Messick**, Executive Director at Jasmine Road, spoke about the launch of the safe home for adult female victims of sex trafficking and provided an overview of the services they provide to clients.
- **Katie Reid**, current Chair of the Direct Service Providers Sub-Committee, spoke about efforts at the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

- The meeting ended with updates and announcements.

#### September 7<sup>th</sup>

- The Coordinator of the Task Force provided updates to members. Included in the update was the recent release of a publication by Polaris, mention of upcoming national trainings, the hope to develop a statewide speaker's bureau to coordinate public awareness efforts, the announcement of the new VOCA grant award, and new representation by the Attorney General's Office on the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group.
- **Kathleen Hays** then spoke about the Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina and its new partnership with the Task Force.
- **Diana Idiaghe**, the Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps Legal Fellow at South Carolina Legal Services, spoke about her efforts to support human trafficking victims in the legal arena.
- Executive Director **Patricia Krikorian** from Lily Pad Haven spoke about her organization's program services and the opening of a new safe home in Rock Hill for adult female victims of sex trafficking.
- **Kathryn Moorehead**, the Coordinator of the Task Force, spoke about recent changes in legislation and the potential impact in South Carolina.
- **Kim Hamm**, Deputy Director at the Attorney Generals' Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis, spoke about the upcoming pilot training for human trafficking service providers. In partnership with the Task Force, the new Victim Service Provider training (VSP-HT) will be launched in January 2019 to a select group of providers and anti-human trafficking leaders from throughout the state. It will be the first of its kind in South Carolina.
- The meeting ended with updates from sub-committees and regional chairs.

#### December 7<sup>th</sup>

- **Attorney General Wilson** recognized the contributions of **Elliott Daniels** with a Certificate of Appreciation as he steps down from a Task Force Chair position. Mr. Daniels was involved in developing the State Plan that was released in 2014, the launch of the Legal Innovations Sub-Committee, and continues to coordinate pro bono services for human trafficking victims throughout South Carolina.
- The Task Force also learned about the Shared Hope International Protected Innocence Challenge Report that acknowledged South Carolina's advancement in the area of legislation related to minor sex trafficking victims.
- **Brenda Myers** from the USC Children's Law Center Child Protection Legal Training Team shared her program's mandated reporter training opportunities.
- **Joe Ryan** from the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force spoke about his efforts across the state. Mr. Ryan also shared opportunities for communities to host his educational presentations.
- **Laurie Pineda** from the South Carolina Foster Parent Association reviewed collaborative efforts to train specialized foster parents who will work with minor victims of sex trafficking. These efforts are in partnership between the SC Foster Parent Association, the Attorney General's Task Force, and the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Center.

- Lastly, there was a review of past and upcoming Task Force initiatives as well as sub-committee and regional task force updates.

## 2019 Meeting Dates

In 2019, the Task Force will continue to meet quarterly in West Columbia on the following dates: **March 1<sup>st</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 6<sup>th</sup>**. The meetings will continue to be held at the West Columbia City Hall from 10 AM to 12 PM on each of the dates. If there is a change to a meeting date or the location, the Coordinator of the Task Force will inform members via email. To join the email listserv for meeting updates and other news, please send a request to Kathryn Moorehead, Office of the Attorney General's Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs/Coordinator of the State Task Force, at [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov).

## IV. 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 goals. It should be noted that the State Plan reflects the relevant issues during the time in which the document was drafted, so some findings are less pertinent now than others. The focus areas that comprise the framework include the following:

### **Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina**

- Finding: There is not abundant or comprehensive data about human trafficking as it is happening in South Carolina.

### **Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking**

- Finding One: First responders, medical professionals, labor agencies, and victim advocacy groups must be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.
- Finding Two: There is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources for groups that provide services to victims of human trafficking.
- Finding Three: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.
- Finding Four: There is a lack of understanding and awareness of the various immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking that are essential to victim safety and prosecution.
- Finding Five: Civil relief options for a trafficked victim are not well known or communicated.
- Finding Six: Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.

### **Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers**

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

## V. 2018 Task Force Recommendations & Updates

### **Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina**

#### Data Collection & Management

Given the general lack of data regarding human trafficking in the state, the recommendation is for continued emphasis in this area. The Data Management & Research Sub-Committee of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall identify a platform and technology to use for the data collection system. The goal will be for the system to be interoperable among task force agencies so that they may communicate relevant data and other useful information. South Carolina is also urged to align the state data collection system with a federal template developed by the Office of Trafficking in Persons.

#### **Status: Progress/Ongoing**

In 2018, there was progress in achieving a data collection system in South Carolina. Dr. Liyun Zhang, Chair of the Data Management & Research Sub-Committee, and Kathryn Moorehead, Coordinator of the State Task Force, communicated with representatives from the Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) about the project. Discussions included how to best align the development of the data system with efforts underway at the federal level. A survey was developed and sent to members of the State Task Force and regional task forces to assess the feasibility of aligning South Carolina's data collection system with OTIP's. More on these efforts are detailed later in this report under highlighted initiatives. The next step in 2019 is to finalize the details of the data collection system and meet with system developers. The goal is to launch the new system later in the year. The benefits of the new system would be data that would identify the number of victims and survivors seeking services in our state, the specific needs of this population, and the gaps in support services. The data collection system would also position organizations seeking grant funding with the formal data needed to support their applications.

### **Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking**

#### First Responders, Medical Professionals, Labor Agencies

It is critical that first responders, medical professionals, and labor agencies be able to identify potential victims and respond appropriately to their unique needs. Through the efforts of task force sub-committee members, these professionals shall receive specialized training on both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The State Task Force will continue to back such training initiatives and, in 2018, use a portion of a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award to support specialized opportunities.

#### **Status: Progress/Ongoing**

State Task Force members have actively been training first responders regarding the identification and appropriate response to cases of human trafficking. Unfortunately, the Task Force's VOCA grant award did not include appropriations to support on-going training in 2019. There have been efforts to offer training to first responders and medical professionals regardless of financial constraints. In January 2019, the first state-level training for healthcare providers will be conducted in Columbia. The training will educate professionals in the field on the State's human trafficking protocol developed specifically for those providing medical support to

victims. There are also plans for more effective training for law enforcement in the investigation of human trafficking cases and how best to support those who have been victimized.

### Grant Opportunities

There is a lack of sufficient funding for services that need to be offered to victims and survivors of human trafficking. The state task force will share information about available and potential resources via its new website [humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov). By sharing available funding opportunities amongst task force members, the goal is to position more organizations to increase their service capacity to meet the needs of the most vulnerable of victims and survivors.

#### **Status: Progress/Ongoing**

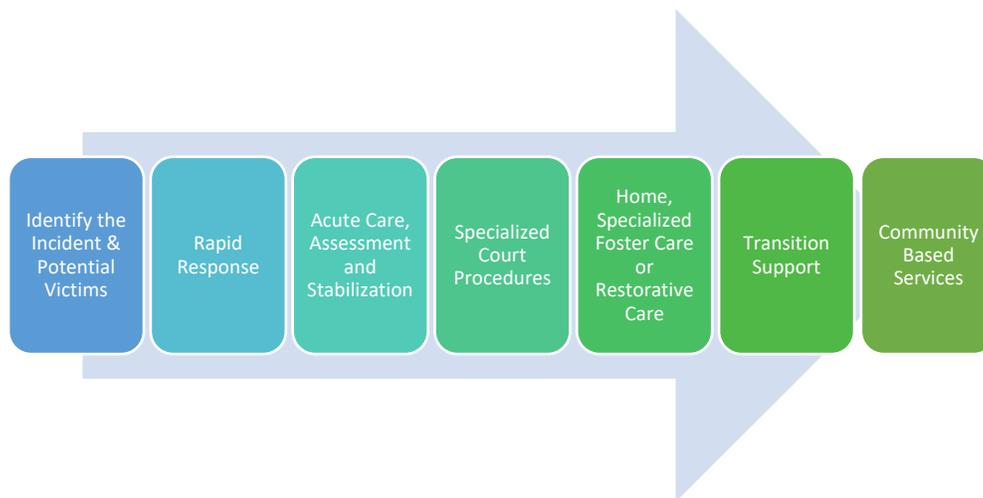
The Coordinator of the State Task Force positioned members to learn more about grant opportunities through a presentation at the March meeting in West Columbia. Furthermore, there have been efforts to identify additional opportunities. However, these efforts will need to continue into 2019 to better position those agencies currently providing support services to victims and survivors and those who would like to broaden their mission to include this population. There continues to be an ongoing shortage of available services. Funding opportunities will need to support further development of community-based and residential programs for both adult and minor victims of human trafficking.

### Development of a Continuum of Care

As previously discussed, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force recognizes the need for an established continuum of care in our state that addresses the unique needs of human trafficking victims and survivors. We need to best position our rapid responders, have alternative emergency placements for young people, pilot a youth diversion court, vocational opportunities, and launch a mentoring program that provides support to those reintegrating back into mainstream society. These services shall be holistic in nature and require collaboration amongst major stakeholders.

#### **Status: Progress/Ongoing**

The State Task Force has developed a model of what components our system of care should include to effectively support victims and survivors. Below, the model is shown in a flowchart that provides a linear progression through the system of care. It should be noted that often a victim may enter the system at different stages in the continuum. Rarely are cases as fluid as this chart. However, all the components are relevant in relation to the services many victims and survivors require in their restorative care and transition back into the mainstream.



The State Task Force is actively working on the development of each stage in the system of care. For example, to help law enforcement or community members identify a potential human trafficking incident, we are providing specialized trainings relevant to a variety of professions in the counter-trafficking arena as well as community advocates, educators, and others who may encounter a victim or be positioned to support survivors. There have been obstacles to continued development of services with funding opportunities presenting as the primary hurdle in implementing additional programs. In 2019, efforts will continue to support the further development of innovative programs and quality services that meet the specialized needs of this population.

Memorandums of Understanding

In 2018, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are specific to the multi-disciplinary fields of anti-human trafficking advocacy and service provision. The MOUs will formally recognize task force members and position the Task Force to list the organizations as such in brochures and on the website as well as allowing for inclusion on a list of referral sources with Polaris. This will not only provide a vetted list of service providers, it will allow for the acknowledgement and accessibility of quality multi-disciplinary partners throughout South Carolina.

**Status: Progress/Ongoing**

In 2018, the State Task Force began this process by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Doors to Freedom, the first non-profit to offer residential restorative care for female minor victims of sex trafficking. Additionally, the Task Force signed a new MOU with the South Carolina Hospital Association to officially recognize their partnership in the fight against human trafficking and formalize their support of ongoing training for medical professionals. In 2019, additional MOU’s will be drafted to recognize the efforts of direct service providers and formalize partnerships with multi-sector agencies and organizations at the local and state-level.

**Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers**

Advanced Law Enforcement Training

As human traffickers use more complex methods of exploiting individuals, law enforcement needs to be provided with up-to-date opportunities to build their knowledge of best practices and their applicable skill base. In 2018, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall provide advanced law enforcement training to agencies across the state. Focus areas will include investigative techniques, the use of technology in solving cases, and building a case for successful prosecution.

**Status: Ongoing**

The State Task force continues to recognize the ongoing need for law enforcement specific training around the complexities of investigating human trafficking cases as well as working with victims throughout the process. Given various factors in turnover (such as promotions or transfers), the time needed to investigate a human trafficking case, and overlap in professional responsibilities; law enforcement training will be an ongoing priority throughout 2019. There are two three-day trainings tentatively scheduled for February and March during which attendees will gain in-depth knowledge that can be applied to their human trafficking specific investigations. More information about these opportunities will be shared through the Criminal Justice Academy and state-level law enforcement associations.

**Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina**

Public Awareness Campaign

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force shall use a portion of a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award toward increased public awareness campaign resources including billboards, public service announcements (television and radio), and new brochures and posters. Focus areas around the state will be chosen based on data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline.

**Status: Achieved/Ongoing**

In 2018, the State Task Force utilized VOCA grant funds to post billboards in the Aiken, Florence, and Orangeburg areas to increase tip reporting to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and educate victims as to how they can receive referral services or general assistance in escaping a human trafficking situation. The billboards have been viewed approximately 6 million times. In 2019, the Task Force will continue to post these billboards in the aforementioned areas and begin distributing a human trafficking awareness brochure developed by the Office of the Attorney General. Additionally, we will begin distributing awareness posters for both general community awareness as well as designs created specifically for schools and youth-serving organizations.

Youth Advocacy Initiatives

The Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee, under the state task force, shall begin building the Youth Advocacy Network of schools and student representatives from throughout South Carolina. Additionally, the first Youth Advocacy Summit, focused on human trafficking prevention education and social advocacy, shall be held in the summer of 2018.

**Status: Progress/Ongoing**

In June 2018, the State Task Force, in partnership with Children's Trust and the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, hosted a one-day Human Trafficking Youth Advocacy Summit for high school students from throughout the state. There were 150 attendees who took part in the activities that day. It was the first step in developing a network of youth around the state that can help educate their peers and potentially prevent others from becoming victims of human trafficking. The Task Force has encouraged the regional task forces to coordinate similar events in their areas to form a network on the ground in their communities. Ideally, the young people involved in the regional efforts will join one another for the next state-level event to share their efforts and gain added insight into the anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina.

## **Other Areas for Consideration and Study**

### Foreign Nationals

The Direct Services Sub-Committee discovered in their 2017 survey of service providers, most respondents perceived foreign born victims as facing the most barriers to accessing services. This speaks to the need for continued development of culturally-sensitive and linguistically appropriate resources for foreign nationals. Additionally, the State Task Force shall continue to provide immigration updates via victim advocates specializing in this area of the law.

### **Status: Ongoing**

In 2018, there was minimal progress made in this area of consideration. We continue to strive to develop needed resources while lacking the financial means to achieve this goal. However, efforts will be made to increase backing of those supporting foreign born victims.

### Rapid Response Teams

The Task Force believes it is critical that we build a rapid response network composed of teams in regions of the state. As more regional task forces are developed, we need to also focus on the creation of specialized residential facilities that can potentially house victims of human trafficking upon their rescue. Otherwise, a rapid response model will be ineffective if we do not have safe spaces for teams to transport victims.

### **Status: Ongoing**

Members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, as well as regional task forces, recognize the need to develop rapid response teams in our state. We need multi-disciplinary teams trained in proper communication and response procedures who can, in turn, ensure the well-being of both adult and minor victims of human trafficking. The State is lacking residential programs for victims and survivors which limits the ability to transport them to safe spaces that are knowledgeable of how to best support these individuals. The State Task Force will continue efforts to work with local and regional partners to develop the rapid response model.

### Child Victims

The State of South Carolina, including members of the state task force, must continue efforts to meet the needs of child victims of human trafficking. This shall be achieved through research, academic reviews, supporting legislative initiatives, and building support services specific to this population's unique needs. Additionally, progress will require continued communication and collaboration amongst the state's child welfare stakeholders.

**Status: Progress/Ongoing**

Given recent legislation, there has been considerable progress in this area. The Department of Social Services is now positioned to work with minor sex trafficking victims allowing law enforcement and others to refer cases to their offices. In addition, the Attorney General's Office worked with members of the DSS state office to develop criteria for specialized residential programs for this population. Two organizations, Doors to Freedom and Lighthouse for Life, have received certification and licensure from DSS to operate restorative care programs for minor female sex trafficking victims. The Attorney General's Office, through additional recent legislation, was positioned to develop and oversee the criteria of direct service provision that would allow organizations to be recognized as quality care providers for human trafficking victims. One step in the process was the development of a new Victim Service Provider certification for human trafficking professionals. The first training will launch in Columbia in January 2019 to align with National Human Trafficking Awareness Month efforts throughout the State.

**Technology**

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, as the Chair of the statewide task force, has elevated its collaboration with Thorn to bring Spotlight technology to law enforcement agencies across the state. By providing technological training and resources, we better position law enforcement to tackle the complexities of human trafficking cases, specifically those involving child sexual exploitation.

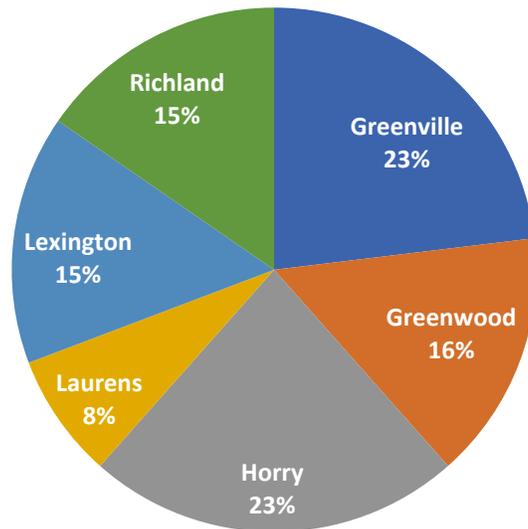
**Status: Progress/Ongoing**

There have been efforts by the Office of the Attorney General to educate law enforcement about the availability of Spotlight technology to support human trafficking investigations. During upcoming trainings, the availability of this tool will continue to be highlighted and law enforcement will be encouraged to register for free with Thorn to access the technology.

