

# The Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST):

Recommended Strategies to Prevent and Respond to Trafficking in Alaska (Labor Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children). Respectfully submitted to Governor Mike Dunleavy on September 28, 2022, by Bryan Barlow, Chair, and Brenda Stanfill, Vice Chair.



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*This report was approved by the CHST on September 13, 2022, and drafted, in part, by an independent consultant. Administrative support, coordination, and staff for the CHST were provided by the Department of Public Safety with special thanks to Kristie Kunder, Brandy See, and Katie TePas.*

*We would also like to express our profound gratitude to Priceless Alaska for their permission to use their Freedom Gallery photos and corresponding survivor stories. It is only through bearing witness to the lived experiences of survivors that we can fully appreciate the true impact of survivors and their needs. We hope that in openly sharing their stories that the recommendations below will carry the weight of their experience and courage.*

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Source: Priceless Alaska

## **B's Story**

The first time I found myself in a trafficking situation was when I was about 16 years old. The men I surrounded myself with were way older and got me addicted to drugs. It was at that time I started doing whatever I needed to stay high and drown out my pain.

I woke up to a nightmare everyday—feeling dirty, scared, gross, and sad. It was like someone was standing on my chest, and I couldn't move. I was completely and utterly in the chains of addiction and under his control.

One day a man stopped, and I got into his truck. He took me back to his hotel, where I expected another date. This time, we started to talk; and the more I told him, the more he told me I didn't belong there. This man drove me to the airport and got me out of the hell I was in. I had finally escaped.

I spent eight months in an inpatient treatment facility, and when I was finished, I knew I would never go back to the life I was living before.

I am purchasing my childhood home, where I get to create new, beautiful, and sober memories for my babies. When I think about what I want in the future, I just want true happiness and peace. I want to be the mother to my children that I needed when I was little.

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## Roles and Responsibilities of the Governor's Council:

The Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST) was established by Administrative Order 328 and has been tasked with preparing recommendations and a report for Governor Dunleavy by September 30, 2022. The CHST's 13 voting members and two ex-officio members worked tirelessly with subcommittee members from across the state to develop the recommendations provided in this report. A full list of Council members and subcommittee members are listed on pages **19 and 20** of this report. The duties of the CHST designated under the administration order are as follows:

- *Identifies gaps in gathering human trafficking information.*
- *Provides recommendations on ways to increase responsiveness to reports of human trafficking.*
- *Provides recommendations for establishing and funding short and long-term safe shelters.*
- *Provides recommendations for implementing media awareness campaigns regarding human trafficking.*
- *Provides recommendations for making education services available to potential trafficking victims.*
- *Provides recommendations for making victim advocacy services more available to potential trafficking victims.*
- *Provides recommendations regarding how to educate minors about human trafficking.*
- *Recommends possible training opportunities specifically related to identification of and assisting trafficking victims.*
- *Recommends improvements to providing outreach information in multiple languages.*

### **Language**

For the purposes of this report, the term “trafficking” is inclusive of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). In certain instances, a recommendation is specific to either sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or CSEC and is denoted as such.



Source: Priceless Alaska

## S's Story

In the shadow of my chaotic childhood with lots of sexual abuse and drug abuse, I continued this behavior as an adult. I became involved in selling drugs; and though I never thought of myself as someone who would sell my body, I fell into it unintentionally. One day a girl, who I thought was my friend, took me to a house, and I immediately knew I was in trouble when I got there. That was the beginning of my trafficking story. It was like I was in hell—for the period of time I was held there and trafficked, every day I looked into the eyes of the devil himself.

I couldn't believe this was happening to me. I felt angry and scared. I felt like I was lost. I survived my experience because I always believed I would get out. I would sit in a filthy little corner of a room and pray. I guess you could say it was faith even though I didn't know what to have faith in. Yet even in the depth of this darkness, I knew I wanted more out of life—shame kept me from believing I deserved it.

Eventually law enforcement got involved. From there I became involved with the Priceless organization—they have helped me in countless ways. But the person who has been key in my transformation is my mentor. She was the first person to really believe in me no matter what. She is truly a gift from God.

I hope that I will be able to help other girls who have been trafficked. That somehow telling my story will illuminate the good news about God and how He saves and brings peace.

