

**Statewide Council  
on  
Human Trafficking  
Annual Report  
2019**

**STATEWIDE  
COUNCIL ON**



**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

**FLORIDA**



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Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and as required by Section 16.617(5) of Florida Statutes, I am pleased to present the Council's 2019 Annual Report to Senate President Bill Galvano and House Speaker Jose Oliva. This Annual Report provides an update on the Council's ongoing work and highlights the steps we have taken over this past year.

As Attorney General and Chair of the Council, I am proud of the work we have done for the people of the State of Florida and the meaningful progress we have made in our fight to eradicate human trafficking. Members of the Council, Strategic Partners, local Task Force leaders, and citizens with a passion for fighting human trafficking all worked in tandem to identify best practices in the state and areas where we can improve. The 2019 Annual Report offers an overview of the work done by these stakeholders.

Additionally, the Council continued its active role in reviewing the work of service providers receiving state funding. It is imperative that state funds be used responsibly and in furtherance of Florida's stated goals to combat trafficking and provide services for victims.

It is our hope that this report will serve as both an assessment of Florida's efforts to end human trafficking and a resource as we continue this fight. I look forward to the ensuing conversations between the Legislature, the Governor, and the Council regarding the information contained in this report so that we may continue our fight for a stronger, safer Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Moody  
Attorney General

## OVERVIEW

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### MISSION

The mission of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking is to enhance the development and coordination of state and local law enforcement and social services responses to fight all forms of human trafficking and to support victims.

### FLORIDA STATUTE 16.617

The Statewide Council was created through legislation passed and signed into law in 2014. The 15-member Council, chaired by the Attorney General, builds on existing state and local partnerships working to combat human trafficking. Members include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, legislators, as well as experts in the fields of health, education, and social services. The Council meets at least four times a year and does not have a sunset date.

### ANNUAL REPORT

Per statute, by October 31st of each year, the Council shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives summarizing the accomplishments of the Council during the preceding fiscal year and making recommendations for a comprehensive, strategic approach to combat human trafficking.

### SUMMIT

The Council is required to hold an annual statewide policy summit in conjunction with an institution of higher learning in Florida. In 2019, the Human Trafficking Summit partnered with the University of Central Florida where nearly 900 participants registered to attend.

### COUNCIL DUTIES

- Develop recommendations for comprehensive programs and services including recommendations for certification of safe houses & safe foster homes
- Make recommendations for apprehending and prosecuting traffickers and enhancing coordination of responses
- Hold an annual statewide policy summit with an institution of higher learning
- Work with the Department of Children and Families to create and maintain an inventory of human trafficking programs and services in our state
- Develop overall policy recommendations

## **WEBPAGE FOR THE COUNCIL**

Information about the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking can be found on the Attorney General's official website: [myfloridalegal.com](http://myfloridalegal.com)

## **COMMITTEES**

The Council formed three working committees to address the following: (i) awareness; (ii) law enforcement tools; (iii) prosecution; and (iv) victim safety and recovery. Committee responsibilities are broken down as follows:

### **Services & Resources Committee**

*Chaired by the Secretary Chad Poppell,  
Department of Children and Families*

This committee examines enhancement of victim safety and recovery.

### **Criminal Justice Committee**

*Chaired by Sheriff Chris Nocco, Pasco County*

This committee explores methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training.

### **Legislative & Special Initiatives Committee**

*Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez;  
Vice Chair Representative Heather Fitzenhagen*

This committee addresses legislative priorities and special initiatives such as increasing public awareness of human trafficking.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019**

Attorney General Ashley Moody, *Chair*

Secretary Chad Poppell, *DCF, Vice Chair*

Jennifer Ray, *Designee for Department of Health*

Secretary Mary C. Mayhew, *AHCA*

Jason Jones, *Designee for Florida Department of Law Enforcement*

Secretary Simone Marsteller, *DJJ*

Michelle Gaines, *Designee for Department of Education*

Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.

Representative Heather Fitzenhagen

Sheriff Chris Nocco, *Pasco County*

Dave Aronberg, *State Attorney 15th Judicial Circuit*

Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez

Terry Coonan

Dotti Groover-Skipper

## COUNCIL'S 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### COUNCIL MEETINGS



This year, Attorney General Moody held the Council's quarterly meetings at varying locations across Florida. All of the meetings were covered by The Florida Channel. The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking met:

- March 1, 2019 in Tallahassee at the Florida Capitol's Cabinet Meeting Room
- May 10, 2019 in Jacksonville at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- August 21, 2019 in Tampa at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- *Upcoming*: December 16, 2019 in West Palm Beach at the State Attorney's Office 15th Circuit

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

During a Florida Cabinet Meeting, Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a resolution recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Florida. Secretary Chad Poppell of the Department of Children and Families who also serves as Vice Chair on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking accepted the resolution. Together, Attorney General Moody and Secretary Poppell commended the legislature, law enforcement, local governments, community organizations, and citizens fighting to end human trafficking in Florida.



In support of the 2019 Florida National Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the 2019 National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the Department of Health highlighted the important role health care providers play in identifying and helping victims of human trafficking by providing over \$140,000 in financial support to the 67 county health departments. The funds were used by the county health departments to promote the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) *Look Beneath the Surface Campaign* and to host community awareness campaigns.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

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From January through October 2019, the Criminal Justice Committee has met twice, the first time being on April 12, 2019 and the second being on July 25, 2019. Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco serves as Chair of this Committee. Attorney General Ashley Moody, State Attorney Dave Aronberg, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Designee Jason Jones also sit on this Committee.

The Criminal Justice Committee has been tasked with reviewing the law enforcement aspects and components involved in eradicating human trafficking from the State of Florida. This Committee has also established four Workgroups to further address the issues involved in the law enforcement response to human trafficking. The creation of these Workgroups dominated the first meeting:

- Training Law Enforcement
- Intelligence Sharing
- Regional Task Forces
- Human Trafficking and Community Partnerships

The Workgroups are chaired by representatives of law enforcement, regional task forces, and academia, creating a unique partnership to address these issues. The efforts of these Workgroups continue. At the second meeting, updates were given on each of these task forces and the work they have undertaken.