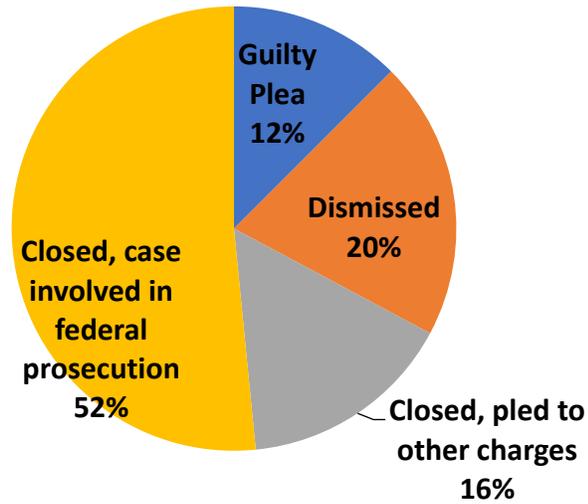
## VI. Court Data: Pending and Closed

In 2018, 13 new defendants were charged with Human Trafficking in South Carolina State Courts, three involved minor victims (under 18 years of age). Of the new cases, two were closed in 2018. One defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of trafficking under eighteen and one to a count of trafficking as a first offense. Overall, 64 charges of human trafficking were closed in state courts in 2018. Local law enforcement worked with both state and federal law enforcement agencies in investigating cases in 2018. As of December 15, 2018, there are 20 human trafficking cases pending in the South Carolina State Courts.

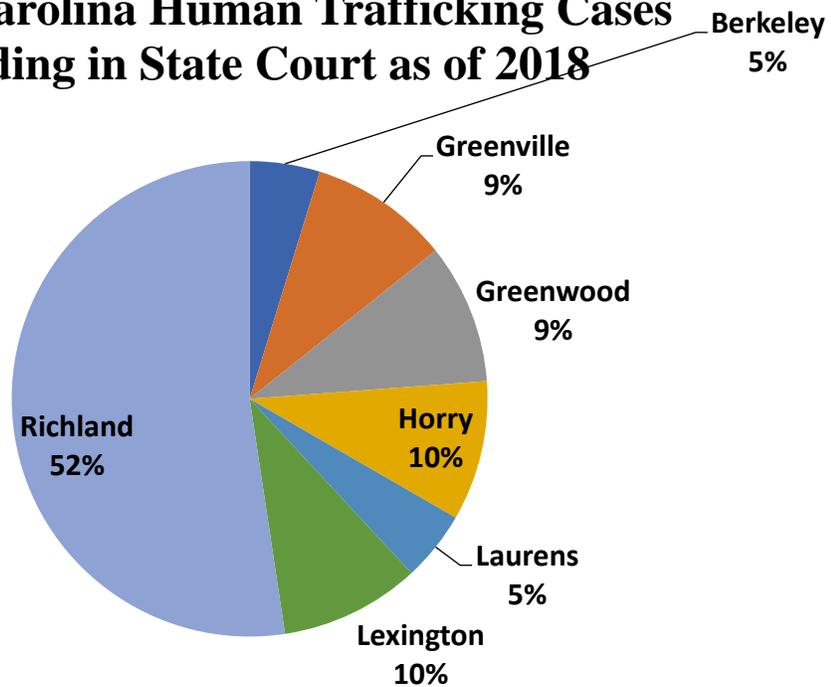
### Human Trafficking Cases Opened in South Carolina State Court in 2018



## Dispositions of Human Trafficking Cases in State Court in 2018



## South Carolina Human Trafficking Cases Pending in State Court as of 2018



## VI. Highlighted Partnerships & Initiatives

### Continued Partnerships

The goal of these partnerships is to aid in combating human trafficking throughout South Carolina, the Southeast region, and our nation while building the capacity of law enforcement and other professional service providers to meet the needs of victims/survivors.

To effectively communicate and collaborate with partners across the nation, Attorney General Wilson and the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force actively contribute to regional and national workgroups. While the following three groups are focused on solving the complex challenges that factor into abolishing human trafficking, they vary in their multi-disciplinary approaches within the anti-human trafficking arena. In 2019, the Office of the Attorney General will continue its commitment to collaboration via participation in regional and national coalitions.



The Association 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 staffs on a wide range of subjects relevant to the practice areas of the attorneys general offices. It assists in the implementation, administration and enforcement of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

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 is a sitting member of the Human Trafficking Committee. 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 joining the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee.

- Attorney General Maura Healey (MA), Co-Chair
- Attorney General Sean Reyes (UT), Co-Chair
- Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman (CO)
- Attorney General Karl A. Racine (DC)
- Attorney General Chris Carr (GA)
- Attorney General Derek Schmidt (KS)
- Attorney General Andy Beshear (KY)
- Attorney General Brian Frosh (MD)
- Attorney General Joshua D. Hawley (MO)
- Attorney General Bill Schuette (MI)
- Attorney General Doug Peterson (NE)
- Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt (NV)
- Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem (ND)
- Attorney General Mike Hunter (OK)
- Attorney General Alan Wilson (SC)
- Attorney General Ken Paxton (TX)
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ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Region IV - Southeast Leadership Advisory Group

The US Department of Health & Human Services Administration of Children and Families Region IV office in Atlanta coordinates the Southeast leadership group representing eight states. Representatives from each of the participating states, namely state task force leads and child welfare representatives, 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 field of counter human trafficking. The eight states who participate in this coalition include: South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In January 2018, South Carolina hosted the eight states for a multi-day meeting at the Office of the Attorney General. The meeting included continued collaboration amongst state leaders through discussions on relevant topics and information sharing. The meeting concluded on

January 11<sup>th</sup>, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, with a press conference at the South Carolina Statehouse. During this event, Attorney General Wilson officially released the 2017 Annual Report and acknowledged the partnership amongst the eight states, achievements of the State Task Force and regional task force efforts. Additionally, two representatives from other states (KY and TN) spoke to their efforts and the importance of continued collaboration amongst the southeastern states.

The Leadership Advisory Group also released a Guide on Best Practices in 2018. This was an ongoing project by members of the group from various states. It is an important tool to help those in the human services field best provide effective, quality support to victims and survivors of human trafficking. The guide can be found on the State Task Force website at [humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov).

In October, Kentucky hosted a Labor Trafficking Conference that was a success in not only bringing regional and national stakeholders together, but drawing attention to this specific crime. Workshops addressed an array of topics relevant to identifying labor trafficking, responses to the crime, and supporting victims and survivors. To date, much focus in the region and throughout the country has been on sex trafficking. This event highlighted the ongoing need to include labor trafficking in public awareness efforts, law enforcement trainings, and models for direct service provision.

The lead representative from South Carolina in 2018 was Kathryn Moorehead of the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs/Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. Representation also included Elliott Daniels, Esq., formerly of Murphy & Grantland, P.A./Chair of the Task Force Legal Innovations Sub-Committee, Dr. Liyun Zhang, Research Analyst at the University of South Carolina Children's Law Center/Chair of the Task Force Data Management & Research Sub-Committee, and delegates from both the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Social Services. Dependent upon items on the agenda for discussion in 2019, South Carolina will also include involvement from other State Task Force sub-committee leaders.



### National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

The National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives is led by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs. South Carolina is an active member of the

compendium. The group meets quarterly via conference call to discuss goals, challenges, resources, and other relevant topics that relate to the collective efforts to end human trafficking. Currently, the National Compendium is composed of 27 states and three national agencies including the following:

Arizona	Colorado	Connecticut	Florida	Georgia	Idaho
Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska
New Jersey	Nevada	New Mexico	N. Carolina	N. Dakota	Ohio
Oklahoma	Oregon	S. Carolina	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Virginia	Washington	Wisconsin	Polaris/National Human Trafficking Hotline		
DHHS/ACF Region IV		National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center			

The four meetings occurred on March 12th, June 8th, September 21st, and December 4<sup>th</sup> and included the following topics: proposed legislation in compendium states, expungement laws for trafficking victims, labor trafficking, and responses to illicit massage businesses engaged in human trafficking, with the latter specifically focused on Ohio’s approach as well as members’ pertinent information about their individual state efforts and challenges.



**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 non-profit, 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-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 (MOU), both parties officially recognize 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.

To facilitate these goals, the state task force and Polaris agree to, but not limited to, the following participation:

#### Polaris

- Provide prompt response to call, emails, texts and other reports to the hotline to provide crisis services, referrals, and/or accept tips of potential trafficking situations;
  - Provide annual call case, country and state-based reports, in which the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General/Human Trafficking State Task Force is located;
  - Provide information on the number of signals received that reference a campaign promoting the national hotline (when applicable);
  - Collaborate with key state stakeholders to provide consultation on promising practices to improve statewide response to human trafficking;
  - Provide access to resources on human trafficking or referrals to subject matter experts;
  - Ensure national hotline reporting protocols are directly connected to statewide efforts;
  - Provide access to the national hotline's promotional and campaign materials;
- And
- Collaborate with the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General toward insuring that state-level referral services are appropriately vetted to ensure the continued safety and well-being of victims and survivors.

#### South Carolina Office of the Attorney General/Human Trafficking State Task Force

- Identify the national hotline as the state's designated anti-human trafficking hotline and incorporate into the state's anti-trafficking response;
  - Adopt a victim-centered, culturally sensitive approach when developing or revising the state's anti-trafficking response;
  - Actively promote the national hotline through trainings and/or publicly funded outreach campaigns;
  - Collaborate with Polaris to ensure all human trafficking coalitions/task forces throughout the state promote and use the national hotline;
  - Require that all human trafficking coalition/task force members have a basic knowledge of human trafficking and the national hotline;
- And
- Collaborate with Polaris toward insuring that state-level referral services are appropriately vetted to ensure the continued safety and well-being of victims and survivors.

NOTE: Polaris has changed its policy and is no longer drafting MOUs with states. Therefore, the existing MOU was honored through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, under the leadership of the Task Force Coordinator, will continue to work in partnership with Polaris and the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Our partnership will allow

effective communication amongst stakeholders in South Carolina, best position law enforcement to receive time sensitive tips to investigate and help ensure that victims are connected with much needed safe, quality services.



In 2015, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, as Chair of the statewide task force, established a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security 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 2018. We are committed to working in collaboration throughout 2019 to bring much needed awareness about human trafficking to citizens of our state.

In an effort to alert community advocates to the resources available through the Blue Campaign, the Task Force has chosen to highlight the Human Trafficking Awareness Month initiatives led by the Department of Homeland Security. 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 vigilantly 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 non-profit leveraging technology to combat child sexual exploitation. They are partnered with 20+ international NGO partners and 40+ technology partners to stop the spread of child sexual abuse material and combat child traffickers who utilize the Internet in their crimes. In 2015, Thorn built a technological tool – Spotlight – to help law enforcement identify child sex trafficking victims and arrest their abusers. In 2016, 2,020 child victims of sexual exploitation were identified using this innovative tool. It is estimated that Spotlight helps reduce investigative time by nearly 50% positioning law enforcement to tackle more cases of child sexual exploitation within a shorter timeframe.

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 2018. Plans were modified to allow for expanded access and use of Thorn’s Spotlight technology throughout South Carolina by incorporating information in law enforcement trainings. In early 2019, the Task Force will continue this approach at trainings in Myrtle Beach and Columbia while professional development will center on investigative techniques and supporting victims of human trafficking.

**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 trafficking. LAST served 28 survivors in 2018.

LAST was formed in 2017 with a goal of providing every survivor of 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.

Over the last year, the network has seen encouraging progress and successful outcomes in municipal, state, and federal courts in South Carolina in matters involving expungement and vacatur, pardon, restitution, custody and family court needs, tax counsel, immigration relief, and victim and witness advocacy in pending criminal prosecutions.

LAST is grateful for the generous partnership and support from the South Carolina Bar, the SC Bar Foundation, the Greenville Bar Association, the Richland County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Office of the SC Attorney General, Murphy & Grantland PA, the Human Trafficking Legal Center, SCADVASSA, SC Legal Services, and various direct service providers, private firms and members of the judiciary and Bar across the state.

**For more information, please contact:**

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

## 2018 New Partnerships

Each year, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, via the Attorney General Office's leadership, seeks opportunities to develop new partnerships while strengthening existing collaborations. The following five (5) highlighted partnerships were chosen to exhibit the Task Force's increased multi-sector efforts in 2018.



Human traffickers are increasingly targeting an especially vulnerable population, those with disabilities. There have been grotesque examples in South Carolina of this crime perpetrated against these individuals. Knowledge of these crimes drew the attention of the Task Force

leadership and motivated its increased focus in this area. As a result, the Attorney General's Coordinator of the State Task Force became an official member and representative of South Carolina on the **National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Work Group (NHTDWG)**. The mission of the Working 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.

### **NHTDWG Mission Statement and Charge:**

1. To study and collect data on the intersection of human trafficking and disabilities
2. To raise awareness nationally about the intersection of human trafficking and disabilities
3. To create and disseminate resources on human trafficking and disabilities
4. To promote the development of evidence-based practices to improve the health and wellbeing of trafficking survivors with disabilities and deaf survivors
5. To create additional and better methods to prevent the trafficking of persons who have disabilities and deaf individuals
6. To improve the identification of trafficked persons who have disabilities and deaf individuals
7. To increase understanding of the needs of trafficking survivors with disabilities and deaf survivors
8. To develop and share promising practices in the legal advocacy and the deliverance of services to trafficking survivors with disabilities and deaf survivors
9. To build and increase a partnership among survivors of trafficking with disabilities, allies, advocates, and other professionals.

### **Steering Committee**

The NHTDWG Steering Committee is formed from experts and self-advocates from the fields of human trafficking and disabilities.

### **Subcommittees**

- Training
- Communication and Outreach
- Data
- Youth

The Task Force is hoping to recruit others in South Carolina who have a keen interest in joining state and national efforts to prevent individuals with disabilities from becoming victims.

**For more information, please email:**

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



On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General and the South Carolina Trucking Association partnered 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 (SCTA)** 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).



In 2018, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Carolina Hospital Association. The MOU officially welcomed the Hospital Association as a member of the State Task Force and recognize 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 in 2018 by the Task Force Healthcare Providers Sub-Committee. The trainings will help those in the field identify potential victims and how to best respond to

their needs. The Task Force looks forward to its partnership with the Hospital Association and the impact our combined efforts will have on victims and survivors in South Carolina.

**South Carolina Hospital Association** 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 South Carolina Hospital Association 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 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 with financially sustaining 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. Much planning was discussed in 2018 and will be implemented in the early months of 2019.

**The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina** is a sub-committee 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:

Kathleen Hays, Chairwomen

Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina  
[Indigenouswomenofsc@gmail.com](mailto:Indigenouswomenofsc@gmail.com)  
Instagram: @indigenouswomensallianceofsc  
Facebook: South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

## Developing a Data Collection System in Partnership with OTIP

### **A Survey Assessment on South Carolina Human Trafficking Data Collection**

#### Survey Results Summary

To work towards the goal of establishing a statewide human trafficking data collection system, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force's Data Management & Research Committee conducted a survey assessment on South Carolina human trafficking data collection. The purpose of the assessment was to identify needs, data availability, interest, thoughts and concerns from stakeholders regarding the development of the first statewide human trafficking data collection system. This project was being conducted in partnership with the Administration for Children & Families' Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) in Washington, D.C. The partnership will help ensure our state efforts in this area align with those of the federal government.

The survey was distributed to stakeholders through the Task Force from November 26, 2018 to December 17, 2018. A total of 89 participants, representing almost 80 organizations, responded to the survey. At least one response was collected from each county in South Carolina.

#### **Results**

Out of the 76 participants who answered the question "Does your organization collect data on human trafficking cases that you work with," 44 participants (or 58.9%) reported that their organizations collect data on human trafficking cases.

When asked about participants' thoughts, concerns or suggestions for the establishment of a statewide data collection system, several participants believed that such work is "very needed" and would determine early identification of human trafficking victims to ensure the victims receive the services they need and possible prevention of trafficking. Data collected could also help promote the effectiveness and efficiency of services provided to victims.

Several areas of concerns and suggestions were also provided: 1) Client data confidentiality/permissions need to be given by clients for data collection. 2) Consider using databases that are familiar to agencies to save time and resources in training agency staff in using a new database. 3) It would be important for service providers to have access to the data or to be able to reach out to the coordinator to see if a victim has been seen elsewhere and had services or allegations previously. 4) To include the collection of county level data. 5) To have data collection through family court based on law enforcement's efforts. 6) Provide more specific information on which and how service providing organizations participate.

The table below demonstrated the current data collection efforts reported by survey participants (answered: 65 Skipped: 24), rating by the data collection template developed by the federal. The template (i.e., Human Trafficking Data Element Worksheet) was developed by the Administration for Children and Families Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) with the input of federal experts (collectively called the HHS Federal Working Group (FWG)) and industry experts (collectively called the Technical Working Group (TWG)) representing 13 programs across HHS and 80+ NGOs.

