



**STATEWIDE COUNCIL ON  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
ANNUAL REPORT **2021**





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Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to pose unique challenges in the battle against human trafficking. Undaunted by the changing landscape, our communities have continued the fight, and the partnerships created through the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking have served as a solid foundation in these efforts. This year has proven that those of us working to end human trafficking are stronger than those who seek to exploit women, men, and children.

As Attorney General, I am proud that Florida continues to serve as a national leader in human trafficking response. The collective work and ongoing commitment of the Council, private organizations, and our many partners have made this possible. Through service delivery, legislation, education, and training, we have continued to work diligently throughout the pandemic. With the goal of making Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking, the Council will continue to build on the progress made this year.

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 2021 Annual Report to Senate President Wilton Simpson and House Speaker Chris Sprowls. The Council is proud to play a key role in Florida's anti-trafficking efforts, and the Annual Report provides an update on the Council's ongoing work.

The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking recognizes the continued support and collaboration of our state legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis. Working together, we will continue to 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



### 2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Attorney General Ashley Moody, *Chair*  
Secretary Shevaun Harris, *Florida Department of Children and Families, Vice Chair*  
Shay Chapman, *Designee for Florida Department of Health*  
Secretary Simone Marstiller, *Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*  
SAC Shane Pollard, *Designee for Florida Department of Law Enforcement*  
Acting Secretary Josefina Tamayo, *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*  
Melissa Ramsey, *Designee for Florida Department of Education*  
Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Representative Jackie Toledo  
Sheriff Chad Chronister, *Hillsborough County*  
State Attorney Amira Fox, *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 and Resources Committee**

*Chaired by Secretary Shevaun Harris, 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 and 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 Melissa Ramsey, 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 hold the 2021 Human Trafficking Summit virtually for the second year in a row. The Summit launched on October 5, 2021 and will continue to be available for six months. Nearly 4,000 people from more than 40 states across our nation registered for the webinar-based summit prior to the launch.



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Chris Godwin as the keynote speaker for the virtual 2021 Annual Human Trafficking Summit. A Pro Bowl wide receiver for the 2021 Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Godwin is actively involved in the It's A Penalty campaign which spreads human trafficking awareness around major events. Godwin and his wife Mariah gave the keynote address during the launch of the Summit. The Summit included an opening address from Attorney General Moody and more than 15 hours of presentations by speakers from across Florida and the nation.

An awards ceremony presented by Attorney General Ashley Moody, DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris, and DJJ Acting Secretary Josefina Tamayo also honored award recipients for the 2021 Human Trafficking Summit.

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

- Survivor Advocate of the Year—Stephanie Patton;
- Community Advocate of the Year—Chris Godwin;
- Prosecutor of the Year—Erin Daly;
- Law Enforcement Official of the Year—Investigator Elizabeth Bascom;
- DJJ Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year—Meghan Thrasher; and
- DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year—Tara Galipault.





## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SERVICES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Services and Resources Committee is charged with enhancing victim safety and recovery. The Committee is currently chaired by Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Shevaun Harris and previously by Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Secretary Simone Marstiller. The committee includes the following members: Secretary Simone Marstiller (AHCA), Acting Secretary Josefina Tamayo (Department of Juvenile Justice), and Shay Chapman (Designee for Department of Health).

The first committee meeting held this year was conducted jointly with the Council's Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee. The members discussed the ongoing implementation of previous legislative items including the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the proposed 2021 GAA for human trafficking-related expenditures. The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle provided a presentation on the proposed reforms to the Child Witness Protection Act (Section 92.55 Florida Statutes) regarding the discovery deposition process for child sexual abuse victims. Dr. Terry Coonan provided updates on proposed changes to the statutory definition of labor trafficking of minors, as well as proposed changes that would extend privileged communication protections for safe home staff, survivor advocates, other human trafficking program staff, and volunteers.

The second meeting of the year was held in July and focused on the progress made by all agencies as it relates to the committee's goals of addressing existing gaps in anti-trafficking efforts. The discussion focused on the new DCF-FSU work group created to address safety and treatment needs of verified Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) victims; collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families on new research and training projects; updates for Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes; and discussions about OPPAGA's 2021 Annual Report's findings and recommendations.

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, all state agencies represented on the Committee were able to ensure the continuation of services without disruption, the continuation of necessary trainings, and the distribution of essential aid to the most vulnerable populations.