The Training Law Enforcement Workgroup has been collecting information to better identify risk factors in human trafficking offenders and hot spots. Once completed, a systematic review will be published and distributed to the Committee. The next step will be compiling information on what law enforcement is currently doing in training for human trafficking with FDLE, federal, and other state and local agencies.

The Intelligence Sharing Workgroup has focused on enhanced intelligence collection and information sharing, human trafficking intelligence production, and the potential of a statewide database spearheaded by a state agency. One goal of this Workgroup is to identify intelligence gaps and determine how to best address them from a regional standpoint. Other goals include determining what, if any, regionally specific tactics, techniques, and procedures are found with reference to human trafficking, and to also identify the best way to collect and share intelligence regarding trafficking investigations.

The Regional Task Force Workgroup continues to look into other models that currently exist. Under one model, United States Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez organized the Tampa Bay Area Human Trafficking Task Force which includes state, federal, and local law enforcement partners as well as other non-profits and NGOs. The Workgroup looks at these types of established entities to create a best practice for expanding this model of investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes across the state of Florida.

The primary goal of the Human Trafficking and Community Partnerships Workgroup is the creation of a manual for jurisdictions to reference solutions in order to create partnerships and provide an outline to combat human trafficking. Some of the information included in this manual will be a timeline on how to create a local commission on human trafficking, how to select NGOs and partners for victim support, how to identify best practices for effective community outreach, and the benefit of state and local agencies partnering together to do inspections. A rough draft of this manual has been created, and this Workgroup continues to collaborate with other community stakeholders to complete the manual, which can then be disseminated statewide.

In the next two years, Florida will host two Super Bowls and a Wrestlemania event. The Committee continues to look into the law enforcement aspect of these major events as it pertains to human trafficking. In preparation for these events, ongoing discussions focus on the utilization of the Tampa Bay Task Force model to achieve the following:

- Assist host agencies
- Provide recommendations on soliciting human trafficking information from the public
- Train officers working the event to recognize the signs of human trafficking

Additional meetings are scheduled, and the Workgroups strive to achieve the goals that have been outlined by the Criminal Justice Committee.

### *Office of Statewide Prosecution*



The Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution handles multi-circuit prosecutions of human trafficking cases in Florida. The Office of Statewide Prosecution has a zero-tolerance policy for human trafficking crimes. In just ten months (from January 2019 through the creation of this report, October 2019), this office has accomplished the following in the effort to combat human trafficking:

- Six (6) new cases have been opened for the investigation of a total of fifteen (15) targets
- Charges have been filed on seventeen (17) other defendants following thorough investigations
- Eight (8) additional defendants have been sentenced

## SERVICES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

The Services and Resources Committee is charged with examining enhancement of victim safety and recovery. This Committee is chaired by Department of Children and Families' Secretary Chad Poppell and includes the following members: Secretary Simone Marsteller (DJJ), Secretary Mary Mayhew (AHCA), Michelle Gaines (DOE), and Jennifer Ray (DOH). Over the course of 2019, the Services & Resources Committee met once a quarter for the purposes of developing an action plan to address existing gaps in anti-trafficking efforts. Specifically, this Committee discussed gaps related to human trafficking prevention, data collection, funding, research, interagency collaboration, and understanding of service need and effectiveness.

The Committee's initial discussions centered around anti-trafficking projects within each of the agencies represented on the Committee and identified additional agencies that the Committee will connect with to determine their level of engagement in anti-trafficking efforts. The goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of current work on human trafficking within state agencies and to further interagency collaboration for the purpose of preventing trafficking, enhancing victim identification, better understanding prevalence, and ensuring service availability.

To establish the baseline of need for research in the field, the Committee reviewed and categorized research projects addressing human trafficking in Florida. The project identified types of research that have been done, identified the researchers/institutes that conducted the research, and discussed barriers to research. These projects were divided into the following categories: characteristics of victims, Florida program evaluations, Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool, policy analysis and quality assurance, current proposals, and other. From this project, continued gaps in research were identified, such as the need for more program evaluations, cost analyses, and the development of baselines for program need and program outcomes.

Gaps in data collection was another area addressed. Key questions that arose were how various entities are collecting information about victims and do agencies have protocols for collecting data and information on human trafficking. Currently, there is limited data to show prevalence of trafficking in Florida and what the population looks like, which affects our understanding of need in terms of services, service type, and funding. Department of Health is leading the Committee's work to better understand data sources and expand current data collection efforts on human trafficking. The initial steps of this effort will be determining all possible sources of data, the strengths and limitations of those sources, and where they currently stand regarding human trafficking data collection. The Committee discussed a desire to understand true prevalence and how well we are currently identifying victims, and it outlined the direct link to understanding funding and service need.

To address service expansion and sustainability, the Committee analyzed existing funding sources that are being or could be utilized to serve this population. The Committee surveyed providers that provide residential services to commercially sexually exploited children to assess current funding streams and identify potential funding sources they would like to learn more about. Department of Children and Families is leading the Committee's efforts to offer presentations to these providers on possible funding sources. The Committee will continue to identify funding sources that could be leveraged in serving this population and will explore the need for training or information-sharing on these sources.

Some programs serving sex trafficked youth and adults receive state dollars. For programs that receive state funding, the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that dollars are being spent well and ensuring that the services that we are providing to this population are effective.

In addition to funding streams, the survey also assessed current beds and need for additional beds, substance use among those served, and program evaluation efforts. The Committee is committed to continuing its effort to gather the information necessary to have a baseline understanding of where we stand currently in terms of data collection, funding, research, evaluation, existing services and service gaps, and what the need is across the board in these key areas.