## **Recommendations (Key Priority Areas 1-8)**

The recommendations have been grouped into **8 key priority areas** and 56 action steps. These are built on the available data, research, and professional expertise and most importantly, the lived experiences of trafficking survivors. The contributions of each of the 6 subcommittees' members provided invaluable expertise and directly helped shape the following recommendations and actions steps.

Public health research indicates that coordinated efforts should focus on all three levels of prevention: reducing the risk of trafficking before it occurs, immediate response, and long-term responses that prevent the recurrence of being trafficked. All recommendations fall into one of these categories and fulfill the duties of the CHST.

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## 1 | Coordination and Infrastructure for Addressing Trafficking

### *Administrative Order Duty: Recommendations on ways to increase responsiveness to reports of human trafficking.*

Combating trafficking will take a collaborative approach to reduce demand, prevent trafficking, meet the complex needs of trafficking survivors, and holding offenders accountable. This collaborative approach can influence statutes, policy, structural barriers, and alignment across various sectors. Furthermore, research through the Office for Victims of Crime indicates that multi-disciplinary teams are an important factor in addressing trafficking related crimes and supporting victims (Office for Victims of Crime, 2015).

#### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1) Enact state statutes that places the CHST in the Department of Public Safety and establishes: the council as the monitoring body; the term for the council; appointments; and duties.
- 2) Establish membership of the council in the current Administrative Order and future statutes that includes the Department of Labor Commissioner or designee and the Commissioner of the Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) or designee.
- 3) Amend the key responsibilities in the Governor's Administrative order and future statutes to include demand reduction and accountability programs.
- 4) Ensure that each priority recommended action and subsequent action specifically addresses CSEC.
- 5) Seek a statutory change to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's (CDVSA) statutorily defined duties and authority to enable the agency to specifically address sex trafficking (AS. 18.66.010-060). This would allow CDVSA to receive, grant, and monitor funded activities specific to sex trafficking.
- 6) Dedicate funding for staff to address the needs of sex and labor trafficking prevention and response efforts. This should include staffing for coordination and monitoring through the Department of Public Safety for the CHST. In addition, this should include staffing for CDVSA specific to #5 above.
- 7) Representatives from the CHST participate in the federal task force (Alaskan) on labor trafficking.
- 8) Establish funding for research, training, service delivery and implementation for all CHST recitations.
- 9) Advance legislation to address statutory needs to support enforcement, accountability of traffickers, demand reduction of trafficked persons, and expanding services for human trafficking survivors. This should include SB 188 and 189 from the 2021-2022 legislative session which the CHST has previously voted to support **in full**; including language such as "reasonably believes"; considering other crimes to be vacated; and expanding bail hearings to 72 hours.

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## 2| Curriculum Development and Training

### *Administrative Order Duty: How to Educate Minors about Human and Sexual Trafficking.*

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*Education on human trafficking is a central component of preventing trafficking. Effective education starts with educator and caring adults that may have credibility and influence with students (or youth).*

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/acf\\_issuebrief\\_htprevention\\_10202020\\_final\\_508.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/acf_issuebrief_htprevention_10202020_final_508.pdf)

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Schools are a promising environment for trafficking prevention and intervention activities for the young people in their care, including educating minors about labor, CSEC, and sex trafficking. While educators are in a unique position to serve as a buffer or safety to children, they often do not know the risk factors and warning signs to help prevent trafficking.

Educator training must offer clear tools and curricula, self-paced learning, and opportunities to reflect on how to integrate the curricula into their relationship and classroom practices. Equally as important, training for educators must include information regarding risk factors and warning signs.

Alaskans have had success in raising awareness and the skills of educators in the areas of teen dating violence and teen sexual assault through the Safe Children's Act. Having a curriculum, training, and opportunities were reported to have been important factors in this success.

#### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1) Work with a stakeholder group to review existing trafficking prevention curricula. This group should be, in part, comprised of members from the CHST Education Subcommittee and should have at least one CHST member.
- 2) Develop a professional development e-learning module to increase the understanding of educators about the issues and indicators for trafficking.
- 3) Incentivize and offer training for educators to use k-12 trafficking curricula, which would be voluntary.
- 4) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agent for Funding and Implementation: Department of Education and Early Development, including necessary budget request to the Governor. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.