<b>OTIP Template</b>	<b>We currently collect this data element. ( % of total responses)</b>	<b>We currently do not collect this data element but would like to. ( % of total responses)</b>	<b>We currently do not collect this data element and do not plan to. ( % of total responses)</b>	<b>Does not apply to us. ( % of total responses)</b>	<b>Total responses</b>
<b>1.1 Victim First Name</b>	70.8%	6.2%	1.5%	21.5%	65
<b>1.2 Victim Last Name</b>	70.8%	6.2%	1.5%	21.5%	65
<b>1.3 Victim Social Security Number</b>	45.3%	9.4%	20.3%	25.0%	64
<b>1.4 Victim Alien Number</b>	26.7%	11.7%	20.0%	41.7%	60
<b>1.5 Victim Date of Birth</b>	71.4%	6.4%	1.6%	20.6%	63
<b>1.6 Victim Age</b>	71.9%	7.8%	0.0%	20.3%	64
<b>1.7 Victim Gender Identity</b>	68.3%	7.9%	3.2%	20.6%	63
<b>1.8 Victim Sexual Orientation</b>	44.8%	6.9%	22.4%	25.9%	58
<b>1.9 Victim Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	69.4%	4.8%	4.8%	21.0%	62
<b>1.10 Victim Primary Language</b>	67.7%	6.5%	4.8%	21.0%	62
<b>1.11 Victim Nationality</b>	56.5%	9.7%	9.7%	24.2%	62
<b>1.12 Victim Disability Status</b>	49.2%	11.9%	13.6%	25.4%	59
<b>1.13 Victim's Highest Level of Completed Education</b>	41.0%	13.1%	16.4%	29.5%	61
<b>1.14 City, State of Service</b>	69.4%	9.7%	0.0%	21.0%	62
<b>1.15 City, State of Referral</b>	60.7%	11.5%	1.6%	26.2%	61
<b>1.16 State of Primary Residence</b>	68.9%	6.6%	1.6%	23.0%	61
<b>1.17 Does the victim have living children who may require services?</b>	49.2%	14.3%	6.4%	30.2%	63
<b>2.1 Victim Identification Status (to indicate whether the person is/was an actual or potential victim of</b>	39.3%	26.2%	8.2%	26.2%	61

trafficking)					
<b>2.2 Primary Type of Trafficking (i.e., sex, labor, sex &amp; labor, unknown)</b>	50.8%	22.2%	4.8%	22.2%	63
<b>2.3 Venue victim has been trafficked at currently or in the past (e.g., hotel/motel-based, agriculture-related venues, etc.)</b>	34.4%	26.2%	14.8%	24.6%	61
<b>2.4 Exploitation industry victim has been trafficked at currently or in the past (e.g., health &amp; beauty services, restaurant &amp; food service, etc.)</b>	30.0%	30.0%	13.3%	26.7%	60
<b>2.5 Victim's relationship to trafficker(s)</b>	55.6%	14.3%	7.9%	22.2%	63
<b>2.6 Polyvictimization in the last year (if the victim has indicated other victimizations have occurred)</b>	35.0%	26.7%	11.7%	26.7%	60
<b>3.1 Victim's housing situation as of time of service (e.g., permanent, transitional or no housing, etc.)</b>	60.7%	8.2%	6.6%	24.6%	61
<b>3.2 Victim's living situations experienced in the last year</b>	39.3%	19.7%	13.1%	27.9%	61
<b>4.1 Direct services provided to victim</b>	62.3%	11.5%	3.3%	23.0%	61
<b>4.2 Direct services requested by victim</b>	56.7%	13.3%	3.3%	26.7%	60
<b>5.1 Victim's unmet needs</b>	37.3%	30.5%	5.1%	27.1%	59
<b>5.2 Reason services were not provided</b>	40.0%	23.3%	5.0%	31.7%	60
<b>6.1 Services referred out</b>	56.7%	13.3%	3.3%	26.7%	60
<b>6.2 Reason for reporting organization to refer out</b>	37.3%	23.7%	6.8%	32.2%	59
<b>7.1 Estimated human trafficking (HT) services budget</b>	15.3%	20.3%	17.0%	47.5%	59
<b>7.2 Annual direct HT services costs</b>	11.9%	27.1%	15.3%	45.8%	59
<b>7.3 Total HT clients and direct services staff</b>	25.4%	20.3%	11.9%	42.4%	59
<b>8.1 Reporting organization type</b>	42.4%	10.2%	6.8%	40.7%	59
<b>8.2 Physical location of service provider</b>	48.3%	11.7%	6.7%	33.3%	60

## VII. Human Trafficking Legislation

2018 was a momentous year for legislative changes in South Carolina. Shared Hope International, who annually assesses each state's legislation in relation to domestic minor sex trafficking, noted South Carolina as having the most progress of any state in the nation. In their Innocence Protected Challenge, Shared Hope increased South Carolina's state report card grade from a C (70.5) in 2017 to a B (82) in 2018.

The organization reviewed the state in six key issue areas including criminalization of minor sex trafficking, criminal provisions for demand, criminal provisions for traffickers, criminal provision for facilitators, protective provisions for child victims, and criminal justice tools for investigation and prosecution. For detailed information on our state's grade by each key issue, please view their report at <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/>. The state grade increase was primarily due to bills H3701 and H3329. The legislation under the bills changed an important definition to support minor victims, increased sentencing for those guilty in minor trafficking in persons and positioned the State Task Force to oversee the quality of care for victims and survivors in South Carolina.

One of the most significant modifications to pre-existing legislation was H3701 that changed the South Carolina Department of Social Services' (DSS), a mandated member of the State Task Force, definition of child abuse and neglect to include minor victims of trafficking in persons. The definition change was needed for DSS to comply with federal regulations under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the key federal legislation addressing child abuse and neglect. CAPTA provides federal funding to states in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment activities. By complying with CAPTA, DSS would be positioned to continue to receive federal funding to support such programming in South Carolina.

The definition change under H3701 ultimately positions minor victims of sex trafficking to receive much needed services from the child welfare system. Prior to H3701, law enforcement was limited in their ability to refer a minor victim suspected of having been commercially sexually exploited to DSS unless the perpetrator was a parent or guardian. Under the new definition of child abuse and neglect, law enforcement, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, and mandated reporters are all able to refer a minor victim to DSS for needed support services. An indicator of how impactful this legislation will be to South Carolina is the number of children who have been identified during DSS intake since the bill passed in April 2018. As of early December, there have been 28 minors flagged as potential sex trafficking victims. This does not include those who were already receiving care through DSS programs.

H3329 is the other notable bill impacting the anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. This bill reformed the sentencing of those who traffic minor victims. Prior to the change, a person found guilty of trafficking a minor was faced with the same sentencing as someone found guilty of trafficking an adult. The sentencing included up to 15 years for a first offense, up to 30 years for a second offense, and up to 45 years for a third offense. A judge could apply up to an additional 10 years if the individual was found guilty of trafficking a minor and the time would

run consecutively. They could potentially serve as little as 35% of their sentence given the classification of the crime.

Lawmakers recognized that the initial legislation was not as effective in punishing those who exploited children in South Carolina as previously expected. They also appreciated the need to modify the legislation to further protect minors and appropriately punish those targeting them. As a result, H3329 restructured the sentencing for the offense of trafficking a minor. Perpetrators found guilty of this crime now face up to 30 years in prison for the first offense and up to 45 years for the second offense and will serve a minimum of 85% of their time prior to conditional release.

The latter bill also established that the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, via the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, would have oversight in dictating the criteria for and certification of Acute Crisis Care and Resource Centers. The Task Force would also provide information on service providers to the state's family court bench and bar as well as members of the law enforcement community. Efforts are already underway to institute the criteria via DSS specialized residential care and a new state-level Victim Service Provider Certification for those working with human trafficking victims and survivors.

For more information on the specifics of the bills, please visit [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov)

## 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 try to ensure that victims are not re-victimized and receive much needed quality services. The National Hotline provides the Task Force with data that helps shape our statewide response to the crime and the development of support services for victims and survivors.

Given the complexities of maintaining and ensuring clean data, the National Human Trafficking Hotline provided 2017 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 table below represents human trafficking cases with at least one location recorded in South Carolina. The numbers are different than the numbers on the National Hotline website. This is a result of the numbers below representing cases that were communicated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline by all types of signals: calls, texts, web chats, web forms, and emails. Until 2017, texts and web chats were not included in the numbers on the website. These two types of signals will be included in forthcoming years which will simplify reporting in the future.

Number of Human Trafficking Cases in South Carolina	
Sex Trafficking	87
Labor	27
Sex & Labor	9
Other/Not Specified	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>

Please note that the following two tables will not add up to their respective totals as they just list the top five in each category.

<b>Top Counties for Human Trafficking Cases in South Carolina</b>	
Richland County	26
Horry County	21
Greenville County	15
Charleston	14
Beaufort	8

<b>Top Sex Trafficking Venues in South Carolina</b>	
Illicit Massage/Spa Business	19
Internet-Based Commercial Sex	9
Escort Service/Delivery Service	7
Residence-Based Commercial Sex	4
Personal Sexual Servitude	4

The total number of victims recorded in South Carolina in 2017 was 198. The table below breaks down this figure by age and gender. There were an additional 10 victims where the information was not provided to the hotline.

<b>Victims by Gender and Age</b>				
	Adult	Minor	Unknown	Total
Female	72	36	33	141
Male	20	7	20	47

The following three tables represent the highest occurring options in each category. Please note that multiple options can be logged for each of these categories, so the numbers are not cumulative.

<b>Top Five Exploiter Relationships to Victims</b>	
Employer	58
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	14
Other	9
No Other Relationship	7
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	6

<b>Top Five Methods of Control (Force, Fraud, Coercion)</b>	
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex	51
Excessive Working Hours	44
Threat to Report to Immigration	43
Isolation - Denies Access to Support	36
Economic - Takes/Withholds Earnings	32

<b>Top Five Recruitment Tactics</b>	
Job Offer/Advertisement	59
Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition	14
False Promises/Fraud	13
Posing as a Benefactor	7
Coercion (Threats, Blackmail, etc.)	6

<b>Top Five Recruiter Relationships to Victims</b>	
Employer	15
Intimate Partner	14
Labor Recruiter/Contractor	8
Friend/Acquaintance/Coworker	7
Family Member/Caregiver	6

## IX. State Task Force Sub-Committees



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is comprised of eleven (11) sub-committees at the state-level. In late 2018, the Direct Service Providers sub-committee was split into two groups to allow for members of each to focus solely on either an adult or child focus. The Task Force also eliminated the Legislative Sub-Committee and added the Leadership Sub-Committee in its place. The latter group is composed of the sub-committee chairs and regional task force chairs. With the creation of the Leadership sub-committee, the Task Force is better positioned to coordinate efforts throughout South Carolina with valuable input from various areas of the state and from multiple sectors invested in the anti-human trafficking movement.

Below, you will find more information about each sub-committee. Each meets regularly to address topics within their given focus area. Many achieved their 2018 goals while others continue their efforts on projects into 2019.

### **Leadership**

As noted above, the Legislative Sub-Committee was dissolved in 2018 and replaced with the Leadership Sub-Committee. This positions State Task Force sub-committee 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.

**2018 Accomplishment:** One meeting was held at the Attorney General's Office to review topics of concern for leadership, share resources, and establish priorities for the remainder of the year.

**2018 Challenges:** Although the composition of the Leadership Sub-Committee is ideal in terms of representing different regions of the state and the multiple sectors invested in anti-human trafficking efforts, it is composed of individuals already heavily invested in efforts to combat the crime and support victims and survivors. It has been difficult to find dates that jive well with the efforts underway throughout the state as well as each individual's professional calendar. Therefore, there have been many individual conversations via the State Task Force Coordinator/Chair of the Leadership Sub-Committee.

**2019 Goals:** The Leadership Sub-Committee will meet twice to coordinate efforts moving forward. Additionally, the leadership group will assist in the development of State Task Force policies and procedures that continue to formalize collaborations, quality oversight, and other pressing issues. The Leadership Sub-Committee will also be critical to supporting professional training opportunities and developing the statewide speakers' bureau.

**Chair:** Kathryn Moorehead, Coordinator of the State Task Force  
Director of VAWA & Human Trafficking  
South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force  
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
kmoorehead@scag.gov

## **Survivor Advisory**

**Mission of the Sub-Committee:** The Survivor Advisory group was developed to better position survivors to have a voice in the development of protocols and initiatives geared toward supporting victims and survivors throughout South Carolina.

**2018 Update:** To date, individual survivors have been consulted for their feedback on a range of issues. There has been neither a formalized process nor meetings as a group.

**2018 Challenges:** Given the nature of this sub-committee, survivors are geographically spread out across the state and vary in their willingness to have their identity disclosed to the public.

**2019 Goals:** There are plans for a Survivor Luncheon to meet as a group in 2019. The luncheon will position the sub-committee to establish its goals and identify the best approach to assisting in the response to human trafficking in South Carolina.

**Chair:** Kat Tears, Client Care Coordinator  
SWITCH  
[kat@switchsc.org](mailto:kat@switchsc.org)  
864-350-0281 Ext 103  
[www.switchsc.org](http://www.switchsc.org)

## Direct Service Providers – Adult Victim Focus

### **Mission of the Sub-Committee:**

The purpose of the Direct Services Sub-Committee is to assess and identify gaps in service, inform and influence best practices, serve as a clearinghouse of resources, and provide recommendations and updates to the Attorney General's Office.

### **2018 Member Organizations:**

- SWITCH
- Durant Children's Home
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center
- Lutheran Services Carolinas
- Safe Passage, Inc.
- Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands
- Department of Social Services
- SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Chair)
- SC Attorney General's Office

**2018 Goals:** The sub-committee identified three main priorities for 2018: 1) children services, 2) housing practices for adults, 3) training needs for service providers. The first goal was to assess existing practices for caring for child survivors of trafficking through discussion of de-identified South Carolina case studies. The second goal was to inform existing shelter models and practices across the state to provide shelter that takes into account practices for adult human trafficking survivors. Finally, the third goal was to build the knowledge of service providers to provide comprehensive services to trafficking survivors; which address basic case management needs, common legal concerns, and therapeutic models that are victim-led, trauma-informed, culturally-relevant, and include anti-oppression approaches.

**2018 Accomplishments:** Priority 1.) Children's Services – The Direct Services Sub-Committee paused activity in this area due to pending legislation (H3329), that could have a potentially significant impact on how child survivors are cared for and which agencies are involved. Following the passing of this legislation, the sub-committee decided that adult and children services should be separate groups to better focus on the needs of each demographic.

Priority 2.) Housing Practices for Adults – Research was conducted by the Direct Services Sub-Committee in the area of housing. Five committee members surveyed approximately 20 shelters around the country to obtain information about housing opportunities for victims of trafficking, domestic violence, homelessness, individuals forced or voluntarily in the sex industry. This information can be used in the future to inform promising approaches to housing adult trafficking victims across the state.

Priority 3.) Training Needs for Service Providers – No progress was made in this area by the Direct Services Sub-Committee; however, with the passing of R238, the Attorney General's

Office is responsible for establishing criteria for certification of human trafficking specialized service providers.

**2018 Challenges:** Due to the pending legislation mentioned previously that impacted the work of this group, as well as difficulties with assessing and addressing services to both adult and child survivors of trafficking, the Direct Services Workgroup was put on hold during the summer of 2018. The members determined that a minor victim workgroup and an adult workgroup would be separate committees, so as to be better able to meet the differing needs and statutory requirements of each population.

**2019 Goals:** To reestablish a new Adult Services Sub-Committee that develops direct service provider criteria recommendations for those working with adult victims and survivors in residential and community-based programs. Furthermore, research the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and how that impacts support services.

**Other Info:** We hope to reconvene the Adult Services Workgroup in January or February 2019.

Chair Name: Marie Majarais McDonald  
SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)  
PO Box 7776  
Columbia, SC 29202  
[mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org](mailto:mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org) or  
[HTDirectServicesSC@gmail.com](mailto:HTDirectServicesSC@gmail.com)  
803-256-2900 or 803.393.4472

### **Direct Service Providers – Minor Victim Focus**

The Direct Service Providers – Minor Victim Focus will officially launch in 2019. In late 2018, recruitment began during which a Chairperson was secured and members identified for inclusion. Goals will be set and meeting dates established in early 2019.

**Chair:** Angela Hugie, Victim Services Manager  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
220 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803-896-9544  
[abhugi@scdjj.net](mailto:abhugi@scdjj.net)  
<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

### **Healthcare Providers**

**2018 Goals:** To complete the first medical protocol for identification and response to human trafficking victims, along with an educational component to accompany the protocol.

**2018 Accomplishments:** The sub-committee completed the medical protocol and began to map the training efforts that will need to be implemented to thoroughly educate providers throughout the state,

**2019 Goals:** Disseminate the protocol, initially to Emergency Rooms statewide, and then branching out to other areas within the healthcare system that potentially see high numbers of trafficking victims (labor and delivery, urgent care, etc.).