Two agencies represented on the Services and Resources Committee were tasked with completing a self-assessment survey released by the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (NAC). The NAC was established on January 18, 2017 through the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. Following the release of the Committee's interim report in September 2020, *Best Practices and Recommendations to States*, which contained 127 recommendations to address the sex trafficking of children and youth, the Committee has requested for each state to assess the extent to which they have worked to address the sex trafficking of children and youth in their state by using the NAC State Self-Assessment Survey. The survey lists all 127 recommendations with options to choose the tier in each recommendation that best describes the state's work. The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile

Justice were designated by the Office of Florida Attorney General to serve as point of contact for the completion of the survey. Both departments have worked collaboratively with multiple agencies across the state to complete the survey by its due date at the end of August.

Florida continues to be one of the leading states in the country in its response to the issue of human trafficking. As a result, we are asked to co-create and co-present training sessions with the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center; we are invited to present at national conferences several times each year; 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, and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health; and we regularly provide technical assistance to other states.

### **Agency-Specific Updates**

Each of the agencies represented on the Committee submitted a summary of their efforts to address the goals of this Committee.



### ***Department of Children and Families***

In 2021, the Department of Children and Families (Department or DCF) maintained its commitment to continuous improvement in identifying and serving populations affected by human trafficking through numerous enhancement projects while maintaining the existing service array.

In September 2020, in compliance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), the Department has developed a definition of youth considered to be at risk for sex trafficking and therefore eligible for placement in group care homes that are licensed to serve this population. The definition was submitted for preliminary approval, and final approval was received by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The definition states:

“Child or youth at risk of sex trafficking” means an individual who has experienced trauma, such as abuse, neglect, and/or maltreatment, and presents with one or more of the accompanying risk factors:

- a. History of running away and/or homelessness;
- b. History of sexual abuse and/or sexually acting out behavior;
- c. Inappropriate interpersonal and/or social media boundaries;
- d. Family history of, or exposure to, human trafficking; or
- e. Out-of-home placement instability demonstrated by repeated moves from less restrictive levels of care.

The Department estimates that approximately 495 youth currently in the dependency system meet these criteria. The Department developed a 24-hour train-the-trainer curriculum for youth at risk for human trafficking which can be used by group home providers wishing to provide services to this population. Two training sessions were completed in Fiscal Year

2020-2021 with 290 participants from across the state being certified as trainers of this new curriculum.

Throughout 2021, the Department served as a training resource for multiple stakeholder groups and facilitated trainings with several different groups including but not limited to: child welfare, legal, law enforcement, dental hygienists, medical professionals, hospitality industry, Catholic Charities, and school personnel. The Department transitioned to delivering most of its human trafficking-related trainings online. This includes basic awareness trainings to the community partners, specialized trainings for various professionals, and legislatively mandated certification trainings for child protective investigators and dependency case managers.

This past fiscal year, the Department has participated in two federally funded research projects conducted by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). Both studies were sponsored by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families. Upon completion, the results of these two projects will be made available to the Department and will inform the development of future policies, procedures, screening tools, and service delivery models across the state.

The first project focused on the human trafficking of child victims in the dependency system with the goal of better understanding 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, and the context surrounding victimization among youth in foster care. This project was conducted nationwide with Florida being one of the selected, participating states. A second study titled *Identifying and Addressing Human Trafficking in Child Welfare Agencies* aims to better understand how child welfare agencies select and implement screening tools, train workers on their use, and the relationship between screening and subsequent service delivery.

The Department participated in two SOAR trainings offered by the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTTAC). The SOAR for Organizations training was aimed at empowering state and county foster care agencies, as well as contractors, to develop or adapt existing protocols, policies, and procedures to effectively identify and respond to trafficking. The training included information on how to support children in care who have been affected by trafficking (directly or witnessed via family of origin/prior placements); how to provide support to foster care parents who have children affected by trafficking in their care; and how to identify/screen foster care parents who may be perpetrators of any form of violence, including trafficking.

The SOAR for Communities training module was focused on building a comprehensive, multidisciplinary network of providers to effectively identify and respond to trafficking using a public health approach. Through this interactive and strategic planning training series, communities learned how to apply the SOAR framework to identify community needs in developing a multidisciplinary public health response to human trafficking; how to evaluate the community's current response to human trafficking and identify strengths and areas for improvement by looking at risk and protective factors within the community; and how to develop an action plan to expand and strengthen the current community response to human trafficking using a public health approach.