To that end, the Services and Resources Committee developed the following action plan to guide its work:

1. Establish a baseline of need
  - a. Create a unified health and human services (HHS) package of need for 2020 legislative requests that are brought through the individual agencies
  - b. Develop an interagency human trafficking surveillance plan
  - c. Need as we know it (prevalence, funding, services)
2. Determine what we have to meet the need (current beds and services)
3. Identify the industry gaps (agency involvement, level of involvement, training, policies)

Each of the agencies represented on the Services and Resources Committee submitted narratives to outline agency-based efforts to address the goals and action plan of this Committee.

*Department of Education*



The 2018-19 Department of Education (DOE) human trafficking education efforts were substantial as more districts and community groups sought information and training opportunities to ignite their anti-trafficking initiatives. The following occurrences are unique to the current Council.

The Department of Education developed the child trafficking prevention education rule under the leadership of Commissioner Richard Corcoran. *Rule 6A-1.094123 Child Trafficking Prevention Education* was amended and approved by the State Board of Education on September 20, 2019.

The intent of the State Board of Education is that every school in Florida be a “Child Trafficking Free Zone.” School districts must annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 related to child trafficking prevention and awareness. By December 1 of each year, each school district must submit an implementation plan to the commissioner and post the plan on the school district website.

Age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs and instruction to students in grades K-12 related to child trafficking prevention and awareness must address, at a minimum, the following topics:

- Recognition of signs of human trafficking
- Awareness of resources, including national, state, and local resources
- Prevention of the abuse of and addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs
- Information on the prevalence, nature, and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance
- Information on how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking
- The department will maintain the human trafficking webpage information about the education described in this section, resources on abuse, including sexual abuse, and human trafficking prevention for professional learning purposes, and relevant materials for parents, guardians, and other caretakers of pupils

By July 1 of each year, each school district must submit an annual report to the commissioner. The report must verify completion of the instruction and include:

- The methods in which instruction was delivered for each grade level
- The professional qualifications of the person who delivered instruction
- A description of the materials and resources utilized to deliver instruction

The Department’s human trafficking efforts have been delivered by or provided through the Title IV, Part A (T4A) program. Training, resources, and professional development for school personnel has been offered through variety of virtual and in-person events. The T4A website contains a litany of resources and opportunities.

The T4A Student Support and Academic Enrichment project contracted the services of four Florida-based advocacy groups and individuals to provide anti-trafficking training statewide. The following contractors delivered age-appropriate content for adult and student audiences on behalf of DOE: Selah Freedom delivered 15 trainings, developed a PSA, and presented at two conferences; Survive and Thrive Advocacy delivered two trainings in the Panhandle; Valerie Ellery/A21 delivered three trainings and presented at three conferences; and Voices for Florida delivered five trainings and presented at two conferences.



The T4A Rural District Initiative is focused on eliminating the barriers of small and rural district participation in accessing a variety of educational opportunities. Through this initiative, anti-trafficking resources have been disseminated electronically to 63 schools in 19 districts.

The End Child Trafficking Guidebook was revised in 2019 and is available for statewide distribution. At the time of this report more than 20,000 copies have been disseminated statewide. The T4A program is developing a digital companion for the guidebook. It will be unveiled in the human trafficking awareness month Division of Public Schools (DPS) memo in December.

For the first time since the convening of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, DOE has a dedicated position to lead our anti-trafficking efforts. On October 1, 2019, the first human trafficking education specialist joined the Department in the Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment program. The announcement was made through a DPS memo and posted to the website.

### *Department of Health*



The Department launched the development of the “Florida Department of Health Human Trafficking Strategic Plan 2019–2024” (the Plan) on June 11, 2018, through funding support provided by the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), an Office of the Administration for Children & Families. The organizational plan encompasses the Department’s integrated health care system comprising a state health office, 67 county health departments, and key stakeholders. The Plan is a roadmap to show where the Department is headed and the methods by which it will succeed in addressing human trafficking as a public health issue. The Plan establishes five goals:

- Goal 1 “Bolster Commitment” is intended to bolster the Department’s commitment to addressing human trafficking through a public health lens
- Goal 2 “Accessibility to Services” is meant to increase accessibility to support and services for victims and survivors of human trafficking
- Goal 3 “Build Capacity” is meant to build the Department’s capacity to address human trafficking in all areas
- Goal 4 “Implement a Trauma-Informed Approach and Empower Employees” intends to promote a trauma-informed approach in all efforts to address human trafficking
- Goal 5 “Expand Awareness and Messaging” intends to continually build awareness and messaging to internal and external offices

The roll out of the Plan implementation was September 24, 2019, with the assistance of NHTTAC’s consultant Dr. Frances Ashe Goins. The Plan was presented to the Department’s Human Trafficking Workgroup (Workgroup), with the assistance of Dr. Goins. The Workgroup

is a multi-disciplinary collaboration of Department state health offices in Tallahassee, Florida, and county health departments. Internal and external messaging will be developed and disseminated with the assistance of the Department's Office of Communications. And, the Department will use the Plan to develop strategies for inclusion in the Florida State Health Improvement Plan and the Division of Community Health Promotion's Strategic Plan.

### **SOAR Online Trainings Available in Florida TRAIN**

On January 1, 2019, section 464.013, Florida Statutes, requiring a mandatory human trafficking training requirement for all nurses seeking biennial license renewal in Florida went into effect. The Department wanted to find a way to support staff who will need to meet these requirements. To address the issue, a partnership was formed with the Public Health Foundation, *SOAR Online* trainings, Office of the Administration for Children & Families, and the TRAIN Learning Network including the Florida TRAIN and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TRAIN affiliates. The partnership resulted in a solution which provides the *SOAR Online* suite of trainings, which meets the minimal statutory requirements to health care providers. The *SOAR Online* suite of trainings is now available to all Department employees, including nurses and any employee conducting a screening with the Department's "Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking Screening" tool, through the Florida TRAIN learning management system. The *SOAR Online* suite of trainings is also available to any Department staff seeking to meet requirements in Chapter 2019-152.

