

# STATEWIDE COUNCIL ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020





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Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic upended the way we live and work and has brought new battles in our fight to end human trafficking. Criminals who exploit women, men, and children for profit are in no way deterred by this pandemic, but we as a Council and a state, will continue to come together and learn from each other to show human traffickers that there is a determined force dedicated to eradicating this terrible injustice.

As your Attorney General, I have worked closely with law enforcement officers across our state and my prosecutors within the Office of Statewide Prosecution to ensure they have the tools, information, and support they need to equip themselves to succeed in this battle. As the Chair of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, I am dedicated, along with my fellow Council Members, to working with private organizations and businesses in order to help recruit more eyes and ears within our communities to combat this heinous crime and help identify victims.

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 2020 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.

It is my 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



### 2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Attorney General Ashley Moody, *Chair*  
Secretary Chad Poppell, *DCF, Vice Chair*  
Shay Chapman, *Designee for DOH*  
Secretary Mary C. Mayhew, *AHCA*  
SAC Shane Pollard, *Designee for FDLE*  
Secretary Simone Marsteller, *DJJ*  
Michelle Gaines, *Designee for DOE*  
Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Representative Heather Fitzenhagen  
Sheriff Chad Chronister, *Hillsborough County*  
Amira Fox, *State Attorney 20th Judicial Circuit*  
Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez  
Terry Coonan  
Jeanette Rubio  
Jennifer Collins

### 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.

## **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.

## **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; and
- 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/humantraffickingcouncil](https://myfloridalegal.com/humantraffickingcouncil)

## **COMMITTEES**

The Council formed four 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 Secretary Chad Poppell, Department of Children and Families*  
This committee examines enhancement of victim safety and recovery.

### **Criminal Justice Committee**

*Chaired by Sheriff Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff*  
This committee explores methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training.

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

*Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez*  
This committee addresses legislative priorities and special initiatives such as increasing public awareness of human trafficking.

### **Education and Awareness Committee**

*Chaired by Michelle Gaines, Department of Education Designee*  
This committee explores projects to spread awareness and educate the public about human trafficking and how to report it.

## SUMMIT

The Council is required to hold an annual statewide policy summit in conjunction with an institution of higher learning in Florida. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to change the format of the 2020 Human Trafficking Summit to a webinar for the first time in the Summit's history. The Summit launched on October 6, 2020 and will continue to be available for 18 months. Over 6,400 people from 42 states across our nation registered for this record-breaking event prior to the launch.



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced her fellow Gator alum, Tim Tebow, as the keynote speaker for the virtual 2020 Annual Human Trafficking Summit. A two-time college football national champion, Heisman Trophy winner and Founder and Chairman of the Tim Tebow Foundation, Tebow gave the keynote address during the launch of the Summit. The Summit included an opening address from Attorney General Moody, more than 15 hours of presentations by speakers from across Florida and the nation, and much more.

An awards ceremony presented by Attorney General Moody, Secretary Chad Poppell, and Secretary Simone Marstiller also honored award recipients for the 2020 Human Trafficking Summit.

The following awards were presented to this year's award recipients:

- Survivor Advocate of the Year—Chanel Dionne;
- Community Advocate of the Year—Tomas Lares;
- Prosecutor of the Year—Alicia Priovolos;
- Law Enforcement Official of the Year—Detective Jason Carter;
- DJJ Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year—Venessa Ramos; and
- DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year—Damian Smith.





## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SERVICES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Services and Resources Committee is charged with enhancing 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) (Designee: Toby Philpot, Chief of Staff), and Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees (DOH) (Designee: Shay Chapman, Chief, Bureau of Family Health Services, DOH). Over the course of 2020, the Services & Resources Committee met once a quarter for the purposes of developing an action plan to address existing gaps in anti-trafficking efforts. The first meeting of the year was held as a joint meeting with the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee to address issues related to the upcoming Legislative session and budgeting. Over the course of the year, the Committee discussed potential gaps in human trafficking prevention, data collection, funding, research, interagency collaboration, and understanding of service needs and effectiveness.