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### 3| Training to Identify and Respond to All Forms of Trafficking in Alaska

*Administrative Order Duty: Recommends possible training opportunities specifically related to identification of and assisting trafficking victims.*

Survivor-centered training allows providers and stakeholders to effectively respond to trafficking and participate in multidisciplinary task forces to improve services for victims and intervention. Shared and tailored training allows for cross-sector collaboration and improved ability to respond to identify trafficking victims, provide high quality services, and hold traffickers and buyers accountable.

#### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1) Host a biennial statewide trafficking and CSEC symposium for educators, providers, law enforcement, advocates and in consultation with those with lived experience.
- 2) Fund key discipline specific training for medical and mental health/behavioral health providers, advocates, law enforcement, and educators.
- 3) Reinstate Trauma 101 training for mental health/behavioral health providers. In addition, sponsor certification training for key trauma informed treatment modalities for providers in Alaska.
- 4) Offer specialized trafficking response team training similar to SART (Sexual Assault Response Teams).
- 5) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agents for Funding and Implementation: CDVSA, Department of Education and Early Development, and Department of Health. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.

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#### 4| Public Awareness Campaigns

*Administrative Order Duty: 1) Recommendations for implementing media awareness campaigns regarding human trafficking and 2) improvements to providing outreach information in multiple languages.*

To effectively prevent and respond to human and sex trafficking, the public, victims, medical and mental health professionals, advocates, and law enforcement must have up-to-date and relevant information on all forms of trafficking.

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Recommendations from Wichita State University Center for Combatting Human Trafficking indicate that there are 6 best-practices in public awareness campaigns.

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- 1) Effective messages are coordinated and provide messaging to reduce demand for sex trafficking and labor trafficking.*
  - 2) Victim-centered, survivor-led anti trafficking messages that include the voices and perspectives of survivors and offer clear messages of hope and help.*
  - 3) Offer messaging strategies that reduce criminalization of sex trafficked victims and victims of commercial exploitation of children. The messages encourage law enforcement, health professionals, and others to be prepared to link survivors to the appropriate settings. There is no wrong door to access services and support.*
  - 4) Messages also provide information so that victims of trafficking have clear information on how to safely access services.*
  - 5) Messages to providers, community and law enforcement help each person know how to identify, respond, and support victims of trafficking.*
  - 6) Messages let prospective adult and child victims of trafficking understand warning signs and how to get support to prevent trafficking.*
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#### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1)** Create a working group to review existing awareness efforts to better coordinate the development of messaging and provide recommendations to the CHST.
  - 2)** Expand and develop a cohesive and multi-faceted campaign on all forms of trafficking.
  - 3)** Campaign messages must include:
    - definitions of sex and labor trafficking;
    - provide information on available resources for victims and the public (i.e., housing, healing, recovery, and transition);
    - verbiage offering assistance and practical tools for key audiences including medical providers, law enforcement, advocates, and other service providers; and
    - targeted messaging directed towards demand reduction.
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- 4) Response and demand reduction messages should be translated into eight languages or other languages when needed. Recommended languages are:
    - Spanish
    - Tagalog
    - Korean
    - Russian
    - Hmong
    - Samoan
    - Yupik
    - Chinese
  - 5) Collect and compile data from government and nongovernment agencies on trafficking in Alaska and make this information available online as needed. This should be done through a CHST website.
  - 6) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agents for Funding and Implementation: CDVSA specific to contractual support for campaign messaging development and promotion, and the Department of Public Safety for a CHST website. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.

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## 5| Address Housing Insecurity and Vulnerabilities

*Administrative Order Duty: Provides recommendations for establishing and funding short and long-term safe shelters.*

Trafficking victims/survivors in Alaska have unique and expansive needs. The most immediate need is access to safe, secure, and affordable housing in their communities or elsewhere. For many survivors housing needs to be on a continuum and may, for victim safety, need to be provided outside of their community or Alaska. Housing options for survivors should include the following types: emergency, transitional and long-term, and permanent supportive. Providing survivors of trafficking a safe place to heal, while surrounding them with wrap around services is key to beginning the healing and recovering process.

In August 2020, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) was awarded \$500,000 through a federal grant offered by the Department of Justice (DOJ), specifically the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). With these funds, AHFC has implemented the Survivors Assistance for Escaping Trafficking (SAFE-T) Program, which provides transitional housing and supportive services to survivors through two subgrantees: My House and Interior Center for Nonviolent Living.