### **Human Trafficking Surveillance Plan**

The Department's Workgroup initiated the Human Trafficking Data and Surveillance subcommittee on September 21, 2018. Over the course of the year, the Committee has formed partnerships on this topic with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health, and it has contributed to conversations with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. The Department, through the Workgroup and its team in Public Health Research, Division of Community Health Promotion, is currently developing its Surveillance Plan for Human Trafficking.

## *Department of Children & Families*



In 2019, the Department of Children and Families, in partnership with the agencies represented on the Services and Resources Committee, maintained its commitment to continual improvement in identifying and serving this population through numerous projects.

As mentioned in prior reports, much of DCF's work to address human trafficking in Florida has been guided by legislation. To ensure that our current processes complied with Florida Statute, DCF's Human Trafficking Unit reviewed over 100 cases investigated by the Department involving human trafficking allegations. Using information gathered from these reviews, DCF submitted recommendations to the field on how to further improve processes in early 2019. Additionally, to further standardize the statutorily mandated (Section 409.1754,

Florida Statutes) training for child protective and case management staff, the Human Trafficking Unit organized a 3-day statewide human trafficking train-the-trainer session. Just under 50 child welfare professionals from around the state attended. Increasing the number of trainers and standardizing the training materials will allow for consistency in training throughout the state and the ability to train more child welfare professionals to serve this population.

Two research projects were completed in partnership with outside research institutes over the course of 2019. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare completed an initial validation study of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool and submitted their report to the Department in August 2019. In April, the Journal of Human Trafficking published a report by DCF and RTI International entitled *Child Labor Trafficking within The US: A First Look at Allegations Investigated by Florida's Child Welfare Agency*. This research paper used DCF data to describe the number and characteristics of children with allegations of labor trafficking in Florida. An additional research project with RTI International received grant funding and is currently in its initial stages. This study will focus on the characteristics of crossover youth who are also human trafficking victims. It will also look at the Human Trafficking Screening Tool. This study is a collaborative study between RTI, DCF, and DJJ. Research is key to understanding prevalence, population characteristics, and service needs; therefore, the Department will continue to explore research opportunities.

The Department served as a training resource for multiple stakeholder groups and completed trainings in 2019 with the following groups: child welfare, legal, law enforcement, dental hygienists, medical professionals, and school personnel. The Human Trafficking Unit also presented at multiple national conferences on Florida's child welfare efforts to address human trafficking.

This Unit also continued its practice of hosting quarterly meetings with all the providers that offer CSEC-specific residential services, such as safe houses and safe foster homes. In 2019, the Department facilitated conversations between these providers and experts on VOCA funding, Medicaid, and the impact of new federal funding changes. These meetings also addressed new federal legislation, initiatives to enhance current processes involving CSEC providers, updates to safe house and safe foster home certification language, technical support needs, and additional items requested by the providers. The Unit will continue to host these meetings regularly and work closely with this stakeholder group.

Florida continues to have a nationwide presence in the arena of fighting human trafficking. DCF has representatives on a national expert council, a national human trafficking workgroup, and the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Southeast Region (IV) Human Trafficking Workgroup. In 2019, the Department was highlighted in a TIME Magazine article regarding commercial sexual exploitation of youth in the United States. DCF's human trafficking unit staff regularly provides technical assistance to other states on projects related to serving trafficking survivors.



While progress has been made in building a more comprehensive system of care for victims of CSEC, DCF remains committed to remaining informed on new evidence-based services, research on outcomes, awareness raising curricula, and other resources for serving this population being used throughout the nation. In line with other DCF priority of effort initiatives, DCF will also continue to assess prevalence and funding needs as well as current service array and placement options available to this population to ensure the need as we know it can be met.

## *Agency for Health Care Administration*



The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is currently supporting the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in its efforts to support the victims of human trafficking through Florida Medicaid's behavioral health services. Delivered as a continuum of care, beneficiaries can receive services across multiple levels from the community to inpatient settings. Having endured severe trauma and physical abuse, human trafficking victims have complex needs that can require extensive behavioral health treatment. Florida Medicaid provides a comprehensive array of services to all ages that include the following:

- Mental health targeted case management
- Behavioral health assessments
- Behavioral health individual, family, and group therapy
- Community support services such as psychosocial rehabilitation and clubhouse
- Behavioral health-related medical services
- Inpatient hospitalizations
- Therapeutic group care homes

In addition to Florida Medicaid's core behavioral health services, health plans participating in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program are able to provide the following expanded benefits and in lieu of services to enrollees who have experienced human trafficking:

- Expanded benefits
  - Additional services in excess of Florida Medicaid's limits
  - Behavioral health intensive outpatient treatment
  - Outpatient substance abuse detoxification
  - Housing assistance
  - Transportation to non-medical activities
  - Cellular phone services
- In lieu of services
  - Crisis stabilization units
  - Community-based wraparound services
  - Mental health partial hospitalization
  - Drop-in centers
  - Mobile crisis interventions
  - Peer services

Beginning with intake and assessment, Florida Medicaid's behavioral health services are designed for early identification of at-risk individuals and providing treatment across all levels of severity. In addition, the Agency and health plans work with DCF's managing entities to integrate and coordinate care for these vulnerable recipients. With the increased level of interagency collaboration, Florida Medicaid plays a critical role in providing a continuum of behavioral health care to victims of human trafficking.

## *Department of Juvenile Justice*



The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has made strides in the statewide efforts to prevent human trafficking and to intervene with youth who have potentially experienced trafficking.

One of the core components of DJJ's human trafficking intervention is the usage of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST), a screening instrument developed in collaboration with DCF and used in conjunction with DCF. As of June 30, 2019, a total of 16,033 tools have been administered by DJJ or DJJ-contracted staff to a total of 8,570 youth. Of the HTSTs administered, 54.2% were administered to girls and 45.8% to boys. And of those screenings, 7,530 resulted in a call to The Florida Child Abuse Hotline with an acceptance rate of 49.8% calls accepted. According to DJJ, which tracks the results as part of its statutory requirement to evaluate the tool, the acceptance rate was 54.8% for girls and 39.5% for boys.