The Committee's early discussions centered around anti-trafficking projects within each of the agencies represented on the Committee. The goal was to develop a comprehensive understanding of current work on human trafficking prevention within state agencies and to further interagency collaboration for the purpose of preventing trafficking, enhancing victim identification, better understanding the prevalence of this problem, and ensuring service availability.

To establish a baseline of the need for research in the field, the Committee assisted DOH in launching its 2020-2024 Statewide Human Trafficking Surveillance Plan. This Surveillance Plan, developed in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders from agencies and organizations invested in Florida's response to human trafficking, aims to enhance human trafficking surveillance and strengthen the state's capacity to understand and address the burden of this important issue. The Surveillance Plan is a roadmap for collecting, analyzing, reporting, and disseminating actionable data. It provides a detailed summary of potential human trafficking data sources, including information about populations covered, data elements collected, availability, and limitations. As the capacity to collect data on human trafficking improves, the Surveillance Plan will be updated to reflect emerging definitions, data sources, and measures. The Plan's development was in response to the previously identified need to address the limited data regarding the prevalence of trafficking in Florida and what the affected populations look like.

To address service expansion and sustainability, the Committee surveyed providers that offer residential services to commercially sexually exploited children and barriers to delivering effective services. It also discussed the proposed budget request to the Legislature and analyzed the funds that were granted to support anti-trafficking efforts throughout the state. Additionally, the Committee focused on service expansion to verified and suspected victims of commercial sexual exploitation who stay in the community without being placed into residential programs. The Committee members also discussed the prevention efforts between DCF, DJJ, and DOE to adequately address the needs of crossover youth served by all

three agencies. At the July meeting, the Committee members reviewed the latest OPPAGA report and discussed mutual efforts to address the recommendations outlined in the report. Specifically, DCF and DJJ changed their protocols in exchanging data for verified and suspected instances of human trafficking youth from a quarterly to a monthly basis.

All four state agencies represented on the committee were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of their resources and efforts were re-directed to establish new modes of delivering services, providing necessary trainings, and distributing essential aid to the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. However, all the Committee members reported that the standards of care did not suffer because of these new challenges and that all essential operations continued without interruption of services.

**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 Health*

On August 26, 2020, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) launched the 2020-2024 Statewide Human Trafficking Surveillance Plan (Surveillance Plan) by disseminating the Surveillance Plan to partners and stakeholders through the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

This Surveillance Plan, developed in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders from agencies and organizations invested in Florida's response to human trafficking, aims to enhance human trafficking surveillance and strengthen the state's capacity to understand and address the burden of this important issue. The Surveillance Plan is a roadmap for collecting, analyzing, reporting, and disseminating actionable data.

The primary focus of the 2020-2024 Surveillance Plan was identifying and describing potential sources of human trafficking data. In the Surveillance Plan, DOH was able to identify data sources that are immediately accessible and begin securing data sharing agreements to access other sources. It provides a detailed summary of potential human trafficking data sources, including information about populations covered, data elements collected, availability, and limitations.

Next steps include analyzing readily accessible data to compile, assess, and describe key measures, particularly those that help identify populations vulnerable to human trafficking. As the capacity to collect data on human trafficking improves, the Surveillance Plan will be updated to reflect emerging definitions, data sources, and measures.

DOH is committed to moving from awareness to action in its efforts to eradicate human trafficking in Florida. It is our hope that this Surveillance Plan will serve as a valuable resource to inform efforts to more effectively prevent human trafficking, support victims and survivors, and improve the health and safety of all people in Florida.



## *Department of Children & Families*

In 2020, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), 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 enhancement projects while maintaining the existing safety net service array.