The Toronto Covenant House Model (Toronto model) is a scattered approach of group homes for transitional housing. The scattered approach allows for increased safety by placing survivors in new communities and eliminates access of traffickers through other survivors. This model gives survivors a greater sense of control over their lives while still providing needed services, and there are no limitations based on the size of the house.

Additionally, there are unique needs for CSEC victims. Models in Arizona, indicate that Medicaid billable models which provide crisis stabilization and short-term housing before finding a longer-term, supportive solution can serve as an effective approach to helping children. (Maricopa County Sex Trafficking Collaborative.)

### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1) Align language and housing models to home survivors of trafficking in crisis, short-term, and permanent supportive housing models listed in the recommendations below.
- 2) Expand the Toronto model.
- 3) Expand the SAFE-T model.
- 4) Pilot a short-term housing model for youth, specifically the Maricopa model. CHST will determine the best location for the pilot. This will be a government lead pilot with partnerships from the private and non-profit sector.
- 5) Create a voucher program through AHFC to meet the needs of trafficking victims.

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- 6) Address the housing, supports, and services of survivors. This may include increasing connections between survivor serving organizations and grant programs available through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust) for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) initiatives directly impacting beneficiaries of the Trust and working with other state and national grant providers that support permanent supportive housing.
  - 7) Develop a screening tool to remove barriers to housing for victims of trafficking.
  - 8) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agents for Funding and Implementation: The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and considering the Trust grant funding when efforts are directly serving beneficiaries of the Trust. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.



Source: Priceless Alaska

### **M's Story**

I was first sold for sex by an ex-boyfriend. I lost all sense of who I was and was overcome with feelings of hurt. I felt nasty, scared, embarrassed and completely unlovable. After it happened I lost everyone in my life that could have been a support system because they thought I chose this to happen.

I remember praying so hard for my life to somehow change.

God brought two mentors from Priceless into my life right in the middle of this crisis. These two amazing ladies gave me the strength to go on and hope for more. It's difficult to express how much they mean to me; there are not enough words. They came into my life, a drink of cold water after walking in a desert of abuse for eight years. Life is still hard but I am not alone.

One day, I hope to be a lawyer and help fight for the rights of abused women just like myself. I want to give them a voice to speak up for justice for themselves.

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## 6| Expand Services for the Survivors of Trafficking

*[Administrative Order Duty: Provides recommendations for making victim advocacy services more available to potential trafficking victims](#)*

While there are some similarities to other victim response services, there are unique needs and conditions for survivors of labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and CSEC.

Survivors of human trafficking are often exploited, forced, or coerced for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or labor. Survivors can be young children, teenagers, men, and women. In addition, LGBTQI persons are considered to be high risk. Many organizations and providers can have a significant role in helping survivors of trafficking restore their lives. Survivors have often experienced high levels of trauma and require both professional and peer support.

Agencies and programs across the United States have been working to identify the key service components for survivors trafficking. The needs of victims of human trafficking are often complex and there is a shortage of appropriate services, barriers to accessing services, and a lack of coordination among service providers.

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/acf\\_dvht\\_evaluationbrief\\_final\\_8\\_25\\_17\\_508\\_compliant.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/acf_dvht_evaluationbrief_final_8_25_17_508_compliant.pdf)

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*Primary needs of trafficking victims include:*

- *Food and clothing*
  - *Peer support/mentorship programs*
  - *Trauma informed counseling*
  - *Substance abuse treatment*
  - *Medical services*
  - *Legal assistance*
  - *Job training/life skills*
  - *Continuing education opportunities*
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Several programs nationally and in Alaska have been effective in supporting survivors of trafficking. These programs move beyond the rescue and plan to support the growth, healing, and time it takes for survivors to stabilize and then address almost every dimension of their life including education, job skills, mental health, emotional health, and other ways to reconnect to a safe community.