DJJ is dedicated to further data collection for future evaluation of the screening tool as recommended by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) and to better understand the scope of trafficking in Florida and the prevalence of trafficked youth within the delinquency system. To that end, DJJ, DCF, and RTI International have embarked upon a collaborative research study to evaluate the HTST, evaluate youth who have been screened using the HTST, and assess the ability of the HTST to accurately identify youth who are verified as trafficking victims.

In May 2019, DJJ implemented the HTST Pre-Screening, a modification to the existing electronic human trafficking screening process. The HTST Pre-Screening attempts to better identify youth with historical trafficking risk factors, to better prompt staff to complete a full HTST, and to more closely align DJJ and DCF's trafficking screening processes. At the same time, DJJ began technical development of an electronic HTST for delinquency prevention service providers so that the entire DJJ continuum of care will have the opportunity to complete electronic HTSTs. Implementation is expected in early 2020.

All DJJ Juvenile Probation Officers are trained in recognizing human trafficking and trained to deliver the HTST. Since the last Statewide Council report, DJJ has trained 930 individuals and developed 10 new HTST Trainers.

During the past year, DJJ has focused additional attention on youth in residential commitment programs who have been trafficked. There have been approximately 100 youth with alerts for potential or verified trafficking who have received treatment in one of our residential commitment programs. Three commitment programs established partnerships with local HT-specific service providers who can supplement youth's individual treatment with services specific to the prevention of trafficking victimization. Further, two DJJ staff received training in a human trafficking education and prevention curriculum in order to begin piloting human trafficking education curricula for DJJ-involved youth.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT**

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In its ongoing efforts to combat Human Trafficking, the State of Florida has been proactively enacting laws that address this horrific crime. Since 2012, legislation has been passed to ensure that Human Trafficking is addressed. Most recently, House Bill 851 was passed during the 2019 Legislative Session. House Bill 851 established a number of requirements in a concerted effort to reduce Human Trafficking activity throughout the State. For example, the bill requires the licensee or certificate holder

of various healthcare establishments to complete a 1-hour continuing education course on Human Trafficking and requires certain entities to post in their place of work Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs in conspicuous places. The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee, along with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, recognizes the importance of awareness, education, and outreach.

Additionally, the bill requires the Board of Massage Therapy to revoke or suspend the license of a massage establishment or deny subsequent licensure to such an establishment if the designated establishment manager, or any individual providing massage therapy service for the establishment has been subjected to criminal punishment for committing an act involving prostitution. Massage and public lodging establishments are required to implement procedures for reporting suspected Human Trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline by January 1, 2021 as well as provide training regarding Human Trafficking Awareness to certain employees by January 1, 2021 or within 60 days after a new employee begins employment.

Furthermore, House Bill 851 created the Soliciting for Prostitution Public Database and requires the Clerk of the Court to forward the criminal history record of a person who is found guilty of soliciting, inducing, enticing, or procuring another to commit prostitution, lewdness, or assignation. The bill also provides for the automatic removal of the criminal history record of a person from the database if, after 5 years following the commission of an offense that required such record to be included in the database, such person has not subsequently committed a violation that meets such criteria or any other offense within that time would constitute a sexual offense. Moreover, the bill requires each certified law enforcement officer to complete 4 hours of training in identifying and investigating human trafficking within 1 year after beginning employment.

The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee remains focused on various goals and objectives in order to effectively address ways to raise public awareness regarding Human Trafficking and, thus, reduce incidences of Human Trafficking statewide. These goals are:

- Work with the Legislature to develop appropriate protections for Human Trafficking advocates
- Work with the Legislature to ensure continued funding for the ongoing evaluation of programs and tools in the State of Florida, to transform promising programmatic practices into evidence-based responses
- Identify strategic partnership opportunities to develop and distribute a comprehensive awareness campaign that targets the public, victims, and those of at-risk victimization that would be utilized uniformly across state agencies
- Work with the Legislature and approximate state agencies to determine licensing and structural guidelines for safe houses serving adult victims
- Require a staff self-care component for all programs funded or certified by the State of Florida
- Work with the Florida Bar to promote and expand the existing pro-bono Human Trafficking attorney network
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to determine how to require any entity receiving state dollars for the treatment or placement of CSEC youth to indicate program evaluation through a state university
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to determine how employees of specific state agencies and their contractors can receive training to recognize signs of sexual exploitation victimization

The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking's Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee examined various ways the Legislature can continue to develop the appropriate protections for Human Trafficking victims. The Committee studied and explored ways to enhance the legal community's provision of assistance and legal resources for victims of Human Trafficking. The Committee highlighted the Cuban American Bar Association's (CABA) Pro Bono Model. CABA has represented over 200 Human Trafficking victims since 2014 and an estimated 2,000 hours per year of legal services have been devoted to Human Trafficking clients. The Committee recognizes the need for the legal community to have strong relationships with community partners such as the Office of the State Attorney, state court judges and staff, and Guardian Ad Litem Programs to facilitate victim referrals.

Also essential in raising the awareness of Human Trafficking is developing partnerships with non-profit organizations. Public Awareness Campaigns to Stop Human Trafficking educate communities about this heinous crime and empower them to combat it by reporting it to the proper authorities. The Committee understands that data unequivocally shows that large sporting events, such as the Super Bowl or other recreational events, increase Human Trafficking activity. Therefore, the Committee highlighted the recent presentation of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade. It discussed the ongoing collaboration with the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office in leading The Stop Sex Trafficking Campaign up to, through, and beyond Super Bowl LIV in Miami in 2020. By engaging stakeholders throughout local and state communities, the Women's Fund has developed collaborative solutions to maximize community efforts to end Sex Trafficking.