As mentioned in prior reports, much of DCF's work to address human trafficking in Florida has been guided by legislation. In 2020, there were no legislative bills affecting the DCF's human trafficking response practice; however, in response to the 2018 Federal Family First Prevention Services Act, DCF has drafted a definition of youth considered to be at risk of human trafficking and created licensing standards for a new placement type to serve these children. This definition includes risk factors for CSE, such as the number of runaway episodes, sexual abuse or sexually inappropriate behavior, and out-of-home placement instability. It also covers additional risk factors, such as inappropriate interpersonal or social media boundaries and family history of exposure to human trafficking. DCF plans to develop a new placement type to serve children deemed at-risk for human trafficking. To meet the licensure requirements, providers of such group home placement types will have to meet more specific requirements for supervision and staffing ratios, acquire additional staff training related to human trafficking, services for CSE youth, and treatment plan requirements. Currently, there are over 100 group homes throughout Florida that have expressed interest in becoming certified in the care for at-risk CSE youth. DCF's Human Trafficking Unit is working on the development of a Train-the-Trainer curriculum to be delivered to providers who will apply for this type of licensure in order to enable them to train their staff.

DCF served as a training resource for multiple stakeholder groups and completed trainings in 2020 with the following groups: child welfare, legal, law enforcement, dental hygienists, medical professionals, hospitality industry, Uber, Catholic Charities, and school personnel. The Human Trafficking Unit transitioned to delivering all human trafficking related trainings online. This includes basic awareness trainings to the community partners, specialized trainings for various professionals, and legislative-mandated certification trainings for child protective investigators and dependency case managers.

DCF is participating in numerous human trafficking research projects in various stages of implementation. The DOH's Surveillance Plan, as mentioned above, in its initial phase as a Data Sharing Agreement, is being finalized by DCF. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare continues its validation study of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool and the findings are expected to be available in early 2021. DCF agreed to participate in the OVC Nationwide Research Project on Human Trafficking Child Victims in Child Welfare System done by RTI and is in the process of approving the Data Sharing Agreement. The goal of the survey is to better understand the prevalence of human trafficking among youth transitioning from foster care; the risk and protective factors associated with increased or decreased risk of trafficking

victimization, respectively; and the context surrounding victimization among youth in foster care. Additionally, DCF's HT Unit is looking to pilot a parent/caregiver empowerment program, which has been identified as a gap in services, with the intent of stabilizing the home environment for "CSEC families" – meaning the family of a CSEC victim being returned to the home after receiving specialized services or who was never removed from the home – to prevent future run away episodes, disruptions, or revictimization.

The Human Trafficking Unit started a new practice of quarterly "listening sessions" in each region with frontline staff and service providers. The first round of those sessions took place in July 2020 and the next round is being planned for late October. Additionally, the HT Unit continued its practice of hosting regular meetings with safe house providers that offer CSEC-specific residential services with the latest virtual meeting being on September 29, 2020. The Unit will continue to host these meetings regularly and work closely with this stakeholder group.

In 2020, the number of available safe houses increased from seven to nine. The number of safe house beds increased slightly from 59 beds in July 2019 to 61 beds as of July 15, 2020. This is due to the downsizing of one of the houses from three buildings with capacity for 14 beds to two buildings with capacity of six beds and the opening of two new safe houses with capacity of five beds each. There are two safe houses in the Central Region, five in the Suncoast Region, one in the Southeast Region, and one in the Northwest Region. One safe house in Suncoast Region is for males while eight others are for female victims.

Florida continues to be one of the leading states in the country in its response to the issue of CSEC. As a result, DCF has representatives on a national expert council, a national human trafficking workgroup, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' Southeast Region Human Trafficking Workgroup. Our service providers serve as human trafficking subject matter experts for world-class organizations such as Kristi House, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Office of the Texas Governor, and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health. DCF's Human Trafficking Unit staff regularly provides technical assistance to other states. Florida's child welfare data has been requested for multiple national research projects regarding human trafficking.