**Other Info:** The initial training for healthcare professionals will be held January 24, 2019 in Columbia. We will then begin regional trainings using a “train the trainer” model.

**Chair:** Jennifer Combs, Forensic Nurse Coordinator  
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System  
101 East Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29303

## Legal Innovations

**Mission:** To support victims through innovative approaches in the legal field and drive best practices in South Carolina’s response to human trafficking in the legal field. The sub-committee recognizes that private attorneys, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, GALs, Court Administration, and other stakeholders all have critical roles to ensure the justice system responds effectively and appropriately to human trafficking in our state. The sub-committee seeks to identify and support legal innovations to that end.

### **Members/Member Organizations:**

Membership consists of individual private bar and legal aid attorneys.

**2018 Goals:** As announced in the 2017 Annual Report, in the first full calendar year for this sub-committee, chief among its goals was to recruit key members, identify a set of operating principals and goals, and to develop an action plan to achieve those ends. Among other initiatives, the sub-committee aimed to support pro bono efforts that provide access to counsel for survivors of trafficking as those programs reach new geographic regions of the state and new areas of law. The group also aimed to engage the Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions as it developed on-demand video modules, with input from key state, regional, and national stakeholders, designed to train lawyers and judges in North and South Carolina.

### **2018 Accomplishments:**

1. **Judicial training and Judge-led initiatives.** With recruitment and coordination from the sub-committee and funding from the SC Bar, from February 12-14, 2018, SC Family Court judges Michelle M. Hurley (5th Circuit, Columbia), Michèle Patrão Forsythe (9th Circuit, Charleston), Melissa J. Buckhannon (15th Circuit, Conway) and Jan B. Bromell Holmes (15th Circuit, Georgetown) participated in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judge’s National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking (NJIDCST) in Asheville, NC alongside 34 judges from 19 states. Following the institute, the sub-committee partnered with the judges to develop and publish a set of 12 Lessons

Learned and Considerations authored by the judges to better equip the state's judiciary to respond to the growing challenge that trafficking presents for our state courts. The judges also organized and lead trainings at various courthouses and task force meetings throughout the state for fellow members of the judiciary and key stakeholders, including DSS, DJJ, legal aid organizations, foster parent organizations, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Guardians Ad Litem, local law enforcement, and court staff. The sub-committee congratulates and thanks these four judges for their singular leadership on this issue in 2018.

# LESSONS LEARNED & CONSIDERATIONS

## S.C. Family Court Judges Address Human Trafficking

FROM FEBRUARY 12-14, 2018 THE FOUR UNDERSIGNED SC FAMILY COURT JUDGES PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGE'S NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ON DOMESTIC CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING (NJDCST) IN ASHEVILLE, NC ALONGSIDE 34 JUDGES FROM 19 STATES. WE RETURN WITH THE FOLLOWING LESSONS LEARNED AND CONSIDERATIONS TO BETTER EQUIP SC TO RESPOND TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF FAMILY COURTS IN OUR STATE. THE S.C. HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE LEGAL INNOVATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZED OUR ENGAGEMENT, WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR.

### The Family Court Judge and Role of the Convener



AS FAMILY COURT JUDGES, WE CAN SERVE AS CONVENER, BRINGING TOGETHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN OUR JUDICIAL CIRCUITS – INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT, DJJ, DSS, GALs, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING (HT) TASK FORCE LEADERSHIP – TO DISCUSS HOW OUR SYSTEMS ARE RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY HT, AND WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE.

**CONSIDER:** HOW AND WHEN SHOULD A FAMILY COURT JUDGE CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS? WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ASKED AND TO WHOM?

### Screening Tool to Identify Victims



THE NJDCST PROVIDED PARTICIPATING JUDGES A WRITTEN SCREENING TOOL TO HELP IDENTIFY POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HT AS THEY APPEAR IN OUR COURTROOMS. ALSO, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT AGENCIES WITHIN THE SC CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS HAVE DEVELOPED ADDITIONAL SCREENING TOOLS.

**CONSIDER:** ARE THESE SCREENING TOOLS CONSISTENT? WOULD IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS BE MORE EFFECTIVE, AND SYSTEMS BE BETTER ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IF ONE SCREENING TOOL WAS UTILIZED? SHOULD A SCREENING TOOL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILY COURT BENCH?

### Engaging Court Leadership



ANY COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH THIS ISSUE MUST CONSIDER HOW TO ENGAGE LEADERSHIP OF THE STATE JUDICIARY.

**CONSIDER:** HOW SHOULD LEADERSHIP OF THE STATE JUDICIARY ENGAGE WITH THE CHALLENGES HT PRESENTS TO THE COURTS?

### Stay or Go Pilot Project



JUDGE BUCKHANNON, ALONG WITH JUDGES BROMELL HOLMES AND FORSYTHE, LAUNCHED A PILOT PROJECT THAT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE THE NJDCST'S "STAY OR GO" TRAINING TO THE COURTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, DSS, AND DJJ. THE TRAINING HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO REFLECT SC LAW, AND PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE PERSPECTIVE AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AT CRITICAL JUNCTURES IN THEIR LIVES.

**CONSIDER:** EVALUATE THE PILOT PROJECT'S EFFECTIVENESS. CONSIDER ITS APPLICATION IN OTHER JUDICIAL CIRCUITS, AND WHETHER IT SHOULD BE MODIFIED FOR SMALL AND LARGE COUNTIES.

### NJDCST Training in South Carolina



THE FAMILY COURTS OF WISCONSIN, OHIO, AND FLORIDA HAVE HOSTED THE NJDCST FOR STATE-SPECIFIC TRAININGS TO MAKE THESE LESSONS MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE.

**CONSIDER:** SHOULD SC DO THE SAME? ALTERNATIVELY, CONSIDER A SHORTENED VERSION OF THE NJDCST OR ITS STAY & GO TRAINING EXERCISE TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT FAMILY COURT JUDGES CONFERENCE WITH LEADERSHIP FROM THE UNDERSIGNED JUDGES.

### Education and Outreach: SC Family Judges in Schools



ALL OF THE UNDERSIGNED JUDGES ARE WILLING TO SPEAK IN SCHOOLS ON THE REALITY AND RISKS OF HT IN OUR STATE, WHICH MAY BE AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TOWARDS PREVENTION AND RAISING AWARENESS.

**CONSIDER:** WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE WAY TO ENGAGE SCHOOLS? HOW SHOULD WE REACH OUT TO EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP? HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA / HT?

## Identify Leaders within the Family Court Bench



IN LARGER COUNTIES WITH MULTIPLE FAMILY COURT JUDGES, CONSIDER DESIGNATING ONE JUDGE TO BE ASSIGNED HT CASES FOR A PERIOD OF TIME TO DEVELOP EXPERTISE AND UNIFORMITY IN RESPONDING TO THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES THESE MATTERS PRESENT TO THE COURT.

**CONSIDER:** WHAT WOULD THE DESIGNATION LOOK LIKE? WOULD IT BE A FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, OR WOULD IT BE AN INFORMAL AGREEMENT? WOULD DSS, DJJ, THE COURT, AND GALs HAVE STANDING TO PROPOSE DESIGNATION? SHOULD IT MIRROR DRUG COURT?

## SC Family Court Case Study



IT'S UNCLEAR TO MANY HOW HT MAY PRESENT IN OUR COURTROOMS, IN PART BECAUSE THESE CASES ARE COMPLEX, AND VICTIMS OF HT MAY NOT READILY SELF-IDENTIFY AS VICTIMS. A CASE STUDY OF WHAT THESE CASES MAY LOOK LIKE IN OUR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM MAY HELP THE BENCH KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS TO ASK.

**CONSIDER:** WHAT TYPE OF CASES SHOULD BE INCLUDED? WHO WOULD DRAFT THE CASE STUDY, AND HOW WOULD IT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FAMILY BENCH?

## Diversionsary Court Visits



MANY STATES HAVE SPECIALIZED COURTS THAT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF VICTIM-DEFENDANTS. IF SC CONSIDERS A DIVERSIONARY COURT MODEL, WE SHOULD BUILD UPON WHAT OTHER STATES HAVE LEARNED RATHER THAN START FROM SCRATCH.

**CONSIDER:** VISITING OR CONNECTING WITH DIVERSIONARY COURTS IN NEIGHBORING STATES. WHO SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE VISITS? WHAT INFORMATION WOULD BE USEFUL TO DECISION MAKERS IN SC?

## Peer-to-Peer Judicial Outreach



AUTHENTIC PEER-TO-PEER JUDICIAL OUTREACH IS CRITICAL TO STRENGTHEN THE COURT'S RESPONSE TO THIS ISSUE. WE CAN AND SHOULD SHARE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE NJDCST WITH OTHER JUDGES AND DEMONSTRATE THE ROLE OF THE JUDGE IN RESPONDING TO HT IN OUR STATE.

**CONSIDER:** HOW SHOULD WE ENGAGE THE JUDICIARY? WHAT TOOLS WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE TO SHARE WITH OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE BENCH?

## Engaging Human Trafficking Task Forces



STATEWIDE AND LOCAL HT TASK FORCES ARE PLAYING INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ROLES IN GUIDING OUR STATE'S RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING AS STAKEHOLDERS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS IDENTIFY GAPS, DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS, AND COORDINATE THEIR RESPECTIVE RESPONSES.

**CONSIDER:** HOW CAN OR SHOULD WE ENGAGE WITH LOCAL HT TASK FORCES ORGANIZED IN OUR JUDICIAL CIRCUITS, OR THE STATEWIDE TASK FORCE?

## South Carolina Lawyer



**CONSIDER:** REDUCING SOME OF THESE LESSONS TO AN ARTICLE FOR SC LAWYER MAGAZINE TO BE AUTHORED BY ONE OF THE UNDERSIGNED OR BY CHAIR OF THE LEGAL INNOVATION SUBCOMMITTEE.

*Questions, contact:*

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Murphy & Grantland, PA

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SC Human Trafficking Task Force  
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## About the Authors

The Hon. Melissa J. Buckhannon is a Family Court Judge in the 15th Judicial Circuit in Conway, SC.  
The Hon. Jan B. Bromell Holmes is Family Court Judge in the 15th Judicial Circuit in Georgetown, SC.  
The Hon. Michèle Patrão Forsythe is a Family Court Judge in the 9th Judicial Circuit in Charleston, SC.  
The Hon. Michelle M. Hurley is a Family Court Judge in the 5th Judicial Circuit in Columbia, SC.

2. **Supporting pro bono and legal aid initiatives.** The sub-committee supported pro bono initiatives, particularly Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST), by leveraging the sub-committee to engage key entities, including the SC Bar, Courts, out of state non-profit organizations, and bar associations to partner with and drive support and participation to LAST, that provided pro bono representation and counsel to more than two dozen survivors of trafficking in 2018. The sub-committee also partnered with and supported efforts of SC Legal Services to welcome an Equal Justice Works fellow for a two year fellowship dedicated to creating sustainable legal assistance for survivors, build strategic partnerships, and provide direct representation for survivors in civil, family, immigration, and administrative law proceedings.
3. **Engagement with USC Law.** While the sub-committee cannot take credit for this progress, a critical legal innovations success in 2018 was a significant increase in investment from USC Law faculty and students in this issue. The sub-committee partnered with USC Law students authoring multiple whitepapers on gaps in the state's legal response to human trafficking as a part of their legal clinic curriculum, provided guidance to students drafting Law Review notes on human trafficking, and made introductions on behalf of the students to stakeholders in support of these projects. The sub-committee also collaborated with various faculty and spoke on campus at the invitation of a student organization. The sub-committee celebrates the significant investment of scholarship and resources from USC Law faculty and students on this issue in 2018, a model it views as bearing great potential.
4. **Engagement with SC Bar.** The sub-committee collaborated with the SC Bar, SC Bar Pro Bono Board, and SC Bar Foundation in various capacities, including in securing financial sponsorship from the Bar for out of state training for four SC judges on the issue of human trafficking, only to see the judges return to the state and train further members of the judiciary in multiple cities. The sub-committee thanks the SC Bar and SC Bar Foundation for their critical and rewarding partnerships in 2018.
5. **Public engagement and CLE training.** The sub-committee engaged in 12 public presentations, speaking engagements, sit-down media interviews, and Continuing Legal Education trainings in 2018 to equip the public and legal community to more effectively respond to human trafficking in SC.
6. **Partnership with private law firms.** The sub-committee successfully engaged private firms to take on pro bono representation for survivors of trafficking and to host Continuing Legal Education trainings in 2018, a model the sub-committee sees potential in and hopes to expand.

#### **2018 Challenges:**

1. **Recruiting key members.** A principal challenge was recruiting members who are broadly representative of the legal community and response to human trafficking in South Carolina.

2. **Engaging key entities in SC.** One challenge that was more of a function of time investment rather than pushback was engaging key entities in SC, including state Municipal Courts, state Circuit Courts, state Public Defenders, Court Leadership, Court Administration, Charleston School of Law, GALs, key law enforcement agencies, and lawmakers, where appropriate. Engagement with these stakeholders represents significant opportunities for growth for the sub-committee.

#### **2019 Goals:**

1. **Recruiting key members.** The sub-committee aims to recruit members who are broadly representative of the legal response to human trafficking in South Carolina.
2. **Engaging additional key entities in SC.** The sub-committee aims to collaborate with key entities in 2019, including state Municipal Courts, state Circuit Courts, state Public Defenders, Court Leadership, Court Administration, GALs, key law enforcement agencies, and lawmakers, where appropriate.
3. **Engagement with USC Law and Charleston School of Law.** The sub-committee aims to continue supporting USC Law's engagement and foster an engagement with Charleston School of Law on the issue, providing all support to student and faculty interests and partnering in projects involving clinical work, research and writing, training, and fostering engagement from law students and faculty in the statewide and regional task forces.
4. **Regional HT Task Force Legal Innovation Subcommittees.** As regional sub-committees continue to develop, the state subcommittee aims to support and collaborate with regional Legal Innovation Sub-committees.

**Other Info:** The chair position will be transitioning from the 2017-2018 chair listed below given his new position with the U.S. Attorney's Office, but he may be contacted in the interim with any sub-committee related needs.

**Chair:** Elliott B. Daniels  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
District of South Carolina  
1441 Main Street, Suite 500  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
Direct: 803-929-3035  
[Elliott.Daniels@usdoj.gov](mailto:Elliott.Daniels@usdoj.gov)

## **Law Enforcement**

In late 2018, the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee recruited a new Chairperson. Goals are currently in development for 2019 including training opportunities and developing a law enforcement network that will support local, state, and federal efforts.

**Chair:** Captain Connie Sonnefeld

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)  
csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov

## **Prevention Education & Outreach**

Members/Member Organizations: Kathryn Moorehead, Attorney General's Office  
Charlene Jones; Alexis Scurry-RCAHT; Shannon Palm-SCAG; Garry James- Continuum of  
Care; Lisa Kejr- Lighthouse for Life

2018 Goals: 1) To create the Office of the Attorney General's recommended messaging against human trafficking for the state of South Carolina. 2) To research various human trafficking prevention curricula and generate a chart of research-based or best practices for prevention education of students, educators, reporters and citizens of South Carolina. 3) To develop a 90- 2 hour overview presentation of human trafficking to service as the foundational message for educational awareness throughout the state.

2018 Accomplishments: Goals one (1) and three (3) were met during the calendar year. Goal two (2) has involved some research on curricula, but this goal has not been completed.

2018 Challenges: We were not able to create the curricula chart of prevention education. We also were not able to initiate the train-the-trainer protocol for the public awareness and prevention education. We could benefit from having a lead agency to host and manage the train-the-trainer model.

2019 Goals: 1) To complete the creation and posting of the prevention education curricula chart; 2) To design and implement a speakers bureau for general prevention education and community awareness; 3) To determine the design for executing the speakers bureau.

**Other Info:** There will be a search for a new Chairperson in 2019 as the current leader will step down to a sub-committee member position.

**Chair:** Charlene Jones  
[Charlene.l.jones@outlook.com](mailto:Charlene.l.jones@outlook.com)  
(864) 962-7157

## **Youth Advocacy**

As noted earlier in the report, the Youth Advocacy Sub-Committee contributed to the development and facilitation of the Human Trafficking Youth Advocacy Summit in June 2018. The Chair, along with his peers, has made efforts to engage the public through awareness presentations and will be central to the development of posters designed for schools and other youth-serving organizations. The posters will be distributed in the early part of 2019 .

**Chair:** Reilly Arford  
Ridge View High School  
stopsxslavery@gmail.com

## **Labor Trafficking**

In 2018, the Labor Trafficking Sub-Committee recruited a new Chairperson who has made strides in developing goals for the group as well as recruiting sub-committee members to join in the statewide efforts. As much of these efforts are solidified, updates will be posted to the State Task Force website.

**Chair:** Gregory Somers  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
Gregory.Somers@eoc.gov

## **Data Management & Research**

**Mission of the Sub-Committee:** To 1) understand human trafficking victimization and service needs through data and research; and to 2) inform prevention, intervention and policy making 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).