In addition, the Committee continuously examines opportunities to highlight other organizational endeavors aligned with its goals and objectives, such as the Salvation Army's efforts in engaging the community in training awareness seminars. An imperative part of this collaboration is to not replicate services and use evidence-based, trauma-informed care.

Furthermore, as the issue of Human Trafficking has become more prevalent, the Committee recognizes the need for the State to continue to be involved in state regulatory and policy making changes to address services provided for Human Trafficking Victims. The Committee encourages ongoing needs assessments of state resources available to victims of Human Trafficking such as food, shelter, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, and job training. It is a major goal of the Committee to bring State Agencies on the Council together to enhance a multi-disciplinary approach, whereby services are less likely to be replicated and, thus, a more efficient system is in place for victims to have access to resources.

In conclusion, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee seeks to collaborate and align with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking's goal to eradicate Human Trafficking in Florida. In order to accomplish this goal, the Committee will strategically work in partnership with the other committees as well as key community stakeholders.

### ***End Human Trafficking, Inc.***

HB 851 created a Direct Support Organization (DSO) for the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. This DSO met for the first time in August 2019 and incorporated under the name: End Human Trafficking, Incorporated. The purpose for which the Corporation is formed is to assist the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking in the State of Florida Department of Legal Affairs pursuant to Section 16.618, Florida Statutes.

The members of the Board of Directors of this Florida non-profit corporation were appointed by the Attorney General, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida House and Senate. In 2019, those members include:

Ellyn Bogdanoff, *Chair*  
Sara Mahoney, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Phil Toal, *Secretary*  
Savannah Parvu, *Treasurer*  
Special Agent in Charge Shane Pollard  
Corporal Alan Wilkett  
Toni Azinger  
Charles Bender  
Representative Toby Overdorf  
Senator Lauren Book



## ANNUAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMIT



Attorney General Ashley Moody, along with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Children and Families and the University of Central Florida, hosted the 2019 Florida Human Trafficking Summit at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando on September 30, 2019.

Florida's Human Trafficking Summit brings together local, state, and national leaders working to eradicate all forms of trafficking. Throughout the day, attendees participated in targeted breakout sessions covering legal/law enforcement, service delivery, policy and research, and medical/healthcare.

Leaders in our state are committed to making Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking. One of the duties of the Council is to hold an annual statewide policy summit with an institution of higher learning. Opportunities for collaboration created at the Human Trafficking Summit allow Florida to continue working to protect victims, prevent trafficking, and prosecute traffickers.

This year's Summit had nearly 900 registered guests and began with an opening plenary session, including remarks from Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Moody, a welcome by Attorney General Moody's Chief of Staff and Director of Law Enforcement Emery Gainey, a keynote address by Polaris CEO and Executive Director Bradley Myles, and an awards ceremony presented by Attorney General Moody. Bradley Myles leads Polaris' efforts to strengthen the U.S. national movement against human trafficking through policy advocacy in each state and through a wide range of training and capacity-building programs. Myles also helped create and launch Polaris' operation of the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1(888) 373-7888.

Attorney General Moody presented the following awards:

- Survivor Advocate of the Year—Alicia Tappan
- Community Advocate of the Year—Mikala Klein
- Prosecutor of the Year—Julie Sercus
- Law Enforcement Official of the Year—Detective Sergeant Wade Williams
- DJJ Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year—Cassandra Thomas
- DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year—Morgan Cundle

In the closing plenary session, the Office of Attorney General's Director of Special Projects and Initiatives, Erica Geiger, led a moderated panel discussion on "Tackling Human Trafficking Before the Big Game." With Florida hosting the Super Bowl in 2020 and 2021, the panel discussed how large-scale events provide a unique opportunity to spread awareness about human trafficking and require the coordination of a law enforcement response. The panel featured representatives from law enforcement, service providers, state agencies, state and national organizations, task forces, trade associations, and business partners who are working together to provide resources, support, and enforcement.

Panelists included:

- Dr. Kenneth Armstrong, President and CEO, Florida Trucking Association
- The Honorable Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff
- Carol Dover, President and CEO, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- The Honorable Chris Nocco, Pasco County Sheriff
- The Honorable Jeanette Nuñez, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida
- The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle, State Attorney, Miami-Dade County
- Stephanie Smith, Sr. Manager of Florida Public Policy, Uber



## **Task Force Coverage in Florida**

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Human trafficking task forces, also known as coalitions in some areas, were statutorily mandated through HB 7141 in 2014. As of 2019, task forces are in every judicial circuit with some additional county-based and regional task forces. Per Section 409.1754, Florida Statutes, the purpose of a human trafficking task force is to coordinate responses at the local level to address human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children. This includes coordination of law enforcement response as state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies work together through these task forces to collaboratively investigate cases and pursue leads. It also includes coordination of service response to ensure the needs of trafficking victims and survivors in the community can be met. These groups also serve to increase community awareness. To address these needs, task forces include law enforcement partners, DCF staff, DJJ staff, and area service providers with many including faith and business partners. DCF is required to establish task forces in areas where they do not exist and continuously provide assistance to task forces throughout the state as needed.