While progress has been made in building a more comprehensive system of care for CSE youth, child welfare professionals continue to see a need for the independent evaluation of placements and programs to fully understand and identify the best intervention options for the children served. This includes ongoing research examining optimal strategies for CSE victims who repeatedly return to modes of commercial sex.



## *Agency for Health Care Administration*

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is currently supporting 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. As the largest insurer in the state, 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; and
- Therapeutic group care homes.

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

- Expanded benefits
  - Behavioral health intensive outpatient treatment;
  - Outpatient substance abuse detoxification;
  - Housing assistance;
  - Transportation to non-medical activities; and
  - Cellular phone services.
- "In lieu of" services
  - Crisis stabilization units;
  - Community-based wraparound services;
  - Mental health partial hospitalization;
  - Drop-in centers;
  - Mobile crisis interventions; and
  - 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, AHCA 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 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, 2020, 20,120 tools had been administered by DJJ staff to a total of 10,489 youth. 10,618 of tools were administered to girls and 9502 to boys. Of these screenings, 9,922 resulted in a call to the Hotline, with 4,731 calls accepted for investigation (an acceptance rate of 47.6%). According to DJJ, which tracks the results as part of its efforts to validate the tool, if possible, the acceptance rate for calls for girls was 53.4% and 36.9% 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 June 2020, DJJ updated its electronic case management system, the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), and incorporated the Human Trafficking Screening Tool Pre-Screen. The Pre-Screen 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. Additionally, the electronic HTST is now available for DJJ-contracted delinquency prevention providers, including: youth runaway shelters, alternative schools for at-risk students, and numerous local community organizations. Contractual updates and training efforts are currently underway. This significantly expands DJJ's human trafficking screening capacity across the DJJ delinquency continuum of services.

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 DJJ's 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. DJJ continues to support these residential commitment programs and service providers.



## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Criminal Justice Committee is charged with exploring methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training. This Committee is chaired by Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister and includes the following members: Attorney General Ashley Moody, State Attorney of the 20th Circuit Amira Fox, and SAC Shane Pollard (Designee of FDLE). Criminal Justice Committee convened on numerous occasions to discuss a range of topics related to concerns and issues within the criminal justice purview.

### **Establishing a Human Trafficking Task Force in the State of Florida**

The *Establishing a Human Trafficking Task Force in the State of Florida* manual was a focal point of the committee with the final draft approved on August 18, 2020. This manual serves as a comprehensive resource for the structuring and development of a human trafficking task force within local jurisdictions throughout Florida. Outlining best practices, objectives, collaborative partnerships, and other aspects, this manual provides guidance for the foundational elements to establish an effective Human Trafficking Task Force. While this manual was produced at the behest of the Criminal Justice Committee, Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco and his team are credited with the substantial effort in developing this manual.

### **National Football League, Super Bowl LV**

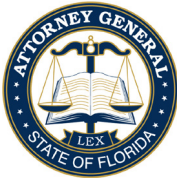
On February 7, 2021, Tampa, Florida will serve as host of The National Football League's Super Bowl LV. Reflecting upon Super Bowl LIV in Miami Gardens, Florida and Super Bowl LII in Atlanta, Georgia, this national event resulted in persons traveling to the respective destinations to sexually exploit individuals and engage in acts with minors.

The committee has fully engaged partners within Hillsborough County, Florida to support and enhance awareness and education in advance of Super Bowl LV. These efforts include materials for hotel and motel operators and alliance organizations to identify the signs of human trafficking. Additionally, partnerships have been established with restaurateurs, ride-share operators, and other affiliated industries to further awareness efforts.

Working directly with the Super Bowl LV Human Trafficking Subcommittee, the Criminal Justice Committee is supportive of the covert and overt enforcement efforts by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Tampa Police Department, and other law enforcement entities. These law enforcement operations will occur in advance of, during, and following the Super Bowl as a function to reduce demand and rescue victims. The Committee is fully engaged on this front and will continue to receive updates and underscore efforts of the broader coalition.