### **2018 Goals:**

**Goal 1:** To work towards establishing a statewide comprehensive human trafficking data collection system in partnership with the Administration for Children & Families' Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) in Washington, D.C.

**Goal 2:** To seek funding to support the Sub-committee's ongoing effort on providing law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools in identifying and responding to child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking.

### **2018 Accomplishments:**

Goal 1 accomplishments:

1) To ensure that South Carolina's efforts on the development of a statewide human trafficking data collection system aligns with the federal, the sub-committee reached out to OTIP and obtained a data collection template (i.e., Human Trafficking Data Element Worksheet). The template was developed by OTIP with the input of federal experts (collectively called the HHS Federal Working Group (FWG)) and industry experts (collectively called the Technical Working Group (TWG)) representing 13 programs across HHS and 80+ NGOs.

2) The sub-committee conducted a needs assessment survey to identify needs, data availability, interest, thoughts and concerns from stakeholders regarding the development of a statewide comprehensive human trafficking data collection system. This assessment effort was greatly supported by OTIP.

Goal 2 accomplishments:

Led by the Chair of the sub-committee, the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law was awarded a federal formula grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, to support the ongoing effort on

providing law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools in identifying and responding to child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking.

**2018 Challenges:**

- 1) Challenge in identifying the current needs, data availability and agencies to include in the statewide data collection.
- 2) The need for funding and more active participation of relevant stakeholders in the efforts to provide law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools in identifying and responding to child victims and highrisk children of sex trafficking.

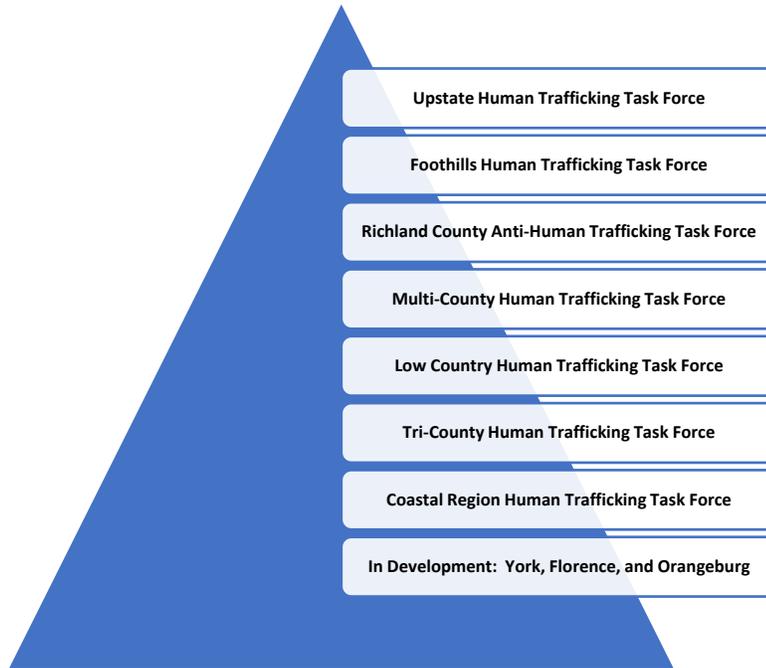
**2019 Goals:**

- 1) To continue to work towards establishing a statewide comprehensive human trafficking data collection system;
- 2) To continue the grant project on identifying and responding to child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking in South Carolina and apply for the year-two grant to support the project. The specific objectives of the project include:
  - a. To collect and analyze local data (i.e., runaway incident reports) for county law enforcement agencies to better identify the risk factors and prevalence of child sex trafficking.
  - b. To build a cross-agency longitudinal dataset to identify the prevalence, characteristics and outcomes of high risk children of sex trafficking.
  - c. To develop and pilot a screening tool for law enforcement agencies to better identify child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking.
  - d. To convene a workgroup to develop best practices to respond to child victims and high risk children of sex trafficking.
  - e. To develop a training curriculum and provide training for law enforcement officers based on the data collected, screening tool and best practices developed in the project.

**Special Acknowledgements from Dr. Zhang:** My organization, Children’s Law Center, provided tremendous support to the Sub-committee’s accomplishments in 2018. Special thanks go to my wonderful team in the Center --- Ms. Margaret Bodman, Ms. Mandy Bowden and Ms. Ashley Blas.

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## X. Regional Human Trafficking Task Forces



In 2018, the Task Force supported the relaunch of the Coastal Region Task Force (Horry and Georgetown counties) and the development of three additional task forces, the Tri-County Task Force (Charleston, Berkley, and Dorchester counties), the Multi-County Task Force (Saluda, McCormick, Edgefield, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale), and the Foothills Alliance Task Force (Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee). The 2018 additions bring the total to seven formally recognized coalitions in South Carolina. Below, please find information about regional achievements in 2018, goals for 2019, and contact information for those interested in learning more or becoming involved in their communities.

### Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

**Co-Chair:** Diana Tapp, Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, [dtapp@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:dtapp@greenvillecounty.org)

**Co-Chair:** Zaina Greene, SWITCH, [zaina@switchsc.org](mailto:zaina@switchsc.org)

**Secretary:** Michelle Greco, [mgreco@ghs.org](mailto:mgreco@ghs.org)

**Convener:** Kate Mendez, [kmendez@unitedwaygc.org](mailto:kmendez@unitedwaygc.org)

**Mission:** The Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force’s mission is to collaborate within our community to protect against and prevent human trafficking.

**Regional Task Force website and/or Social Media:** Both will be released in January 2019

**Counties:** Cherokee, Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Union, Pickens, Laurens, Oconee, Greenwood

**Date Established:** 2014

**Number of Members:** 146

**Number of Organizations:** Approx. 93

**What professional fields (i.e. law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, etc) are represented?**

Law enforcement

Health care

Child welfare

Victim service providers

Education

NGOs

**Sub-Committees and Chairperson(s):**

Walker Smith, Legislation Subcommittee, walker\_smith@bshsi.org

Jennifer Combs, Healthcare Subcommittee, jcombs@srhs.com

Dena Rapp, Healthcare Subcommittee, denarapp@gmail.com

Unfilled, Direct Service Subcommittee

**Task Force Accomplishments in 2018:** We have been able to establish a strong team and subcommittee leaders in 2018.

**Goals for 2019:**

• In 2019 we will work on being a stronger presence in our community by branding, website, social media, etc.

- We will hold our first ever community wide event on January 10
- We hope to re-develop a direct service subcommittee modeled after the statewide task force
- We hope to develop a labor trafficking subcommittee
- We plan to always provide an informational section to our meetings to keep members in the loop on new developments in the upstate/statewide.

**2018 Meetings:**

January 18, 2018 at the Kroc Center

April 12, 2018 at the Kroc Center

July 19, 2018 at the Kroc Center, agenda items: survey, subcommittee updates, upcoming trainings, resources needed

November 13, 2018, United Way of Greenville, Agenda Items: Subcommittee Updates, Gregory Somers on Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, Marie McDonald with update on Direct Service Subcommittee, Law Enforcement gave an update on recent sting.

**2019 Meetings:**

January 10 at Greenville Hospital System, Medical Staff Auditorium at 9 AM (awareness event to follow from 10 AM-12 PM)

April 11 at United Way of Greenville at 10 AM

July 11 at United Way of Greenville at 10 AM  
October 10 at United Way of Greenville at 10 AM

## **Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force**

In 2018, the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force developed a new strategic plan. The information below outlines their plan moving into 2019.

### **Executive Summary**

This document provides an overview of the 2019 strategic planning process. This document was designed with the intent to understand gaps between previous task force accomplishments and future goals. This process was facilitated by the Richland County Task Force Coordinator and will be executed by the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT).

The planning process began with gathering input from the Richland County Citizens Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. The information collected was reviewed along with the 2015 strategic plan. The 2019 strategic plan is a working document with set goals and actions needed to achieve those goals. Goals and objective may continue to update or be modified to meet the needs of this social issue in Richland County. The overriding conclusion emerged when reviewing feedback from the RCAHT are as follows: community awareness, training, prevention, protocol and research.

**Vision:** To end human trafficking in Richland County #NotInOurCounty

**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.

### **Core Priorities:**

- Law Enforcement
- Education & Awareness
- Legislation & Advocacy (Municipalities, School Boards, County, State, & National)
- Survivor Support

### **Values:**

- Trustworthiness & Transparency – We believe that decisions made by the RCAHT Steering Committee should be transparent and that the public should have complete trust in our commitment to end human trafficking and support the needs of survivors.
- Collaboration – We believe in leveraging the power of partnerships and in shared decision making across public and private entities represented by the RCAHT Steering Board.
- Equity & Inclusion – We are committed to creating a fair, safe, and just environment for all residents of Richland County. We value the diversity of our community and do not

tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, age, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, or social class.

- Community Empowerment – We believe in engaging and empowering the community with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to end human trafficking.

**Beliefs & Principles:**

- We believe cultural norms involving power, equity, gender, and vulnerability shape human trafficking. Therefore, efforts to end human trafficking should address not only individual behavior but also underlying *structural* causes.
- We believe a “one-size-fits-all” approach to ending human trafficking is likely to be ineffective. Instead we will seek to develop *tailored approaches* that take into account the unique characteristics of Richland County including its cultural, socio-economic, demographic and geographic profile.
- We believe in utilizing strengths-based approaches to enhance the resilience of our community, and we value the resilience of survivors of human trafficking.
- We believe that human trafficking is a form of trauma. Therefore, we support the use of trauma-informed approaches and services for survivors.

**Committee Goals and Objectives:**

Education & Awareness Committee

Goal: Educate and increase public awareness of human trafficking in Richland County to create an effective response to this crime.

Law Enforcement Committee

Goal: Build capacity in Richland County to investigate and prosecute traffickers and buyers and to recover human trafficking victims.

Survivor Support Committee

Goal: Create a system of support for survivors of human trafficking.

Legislation & Advocacy Committee

Goal: Advocate for legislation that prevents and prosecutes human trafficking and supports survivors.

**For more information, please contact:**

Chair: Alexis Scurry, LMSW

Human Trafficking Project Coordinator

Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates

[scurrya@rcgov.us](mailto:scurrya@rcgov.us)

803-766-5601

**Multi-County Human Trafficking Task Force**

**Co-Chairs:** Susan Selden, Executive Director, Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons

[sselden@cumbeecenter.org](mailto:sselden@cumbeecenter.org) 803-649-0480

Officer Eleanor Hunter with Aiken Public Safety Department [ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov)

**Counties included:** Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Saluda, McCormick, Edgefield

**Date Established:** 8/28/2018

**Number of Members:** 35+

**What professional fields (i.e. law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, etc) are represented?**

Law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, victim advocates, faith groups

**Sub-Committees and Chairperson(s):** In development.

**Accomplishments in 2018:**

We have had two meetings so far and have started forming sub-committees. The sub-committees will begin meeting to set goals in early 2019.

**Goals for 2019:** To provide additional training to all task force members to prepare them implement educational and awareness opportunities for all counties, ensure law enforcement have the training necessary to identify trafficking incidents, and to ensure medical workers have the necessary training to identify victims and provide resources. We also plan to begin youth advocacy efforts and coordination of direct victim services.

**2018 Meetings:** This task force was launched August 28 with a meeting at the Cumbee Center office. The co-chairs were introduced and Kathryn Moorehead discussed the work of the Attorney General's State Task Force and issues with human trafficking in South Carolina.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held November 15, 2018 at the City of Aiken Municipal Building. Robert Healey from Lighthouse for Life gave a presentation on ending demand for sex trafficking. Members held roundtable introductions for their subcommittees.

**2019 Meetings:** Not yet scheduled

**Other Information:** Due to local publicity about this task force, community members have expressed enthusiasm for being included in this work. We continue to recruit members from agencies, faith organizations, law enforcement, and health care.

## Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force

### **Chairperson(s):**

Sheila Roemeling- Fresh Start Healing Heart

[director@freshstarthealingheart.org](mailto:director@freshstarthealingheart.org)

843-644-1991

Shane Roberts- Colleton County Sheriff's Department

[shane@successinlawenforcement.com](mailto:shane@successinlawenforcement.com)

843-584-1475

**Mission:** Our mission is to bring together agencies, organizations and businesses of the Lowcountry, that work in the community, to help fight human trafficking and strive to become a force where survivors receive immediate services and traffickers fear conviction.

### **Regional Task Force website and/or Social Media:**

[www.sclchttf.wixsite.com/website](http://www.sclchttf.wixsite.com/website)

**Counties included in your Task Force:** Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper counties.

**Date Established:** 2016

**Number of Members:** Our attendance average is approximately 15

**Number of Organizations:** 20+

### **What professional fields (i.e. law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, etc) are represented?**

Law Enforcement

Federal Law Enforcement

DHS

DSS

Churches

Prosecution

Zonta

United Way

Healthcare

Service providers

Library

**Sub-Committees and Chairperson(s):** We currently are working on building our committees. 2018 was about implementing the ideas. We have found it difficult for teams to move forward with all their schedules.

### **Our current committees are as follows:**

Law Enforcement

Service Providers

Training and Education

Public Outreach  
Policy and Legislation  
Strategic planning and protocol

**Task Force Accomplishments in 2018:**

- Brought in co-chairperson Shane Roberts
- Established what committees to develop
- Added more law enforcement teams
- Multiple guest speakers to enhance partnerships and education
- Community education expanded through member organizations

**Goals for 2019:**

- Victim understanding of choices education exercise
- Activate committees and action in the field
- Expand to 20 plus members
- Conduct another Advanced Human Trafficking Training
- Begin protocol procedures for the team
- Establish goals for each committee
- Service providers to conduct multiple youth conferences

**2018 Meetings:**

Jan 24th 10am-12pm TCL, State Task Force Coordinator presented on statewide efforts  
April 25th 10am-12pm TCL, education and establishment of our committees  
July 25th 10am-12pm TCL, support, education and committees  
Oct 24th 10am-12pm HHI Chamber of commerce, Judge Forsythe and victims

**2019 Meetings:**

Jan 23rd 10am-12pm TCL  
April 24th 10am-12pm TBA  
July 24th 10am- 12 pm TBA  
Oct 23rd 10am-12pm TBA

**Other Information:**

Beaufort Sheriff's Dept. and FBI has been educating community members  
Beaufort Zonta has been assisting with community outreach and education  
Solicitor Duffy Stone's team has been educating community members

## **Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force**

**Chairperson:** Brooke Burriss, Lynch Foundation for Children, CAROLINAS

**Mission:** Implementing a consistent, unified, and reliable response to identify, prevent, and eliminate human trafficking in the Tri-County area.

**Regional Task Force website and/or Social Media:**

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

**Counties included:** Berkeley, Dorchester, Charleston

**Date Established:** March 2018

**Number of Members:** We have an email list of approximately 225 people.

**Number of Organizations:** Approximately 88 organizations are on the email list.

**What professional fields are represented in your task force?**

Law enforcement (local, state, and federal), healthcare, social services, child advocacy centers, juvenile justice, prosecutors, civil attorneys, public defenders, USAO's, non-profits (examples: long term housing by Doors to Freedom; education by Darkness to Light, A Heart for Freedom, advocacy by Women's Club of Charleston), research institutions, victim advocates, probation and parole, school personnel, guardian ad litem, Department of Mental Health, faith-based groups and churches

**Sub-Committees and Chairperson(s):**

Leadership and extensive involvement has included:

- Judge Michele Patrao Forsythe, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Family Court; [mforsythej@sccourts.org](mailto:mforsythej@sccourts.org)
- Rachael Garrett, Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center; [RGarrett@deenortoncenter.org](mailto:RGarrett@deenortoncenter.org)
- Sydney Reynolds - [sreynolds@dcccic.org](mailto:sreynolds@dcccic.org), Carri Bowers - [cbowers@dorchestercac.org](mailto:cbowers@dorchestercac.org), Millicent Walker - [mwalker@dcccic.org](mailto:mwalker@dcccic.org); Dorchester Child Advocacy Center
- Dr. Bob Kahle, College of Charleston's Riley Center for Livable Communities; [kahlerw@cofc.edu](mailto:kahlerw@cofc.edu)
- Sharon Rikard, Doors to Freedom; [sharon@doorstofreedom.com](mailto:sharon@doorstofreedom.com)
- Sandra Sparks, ERASE Child Trafficking; [sandys@erasechildtrafficking.org](mailto:sandys@erasechildtrafficking.org)
- Stephanie Armstrong, MUSC; [armstrst@musc.edu](mailto:armstrst@musc.edu)
- Erika Rowell, Darkness to Light; [erikar@d2l.org](mailto:erikar@d2l.org)
- Charleston County Sheriff's Department and Homeland Security Investigations; Logan Fey of SLED; [lfey@sled.sc.gov](mailto:lfey@sled.sc.gov)
- Barbara Brown, former FBI HT agent; [bbrown21@citadel.edu](mailto:bbrown21@citadel.edu)
- Julie Todaro, A Heart For Freedom, [ulie.todaro10@gmail.com](mailto:ulie.todaro10@gmail.com); Natalie Marucci and Charles Henderson of the MacInitiative, [chenderson@macinitiative.com](mailto:chenderson@macinitiative.com)

**Task Force Accomplishments in 2018:**

- Hosted a training for 65 Region 3 DSS workers with the Children's Law Center, Doors to Freedom, Judge Michele Forsythe, and the Child Advocacy Centers; spoke at the DSS Region 3 Hub
- Curriculum review of curricula that includes information on human trafficking and presented this to the Charleston County School Board Health Advisory Committee with Natalie Marucci of the MacInitiative and Erika Rowell of Darkness to Light
- Hosted a training for law enforcement by partnering with ERASE Child Trafficking. Approximately 50 officers were trained and a victim was identified and helped five days later.