<https://combatinghumantrafficking.com/services/#research>

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### Recommended Action Steps:

- 1) Increase funded services for victims of trafficking across Alaska, including:
  - recovery services (food and clothing, peer support mentorship programs, trauma informed counseling)
  - substance abuse treatment and emergency response (Narcan/4A)
  - medical services
  - legal assistance
  - job training, life skills and continuing education
  - victims to leave state for safety purposes
- 2) Establish a comprehensive and integrated wrap around on-site service centers (SAFE-T) where practicable as the model for delivery of the above services with an emphasis on mentor support, trauma informed counseling and on-site mental health services.
- 3) Establish a state hotline and resource hub (translated through the language line). Evaluation as to whether this could fit under the Careline umbrella if additional staffing resources were to be provided/funded.
- 4) Establish cross-sector response teams for labor and sex trafficking building on the SART model. Members would include but not be limited to law enforcement, victim advocacy, and medical forensic providers.
- 5) Develop regional task forces that are aligned and adapted from the Anchorage Police Department/ANJC model.
- 6) Develop a rural guide or toolkit with resources for survivors and primary prevention for communities.
- 7) Develop specialized services for youth victims of CSEC. This includes workforce development and recruitment of specialized clinicians.
- 8) Update the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault victims' legal rights handbook to include resources on trafficking.
- 9) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agents for Funding and Implementation: CDVSA in close collaboration with Department of Health. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.



Source: Priceless Alaska

## K's Story

I did not think that I was being trafficked because money was not exchanged, but when a female is being sold for any type of gain, it is considered trafficking. On one hand, it feels empowering, wanted, and needed, with bad attention being better than none. It was easy for me because I had already been numb for years with drugs and alcohol, so turning off my soul and becoming an object was easy.

At the end, I was a broken, empty shell that was utterly exhausted. I coped by being constantly high on meth, weed, and alcohol. When I went to jail the last time, I knew I needed to get out. I connected with Priceless inside the jail, and they were waiting for me when I was released.

I still had a criminal mentality, wondering what I could gain out of the Priceless organization. What I gained were two individuals who scared me to death with the goodness of their hearts. They saved my life. We started off simple with once-a-week coffee dates and talking. Somewhere in me, I had always dreamed to be just like them. These two women saved my life by taking the time and patience to understand me and offer complete love.

I hope to be a walking testimony to those who may benefit from my growth and be the best I can be for myself and my family. I am ready to give back now with God's love.

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## 7| Establish Demand Reduction Diversion Programs

*Administrative Order Duty: An Administrative Order or statute amendment is recommended to support roles and responsibilities that address demand reduction and diversion programs.*

Demand reduction programs are essential to reducing trafficking. Demand reduction programs focus on the purchasers of the sex who are commonly referred to as “Johns.”

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*“Within the United States, john schools tend to follow a similar logic model with content and curriculums based on early successful programs. The key components of the model are motivated by the overall goal to decrease demand for prostitution and fund services for victims.*

*Program goals are met through pro-social shifts in attitudes, increased levels of knowledge, specific deterrence, program sustainment and restorative justice. As a result of programmatic activities, john schools are intended to decrease the demand for prostitution, and hence, reduce the amount of human trafficking and sexual exploitation that occurs.*

*Standard john school curriculum includes discussions around the health and legal consequences of engaging in commercial sex, the negative impact of prostitution on prostituted women, girls and communities, discussions about healthy relationships, anger management, sexual addiction, pimping and pandering, human trafficking, and johns’ vulnerability to criminal victimization while engaging in commercial sex. The majority of programs are single session, full-day classes”.*

*Source: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services ~*  
<https://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/John-Schools-Report.pdf>

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Within the sex trafficking research, there are promising approaches through demand reduction education and accountability measures (NIJ, 2012).

<http://demand-forum.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/John.School.Summary.June.2012.pdf>, or  
<https://esplerp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/John-Schools.Lovell.Jordan.7.12.pdf>

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### Recommended Action Steps:

- 1) Pilot a post-conviction or suspended judgment “demand reduction school” or similar model for Alaska that provides education, accountability, fines, and consequences for the purchasers of sex. Data metrics must be developed and implemented as a requirement for funding.
- 2) Align funding to support demand reduction and law enforcement “stings” or alternate.
- 3) Establish rural, virtual, and regional adaptations to demand reduction programs.
- 4) A portion of the fees charged from the demand reduction school should support victim service programming.
- 5) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agents for Monitoring and Implementation: The Department of Corrections in consultation with CDVSA, Department of Law and Department of Public Safety. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.



Source: Priceless Alaska

### H's Story

She came into our lives as a two-month-old, crying baby with a dirty diaper and face with a bottle full of Kool-Aid in a Starbucks parking lot. Hours earlier, she and her biological mother had been rescued from a low-budget hotel in Houston, Texas. That's where she had lived for the first two months of her life while her mother “worked” for a trafficker. She had a flat head from being left alone, unable to move or rollover for hours each day.