### **Metrics and Analysis**

Data collection, evaluation, and analysis is of particular interest by members. The Committee continues to engage a number of agencies and organizations who are a party to the collection of metrics related to human trafficking. These organizations include FDLE, DCF, non-governmental organizations, and non-profit entities who operate within the human trafficking space. As this endeavor continues, the committee remains optimistic that a centralized resource for all data points may be developed and result in a more targeted approach based on trends to combat human trafficking.



## *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 ten months of 2020 (from January 2020 through the creation of this report, October 2020), this office has accomplished the following in the effort to combat human trafficking while the COVID-19 pandemic took place:

- 13 new cases have been opened for the investigation of a total of 24 targets;
- 37 charges have been filed against 14 defendants following thorough investigations; and
- 2 defendants have been sentenced while 37 active cases involving 97 targets are ongoing.

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

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The Legislative and Special Initiative Committee is charged with addressing legislative priorities and special initiatives such as increasing public awareness of human trafficking. This Committee is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and includes the following members: Senator Manny Diaz, Jr., Representative Heather Fitzenhagen, and Terry Coonan of Florida State University.

In recent years, the Florida Legislature has been a committed partner in the effort to combat human trafficking and support victims in the state of Florida. Lawmakers built upon prior progress in safeguarding the identities of vulnerable victims during the 2020 Legislative Session with the passage of House Bill (HB) 7013 and HB 7019. HB 7013 reenacts a public records exemption for information about the location of certain residential facilities serving victims of sexual exploitation. HB 7019 reenacts a public records exemption for certain criminal intelligence and criminal investigative information that reveal the identity of certain human trafficking victims. Both HB 7013 and HB 7019 were signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis.

The Florida Legislature also approved significant funding for state agencies and organizations that support victims of human trafficking in the 2020 Legislative Session. These items remained in the FY2020-2021 budget despite record amounts of vetoes from Governor DeSantis in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding includes:

- \$3,000,000 for Human Trafficking Resources in DCF's Base Budget;
- \$2,185,791 for Additional Human Trafficking Funding Identified for Community Based Care Lead Agencies;
- \$650,000 for Place of Hope's Child Welfare, Foster Care and Human Trafficking Prevention and Education Initiatives;
- \$250,000 for Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health's Services for Sexually Exploited Youth;
- \$200,000 for The Camillus House Human Trafficking Recovery (Phoenix) Program;
- \$400,000 for One More Child Anti-Sex Trafficking initiative;



- \$700,000 for the Bridging Freedom Program;
- \$1,250,000 for Voices for Florida – Open Doors Outreach;
- \$175,000 for Nancy J. Cotterman Crisis Intervention Programs; and
- \$342,270 for Human Trafficking Resources in the Division of Hotels and Restaurants.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, the Legislative and Special Initiatives (LSI) Committee focused on ways to raise public awareness and reduce incidents of human trafficking statewide. These goals were:

- 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 campaign 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; and
- 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 State of Florida has the unique and prestigious honor of hosting back-to-back Super Bowls in Miami and Tampa. Recognizing the unfortunate reality that large sporting events, such as the Super Bowl, increase human trafficking activity, the Committee decided to take a proactive approach to raise public awareness surrounding the event. In the days leading up to Super Bowl LIV in Miami, Committee Chair Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez conducted 16 separate television and radio interviews relating to human trafficking with local and national media outlets. The Committee as a whole had an 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. The Committee plans to replicate these successful efforts in advance of Super Bowl LV in Tampa in 2021.

The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking's Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee also examined initiatives at the federal level to combat human trafficking. In January, Committee Chair Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez along with Attorney General Ashley Moody participated in the White House Summit on Human Trafficking celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. At the event, President Trump signed an executive order aiming to combat human trafficking and online child exploitation. The White House affirmed its commitment to combatting human trafficking this year by hiring the first full-time White House employee to work on human trafficking related issues.