In January 2021, the Department of Children and Families partnered with Florida State University to convene a workgroup focused on addressing the safety and treatment needs of verified CSE victims who frequently go missing from care with subsequent returns to sexual exploitation. It is of vital importance to respond appropriately to the needs of these victims by providing the right services at the right time. There is a concerning number of youths who have experienced sex trafficking, have persistently rejected services, and have returned repeatedly to life-threatening commercial sexual exploitation. These youth engage in high-risk behaviors, such as commercial or survival sex and severe drug use. They often go missing from care for prolonged periods of time. In many cases, service providers are unable to successfully engage these children in services due to the very short period the children spend with them in between runaway episodes. In many cases, all possible placement options and treatment plans have already been exhausted. The workgroup meets every 4-6 weeks and is expected to produce a final document with recommendations for agencies involved in providing services to CSE youth and to present those recommendations to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

The Department's Human Trafficking Unit is working with a local service provider in the Central Region to implement a pilot intervention program that focuses on providing education, empowerment, and ongoing support for caregivers and siblings of youth involved in commercial sexual exploitation. Providing wraparound services to families of CSE community and dependent youth has been identified as one of most significant gaps in services around the state. The pilot aims to improve communication between victim youth and their families, to reduce the number of victim's elopement episodes and re-engagement with commercial sex industry. The pilot will be offered to families of both dependent and community children. The Department is working with local researchers to evaluate the possibility of validating this intervention as an evidence-based practice.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020-2021, the number of available safe houses decreased from nine to eight as one home for female victims permanently closed. As a result, the number of safe house beds decreased slightly from 61 beds in July 2020 to 56 beds as of July 2021. Across the state, there are now seven safe homes for female victims and one for biologically born male victims. The safe house for male victims has the capacity to accept five minors.

The Department's community-based care lead agencies reported expenditures totaling \$3,643,531 on CSEC services and placements for 119 youths during SFY 2020-2021. Of the payments reported in for CSEC services, the average annual cost of care for an individual client was \$30,610.



## *Agency for Health Care Administration*

Having endured severe trauma and physical abuse, human trafficking victims have complex needs that can require extensive behavioral health treatment. The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is currently supporting efforts to help the victims of human trafficking through Florida Medicaid's behavioral health services. Medicaid beneficiaries can receive services across the continuum of care from community-based care to inpatient settings. Florida Medicaid's behavioral health services, beginning with intake and assessment, are designed to identify at-risk individuals and provide treatment across all levels of severity.

The Agency has been working with DCF to align Medicaid funding to Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs). A QRTP provides a trauma-informed model of care in a safe residential setting designed to address the needs, including clinical needs, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances. This trauma-informed care is available 24-hours, seven days a week to individuals under 21 years old, including victims of human trafficking. The Agency is also assisting DCF to align an array of evidence-based benefits to Medicaid-funded services available to all Medicaid members.

Florida Medicaid, as the largest health insurer in the state, 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.

Additional behavioral health services are available through Florida Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) plans. These services are available as expanded benefits and "in lieu of" services and include:

- Behavioral health intensive outpatient treatment;
- Outpatient substance abuse detoxification;
- Housing assistance;
- Crisis stabilization units;
- Community-based wraparound services;
- Mental health partial hospitalization; and
- Mobile response interventions.

The Agency and SMMC health plans continue to work with DCF and the managing entities to integrate and coordinate care for these vulnerable members. With the increased level of

interagency collaboration, Florida Medicaid plays a critical role in providing a continuum of behavioral health care to support victims of human trafficking.



## *Department of Health*

### **Florida Human Trafficking Profile Report**

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) developed a public-facing human trafficking dashboard on the Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Toolkit System (FL Health CHARTS). The Florida Human Trafficking Profile Report provides data related to human trafficking using readily available indicator data.