- Hosted a labor trafficking meeting with SC Legal Services, ERASE, and Gregory Somers of the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Conducted a Resource Assessment of available resources in the area and inputted that into an Airtable spreadsheet which will be public in early 2019
- Worked on wallet cards for mandated reporters to know how to identify trafficking and how to report it
- Worked with the Charleston County Sheriff's office and the Al Cannon Detention Center to begin the process of creating an assessment for arrestees in order to identify potential victims
- Offered the "Stay or Go" Child Sex Trafficking Training (conducted by Judge Michele Forsythe) with 100+ attendees
- Had a community wide launch with a Ladies Lunch of 120 attendees raising over \$5,000 in gift cards for survivors at Doors to Freedom, the two Child Advocacy Centers, and those served in SC by ERASE Child Trafficking Victim Advocates
- Other entities we work with:
  - Dee Norton and Dorchester Child Advocacy Centers have a CSEC Coordinator and are establishing a CSEC MDT (multi-disciplinary team) with monthly case review meetings
  - The Riley Center for Livable Communities conducted extensive research on homeless youth in Charleston County, finding strong prevalence of sexual exploitation (report to be published in 2019)
  - The Riley Center for Livable Communities held a Review of their attendance to the International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference at the University of Toledo
  - The Riley Center for Livable Communities completed and annotated bibliography on human trafficking research (available on the Tricountytaskforce.org website)
  - A Heart for Freedom had a 5K walk in September and a breakfast in October and raised \$1,249 for A21
  - Darkness to Light offers an online CSEC training

**Goals for 2019:**

- Finalize the community assessment resource tool and put on our website
- Coordinate with a law enforcement human trafficking task force
- Create an emergency victim advocate group
- Create a more formalized structure for the Task Force if needed
- Host training for medical professionals; teachers; juvenile justice and other mandated reporters ensuring they know how to report
- Host the Human Trafficking Regional Youth Summit at Seacoast Church in January in partnership with A Heart for Freedom and the MacInitiative
- Support the attorneys in our area who are a part of LAST and make the referral process more clear
- Coordinate with the other Regional Task Forces to help each other
- Support or create a risk prevention program for at-risk individuals and youth

**2018 Meetings:**

- First Task Force meeting was March 30, 2018, Holiday Inn
  - Introduce Task Force and Statewide Task Force Structure
  - Hear from HT leaders in our area (the Child Advocacy Centers, Detective Charlie Benton, Sharon Rikard, USAO Matt Austin)
- Advisory Leadership meeting July, 2018 – Charleston County Dept. of Juvenile Justice Conference Room
- Task Force meeting, Oct. 23, 2018, Advent Lutheran Church
  - Introduce website and logo
  - Community Resource Assessment
  - “Stay or Go” Training by Judge Michele Forsythe

**2019 Meetings:**

- January, Advent Lutheran Church
- April
- July
- October

## **Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force**

**Chairperson(s):**

Patty Jackson, Retired Public Administrator  
804-334-5824

[pattyjackson719@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjackson719@gmail.com)

Lt. Sherri Smith, Horry County Sheriff’s Department

843-915-8571

843-333-3396

[smithsh@horrycounty.org](mailto:smithsh@horrycounty.org)

**Mission:** Establish a multi-disciplinary regional coalition supported through guidance from the State Task Force via the Attorney General’s Office; Provide education and awareness to prevent and expose human trafficking; Coordinate existing services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, while identifying additional needs within the community.

**Regional Task Force website and/or Social Media:**

We would like to establish a website as part of the state website – and will research our choices and move forward in 2019.

**Counties included:** Georgetown County and Horry County

**Date Established:** Relaunched July 2018

Number of Members: 153

Number of Organizations: 40+

**What professional fields (i.e. law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, etc) are represented?**

Law enforcement, health care providers, solicitors, attorneys, direct service providers, K-12 and higher education, foster parents, retired professionals, business, government, non-profit, faith based, child welfare, media, civic

**Sub-Committees and Chairperson(s):**

Youth Advocacy: Beverly Wilhelm [bwilhelm@coastal.edu](mailto:bwilhelm@coastal.edu)

Tammy Elswick [telswick@48th.com](mailto:telswick@48th.com)

Prevention, Education and Awareness: Kelly O'Neill Bagwell [kjob100@gmail.com](mailto:kjob100@gmail.com)

Direct Services: Bevelyn Mitchell [bevelyn@victimtosurvivor.org](mailto:bevelyn@victimtosurvivor.org)

Data Management: Jim Eberwein [jceberwein@aol.com](mailto:jceberwein@aol.com)

Law Enforcement: Lt. Sherri Smith [smithsh@horrycounty.org](mailto:smithsh@horrycounty.org)

Legal Innovations: Mary Ellen Walter [walter.maryellen@horrycounty.org](mailto:walter.maryellen@horrycounty.org)

Cara Walker [walker.cara@horrycounty.org](mailto:walker.cara@horrycounty.org)

Labor Trafficking: Betty Hubion [bjhubion@yahoo.com](mailto:bjhubion@yahoo.com)

Health Care Professionals: Natalie Darby [nursing4nat@gmail.com](mailto:nursing4nat@gmail.com)

Survivor Advisory: Patty Jackson [pattyjackson719@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjackson719@gmail.com)

Recruitment: Patty Jackson [pattyjackson719@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjackson719@gmail.com)

Marketing and PR: Patty Jackson [pattyjackson719@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjackson719@gmail.com)

**Goals for 2019:**

1. Grow the multi-disciplinary regional coalition to provide education and awareness to every sector of the community in order to rescue victims, prevent victimization and expose human trafficking.
2. Coordinate existing services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, while identifying additional needs within the community.

**2018 Meetings:**

July 26, 2018, 10 AM - noon, Myrtle Beach Municipal Court, 1101 Oak Street, Myrtle Beach

September 13, 2018 regional meeting cancelled due to hurricane and subsequent flooding.

November 1, 2018 Executive Committee, 5-6:30pm, Socastee Library – Attached Minutes

**2019 Meetings:**

January 17, 2019

April 18, 2019

August 15, 2019

November 14, 2019

Meetings are from 10am – Noon

Myrtle Beach Municipal Court

1101 Oak Street

Myrtle Beach 29577

## XI. Member Accomplishments

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General continues to lead the State Task efforts while also diligently prosecuting cases and helping to bring awareness to the complexities of human trafficking in our state. In fact, the office presented nearly 70 presentations in 2018 reaching approximately 5,000 individuals throughout the state. However, it remains vital to acknowledge the collective efforts and numerous accomplishments of our local, state, and federal Task Force partners. No one agency alone can provide the solution to the problem in South Carolina.

Below, please find information submitted by each organization. It is not a comprehensive list of all the efforts in 2018, but a good representation of the multi-sector approach underway. For easy reference, organizations are listed alphabetically by regional task force with state and federal partners listed first.

### **Federal Partner(s)**

Agency Name: **United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina**

Description of Agency: Federal Prosecution

Area Served: Statewide

# of Human Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Sex Trafficking: 4 cases (excluding investigations)

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2018:

Sex Trafficking: 3 cases

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Ongoing Investigations

Sex Trafficking: Changes regularly, but numerous

Labor Trafficking: 2

# of Defendants Charged:

The USAO charged 7 new defendants in 2018 and these cases remain pending.

# Disposed and What was the Disposition:

All 2018 cases are pending.

# of Victims Identified:

The new 2018 cases involve 10 victims, including 4 minors and 6 adults.

In 2018, the Charleston USAO closed via conviction and sentencing, *United States v. Damon Jackson, et al.* This was a significant sex trafficking case that involved 10 defendants and over a 100 victims including both minors and adults.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list:  
The USAO participates in all state and regional task forces

**Contact Information:**

Carrie Fisher Sherard – Human Trafficking Coordinator for State and Greenville Area  
Elliott Daniels – Human Trafficking Coordinator for Columbia Area  
Jamie Schoen – Human Trafficking Coordinator for Charleston Area  
Lauren Hummel – Human Trafficking Coordinator for Florence/Myrtle Beach Area

**State Agency Partners**

Agency Name: **South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

Mission Statement: 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.

Overview of Organization: The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice 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.

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

- SCDJJ has dedicated a full-time employee to oversee anti-human trafficking efforts for minors in our state. The position requires the employee to be a certified victim service provider.
- Collaborate with state and federal law enforcement divisions to assist with screening potential HT Victims.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: Approximately 20 during the 2018 Calendar Year

Purpose of those Referrals: Juveniles who touched our system probation/parole, detention/run-aways needed screening for potential human trafficking. Referrals typically made by county Case Managers or County Social Workers/Clinical Staff.

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

SCDJJ has established a protocol in screening potential HT Victims and have identified key players to collaborate with to establish an agency Human Trafficking Policy.

Any plans to expand services in 2019? Yes, we will hopefully be able to utilize placements specifically designed for HT Victims.

Goals for 2019: Developing a HT screening tool, creating agency policy, on-going quarterly/annual training, participate and engage in state-wide/regional HT task forces, VSP-HT certification, and establishing a SCDJJ data/tracking system.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: State Task Force and have attended Richland County Regional Task Force meetings. We have been invited to attend other Regional Task Force meetings as well.

**Contact Information :**

Angela Hugie, Victim Service Manager  
220 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, SC 29210  
803-896-9544

Tanisha M Tate, Victim Service Coordinator/HT  
220 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, SC 29210  
803-896-6761

Website/Social Media:

[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)

Facebook

Twitter

Agency Name: **South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS)**

Mission Statement: To serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families.

Overview of Organization: SCDSS provides protective services for children and vulnerable adults, adoption, and foster care services. It administers federal Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program. Additionally, the SCDSS is the administrator of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. SCDSS also establishes standards for and licenses child care providers and residential group homes for children.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 0

Minors – 28

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – 0

Minors – 3

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Adults - 0

Minors - 13

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults – 0

Minors – 1

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – 0

Minors – 1

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 8 minor sex trafficking victim

Purpose of those Referrals: Housing

# of Presentations: 4

# of Attendees at Presentations: 20 – 225 people

# of Trainings: 4

# of Attendees at Trainings: 12 - 48

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

More training on sex trafficking across the state for DSS caseworkers.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:

We are a member of the State Task Force and the Richland Co. Task Force.

**Contact Information:**

Amanda Koon

P.O. Box 1520

1535 Confederate Ave. Ext.

Columbia, SC 29201

803-898-7844

Agency Name: **South Carolina Foster Parent Association**

Mission Statement: To bring together foster parents, agency representatives and members of the community to promote mutual coordination, cooperation and communication in an effort to encourage recruitment and retention of foster families with a heartfelt calling for the purpose of improving the system and enhancing the lives of all children and their families.

Overview of Organization: Recruit, train and support foster families in South Carolina.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 0

Minors – 6

Services Provided:

- Recruited, trained and supported specialized foster families.

- With the six confirmed survivors we assisted with proper placement. Some of them went into DSS custody while others were returned to their biological families.
- We assisted the biological families with community services and private placement. The DSS placements went to Specialized Foster Families or Doors to Freedom and we assisted in each of those cases, too.

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 2 – Private out of state placement

Purpose of those Referrals:

# of Presentations: 26

# of Attendees at Presentations: 1807

# of Trainings: 37

# of Attendees at Trainings: 2210

Any plans to expand services in 2019? Yes, we plan on assisting the State Human Trafficking Coordinator with training caseworkers in DSS throughout the State. We plan to increase our recruitment efforts of specialized foster families to be trained to care for this population.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:

Subcommittee member with State Task Force – Direct Services (Minor Focus)

Subcommittee member with Richland County Regional Task Force – Survivor Services

Other information you would like to share: Laurie is a certified law enforcement victim advocate with Richland County Sheriff's Department and works closely with them. We have assisted with the creation and oversight of Project Protect where we have identified 120 minors to date that are at high or very high rate of being exploited in Richland County.

**Contact Information:**

South Carolina Foster Parent Association

PO Box 39

Elgin, SC 29045

Office Number: 803-865-2020

Laurie Pineda – Director, Specialized Foster Care

Direct number: 803-309-1646

Email: [Laurie@SCFPA.com](mailto:Laurie@SCFPA.com)

Website: [www.SCFPA.com](http://www.SCFPA.com)

Facebook: South Carolina Foster Parent Association

Agency Name: **South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)**

Mission Statement: As the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in the state, SCCADVASA works with its member agencies, affiliates, and other allies to end domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina and beyond through engaging individuals and communities in advocacy, collaboration, and education.

Overview of Organization: SCCADVASA is the federally recognized coalition of twenty-two organizations in South Carolina providing direct services to victims and survivors of domestic

and sexual violence. As experts in trauma-informed systems of care and advocates for models of primary prevention and intervention that are survivor-focused and offender-accountable, SCCADVASA addresses the intersection and interdependence of the crimes of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. SCCADVASA provides leadership in the state by serving as a mandated member of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force and chairs the Direct Service Providers Sub-Committee.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018: Approximately 112

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018: Approximately 7

Services Provided:

16 - received emergency shelter; 25 – received hospital accompaniment during medical examination/forensic evidence collection; 71 – received counseling/mental health services; 48 – received advocacy services; 53 – received referral services to other providers

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 53

# of Presentations: 25 (for capacity building and technical assistance to other agencies)

# of Trainings: 3 by SCCADVASA; 80 by member organizations

# of Attendees at Trainings: 300 at SCCADVASA trainings; 1,430 at member trainings

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Mandated member of State Task Force, Chair of the Direct Service Providers Sub-Committee (Adult Focus)

**Contact Information:**

SCCADVASA  
P.O. Box 7776  
Columbia, SC 29202  
803-256-2900

Website/Social Media: [www.sccadvasa.org](http://www.sccadvasa.org)

Agency Name: **South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission**

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.

Description of Organization:

The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission is comprised of committees, or task forces, that focus on different issues in the Native community. One committee, the Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina, represent Indigenous women and families.

Area Served: Statewide

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

We advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women by raising awareness among the dominant culture and sharing missing persons alerts on social media.

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

With one of our main focuses being Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, we spoke at several public events such as the 2018 Women's March in Charleston and a candlelight vigil; appeared several times on local news stations and in print and digital newspapers; contributed to a #MeToo panel at Newberry College. We also partnered with the USC College of Social Work to conduct the first-ever study on domestic violence among Native American women in South Carolina.

Goals for 2019: We would like to make "Native American" a race option on all police reports in South Carolina and enable the government of South Carolina to track statistics for crimes against Native Americans.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list: State Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Kathleen Hays, Chairwoman

The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina

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

803.807.7209

Website/Social Media:

Facebook: South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

Instagram: @indigenouswomensallianceofsc

Twitter: @IndigenousSC

YouTube: Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina

**Multi-State Partners**

Agency Name: **Lutheran Services Carolinas**

Mission Statement: Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve.

Overview of Organization: Lutheran Services Carolinas provides the following services throughout different regions of North and South Carolinas: adoption, foster care and treatment parenting, supportive housing, mental health services, supported living residences, therapeutic

independent living training, veterans services, respite care, disability program services, senior living communities, adult day services, home care, disaster case management, refugee and immigrant services (including foreign born victims of trafficking).

Area Served: North and South Carolina

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 0

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 1

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 1

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 12

Purpose of those Referrals: To connect clients to legal, medical, mental health, education and social services.

Any plans to expand services in 2019? We plan to expand our service area and increase the number of clients served across North and South Carolina.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: We are a member of the State Task Force.

**Contact Information:**

Nicole Netzel – 847/308-9014 and

Bedrija Jazic - 803/461-2637

1118 Union St

Columbia, SC 29201

Website/Social Media:

lscarolinas.net

Facebook: Lutheran Services Carolinas, LSC Refugee and Immigrant Services

## Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

Agency Name: **Bon Secours St. Francis Health System**

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

Area Served: Greenville County

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

- Advocacy at the State and Federal level
- Partner with/sponsor other community organizations, such as Jasmine Road and Switch
- Education and awareness
- Annual symposium

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

- Met with Congressman Gowdy's staff regarding the FOTSA bill, which ultimately passed Congress
- Helped pass CAPTA by getting it added as an amendment to bill H. 3701. This helped it pass the General Assembly
- Held our Second Annual Seminar on Human Trafficking: "Not by Their Choice." Speakers included SC Attorney General Alan Wilson, representatives from the Dignity Health Human Trafficking Response Program, Special Agent Steve Michaels, and Dr. Carson Felkel. The seminar was attended by 450 people and livestreamed by WYFF4 news.
- Sponsored & helped Jasmine Road to open its first restoration home for human trafficking survivors. Bon Secours St. Francis developed a program to provide all medical and behavioral healthcare wraparound services for the residents. This program is the first of its kind in South Carolina.