The first several months of fostering would prove exhausting on many fronts as she had major digestion issues. She would cry in pain and discomfort for most of the day. Nights were especially challenging because the crying didn't end, and no amount of coddling seemed to ease her pains. We attended court hearings regularly and fostered her for almost a year before her mother asked us to adopt her. We had built a rapport with the mom, praying for and with her when we saw her in court. We had earned her trust.

At five years old, she is very spirited and fearless with an edge to her personality.



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## 8 | Identify Gaps in Information on Trafficking

*Administrative Order Responsibilities:* Identifies gaps in gathering trafficking information.

The following are the identified “gaps gathering trafficking information”:

1. Lack of standardized screening tools being utilized by governmental and non-governmental entities. However, Covenant House Alaska does utilize two tools which are the Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT) and the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT).
2. There is a discrepancy across sectors/agencies as to how trafficking is defined. There are set legal definitions used by law enforcement and prosecution including state and federal definitions based on criminal statutes. There is not a set definition being used by other entities.
3. Often trafficking is not properly identified as it may be perceived as domestic violence and not recognized as trafficking (sex or labor).
4. Sex trafficking is not currently a sex crime under AS 11.41. Therefore, data from all police agencies is not available in DPS’ Felony Sex Offense Report. This report is published annually.
5. Currently, data on prevalence or rates of victimization do not exist. Prevalence data differs from rates of cases report to law enforcement and referred to prosecution. It also differs from rates of victims seeking services from providers. CDVSA, in partnership with UAA, conducts the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS). The AVS measures the rates of victimization specific to Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Victimization committed against adult women residing in Alaska. The AVS is conducted every five years. This survey does not include data on sex trafficking.
6. Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development currently does not have data on labor trafficking nor a mechanism for tracking cases.
7. Lack of data being collected and/or housed in a central location regarding risk factors. However, Alaska has extensive data on Adverse Childhood Experiences.
8. Screening tools are not translated into different language.
9. Limited time to fully identify and assess all available data sets in Alaska. Additional time is needed by the data subcommittee (working group) to compile existing data to be able to fully understand all the gaps.

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### **Recommended Action Steps:**

- 1) Develop a screening tool for commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking of minors.
- 2) Replicate the Covenant House study conducted by Loyola University.
- 3) Commission a study on student knowledge, risk, and response.
- 4) Add trafficking questions to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Study (YRBS).
- 5) Determine the effectiveness of translating BRFSS questions.
- 6) Compile all existing data sets into one location including definitions of trafficking used by each data source.
- 7) Establish a system for ongoing data coordination and analysis of data reference victim's, victim's needs, demand reduction school participation and impact, and other key data points.
- 8) A complete environmental scan and meta-analysis needs to be conducted on current research related to intervention and prevention strategies for victim/survivors as well as offenders.
- 9) Secure funding for specific data related projects.
- 10) Recommended Lead Fiscal Agent for Funding and Implementation: Department of Public Safety will serve as the point of contact and support contractors to carry out the data and research recommendations. Affected departments, even if not listed, will submit budget requests to the Governor.

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## **Appointed Members of the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking**

- Department of Public Safety, Deputy Commissioner, Bryan Barlow, Chair.
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Executive Director, Brenda Stanfill, Vice Chair.
- Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Government and Justice, Division Director; From the Village of Nulato in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Brittany Madros.
- My House, Director of Human Trafficking Recovery Services; Alaska Stop Human Trafficking Alliance Chair; Survivor of sex trafficking at age 17, Staci Yates.
- Priceless Alaska, Founder and Executive Director, Gwen Adams.
- Anchorage Police Department, Lieutenant, Oversees Crimes Against Children Unit, Cyber Crimes Unit and Special Victims Unit, Denielle Hrovat.
- Mayor of City of Anchorage, Dave Bronson.
- Mayor of City of Fairbanks, Jim Matherly.
- Alaska Mental Health Trust, Programing and Planning Committee, Verne Boerner.
- Department of Health, Commissioner Adam Crum
- Department of Corrections, Deputy Commissioner, Kelly Goode
- Department of Law, Assistant Attorney General, Chris Darnall
- Department of Education, Kami Moore, Program Coordinator II
- Ex-Officio members: Representative Geran Tarr and Senator Jesse Kiehl

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## **Sub-Committee Members**

### **Education**

Kami Moore (Chair and council member); Staci Yates (council member); Mollie Rosier (Child and Adolescent Health Manager); Ann Rausch (CDVSA); Mai La Vang (Alaska Institute of Justice (AIJ)); Kari Robinson (AIJ); Megan Sherman (South Central Foundation).