In August, the Committee heard from the Camillus House in Miami, which is one of six organizations in Florida that will receive funds under a newly approved federal grant program that will provide housing support for victims of human trafficking. In total, approximately \$3 million in funds from the Department of Justice will be dispersed to support human trafficking victims in Florida. In a range of surveys, human trafficking victims regularly identify housing as their number one need on their path to recovery. The Committee will explore ways to replicate and supplement these housing transition and support efforts on a state-level moving forward.

Committee member Terry Coonan from the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights is involved in two impactful projects that could guide the Committee's actions in the future. First, the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights is drafting a proposed addition to Florida law that will ensure the confidentiality of communications between human trafficking victims and human trafficking advocates. It entails the creation of a definition of a human trafficking advocate and the creation of privileged communications between such advocates and human trafficking victims. This provision would be similar to privileges in Florida law for sexual assault counselors and trained volunteers regarding communications with victims of sexual assault.

The second project is a joint research endeavor between the DCF, the FSU College of Social Work, and the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. It is examining the situation of vulnerable Florida minors who reject CSEC treatment or run from Florida Safe Harbor Shelters and immediately return to commercial sex. The project seeks to gauge prevalence statistics, design a profile of a child most likely to engage in this often-life-threatening behavior, and identify promising treatment modalities and state agency responses.

The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee stands ready to continue working alongside General Moody and the Statewide Council. Recognizing the importance of partnerships at every level, the committee is eager to continue tackling creative and innovative approaches to end this horrible scourge.

## **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

During the March 5, 2020 Statewide Human Trafficking Council meeting, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced the creation of a new committee, Education and Awareness Committee, following a unanimous vote of the Council. The Committee first convened virtually on May 20, 2020.

The Education and Awareness Committee is charged with exploring projects to spread awareness and educate the public about human trafficking and how to report it. The inaugural meeting of the Education and Awareness Committee was chaired by Michelle Gaines (DOE Designee) and included the following members: Dottie Groover-Skipper, Jeanette Rubio, and Terry Coonan. The Education and Awareness Committee initiated a discussion to determine the 2020 committee objectives and priorities. In addition, members developed a calendar for the remaining quarterly meetings.

The following objectives were considered by committee members:

- Support the coordination of quality controls for available training and resources.  
The Committee will develop and recommend a checklist for schools and community

- groups for use when selecting appropriate presenters or resources;
- Promote student-led awareness initiatives. The Committee will identify and recommend future Human Trafficking Summit and Council presentations led by students or youth groups; and
- Support school and community anti-trafficking education and awareness initiatives. The Committee will develop a calendar of events with support from local task force and coalitions.

The Committee is committed to engaging in collaborative conversations with other Council Committees to share and obtain best practices for developing awareness efforts especially as it pertains to large gatherings such as the Super Bowl, other sporting events, concerts, etc.

On August 12, 2020, the second meeting of the Education and Awareness Committee was held virtually with the focus on Objective III.

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) presented on the new efforts in Florida schools. Dr. Tamara Gibson-Alonso (Health Education Coordinator) and Ms. Valerie Ellery (Human Trafficking Prevention Education Specialist) provided an overview of DOE's K-12 implementation efforts and other initiatives that focus on the anti-trafficking education plans in Florida schools. Schools are vital to an effective community response to human trafficking. In partnership, the Title IV, Part A Program and the Office of Healthy Schools are leading the effort to help districts provide child trafficking prevention education to students and inform educators about human trafficking. The September 2019 DOE Health Education Rule requires each school district to develop a plan to provide child trafficking prevention education to all students. District plans must address how schools are impacted by child trafficking and identify actionable next steps to make every school in their district a "Child Trafficking Free Zone."

The Committee also acknowledged Dottie Groover-Skipper's completion of her Council appointment. As a charter member of the Statewide Human Trafficking Council, Dottie Groover-Skipper has been a constant voice for advocacy.