Goals for 2019:

- We are looking into legislation that increases the penalties for purchasers of commercial sex and separating it from the prostitution statute, and legislation around regulating massage parlors
- Explore possibility of starting a Forensic Nursing program
- Hold 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual seminar, goal of 5,000+ attendees
- Partner with Jasmine Road to open a second restoration home in Greenville

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list:

Upstate Human Trafficking Taskforce and South Carolina Human Trafficking Taskforce

### **Contact Information:**

Jessica Weingartner, Director of Mission  
125 Commonwealth Drive  
Greenville, SC 29615

[jessica\\_weingartner@bshsi.org](mailto:jessica_weingartner@bshsi.org)  
864-608-8342

Website/Social Media:  
[www.bonsecours.com/greenville](http://www.bonsecours.com/greenville)  
@bonsecoursgvl on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Agency Name: **Greenville County Sheriff's Office**  
Area Served: Greenville County, SC

# of Human Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2017 (include active investigations):

Sex Trafficking: 6

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2018:

Sex Trafficking: 4

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Ongoing Investigations:

Sex Trafficking: 3

Labor Trafficking: 1

# of Defendants Charged: 9

# Disposed and What was the Disposition:

2 Pled Guilty in Federal Court

1 Pled Guilty in State Court

2 Defendants Nolle Prossed due to the Victim's death.

# of Victims Identified:

Adults: 11

Minors: 10

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 7

Minors - 9

Foreign Nationals

Adults - 2

Minors - 1

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Adults - 0

Minors - 1

Foreign Nationals

Adults - 1

Minors - 1

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 1

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 20

Purpose of those Referrals: Care after identification.

# of Presentations: 8

# of Attendees at Presentations: 705

# of Trainings: 29

# of Attendees at Trainings: 978

Contact Information:

Jonathan Bastoni

Human Trafficking Investigator

Greenville County Sheriff's Office

TFO Homeland Security Investigations

(864) 923-2280 cell

(864) 235-0519 office

[jbastoni@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:jbastoni@greenvillecounty.org)

Website/Social Media:

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

Agency Name: **Jasmine Road**

Mission Statement:

Our 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 Greenville community.

Overview of Organization:

Jasmine Road is a 2-year residential program for women in recovery from trafficking, prostitution, drug addiction, and homelessness. Our housing first model is a holistic restoration

program that not only addresses recovery from trauma and addiction, but also provides the tools to thrive on a new road to the future. We want to ensure that every resident has access to the services and opportunities she needs to heal and thrive. Our mission is to heal, empower, and employ adult female survivors.

We believe that love is more powerful than all the forces that drive women to the street. We surround each woman with a strong community of advocates that will help them begin their journey home. It is this philosophy that has helped our model and sister community Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN consistently achieve one of the most successful recovery rates in the country today.

Area Served: We are located in Greenville County. However, we are open to referrals from anyone in the state of South Carolina as well as referrals from outside the state.

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 8

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Adults - 4

Minors - 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Services Provided:

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- housing

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- addiction recovery services

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- clinical mental health

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- medication management

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- physical health care

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- dental health care

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- documentation assistance (ID, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, etc.)

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- physical wellness and health education

8 adult sex trafficking survivors- spiritual care

6 adult sex trafficking survivors- advocacy within the criminal justice system

3 adult sex trafficking survivors- post-secondary education enrollment

2 adult sex trafficking survivors- vision care

2 adult sex trafficking survivors- employment readiness, job placement, and financial literacy

2 adult sex trafficking survivors- legal advocacy with a licensed attorney

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 6

Purpose of those Referrals:

Referrals made when Jasmine Road is unable to offer services

# of Presentations: 40

# of Attendees at Presentations: 2,522

# of Trainings: 2

# of Attendees at Trainings: 125

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

Yes. Jasmine Road plans to open a second house to offer more services to survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction in 2019. Our estimates indicate we will be able to offer services in our two-year residential program for up to 15 women in 2019.

In addition, Jasmine Road will launch our social enterprise, Jasmine Kitchen. Jasmine Kitchen will offer meaningful employment opportunities to survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction in Greenville, SC in 2019.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:

SC State Task Force and Upstate Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Beth Messick- Executive Director: 864-325-6916

Lindsay Blair- Program Director: 864-283-5198

Morgan Rains- Restoration Services Coordinator: 864-516-0009

Website/Social Media:

Website: [www.jasmineroad.org](http://www.jasmineroad.org)

Instagram/Facebook: [jasmineroadsc](#)

Agency Name: **Rivers of Justice**

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

Description of Organization: We raise awareness by holding conferences, billboards, educating hotel staff, distribute state flyers, Darkness to Light training, awareness events, legislation, educate the public, adults and teens, foster parents, and serve at risk children.

Area Served: Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Greenville

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018: We hosted four events for at risk children, trained 94 people using Darkness to Light training, distributed 68 state posters, do not have an exact number of people teens and adults that we educated about DMST, trained 105 people to become

mentors to at risk children in our school system, visited approximately 25 hotels in the Greenville area.

Goals for 2019:

- Hosting a conference in January at Anderson University
- We now have more volunteers and will expand our hotel/motel outreach
- Educate 100 + people using the Darkness to Light training
- Begin an abolitionist program in our high schools in the Upstate
- Add six more billboards to the ones we currently have posted
- Train more volunteers

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list: Upstate Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Dena Rapp  
208 Frontage Road  
Clemson, SC  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1141  
Seneca, SC 29672  
864-710-0212

Website/Social Media: [www.riversofjustice.org](http://www.riversofjustice.org)

Agency Name: **SWITCH**

Mission Statement: SWITCH's mission is to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Overview of Organization: Since 2012, SWITCH has led the effort to fight human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Upstate of South Carolina. We have educated well over 20,000 community members and have served over 120 individuals on the road to restoration.

Area Served: All Upstate counties of South Carolina

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 42  
Minors - 6  
Foreign Nationals  
Adults - 2  
Minors - 1

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:

Adults - 23  
Minors - 1  
Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0  
Minors – 0

**Services Provided:**

Counseling: 21  
Medical Appts: 19  
Drug Treatment: 10  
Legal- 11  
Temporary Shelter-21  
Professional Development- 45  
Clothing/Hygiene- 23  
Long Term Restoration Home- 12  
Transportation-7

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 109

**Purpose of those Referrals:**

# of Presentations: 117  
# of Attendees at Presentations: 10,000 +  
# of Trainings: 13  
# of Attendees at Trainings: 850+

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

Yes, in 2019 SWITCH is starting a research phase in hopes to open the first ever emergency shelter in South Carolina specifically for victims of human trafficking. We also hope to hire another Care Coordinator in 2019 and expand our services into the Greenville County Detention Center.

**Contact Information:**

Zaina Greene  
PO Box 5394, Greenville, SC 29606  
Website/Social Media:  
[www.switchsc.org](http://www.switchsc.org)  
Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at switch4216

**Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force**

Agency Name: **Lighthouse for Life**

Mission Statement: Our mission is to educate the community about the realities of human trafficking while restoring victims to wholeness.

**Overview of Organization:**

Lighthouse for Life is a non-profit organization seeking to take steps against sex trafficking. We desire to see everyone joined together to put a stop to the trafficking of our loved ones around us. We provide training and awareness free of charge. We also desire to provide grace and

restoration to victims rescued from trafficking. We are DSS licensed and certified as a level three group home for survivors of sex trafficking who are between the age of 12 to 21.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults – 17

Minors – 6

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Services Provided:

3 adult sex trafficking victims- transportation to shelter out of state or different region of state

13 adult sex trafficking victims- phone conversations for support and referral to additional services

4 adult sex trafficking victims- in person meeting for support and referral to additional services

6 minor sex trafficking victims- phone conversations for support and referral to additional services

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 28

Purpose of those Referrals: (multiple referrals were made for some survivors which is why the number of referrals is higher than the number of survivors served)

19 referrals to shelter/program

5 referrals to clinical counseling

4 referrals to law enforcement

2 referrals to legal services

# of Presentations: 200

# of Attendees at Presentations: 14,728

# of Trainings: 32

# of Attendees at Trainings: 1,120

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

- Lighthouse for Life plans to officially open the Karis Home and serve three (3) survivors.
- We also want to expand our services and connect to foster care to be able to provide wraparound services to more survivors including males, LGPTQ population, and survivors with special needs.
- Lighthouse plans to add speakers to continue training and developing more training.
- Lighthouse is bringing the Iempathize curriculum to South Carolina to educate youth in the schools.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:

Member of State Task Force and Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Jen Thompson, CEO  
7230 Broad River Rd Ste K #247  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-730-1054  
[Jen@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:Jen@lighthouseforlife.org)

Website/Social Media:

Website: Lighthouse for Life  
Instagram: lighthouseforlifesc  
Facebook: lighthouseforlifesc  
Twitter: L4LSC

Agency Name: **Richland County Sheriff's Department**

Mission Statement: It is our mission as trusted public servants to prevent crime and the fear of crime by providing excellence in law enforcement services, accountability and connections with our communities.

Our mission is supported by our core values: A passion for service, integrity, accountability and professionalism.

Overview of Organization:

The Richland County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to a population of 401,000 citizens within a 756 square mile radius. The Richland County Sheriff's Department is comprised of approximately 700 uniformed officers and 140 non-sworn personnel.

Area Served: Richland County

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 10  
Minors – 4 confirmed victims and 120 at high risk and/or potentially exploited  
Foreign Nationals  
Adults – 0  
Minors – 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017 – Two (2) cases with four (4) suspects

Adults - 0  
Minors – 4 (victims)  
Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)  
Adults – 0  
Minors – 0

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies:

120 (DSS, DJJ, medical, non-profits)

Purpose of those Referrals:

Safety, crisis intervention, family stabilization, mental health, medical needs and prevention

# of Presentations: 40

# of Attendees at Presentations: 1830 attendees were present (community awareness presentations: 1705 attendees/ in-depth training sessions 125 attendees)

# of Trainings: We attended 12 trainings

# of Attendees at Trainings: 150 of our deputies received this education

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

- We are training every deputy at the Richland County Sheriff's Department on how to recognize and respond to human trafficking.
- We will evolve our community presentations to include information on buyers and the role that they play in the overall crime of human trafficking.
- We will utilize our public information office to inform the community of buyers who are arrested in our county to help deter this crime.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:

We are members of the State Task Force and the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

Other information you would like to share:

We started a program called Project Protect. We evaluated one year of runaway reports and identified 120 youth who are at high risk for exploitation. We consider this a prevention/intervention program because we remain in contact with the participants and their families if applicable. We hope to be able to recognize when situations are escalating so that we can provide intervention before exploitation occurs.

We've also trained selected deputies within each region of our agency to serve as point of contacts for human trafficking situations. These deputies received extensive training so that they can assist their coworkers with human trafficking situations as well as assist with investigation, buyer/human trafficking operations and Project Protect.

**Contact Information:**

Investigator Cassie Radford

[cradford@rcsd.net](mailto:cradford@rcsd.net)

803-576-3474

Captain Heidi Jackson

[hjackson@rcsd.net](mailto:hjackson@rcsd.net)

803-576-3113

Website/Social Media:

[www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net)

Agency Name: **Us Ministry**

**Mission Statement:**

To serve, empower and walk life with women rescued from sex trafficking. Help women and girls find their purpose and passion along with discovering their potential.

Area Served: Statewide

**# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:**

Adults - 9

Minors – 3

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

**# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:**

Adults - 1

Minors - 1

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors –0

**# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017:**

Adults – 1

Minors – 1

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

**# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 2**

Purpose of those Referrals: to help find housing and safety

**# of Presentations: 4**

**# of Attendees at Presentations: 240**

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Connie Dawkins, Us Ministry

PO Box 605

Elgin SC 29045

803-814-7143

Website/Social Media:

usministry.org.

Facebook Us Ministry

## Multi-County Human Trafficking Task Force

Agency Name: **Aiken Department of Public Safety**

Mission Statement: Aiken Department of Public Safety's mission is to maintain the highest commitment to integrity, transparency and professionalism in order to create and maintain partnerships with our community to solve problems and implement proactive initiatives that make the City of Aiken a safe place to live, work, or visit.

Overview of Organization: Municipality that serves the city limits of Aiken, SC

Area Served: Aiken, SC (City Limits)

# of Presentations: 2

# of Attendees at Presentations: 50

# of Trainings: 4

# of Attendees at Trainings: 80

Any plans to expand services in 2019? To be able to find victims of human trafficking and offer them services.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Co-Chair of the Multi-County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

### **Contact Information:**

Eleanor Hunter (Public Safety Officer)

251 Laurens St NW

Aiken, SC 29801

(803)642-7620

Agency Name: **Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons**

Mission Statement: 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.

Overview of Organization: Dual domestic violence/sexual assault nonprofit agency

Area Served: Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale counties for domestic violence; Aiken Barnwell, Allendale, Saluda, McCormick, Edgefield for sexual assault

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 5

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0  
Minors – 0

Services Provided: Crisis advocacy and trauma-informed counseling

# of Presentations: 1  
# of Attendees at Presentations: 85

# of Trainings: 2

Any plans to expand services in 2019? Cumbee Center will be an active force in leading the regional task force as it begins its efforts to increase awareness and initiate victim services, as well as train law enforcement.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Co-Chair of the Multi-County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:** Susan Selden  
254 Beaufort Street NE  
Aiken, SC 29801 803-649-0480

Website/Social Media:  
[www.cumbeecenter.org](http://www.cumbeecenter.org)

### **Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force**

Agency Name: **14th Circuit Solicitor's Office**

Mission Statement: The mission of the 14th Circuit Solicitor's office is to professionally represent the people of South Carolina in and out of court, to improve the safety of all people and to protect and defend the United State Constitution and the Constitution of the State of South Carolina.

Description of Organization: The Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office is the chief prosecuting agency for Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. Covering 3,200 square-miles of South Carolina's renowned Lowcountry, we are the only five-county circuit in the state. Our primary role is to prosecute all cases in **General Sessions Court**, certain misdemeanors in Magistrate's Court and all criminal cases in Family Court. Each year, we prosecute approximately 5,000 cases.

Area Served: Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties

What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina? We are members of the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force and attend quarterly meetings.

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

Created the 14th Circuit victim-services center within our headquarters in Okatie, SC. In December 2017, the Solicitor's Office moved to a 4.85-acre property in Okatie that includes two buildings and 44,000 square feet of floor space. This property serves as a modern headquarters for the Solicitor's Office and victim-services center to provide many different types of assistance under one roof. There are about 100 such centers around the country, but this is the first of its kind in South Carolina. Instead of duplicating services already provided by area non-profits, we're bringing them together. Hopeful Horizons, which provides services to human trafficking victims, will occupy space within our building. They are scheduled to move in by year's end. In one location, a victim will be able to meet with a prosecutor, a victim advocate and service providers.

Goals for 2019:

- Continue to build rapport and collaborate with our community partners and/or area non-profits that provide direct and indirect assistance to victims of human trafficking.
- Offer the community (law enforcement, social service agencies and other entities) a place (physical space) to gain training and education and conduct forensic interviews.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list: Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force

Contact Information:

Erinn McGuire  
Community Outreach  
14th Circuit Solicitor's Office  
P.O. Box 1880  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
(843) 790-6453

Website/Social Media:

Website: [www.scsolicitor14.org](http://www.scsolicitor14.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FourteenthCircuitSolicitorsOffice/>  
Twitter: [@14thSolicitor](https://twitter.com/14thSolicitor)

Agency Name: **Fresh Start Healing Heart**

Mission Statement: Our mission is to compassionately walk beside Survivors of Human Trafficking, providing safe housing, immediate needs and restorative services for emotional, spiritual, physical, educational and financial healing.

Overview of Organization: Fresh Start Healing Heart provides wrap around services through partnering organizations and volunteers. Our team works on allowing survivors the opportunity to have a safe place to live, a supportive team, transportation to and from needed services, advocates for support in services, courses on self-esteem/boundaries/forgiveness,

nutrition coach, self-defense coach, financial education, basic needs, mentors to walk with, church connections, counseling and life skills coaching, job readiness and search, translation for nine languages. We continue to add new or expanded services often

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 1

Minors – 1

Foreign Nationals

Adults –0

Minors – 0

# of Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017 – 7

Adults - 5

Minors - 2

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Services Provided:

3 adults- continued mentoring support,

1 adult- legal advocate, home supplies, basic needs, life skills coach, counseling, mentoring, referrals, case management, nutrition coaching.