The profile currently consists of 22 indicators across three categories: Victims (10 indicators), Risk Factors (7 indicators), and Consequences (5 indicators). As the capacity to collect data on human trafficking improves, the Human Trafficking Profile will be updated to reflect emerging definitions, data sources, and measures. Human Trafficking indicator data will be updated on the dashboard annually. Data for 2018 and 2019 are currently available at: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.HumanTraffickingProfile>

On August 24, 2021, the FDOH Director of Public Health Research, Dr. Keshia Reid, presented the Florida Human Trafficking Profile to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

The profile supplements information that will be available through the 2020-2024 Statewide Human Trafficking Surveillance Plan developed by FDOH on behalf of the Services and Resources Committee of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

### **Human Trafficking Legislation Compliance**

Chapter 2019-152, Laws of Florida, went into effect on January 1, 2019. This legislation requires healthcare professionals licensed by certain medical boards to complete one hour of continuing education (CE) on human trafficking by January 1, 2021, and to post signage about human trafficking in their office buildings in a space most likely to be seen by employees. The law affects professionals licensed by the following Boards: Acupuncture, Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Chiropractic Medicine, Podiatric Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing Home Administration, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Nutrition, Respiratory Care, Massage Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

Human Trafficking posters meeting the statutory requirements are available for free download in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Creole at the FDOH website: <https://www.flhealthsource.gov/humantrafficking/>

The legislation also requires that new massage establishments have a Designated Establishment Manager (DEM) starting July 1, 2019, and that all massage establishments, regardless of the time the license was issued, have one no later than January 1, 2020. Chapter

2019-152, Laws of Florida, also amended the provisions governing when the Board of Massage Therapy shall take disciplinary action against a massage establishment's license. Finally, massage establishments are required to implement a procedure for reporting suspected human trafficking by January 1, 2021 and have a sign outlining that procedure posted in their establishment.

Designated Establishment Manager (DEM) registration information is available at: <https://floridasmassagetherapy.gov/applications/DH-MQA-5040-DEM-Officer.pdf>



## *Department of Juvenile Justice*

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FDJJ) has continually 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 FDJJ'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. During the state FY 2020-21, FDJJ administered 9,157 full HTSTs to 4,684 individual youth. Of the full HTSTs administered, 68% were administered to male youth and 32% were administered to female youth.

FDJJ 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.

In June 2020, FDJJ updated FDJJ's 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 FDJJ and DCF's trafficking screening processes.

Additionally, FDJJ updated their internal protocols related to youth who abscond from delinquency supervision to ensure that other courtroom and law enforcement stakeholders are aware of the youth's vulnerability to victimization.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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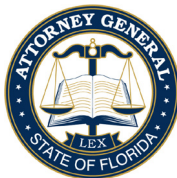
The Criminal Justice Committee is charged with exploring methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training. This Committee is chaired by Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister and includes the following members: Attorney General Ashley Moody, State Attorney of the 20th Circuit Amira Fox, and SAC Shane Pollard (Designee of FDLE). The Committee met on Thursday, June 3, 2021 and is tentatively scheduled to meet on Monday, November 15, 2021.

At the meeting on June 3, 2021, the Committee received a presentation from the Honorable Angelica D. Zayas of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida regarding their Growth Renewed through Acceptance, Change, and Empowerment Court (G.R.A.C.E. Court). This first-in-the-nation court focuses on youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking. G.R.A.C.E. Court has been very effective in the Eleventh Circuit with a number of components including:

- Wraparound services;
- Reduced caseloads;
- Increased interaction with the court;
- A screening mechanism that functions throughout the court enterprise; and
- Dedicated specialized professionals to address the need of victims.

The Committee expressed particular interest in the G.R.A.C.E. Court's screening tools. The Committee also acknowledged G.R.A.C.E. Court's holistic approach of providing treatment and services as well as the use of educational components for law enforcement to identify victims and properly interact with victims. Overall, Committee members commended the Honorable Angelica Zayas for her steadfast efforts and for serving as a model for other jurisdictions to adopt, based on jurisdictional needs and resources.

Additionally, during the June 3rd meeting, accolades were presented by the Committee members to the law enforcement agencies and non-governmental agencies. This cooperative of professionals worked diligently and effectively to identify human trafficking victims, arrest traffickers, and educate the community as a whole leading up to and during the National Football League's Super Bowl LV and the World Wrestling Entertainment's WrestleMania 37. Both events were hosted in Tampa, Florida.



### *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. From January 2021 through September 2021, this office has accomplished the following in the effort to combat human trafficking:

- 16 ongoing investigations are being handled involving a total of 53 targets;
- 20 charges have been filed against 4 defendants following thorough investigations; and
- 5 defendants have been sentenced while 32 active cases involving 118 targets are ongoing.



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

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The Legislative and Special Initiatives (LSI) Committee is charged with addressing legislative priorities and special initiatives to combat human trafficking in the state of Florida. The Committee is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and includes Senator Manny Diaz, Jr., Representative Jackie Toledo, and Terry Coonan of Florida State University.