## Statewide Council on Human Trafficking 2019 Annual Report

<b>Task Force Name</b>	<b>Task Force Coverage</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Circuit 1 Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 1: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Gretchen Busbee gretchen.busbee@usdoj.gov
Santa Rosa HT Task Force	County: Santa Rosa	Jody Ennis advocate2@srkidshouse.org
Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 2: Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Kellianne Dougherty kellianne.dougherty@usdoj.gov
Gateway to Fr33dom Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 3: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Nicole Ferranti nicole.ferranti@myffamilies.com
Northeast Florida HT Coalition	Circuit 4: Clay, Duval, Nassau	Lt. Robert "Ellis" Burns robert.burnsIII@jaxsheriff.org
Lake County HT Task Force	County: Lake	Joelle Aboytes joelle.aboytes@myffamilies.com
Marion County HT Task Force	County: Marion	Donna Guinn dguinn@ocalapd.org
Tri-County HT Task Force	Regional: Citrus, Hernando, Sumter	Nikki Meadow nikki.meadow@flhealth.gov
Free Network	Regional: Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas	Joanna Winters joanna.freenetwork.us@gmail.com
Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking	County: Pasco	Liana Dean liana.dean@baycare.org
Freedom 7 HT Task Force	Circuit 7: Flagler, Putnam, Saint Johns, Volusia	Christy Gillis christina.gillis@chsfl.org
Alachua County Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 8: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Richard Tovar accaht@gmail.com
Orange County Trafficking Task Force	County: Orange	Sergeant Michael Lanfersiek michael.lanfersiek@cityoforlando.net
Osceola County Human Trafficking Task Force	County: Osceola	James Kenney james.kenney@osceola.org
Circuit 10 HT Task Force	Circuit 10: Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Amanda Wilson amanda.wilson@myffamilies.com
Miami-Dade County HT Coalition	Circuit 11: Miami-Dade	Ivon Mesa Ivon.Mesa@miamidade.gov
South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin, Monroe, Palm Beach	Katina Hernandez Katina.Hernandez@ice.dhs.gov
Circuit 12 HT Coalition	Circuit 12: DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	Derek Thompson d.thompson@moretoolife.org
USAO Tampa Office Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota	Amanda Riedel amanda.riedel@usdoj.gov
Northwest Florida HT Task Force	Circuit 14: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Sonya Lowe sonya.lowe@gulfcoastsap.org
Palm Beach HT Task Force	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Lieutenant Sean Bozdech bozdechs@pbsso.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Heidi Schaeffer momdoctor6@gmail.com
Florida Keys HT Coalition	Circuit 16: Monroe	Paula Foley pfoley@fkcs.org
Broward HT Coalition	Circuit 17: Broward	Jumorrow Johnson JJohnson@sao17.state.fl.us
Space Coast HT Task Force	County: Brevard	Traci Klinbeil Traci.Klinkbeil@myffamilies.com
Seminole County HT Task Force	County: Seminole	Maurice Edwards medwards@seminolesheriff.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee	Circuit 19: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie	Roberta F. Katz, Esq. roberta.katz@gal.fl.gov
Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Janet Ortenzo janet@swfl-humantrafficking.org
Circuit 20 Task Force	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Francine Donnorummo Fdonnorummo@sao.cjis20.org



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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## **Planning Ahead: Super Bowl LIV and Other Major Events in 2020**

Florida hosts major events every year. Major sporting events attract thousands of visitors from around the world, including human traffickers. Major events tend to be human trafficking hubs. While these events can also create illegal markets, human trafficking is a global issue that impacts all cities and forms of transportation on a daily basis. The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking is aware of this and has been focusing on ways to prepare and combat Human Trafficking ahead of and during these events through education, awareness, and enforcement efforts. Below find a list of some of the major events coming to Florida in the near future:

Super Bowl LIV, *Miami February 2020*

Super Bowl LV, *Tampa February 2021*

Daytona 500, *February 2020*

Daytona's Biketoberfest, *October 2020*

Miami International Auto Show, *November 2020*

Miami International Boat Show, *February 2020*

Daytona Beach Bike Week, *March 2020*

Leesburg Bikefest, *April 2020*

Wrestlemania, *April 2020*

### **Super Bowl LIV Host Committee**

As part of the Super Bowl LIV Host Committee's Stop Sex Trafficking Campaign, Lieutenant Governor Nunez engaged in a comprehensive discussion with local, state, and national leaders on ways to combat the scourge of human trafficking. As we prepare for back-to-back Super Bowls in the State of Florida, we must be vigilant in ending this epidemic.



### **Uber & Attorney General Joint Training**

In partnership with Attorney General Moody's Office, Uber will be providing additional anti-human trafficking training sessions for its more than 100,000 Florida drivers ahead of the Super Bowl. Uber launched anti-sex trafficking training for Super Bowl LIII in an effort to protect visitors and stop traffickers in Atlanta. During the week of Super Bowl LIII, law enforcement reportedly arrested more than 160 people on human trafficking charges. General Moody and Uber are looking forward to hosting multiple training sessions in both English and Spanish in Miami-Dade and Broward prior to February 2020.



### **Uber Emergency Button**

In an emergency, seconds count. Federal regulators estimate about 10,000 lives could be saved every year if first responders could get to a 911 caller just one minute faster. That is why Uber added an emergency button to the Uber app. While all drivers and riders have the emergency button in their app, in some cities Uber has invested in new technology that makes certain trip details available to 911 dispatchers electronically. When a rider or driver uses the in-app emergency button to call 911, the car's make and model, license plate, and GPS location are made available to 911 dispatchers.

Uber first launched this feature in Denver and a few other cities. Working with 911 centers and their partner, RapidSOS, Uber has introduced this feature to some of the largest cities and counties in Florida: Naples, Pinellas County, Reedy Creek, Manatee County, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Coral Springs, Pasco County, and Tampa Bay. To see all the cities in the United States where this function is available, see Appendix A.



## Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build

The Coalition Build program is a strategic initiative to combat human trafficking, specifically within the trucking industry. This program brings together professional drivers, bus terminal workers, truck stop managers, and law enforcement officials and equips them with the information and resources necessary to effectively spot and report potential human trafficking victims. The Office of the Attorney General, Truckers Against Trafficking, and the Florida Trucking Association will be hosting this half day training in Orlando, Florida in November 2019 so that these stakeholders can work together to implement effective strategies to combat human trafficking statewide.