### **Victim / Survivor Services**

Staci Yates (Chair and council member); Tami Jerue (Alaska Native Women's Resource Center); Meggie Stogner (CDVSA); Lauree Morton (ANDVSA); Angie Ellis (Forensic Nurse); Madison Smith (AHFC); Erin Terry / Kaeli Snyder (FBI Victim Witness Specialist); Anna Taylor / Kari Robinson (AIJ); Katy Chapman (Division of Behavioral Health); Debbie Bourne (SAFE-T Program Manager); Stephanie Hopkins (Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse); Heather Hagelberger (Covenant House, Human Trafficking).

### **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)**

Brittany Madros (Chair and council member); Chris Darnall (council member); Verne Boerner (council member); Rep. Geran Tarr (Ex-Officio council member); Bryant Skinner (Manager at Alaska CARES); Jolene Goeden (Special Agent with the FBI); Cassandra Gardner-Fulton (Division of Juvenile Justice); Kim Guay (Director at Office of Children's Services); Lauralee Peterson (Manager at Central Peninsula Child Advocacy Center); Nathan Bucknall (Alaska State Trooper Sergeant of ABI Technical Crime Unit/ICAC Task Force); Heather Hagelberger (Covenant House, Human Trafficking).

### **DATA**

Brenda Stanfill (Chair and council member); Verne Boerner (council member); Chris Darnall (council member); Catherine Mohn (CDVSA); Ezekiel Kaufman (Department of Law); Sean Owens (Division of Juvenile Justice); Chanelle Lauger (DPS); Jim Rogers (Chief of Operations My House); Richard Bloomquist (Social Services Program Coordinator); Joshua Louwerse (Covenant House).

### **Labor**

Denielle Hrovat (Chair and council member); Aaron Whitt (Anchorage Police Department (APD) Cyber Crimes Sergeant); Lenny Torres (APD Human Trafficking Task Force Officer); Tanya Keith (Labor Investigator); Eugene Wiseman (Department of Health); Anna Taylor (AIJ); Kari Robinson (AIJ); Issa Spatrisano (AIJ).

### **Offender Demand / Accountability**

Kelly Goode (Chair and council member); Mayor Bronson (council member); Mayor Matherly (council member); Jolene Goeden (Special Agent with the FBI); Diane Casto (CDVSA); Janelle Chapin (Alaska Native Women's Resource Center); Eric Taylor (Alaska State Trooper Sergeant); Kaci Schroeder (Department of Law).

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### Additional Supporting References:

- Trafficking can happen to anyone regardless of race, class, citizenship, gender, or other experiences. However, there are some conditions that can create vulnerability for prospective victims, especially young people. For example, youth that have experienced housing instability, and children in the child welfare system have often also experienced trafficking victimization in their lifetimes. Stable family incomes, secure housing, and supportive networks can be buffers to the manipulation of traffickers.
- Survivor-centered training allows providers and stakeholders to effectively respond to trafficking and participate in multidisciplinary task forces to improve services for victims and intervention. It is important that trafficking response efforts are collaborative and aligned across sectors with mentors and response teams who can meet the immediate and complex needs of individuals that have experienced trafficking.
- Shared and tailored training allows for cross-sector collaboration and improved ability to respond to identify human trafficking victims, provide high quality services, and hold traffickers accountable.
- Many survivors of trafficking have experienced numerous adverse childhood experiences that have been relived while trafficking. It is important that providers and service providers understand and have training on Trauma and trauma engaged responses.  
<https://health.alaska.gov/abada/aceak/Documents/ACEsReportAlaska.pdf>
- Effective response to survivors of labor and sex trafficking requires trauma-engaged approaches and a multidisciplinary team response. This has been established as a strong practice within trafficking response has been a successful practice in other violence prevention work, such as the sexual assault response team.  
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/243829.pdf>.
- The research on sex trafficking notes the importance of long-term mentor models.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315377818\\_Mentor\\_Program\\_for\\_Survivors\\_of\\_Human\\_Trafficking](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315377818_Mentor_Program_for_Survivors_of_Human_Trafficking).

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