The Florida Legislature has been a committed partner in the effort to combat human trafficking and support victims in the state. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1826. SB 1826 establishes a communications privilege for human trafficking victims in their interactions with victim advocates or trained volunteers to ensure confidentiality of victim statements. SB 1826 also creates training requirements under the Office of the Attorney General for the advocates and volunteers involved in these communications. SB 1826 was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature also allocated funding for state agencies and organizations that support victims of human trafficking. These items were approved by Governor DeSantis. The 2021-2022 budget includes \$14.1 million in funding for services to individuals who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The funding includes:

- \$4,474,131 for Human Trafficking Resources in DCF's Base Budget;
- \$2,185,791 for Additional Human Trafficking Funding Identified for Community Based Care Lead Agencies;
- \$150,000 for Camillus House Human Trafficking Recovery Program;
- \$587,706 for Devereux – Services for Sexually Exploited Youth;
- \$400,000 for One More Child Services for Human Trafficking Prevention and Recovery;
- \$250,000 for Place of Hope – Child Welfare Services;
- \$700,000 for Bridging Freedom Program;
- \$225,000 for Nancy J. Cotterman Crisis Intervention Programs;
- \$500,000 for Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Victims Programs and Services;
- \$250,000 for NO MORE Foundation – Human Trafficking Victims Capacity Expansion in Tampa Bay;
- \$1,534,365 for Voices for Florida – Open Doors Outreach;
- \$272,565 for Human Trafficking Resources in the Division of Hotels and Restaurants;
- \$184,760 for Stay KidSafe! Elementary Safety Education and Human Trafficking Prevention; and
- \$2,000,000 for Safer Smarter Schools – Abuse and Human Trafficking.

Throughout 2021, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee focused on ways to raise public awareness and reduce incidences 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 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 appropriate 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.

In 2020, the state served as the host of Super Bowl LIV in Miami Gardens, Florida. Because the Committee understands that large sporting events increase human trafficking activity, the Committee took a proactive approach to raise public awareness surrounding the event. On February 7, 2021, the state had the opportunity to serve, yet again, as the host of The National Football League's Super Bowl LV in Tampa, Florida. The Committee replicated their successful efforts in advance of, during, and following Super Bowl LV.

After Super Bowl LV, the Committee invited Major Geoffrey Harris from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to provide a thorough presentation of their efforts to eradicate human trafficking through education, awareness, outreach, and enforcement, leading up to and after Super Bowl LV. The Sheriff's Office utilized several tactics to identify traffickers and perpetrators of human trafficking. Their operations included hotel and motel operations, street walker and reserve street walker operations, in call and out call operations, and online chat operations. Their operations led to a total of 220 arrests for various charges and 452 deterrent messages to sex buyers. As Florida continues to host large events, these operations allow the Committee and the state to understand potential best practices for combatting human trafficking at large events.

In August, the Legislative and Special Initiative Committee heard from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) about their findings on the commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children in Florida. OPPAGA conducts an annual study that examines the number of children that are victims of CSE, the services provided to them, and the outcomes of previously identified victims of CSE. The Committee will utilize the findings of this study to identify ways to continue to support efforts to reduce the number of victims of CSE and increase services.

The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee stands ready to continue working alongside General Moody and the Statewide Council. The committee is eager to continue tackling creative and innovative approaches to end this horrible scourge.

## **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Education and Awareness Committee is charged with exploring projects to increase awareness and educate the public about human trafficking and how to report it. The Education and Awareness Committee includes the following members: Terry Coonan, Jeanette Rubio, Jennifer Collins, and Melissa Ramsey.

The Committee's first quarterly meeting was in December of 2020 and featured an overview of awareness efforts and preparation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2021. Efforts to prepare for the upcoming February 2021 Super Bowl were likewise discussed. Potential areas of engagement in 2021 for the Committee were also introduced in preparation for the February Committee meeting.

At the February 10, 2021 meeting, the proposed 2021 projects discussed included the vetting and certification of NGO trainings; working to identify the profiles of the children who are most at risk of child trafficking; coordinating three state agencies (Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, and Department of Children and Families) and providing staff training with a joint approach regarding crossover youth and human trafficking; and identifying all of the various human trafficking trainings in Florida. The Committee provided feedback on proposed House Bill 523 and its provisions regarding training of Florida anti-trafficking advocates. Melissa Ramsey joined the committee on behalf of the Florida Department of Education.