At the training, participants will hear from trafficking experts, a panel of law enforcement officials, and survivors. Along with these trainings, participants are able to interact with the Freedom Drivers Project – a semi that has been converted into an interactive mobile unit, featuring theatre displays and artifacts from cases of human trafficking. To date, thousands of truck drivers have reported potential victims to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Florida’s fight to end human trafficking must use every available resource, and the formation of this public-private partnership is an essential step in defeating those who partake in this heinous crime.

## Educating on Polaris’ National Human Trafficking Hotline

The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking has been focused on spreading awareness of the National Hotline number in order to raise awareness to reach more victims and potential victims. General Moody and Secretary Poppell worked with Polaris to ensure all Florida contacts were up to date and accurate in order to ensure reported suspected incidents of human trafficking reached the best point of contact locally for investigation.



Last year, Florida ranked third in the amount of calls that have been received by this hotline.

### Grace Ramos: 2019 Girl Scout Gold Award

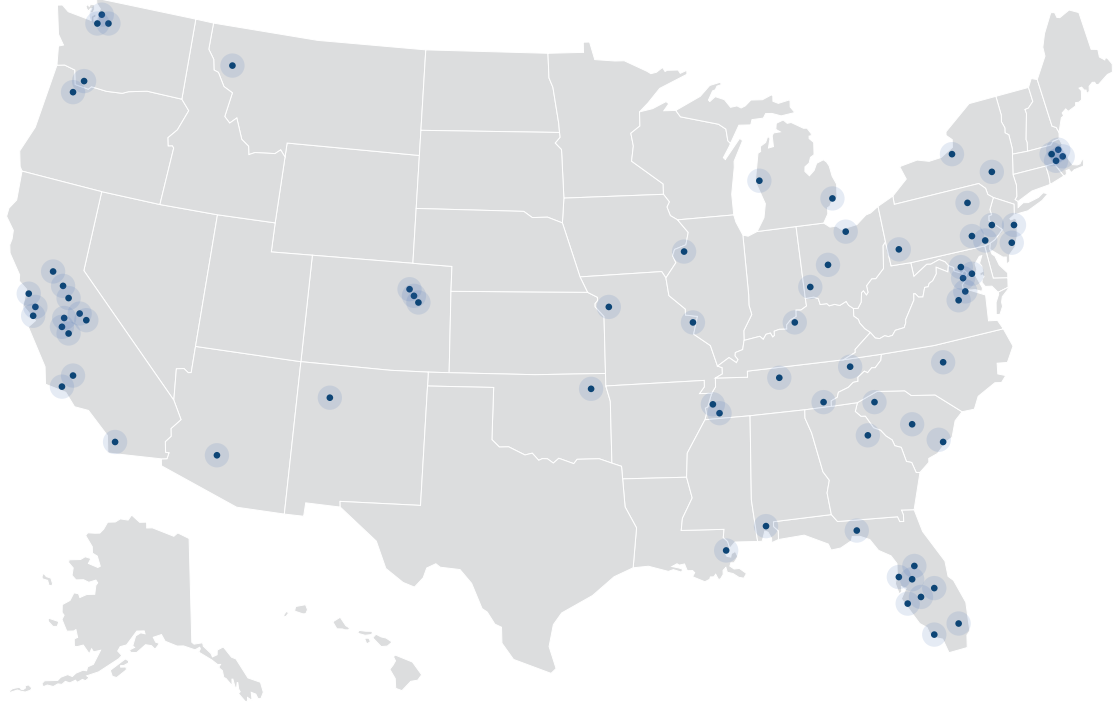
Grace Ramos, a junior at Plant Hight School last school year, engaged two anti-trafficking mentor organizations, The Salvation Army and Redefining Refuge, to guide her in developing content for her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2019. With permission from the Tampa muralist to utilize his “I Am Priceless” mural, Grace applied peer-to-peer anti-trafficking safety tips to the mural background and developed an eye-catching poster geared toward her peers.

The poster was approved by the Hillsborough County School District and subsequently approved by the Florida Department of Education for distribution and on-going accessibility to all public schools in the state of Florida. Grace presented on this accomplishment to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking at the quarterly meeting in Tampa.



**Appendix A**  
**UBER EMERGENCY BUTTON AVAILABILITY MAP**

**911 Live-Location Availability**



**Alabama**  
Mobile County

**Arizona**  
Phoenix

**California**  
Fremont  
Hayward  
Los Altos  
Los Altos Hills  
Los Angeles  
Marin County  
Monrovia  
Mountain View  
Napa County  
Palo Alto  
SF Airport  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Leandro  
San Mateo County  
Sonoma County  
Sunnyvale

**Colorado**  
Denver  
Westminster  
Broomfield

**Florida**  
Naples  
Pinellas County  
Reedy Creek  
Manatee  
Sarasota  
Tallahassee  
Coral Springs  
Pasco County  
Tampa Bay

**Georgia**  
Athens-Clarke  
**Illinois**  
Rock Island County

**Kentucky**  
Louisville

**Louisiana**  
New Orleans  
**Massachusetts**  
Essex County  
Middlesex County  
Norfolk County  
Suffolk County  
Cambridge

**Michigan**  
Berrien County  
Oakland County

**Missouri**  
St. Charles County  
Kansas City

**Montana**  
Missoula County

**New Mexico**  
Albuquerque

**New Jersey**  
Burlington County  
Princeton University

**New York**  
Onondaga  
Colonie

**North Carolina**  
Raleigh

**Ohio**  
Cuyahoga County  
Hamilton  
Columbus

**Oklahoma**  
Muskogee

**Oregon**  
Portland  
**Pennsylvania**  
Lancaster County  
Luzerne County  
Washington County  
Chester County  
Bucks County

**South Carolina**  
Richland County  
Cherokee County  
Charleston

**Tennessee**  
Nashville  
Chattanooga  
Tri-Cities  
Memphis  
Shelby County

**Virginia**  
Fairfax County

**Washington**  
Seattle  
Clark County  
Bellevue  
Redmond  
King County  
**Washington DC**



**STATEWIDE  
COUNCIL ON**  
  
**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**  
FLORIDA