1 adult- home supplies, baby supplies, mentoring, life skills coaching, referrals, transportation, case management, nutrition coaching, self-defense coaching

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 1

Purpose of those Referrals:

12 housing

2 united way

1 self defense, trauma yoga (stress reduction, confidence)

1 trauma counseling

1 NC rehabilitation center for job placement

# of Presentations: 16

# of Attendees at Presentations: 700 total

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: SC Human Trafficking Task Force, Low Country Human Trafficking Task Force

Other information you would like to share: 300+ youth educated in 2018 as part of our prevention plan

**Contact Information:**  
Fresh Start Healing Heart  
P.O Box 754 Port Royal SC 29935  
843-644-1991

English hotline 843-338-8896  
Spanish/Hebrew, Portuguese/ English Hotline-843-467-3823  
Cantonese, Mandurian, Korean and Japanese contact line 843-644-1991

Website/Social Media:  
[www.freshstarthealingheart.org](http://www.freshstarthealingheart.org)  
[www.facebook.com/freshstarthealingheart.org](http://www.facebook.com/freshstarthealingheart.org)  
[www.instagram.com/freshstarthealingheart](http://www.instagram.com/freshstarthealingheart)

### **Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force**

Agency Name: **Child Abuse Pediatrics at Medical University of South Carolina**

Overview of Organization: MUSC CAP is an academic center of excellence in child abuse pediatrics. Our services include clinical evaluations of children thought to be abused or neglected, forensic evidence collection for sexual assault victims under age 18, education, and research into child protection.

Area Served: Predominantly Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkley Counties. However, as a regional referral hospital we serve children throughout the state who are referred to MUSC for treatment.

# of Presentations: Around 10  
# of Attendees at Presentations: Unknown

# of Trainings: 2-3  
# of Attendees at Trainings: Unknown

Any plans to expand services in 2019? We will hire additional faculty in 2019. We are not ready to discuss our expanded services publicly.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list:  
Tri-County Human trafficking Task Force and Tri-County CSEC MDT

Contact Information:  
Kathy Fabrizio, Nurse Practitioner Trafficking Lead  
John Melville, MD, Division Chief  
Amy Smoak, Administrative Assistant  
1061 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29414

843-723-3600.

Website/Social Media:

<https://www.musckids.org/our-services/child-abuse-pediatrics>

Agency Name: **Darkness to Light**

Mission Statement: Darkness to Light empowers adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse through awareness, education, and stigma reduction.

Area Served: Statewide

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

We provide educational curriculums to empower adults to prevent, recognize, and respond to child sexual abuse. In addition, we educate adults on how to prevent, recognize, and respond to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

Worked with The Malouf Foundation to train their staff across the country in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention training.

Goals for 2019: Expanding our reach within the State of South Carolina on the connection between child sexual abuse, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list:

Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force and South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Darkness to Light

Erika Rowell, Director of Programs

1064 Gardner Road, Suite 210

Charleston, SC 29407

843-513-1625

[ErikaR@D2L.org](mailto:ErikaR@D2L.org)

Website/Social Media:

Facebook: DarknessToLight

Instagram: D2LOrg

Twitter: Darkness2Light

Website: [www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.org)

Agency Name: **Doors to Freedom**

Mission Statement: The mission of Doors to Freedom is to provide a safe place for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life.

Overview of Organization: long term housing, education, life skills, case management, therapy through community partners as well as medical care.

Area Served: Statewide

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 0

Minors – 8

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017 – House opened 4/9/2018

Services Provided: See program overview - all 8 are sex trafficking survivors

Any plans to expand services in 2019? Yes, independent living programming for older residents. Possibly a second restorative care home.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force and State Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Sharon Rikard

Doors to Freedom

1317-M N Main St #263

Summerville, SC 29483

843-879-3924

Agency Name: **La’Roc Stars**

Mission Statement: Bringing awareness to every one of the sign and dangers of sex trafficking and child exploitation in our community

Description of Organization: a Public nonprofit organization that goes out into the community bringing awareness and resources about sex trafficking and child exploitation to prevent our children from becoming victims.

Area Served: Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston counties

What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina? With our 3 programs and working with sponsors, donors, and volunteers we are able to reach as many people as possible. We bring preventative awareness and resources to non-victims

Please list agency accomplishments (related to human trafficking) in 2018:

We will launch January 2019

Goals for 2019: Reach 5,000 people through our three programs offered, increase partnerships with local business and other organizations to complete this task.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list: Tri-County Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Sarina Freinle, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1131  
Summerville, SC 29484  
843-868-2378

Website/Social Media:

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

Agency Name: **Lynch Foundation for Children, CAROLINAS**

Mission Statement: Advocating for survivors, supporting those on the frontlines, and implementing sound policy to prevent and identify human trafficking victimization

Description of Organization: The Lynch Foundation for Children, CAROLINAS began in July 2018, after branching from the founding organization headquartered in San Diego, the Lynch Foundation for Children. The CAROLINAS entity was founded and is directed by Brooke Burris and is located in Charleston, SC.

Area Served: Primarily Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston Counties, but have a statewide advocacy presence

What does your agency do to support anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina? Currently, the Lynch Foundation CAROLINAS is focused on running the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force serving the Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. However, we have a statewide advocacy presence regarding legislation and policy implementation.

Please list agency accomplishments (related to human trafficking) in 2018:

- Supported a survivor throughout the year with emergency funding
- Through the Foundation's Seeds of Hope initiative, we supported career opportunities for the survivors at Doors to Freedom by providing seed funding to their HER Bracelet Co.
- Created the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force
- Coordinated and sponsored a training for DSS staff
- Sponsored Dee Norton's Annual Child Traumatic Stress Conference to support Katherine Chon, co-founder of Polaris as the keynote speaker
- Coordinated and sponsored the ERASE Child Trafficking training for law enforcement. We partnered with the Charleston County Sheriff to host the training and Sheriff Cannon hosted a special presentation with N. Charleston Detective Charlie Benton, inviting all Tri-County law enforcement leadership to attend. We received so much demand for the

class, that we decided to host another class the very next week, that we sponsored in collaboration with Charleston County Sheriff and which Homeland Security Investigations hosted.

- We sponsored the community launch of the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force with a Ladies Lunch event with guests including SC Chief Justice Jean Toal, Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, First Lady of the Citadel Gail Walters, Judge Kristi Harrington, and Judge Michele Forsythe. Raised funds to create 15 emergency hope bags for survivors, 6 trauma-informed forensic interviews by the Child Advocacy Centers, and Doors to Freedom's school renovation
- Worked to advocate for the raising of penalties of the solicitation of prostitution bill in SC in an effort to deter demand for human trafficking
- Supported Doors to Freedom
- Sponsored the Attorney General's Youth Summit
- Brought Ending the Game Curriculum to Doors to Freedom

Goals for 2019:

- Support statewide law enforcement around state in partnership with the ERASE Child Trafficking non-profit with the Law Enforcement HT Training Initiative
- Work with the General Assembly to raise the penalties for solicitation of prostitution and decrease demand
- Launch and implement the Bridges of Hope initiative to support survivors in emergency situations
- Continue the Seeds of Hope Initiative by providing career opportunities for survivors

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list:  
State Task Force and the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Brooke Burris

[bburris@lynchfoundationforchildren.org](mailto:bburris@lynchfoundationforchildren.org)

843-822-3505

Website/Social Media:

Lynchfoundationforchildren.org

Agency Name: **The Mac Initiative**

Mission Statement: The MacInitiative encourages people to take action and stand with the victims of human trafficking through awareness, public engagement, and dedicated research.

Description of Organization: The MacInitiative seeks to combat the global issue of modern slavery, identifying its effects and causation at a local level through research and engagement. We aim to do this by providing access to information, training, and resources necessary to increase public awareness of trafficking and how this issue can be stopped.

Area Served: Statewide and South East United States

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

- Coordinate research projects with colleges/universities that we established relationships with. These projects aim to close the information and intelligence gaps within the anti-human trafficking community, specifically pertaining to issues that organizations in the state of South Carolina bring to our attention.
- Business Consulting by communicating with organizations and connecting them to resources (other organizations or informations) that they may need.
- Assist in expanding other organizations' networks by providing and sharing information about anti-human trafficking organizations with other organizations pursuing similar goals through similar approaches.
- 

Please list agency accomplishments in 2018:

- Connecting with and creating relationships with multiple anti-human trafficking organizations across the state (and surrounding states) to learn their goals and needs.
  - This includes Doors to Freedom in the capacity that one of our members works for their organization in a residential support capacity on a regular basis.
  - This includes Switch SC in the form of communication and collaboration on the overall needs of the anti-human trafficking efforts in the state of SC and surrounding state, as well as the state of awareness training offerings.
  - This includes Abolition NC, a North Carolina-based non-profit focused on combating human trafficking through prevention-based education for students. We support their program and plan to assist them in expanding its presence into SC. We provide feedback on their content and offer suggestions upon their request.
  - Working with Warrior Surf Foundation to develop a surf therapy program for survivors.
  - This includes A21 for Charleston through collaboration and support of the Students Against Trafficking Youth Summit to be held on January 11 2019. We contributed to initial planning meetings and advocate for the event across our available networks. We plan to provide information on human trafficking in pamphlet/infographic form for the attendees of the summit.
- We provide support to the Tri-County task force in any capacity that we can to fill the needs and accomplish the goals of the task force.
- We established a research connection with two Intelligence groups at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA, as well as one at the Citadel in Charleston.
  - Mercyhurst produced a product covering the key points on the existence of human trafficking in supply chain. We aim to delve deeper into this topic in future research projects.
- We created an online platform for organizations to seek connections with one another through our website.
- We advocate for the fight against trafficking and spread awareness on the issue of human trafficking through our website and social media platforms.

- We connected with the SC Department of Transportation and discussed a project to implement human trafficking awareness posters displaying the National Human Trafficking Hotline in rest stops across the state.

Goals for 2019:

- Hire multiple full-time employees
- Connect every South Carolina Non-profit working to combat Human Trafficking using our online system
- Audit each of the states Non-Profits and ensure they are working to the best of their ability.

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list:

Tri-County Task Force

State Task Force

Contact Information:

nmerucci@macinitiative.com

Website/Social Media:

Website: <https://www.macinitiative.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MacInitiative>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMacInitiative/>

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/macinitiative/>

### **Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force**

Agency Name: **Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties**

Mission Statement: The mission of the Family Justice Center is to prevent and to eliminate the injuries and deaths resulting from domestic violence and to educate the community in regard to this issue.

Overview of Organization: Family Justice Center provides services to victims of domestic violence and their children to include, but not limited to, emergency safe shelter, crisis intervention, assessment, case management, counseling, court advocacy, support groups, parenting classes, transportation, job referral, transitional housing and other related services.

Area Served: Georgetown and Horry counties.

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018

Adults – 1

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017

Adults – 1

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018

Adults – 1

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017

Adults – 1

Minors – 0

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 1

Purpose of those Referrals: Provide legal assistance in obtaining a T-Visa

# of Presentations: 1

# of Attendees at Presentations: 25

# of Trainings: 1

# of Attendees at Trainings: 35

Any plans to expand services in 2019? The primary focus of the agency is to provide services to victims of domestic violence. We have only recently begun to receive referrals from others requesting services to victims of human trafficking.

If a member of the state task force and/or regional task force, please list: Coastal Region Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Vicki Bourus, Executive Director

2705 Highmarket Street

Georgetown, SC 29440

843-546-3926

Agency Name: **Myrtle Beach Police Department**

Area Served: City of Myrtle Beach

# of Human Trafficking Cases Carried Over from 2017 (include active investigations)

Sex Trafficking: 1

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Human Trafficking Cases Charged in 2018:

Sex Trafficking: 3

Labor Trafficking: 0

# of Defendants Charged: 4

# Disposed and What was the Disposition:

# of Victims Identified:

Adults: 3

Minors: 1

If a member of a regional, state or federal task force, please list: State Task Force

Contact Information:

Pete Woods

843 446 8471

Agency Name: **ParentsCare**

Mission Statement: Providing Family Management Education for SCDSS, Family Court and Private Individuals

DSS Approved DV, DV Victims, Parenting and Anger Management Education

Cooperative Effective Parenting Education

SC Victims Service Provider

National Parenting Education Network

Mental Health First Aid

Area Served: Horry, Georgetown, Florence

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018

Adults - 4

Minors - 5

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults - 2

Minors - 0

# of those Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017

Adults - 0

Minors - 3

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of Labor Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018

Adults – 2

Minors – 1

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: 10

# of Trainings: 1

# of Attendees at Trainings: 50

Any plans to expand services in 2019?

**Contact Information:**

Julia Castillo

PO Box 14028

Surf Side Beach, SC 29587

843-421-8384

Agency Name: **Waccamaw Hospital**

Area Served: Horry and Georgetown Counties

# of Individual Cases Carried Over from 2017

Adults - 1

Minors - none

Foreign Nationals (Please do not include in the numbers above)

Adults – none

Minors – none

# of Referrals Made to Outside Agencies: Assistance from rape crisis

Purpose of those Referrals: Housing and counseling

Any plans to expand services in 2019? Healthcare team is planning on training healthcare members in hospitals, ems, urgent cares, school nurses and college healthcare educators on recognizing and treating victims.

If a member of the state task force and/or a regional task force, please list: Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force

**Contact Information:**

Natalie J Darby RN

CLNC (Certified Legal Nurse Consultant)

SANE-A, SANE-P (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Adult and Pediatric)

843-655-0947

**Other Regions**

Agency Name: **Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault (PCASA)**

Mission Statement: Our mission is to promote quality direct services to victims of sexual abuse and interpersonal violence including crisis intervention, face to face support, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, transportation, information and referrals, and to increase public awareness.

Overview of Organization: PCASA is a non-profit organization providing services in the area of interpersonal violence.

# of Sex Trafficking Victims/Survivors Served in 2018:

Adults - 0

Minors – 2

Foreign Nationals

Adults – 0

Minors – 0

Contact Information:

Charlene McGriff

106 North York Street

Lancaster, SC 29720

803-286-5232

## I. 2019 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

In 2019, the Data Management and Research Sub-Committee will continue efforts to launch the first human trafficking data collection system in South Carolina. The data collection system will align with the DHHS Office on Trafficking in Persons data project and be interoperable to best position State Task Force members to both contribute toward and receive statistics that will help shape law enforcement training opportunities and the development of support services in our state.

### **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

The State Task Force will continue efforts to provide comprehensive training to first responders, medical professional, labor agencies, and victim advocacy through partnerships with local, state, and national partnerships. It is critical that on-going education best position those in the community to recognize the signs of human trafficking so that victims' needs may be addressed, and traffickers are successfully prosecuted 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 2019, the State Task Force will actively seek opportunities for members to receive much needed funding to support their efforts to develop added services.

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

#### Recommendation

The State Task Force will continue to support efforts for continued 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.

- 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 2019, the State Task Force will develop a brochure that details information to best position providers to support this population. The brochure will be posted on the Task Force website so that partners may reference and/or download the resource as needed.

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

### Recommendation

The Legal Innovations Sub-Committee will continue its partnerships with stakeholders invested in this matter. Efforts will be made to include more relevant information in trainings and through other effective avenues.

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

### Recommendation

After much work in 2018, this is an area that will continue to be further developed in 2019. More MOU's 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 on the website for reference by stakeholders in South Carolina, the Southeast and across the nation. This information will also be shared directly with law enforcement and members of the bar.

## **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, a law enforcement network will be formalized to position local, state, and federal partners to share information, best respond to case tips, and seek support on investigations as needed. This network will, in part, be developed during training opportunities highlighting human trafficking investigation approaches and techniques.

## **Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina**

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

### Recommendation

In 2019, 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 positioned to enforce rules and regulations if ongoing efforts continue in this area.

- 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 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.

## **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

### Recommendations

In 2019, the State Task Force will continue its efforts to support providers working with foreign national victims, pilot a rapid response team, and highlight the need for Internet related education and the use of technology in investigating human trafficking case. We will also continue efforts to protect minor victims, ensure they receive quality services that meet their unique needs, and encourage prosecution of criminals who victimize children through sex and/or labor trafficking.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force for protecting community members, advocating on behalf of victims/survivors, educating members of the public and professional fields through numerous trainings and presentations, and supporting efforts to guarantee quality program services. Together, we made much progress in combating human trafficking in our state.

The South Carolina Attorney General's Office is eager to continue its leadership of the State Task Force in 2019. We look forward to creating new partnerships and initiatives that will effectively contribute to the anti-human trafficking movement in South Carolina, the Southeast Region, and across our nation.

In closing, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General 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.

**Jamesetta Lovett**, South Carolina Judicial Department

**Heidi Cooper**, Data & Research, Polaris/National Human Trafficking Hotline

**Heather Weiss**, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

**Shannon Palm**, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

**Dr. Liyun Zhang**, University of South Carolina Children's Law Center

**Carrie Fischer Sherard**, United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina

**Elliott Daniels**, United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina

**Brooke Burris**, Lynch Foundation for Children, Carolinas

**State Sub-Committee Chairs**

**Regional Task Force Chairs**

In case of an emergency, dial 911 for local law enforcement response.

For victim assistance or to report potential human trafficking, please contact:

**The National Human Trafficking Hotline**

**Call 1-888-373-7888**

**Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)**

**PREVENT. PROTECT. PROSECUTE.**

**If you have questions or comments about the 2018 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:**

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