At the August 19, 2021 meeting, the Committee unanimously identified a major project for the committee. The project includes the creation of a document to share with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and potentially other states regarding the promising practices and lessons learned from hosting large crowd events, such as the Super Bowls in Tampa and Miami. Jennifer Collins submitted a draft overview of some of the promising practices identified and implemented by the Tampa Anti-Trafficking Coalition.

The Committee's final quarterly meeting will be held in November and will feature an overview of awareness efforts for the upcoming Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2022. Additionally, an update on the large crowd/promising practices report being spearheaded by Terry Coonan and the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights will be discussed.

## FLORIDA ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING, INC.

The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking (incorporated as End Human Trafficking, Inc.) is a nonprofit organization created by the Florida Legislature in 2019 to provide funding, support, and assistance to the statewide effort to end human trafficking.



### Board of Directors

Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff, Becker - *Chair*  
Sara Mahoney, U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking - *Vice Chair*  
Savannah Parvu, Survivor Leader/Speaker - *Treasurer*  
Dr. Philip Toal, Aspire Health Partners - *Secretary*  
Toni Azinger, Philanthropist  
Honorable Heather Fitzenhagen, Uncommon Friends  
Senator Ileana Garcia, The Florida Senate  
Graci McGillicuddy, Philanthropist  
Representative Toby Overdorf, Florida House of Representatives  
Special Agent in Charge Shane Pollard, Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Stephanie Smith, Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc.  
Retired Corporal Alan Wilkett, Pasco County Sheriff's Office

### Executive Director

Erin Collins

Since its last annual report, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking held nine meetings of its Board of Directors, promoted its awareness and education course for industries, and prepared to host its first fundraising event. Other highlights include:

- Trained 4,330 individuals (from 46 states and two countries) with the organization's online awareness and education course;
- Hosted three training webinars (with over 300 participants) on various topics including Impact of Trauma on Human Trafficking Survivors (Two Parts) and Building Bridges: Strengthening Relationships Between Law Enforcement, Service Providers, and Survivors of Sex Trafficking;
- Partnered with Tallahassee-based photographers, The Workmans, to use art to create a conversation and raise awareness about human trafficking through the End It Movement. A total of 225 individuals were photographed in Tallahassee and Tampa including the Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, members of the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, the Mayor of Tallahassee, local elected officials, survivor and community leaders, advocates, and college students;
- Published a Survivor's Bill of Rights and established a Speaker's Bureau;
- Established a Strategic Plan (to include membership development, fundraising, and marketing); and
- Planned and hosted a fundraising event (A Night of Hope and Healing) in Tampa, Florida which raised nearly \$400,000.

During the upcoming year, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is focused on the following initiatives:

- Host a statewide fundraising event during Fall 2022 (in addition to regional membership events throughout the year);
- Coordinate a statewide human trafficking awareness campaign;
- Plan a kickoff for the 2022 Legislative Session to bring awareness to human trafficking;
- Develop a Speaker’s Bureau of experts and survivors for groups, private, and government organizations to access;
- Develop a grants program to support the technology needs of law enforcement in their proactive efforts against human trafficking; and
- Begin efforts on a comprehensive, statewide resource guide of all direct-care organizations that provide services to victims of human trafficking and local non-profits that provide human trafficking training and awareness education.

## COUNCIL MEMBER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### National Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a resolution, recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Florida, to a human trafficking survivor working to help others heal. Chanel Dionne, a trafficking survivor and Jacksonville victim advocate, received the 2020 Human Trafficking Summit Survivor Advocate of the Year Award from the Attorney General and the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking last October.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “I am honored to present Chanel Dionne with the state resolution recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Florida. Chanel’s



journey from human trafficking victim to survivor serves as an inspiration to us all, and her work advocating for victims of human trafficking has no doubt saved lives. Chanel was not broken by her experiences, but instead turned them into an empowering message for all victims and survivors of this heinous act of evil—letting them know that they are strong and courageous, and that they have an army of people in their corner fighting for them.”

Attorney General Ashley Moody recognized National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Florida as preliminary data points to a potential increase in the illicit practice. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the daily routines of millions of Americans, including how human traffickers operate their criminal enterprises—driving even more illicit activity online. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, crisis cases handled by the organization increased nationwide by more than 40% during April 2020, one month following

the issuance of shelter-in-place orders, with the number of victims seeking emergency shelter nearly doubling during the same time period.