The Education and Awareness Committee plans to work closely with other Council Committees, task forces, and coalitions to strategically sustain the educational and awareness efficacy of our collective work. The Education and Awareness Committee is committed to capturing the awareness efforts throughout Florida.

Since 2014, there has been an abundance of inquiries surrounding what is and what is not happening in schools. The Committee is grateful for Attorney General Moody's acknowledgement of the importance of the role of education and awareness within the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. It is a momentous occasion to have a platform to showcase and support all the great work that is happening in our schools while bringing attention to the need for more awareness to the crimes that are plaguing our school communities and neighborhoods.

The Committee's final quarterly meeting will be on December 2, 2020. It will feature an overview of awareness efforts for the upcoming Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2021. At the time of this report, the committee meeting is planned for a virtual format.

## FLORIDA ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING, INC.

The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is a nonprofit organization created by the Florida Legislature in 2019 to provide funding, support, and assistance to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.



### Board of Directors

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Erin Collins serves as the Executive Director.

During its first year, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking held eight meetings of its Board of Directors and formally adopted its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Financial Control Policies, mission, and logo. In collaboration with Florida Forensic Institute for Research, Security, and Tactics (FIRST), a human trafficking awareness course was created and published, as directed by Florida Statutes. Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking also attended and participated in nearly 50 partner and stakeholder trainings and webinars.

With receiving the approval to operate as an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and operate as a charity by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Statewide Council directed the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking to (1) generate funding towards a statewide campaign to educate people on how to spot and report human trafficking and (2) identify useful technology for law enforcement and, as appropriate, help the circuits and counties most affected acquire the resources to implement this technology.

For more information about this Direct Support Organization, please visit their website at: [FloridaAllianceEndHT.com](http://FloridaAllianceEndHT.com)

## COUNCIL MEMBER 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

### Florida Scored an “A” Grade in Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts

The Protected Innocence Challenge is a study of existing state laws conducted by Shared Hope International. Each state received a report card that grades the state on 41 key legislative components to effectively respond to the crime of domestic minor sex trafficking.

Shared Hope International gave Florida a 94-A score due to Florida having:

- Statutes criminalizing child sex trafficking regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was used, and regardless of whether a trafficker was involved or identified;
- Laws that prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses, and specialized services for commercially sexually exploited children; and
- Law enforcement officers with critical investigative tools to go after child human traffickers.

### National Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a Cabinet resolution recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Florida to the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking. The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is the new name of the Direct Support Organization of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The Council will work with the DSO as it secures additional resources to further the mission of the Council.

With major events, such as the Super Bowl, taking place in Florida weeks after this resolution was presented, the message emphasized the need to ramp up efforts to combat human trafficking in the state.

### White House Human Trafficking Summit



In January, the White House held a Summit on Human Trafficking which acknowledged the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Council members present included Attorney General Ashley Moody, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez, and Representative Heather Fitzenhagen.

At this celebration of the 20th anniversary of important federal legislation, the President signed an Executive Order expanding efforts to combat human trafficking. Within the executive order, a new full-time position was established in the White House dedicated solely to combat human trafficking.

### State Attorney Amira Fox’s Office Pioneers Circuit-Wide Human Trafficking Data Project

Concrete data on human trafficking is elusive. One of the Statewide Council’s top priorities is getting its arms around the issue and finding a way to collect accurate data. To quantify the vastness of the human trafficking epidemic, the state attorney’s office for Florida’s 20th Judicial Circuit launched the Human Trafficking Counts project. The initiative relies on data from



those who provide services to victims within the jurisdiction that includes Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties. The project uses special software to collect demographic and trafficking information, victim characteristics, and methods of referrals to services and law enforcement.

### **Attorney General Moody Selected to Lead National Human Trafficking Committee**

Attorney General Ashley Moody serves as Co-Chair of the National Association of Attorneys General Human Trafficking Committee. The committee investigates and promotes best practices for combating trafficking at a state level, including law enforcement and prosecution strategies, educational outreach efforts, and alliances with partner agencies and non-governmental organizations. NAAG is made up of all 56 attorneys general from the United States and territories and facilitates the collaboration and execution of national bipartisan efforts among attorneys general.

