

Child Human Trafficking & Its Impact on Colorado

Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

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Background Information:

The anti-trafficking movement is framed by the “four Ps” – prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. Little attention has been given to prevention in Colorado to date. Likewise, little attention has been given to labor trafficking. Most time and resources have been reactive; offering services to sex trafficking survivors and prosecuting sex traffickers.

The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking conducted a three-year; four phase study that collected national and statewide data regarding human trafficking. The study resulted in a published report called the *Colorado Project*, which sets forth strengths and gaps in Colorado's response to human trafficking (issued in 2013). For more information, see www.combathumantrafficking.org.

In 2014, the Colorado General Assembly created the Colorado Human Trafficking Council. The statewide Council is made up of approximately 30 stakeholders who represent a variety of interests, including survivors, law enforcement, human services, anti-trafficking task forces and service providers. The Council is legislatively mandated to study and make recommendations re:

- Standards for Certification of Service Providers
- Consider Grants
- Public Awareness Campaign
- Develop Training Standards and Curricula
- Data Collection
- Prevention Best Practices
- Report Annually

The Colorado Human Trafficking Council just released its Annual Report. The Council had three task forces in 2015: Standards and Certification; Data and Research; and Legislation.

The Council's Annual Report made recommendations from all three task forces.

A summary of the Council's 2015 recommendations are:

- Law enforcement should collect data on incidents and arrests associated with human trafficking;
- Prosecutors should flag human trafficking cases at the time of charging for purposes of data collection;

- Standards should be established for the following organizations and professionals who provide direct services to victims of human trafficking:
 - Community based victim advocates;
 - Behavioral health treatment providers;
 - Housing program providers;
 - Case managers; and
 - Social services providers
- Guiding principles should be developed for all professionals who engage with victims of human trafficking;
- A certification process should be developed for professionals who provide direct services to victims of human trafficking that would take into consideration existing regulatory systems and limited resources in rural communities;
- Funding sources should be investigated to help service providers and assisting agencies comply with standards and certification;
- A 24-month implementation plan should be used for Safe Harbor to allow improvements to the systems used to serve vulnerable juveniles;

On January 22, 2016, the Council held a planning retreat to develop and agenda for 2016 in response to legislative mandates dictated by House Bill 14-1273.

2016 Council Agenda:

The following topics will be studied and discussed at Council meetings:

Meeting Date	Topic
March 25, 2016	Impact of 2014-15 Federal Legislation
April 22, 2016	Review Public Awareness Campaigns
May 27, 2016	Public Awareness Campaign; What's right for Colorado?
June 24, 2016	The Question of Immunity: Crimes Associated with Sex Trafficking
July 22, 2016	The Question of Immunity: Crimes Associated with Labor Trafficking
August 26, 2016 September 23, 2016 October 28, 2016	Task Force Presentations and Recommendations
November 18, 2016	Review and Final Approval of Report

2016 Task Forces: Standards and Certification; Data and Research; and Training.