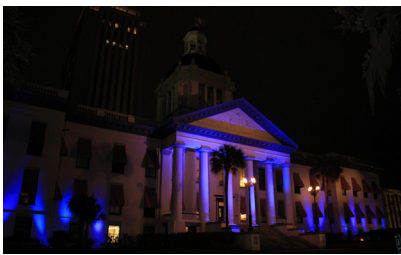
### **Attorney General Moody and FLHSMV Shift Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign into High Gear with the Highway Heroes Campaign**



Florida's Highway Heroes campaign shifted into high gear ahead of Super Bowl LV to enlist more teammates in the fight to end human trafficking. Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles launched phase two of the Highway Heroes campaign, created to enlist commercial truck drivers in the fight to end human trafficking. The joint effort between Attorney General Moody's Office and FLHSMV is funded through a U.S. Department of Transportation grant issued to FLHSMV to help train drivers and raise awareness about human trafficking on America's roadways.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "In preparation of next month's Super Bowl in Tampa, we are shifting our Highway Heroes campaign into high gear. Truck drivers play a vital role in the fight to end human trafficking. With more than 500,000 licensed commercial drivers in Florida, I am hopeful that this campaign will help us rescue victims and save lives. Thank you to all our Highway Heroes, who have been our eyes and ears on the road. With your support and participation in this lofty mission, we can end these heinous crimes and build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

### **Florida's Historic Capitol Illuminated Blue For National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**



Attorney General Ashley Moody illuminated Florida's Historic Capitol blue in recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Blue is the international color of human trafficking awareness. Attorney General Moody is committed to ending human trafficking in Florida.

### **Attorney General Moody partners with "It's a Penalty" and Tampa International Airport ahead of Super Bowl LV**



Attorney General Ashley Moody partnered with a major international travel hub in the battle to prevent human trafficking ahead of Super Bowl LV. Along with It's a Penalty, Attorney General Moody unveiled human trafficking awareness signs at Tampa International Airport. The messages were placed strategically throughout the airport to encourage travelers to report human trafficking and urge victims being flown in for the big game to reach out for help. The signs are just one

part of a multifaceted blitz to increase human trafficking reporting as thousands of visitors utilized the airport during the week of the Super Bowl.



“I am proud to partner with It’s a Penalty to bring human trafficking awareness signs to Tampa International Airport ahead of this year’s Super Bowl. With thousands expected to travel through the airport in the week leading up to the game, these signs will offer travelers and potential victims invaluable—and in some cases life-saving—information and resources.”

It’s a Penalty CEO Sarah de Carvalho said, “The full support of state law enforcement, including the Office of the Attorney General, is vital to our campaign because it heightens the awareness of the public while providing them with mechanisms to make a report.”

**Campaign Impact**

**DIRECT LOCAL IMPACT**

- 6 survivors recovered and 146 arrests made** (Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking)
- 40 survivors assisted by our partner Rahab’s Daughters**
- 18 children identified** from the NCMEC missing children’s list in Tampa following the It’s a Penalty/S.O.A.P. Project/NO MORE/In Our Backyard outreach day

**REPORTS**  
**166% increase of calls** reporting human trafficking in Tampa made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (Polaris) compared to the same time period in the previous year (2020)

**HOTELS/LODGING**  
**Hilton Hotels**  
 44 Hilton Hotels trained staff and management in Tampa to spot human trafficking and exploitation, and distributed campaign materials to guests

**FILM**  
**10.5 million passengers** potentially reached on American Airlines and Southwest Airlines flights by the It’s a Penalty campaign film shown in-flight from January-February 2021

**1.1 million travellers** passed through Tampa International Airport where digital signage was displayed from January 5 - February 12

**TRAINING**  
**44 General Managers** were trained at Hilton Hotels

**700 hotel and motel** workers were trained by A21 as part of our campaign launch in collaboration with AHLA and FRLA

**CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**  
**152 million people** potentially reached through media coverage in print and on TV during the campaign

**RIDESHARES/TAXIS**  
**2,500 It’s a Penalty rear-view mirror hang tags** were distributed to drivers and displayed inside Uber vehicles

**PRINT MEDIA**  
**10.1 million passengers** potentially exposed to the full-page It’s a Penalty 2021 Campaign ad in American Way, American Airlines’ in-flight magazine

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**2.6 million people** reached through social media on It’s a Penalty’s platforms as well as posts made by our partners, influencers, and supporters

## Attorney General Moody and Uber Launch Virtual Human Trafficking Prevention Education Ahead of 2021 Super Bowl



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.