### **Over 100 Arrested During Undercover Human Trafficking Operation in Hillsborough County**



Sheriff Chad Chronister with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office announced a major bust in an operation that was months in the making and resulted in 104 people arrested in connection to human trafficking.

His detectives focused on websites and forums known for soliciting sex, as well as strip clubs, massage parlors, and motels. Female detectives posed as prostitutes and male prostitutes posed as “johns.” Sheriff Chronister said, “Like any business, the human trafficking industry boils down to supply and demand.” The Sheriff explained, “People who profit from trafficking women and children, along with those who pay to engage in this awful trade, must always be held accountable.”

### **Florida First State in the Nation to Teach K-12 Child Trafficking Prevention**



This year, the State Board of Education unanimously approved a new rule requiring instruction in child trafficking prevention for students in grades K-12. With this approval, Florida will be the first state in the nation to address the need for instruction in child trafficking prevention. The new rule also established procedures for school districts to plan and document delivery of the required instruction.

The new rule requires that 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.

The implementation plan must include:

- The methods in which instruction will be delivered for each grade level;
- The professional qualifications of the person delivering instruction;
- A description of the materials and resources utilized to deliver instruction; and
- The rule also establishes that every school in Florida be a “Child Trafficking Free Zone.”

Additionally, by July 1 of each year, each school district must submit an annual report to the commissioner to verify completion of the instruction.

### **Attorney General Moody and Statewide Council Partner with Uber Ahead of 2020 Super Bowl**

Ahead of Super Bowl LIV being played in Miami, Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Statewide Council partnered with Uber to educate thousands of drivers on how to spot and report human trafficking. Numerous driver education events were held for thousands of Florida drivers using Uber who were on the roads before and during the festivities surrounding the championship football game. The training was delivered by the International Rescue Committee, one of the first organizations in the nation to receive federal funding to combat human trafficking after legislation was passed in 2003. Since then, the IRC's Miami team has trained more than 12,000 professionals in the tri-county area to identify and report potential trafficking cases and provided services to more than 500 foreign-born and domestic survivors of human trafficking. Through the partnership, additional anti-human trafficking educational sessions were held, in both English and Spanish, for the more than 100,000 Florida drivers using Uber.

### **Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez Highlights Important Role Ahead of Super Bowl**



Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and State Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees highlighted the important role DOH has in identifying and helping victims of human trafficking, many of whom are minors ahead of the Super Bowl.

Florida was host to the National Football League's 54th Super Bowl on February 2nd at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

In the days leading up to Super Bowl LIV in Miami, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez conducted 16 separate television and radio interviews relating to human trafficking with local and national media outlets.

## Local Task Forces

Task Force Name	Task Force Coverage	Chair
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	Frank Williams Frank.Williams@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. James Brennock James.Brennock@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 Freedom7HTTF@gmail.com
North Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 8: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Richard Tovar accaht@gmail.com
Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Orange, Osceola	Sergeant Bradley Bakeman Bradley.Bakeman@cityoforlando.net
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	James Satcher james@jamesatcher.com
Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota	Lisa Thelwell Lisa.Thelwell@usdoj.gov
Northwest Florida HT Task Force	Circuit 14: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Melinda Glover fl14httf@gmail.com
Palm Beach HT Task Force	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Lieutenant Randy Foley FoleyR@pbso.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Heidi Schaeffer momdoctor6@gmail.com
Florida Keys HT Coalition	Circuit 16: Monroe	Shannon Ford-Jefferson Sjjefferson@fldas.org
Broward HT Coalition	Circuit 17: Broward	Jumorrow Johnson JJohnson@sao17.state.fl.us
Space Coast HT Task Force	County: Brevard	Traci Klinkbeil 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	Jamie Bond JamieB@PlaceofHope.com
Southwest 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