## Sheriff Chad Chronister Arrests 79 During “Operation Takedown”



79 men were arrested in Hillsborough County as part of “Operation Takedown,” an undercover operation that took place during a week-long anti-human trafficking operation. The operation spanned from March 30 to April 9, 2021 ahead of WrestleMania throughout all of Hillsborough county. Undercover detectives conducted chat, hotel, and streetwalker operations that led to the arrests.

## Sheriff Chad Chronister Arrests 71 During “Operation Interception”



On January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Sheriff Chad Chronister announced the results of a month-long operation aimed at targeting and deterring human trafficking in Hillsborough County.

A total of 71 individuals were arrested during the course of the investigation dubbed “Operation Interception,” one of many proactive approaches the Hillsborough County

Sheriff’s Office took to combat human trafficking leading up to the Super Bowl in Tampa in February 2021.

From December 7, 2020 through January 9, 2021, HCSO detectives worked undercover posting online ads offering to meet up and make themselves available to be purchased for sex. Female detectives posed as prostitutes on the streets. A total of 71 ‘Johns,’ or sex buyers, were arrested and charged with soliciting another to commit prostitution or entering/remaining in a place for prostitution. Some individuals received additional charges, including drug possession.



## Sheriff Chad Chronister Arrests 71 During “Operation Game Over”



Throughout the course of the investigation dubbed “Operation Game Over,” which started Monday, February 1, and ended Saturday, February 6, the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office arrested a total of 75 people who were seeking to either buy or sell sex. Undercover deputies targeted massage parlors, hotels, motels, and online chatrooms known for illicit activity. Arrestees range in age from 19 up to 73 years old. Operation Game Over was

executed across the county. Thirty-two individuals were arrested at hotels and motels, 27 people were arrested along roadways, eight women were arrested at massage parlors, and eight men were arrested for engaging in explicitly sexual online chat conversations with undercover detectives they believed to be minors.

“While the Super Bowl has come and gone, our fight against human trafficking is far from over,” said Sheriff Chad Chronister. “We will remain vigilant to rescue individuals from the cruel and miserable underworld of human trafficking and pursue those who propagate this despicable practice.”

## Attorney General Moody Launches Statewide Partnership with Florida Tax Collectors to Help Fight Crime and Save Lives

A graphic with a dark blue background and yellow and white text. On the left, it features the logos for Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Florida Tax Collectors Association. The main text reads: "YOU STOP CAN'T HELP END HUMAN TRAFFICKING". Below this, it says "SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING" and lists signs of human trafficking: "Person showing fear, anxiety, paranoia", "Reluctant to discuss injuries", and "Speaking as if coached or a third party monitoring or controlling the person". It also includes the contact information: "Report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-3737-888" and "Learn more at YouCanStopHT.com".

Attorney General Ashley Moody announced a collaboration with the Florida Tax Collector’s Association to engage more Floridians on crucial statewide initiatives. Information and resources about important statewide crime fighting and prevention initiatives, including combating human trafficking and the opioid epidemic, avoiding scams, and anonymously reporting crime, are on display in Tax Collector offices across Florida.

## Miami Dade College, Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Sen. Manny Diaz, Jr., Representative Jackie Toledo, State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle and Community Leaders Host Human Trafficking Roundtable



Miami Dade College’s renowned School of Justice, Public Safety and Law Studies, in collaboration with Florida Senator Manny Diaz, Jr., Representative Jackie Toledo, State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, and other community leaders, hosted a Human Trafficking Roundtable with special guest Florida Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the Miami Dade College North Campus.

## Local Task Forces and Coalitions

Name	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	Melanie Mitchell melanie.mitchell@pfsf.org
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	Amy O'Rourke amy.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	Melanie Mitchell melanie.mitchell@pfsf.org
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	Caridad Mas-Batchelor CMMasBatchelor@MDPD.com
Circuit 12 HT Coalition	Circuit 12: DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	New Chair Pending
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	Lt. Grant Henderson HendersonG@pbso.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Laura Cusack lcusack@cilo.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	Jan Edwards jan@ptwfoundation.com
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee	Circuit 19: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie	Karissa Bolden karissa@catchthewaveofhope.org
Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Janet Ortenzo janet@swfl-humantrafficking.org
Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Francine Donnorummo fdonorummo@sao20.org



