



Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking

FY24 Plan

Date: 9.25.23

CHST FY24 Plan

Introduction

On September 28, 2023, the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST) fulfilled their duties under Administrative Order (AO) #328 and submitted their recommendations to the Office of the Governor. While the CHST has fulfilled their duties and responsibilities under the AO, the CHST members have expressed their commitment to ensuring the work to combat human and sex trafficking in Alaska continues. As such, the CHST met on July 19, 2023, to develop a fiscal year (FY) plan for 2024 (FY24). The meeting was facilitated by Heather Harris from the Foraker Group. Using the original recommendations provided to the Office of the Governor, the CHST prioritized their projects for FY24. This document provides a summary of the nine (9) recommendations the CHST approved for FY24. This document will be periodically updated to reflect the current tasks being undertaken by the CHST and subcommittees. Questions about the FY24 plan should be directed to: katie.tepas@alaska.gov or to DPS.CHST@alaska.gov.

Each of the FY24 recommendations are from the Key Priority Areas established in the September 28, 2022, report. To view the report, [click here!](#)

Special thanks to Department of Public Safety (DPS) staff Katie TePas and Meredith McDaniel-Stroh.

Key Priority Area 1: Coordination and Infrastructure for Addressing Trafficking

FY24 Recommendation # 1: Define the duties and infrastructure of the CHST.

The CHST will provide a recommendation to the legislature for an amendment (HB 68/SB 66) regarding the duties and infrastructure of the CHST.

FY24 Tasks:

- Develop a recommendation for the organizational structure of the CHST including placing the CHST in statute.
 - Determine infrastructure framework (organizational structure, duties, and mission).
 - Research local organizational models (i.e., The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse/Alaska Mental Health Board).
 - Research national organizational models.
 - Determine mutually beneficial partnerships.
 - Meet with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) and the Department of Labor (Labor) to determine where their missions are distinct from those of the CHST and where there could be a mutually beneficial partnership.
 - CHST staff will reach out to Labor and CDVSA.
- Research available grants to leverage federal funds for projects and determine the potential budget.
- Work with Office of the Governor to amend the AO #328 to refine duties and responsibilities as well as expand the number of council members to resolve identified gaps.

Timeline:

- Recommendations to be provided to the legislature by **December 15, 2023**, regarding the organizational structure and duties of the CHST.
- In late **July 2023**, the CHST will reach out to Labor and CDVSA regarding their participation on the subcommittee.
- In **August 2023**, the CHST will establish the infrastructure subcommittee and begin facilitating meetings. The subcommittee Chair will provide updates for discussion at the **September 2023 and November 2023** CHST meetings for member discussion and direction for generating new tasks.
- At the **September 2023** meeting, the CHST will provide an update on research findings specific to organizational structure bodies similar to the CHST in other states.
- At the **November 2023** meeting, the CHST will discuss recommendations to determine the CHST statutory duties.

Timeline update:

- At the **September 2023** meeting, the CHST approved the recommendation for a “one director, two board model.” Specifically, the recommendation is to have one Executive Director (ED) support both CDVSA and CHST but each would have their own designated staff (without a reduction in staffing to CDVSA and without additional duties for CDVSA). This recommendation includes:
 - Two additional staff for the CHST to include a Program Coordinator-2 and an Administrative Assistant-2;
 - Conducting a meeting between the CHST and the CDVSA and staff which should take place before the **November 2023** CHST meeting; and
 - Codifying the CHST in statute and amending CDVSA’s statutory duties under Alaska Statute (AS) 18.66.050 regarding hiring the executive director and amending it to indicate it is a shared responsibility with the CHST.

Subcommittee:

DPS as Chair and participation from CDVSA, Labor, Department of Health (DOH), Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHTA), Department of Community and Family Services, and MyHouse.

Key Priority Area 2: Curriculum Development and Training

FY24 Recommendation # 2: Evaluate curriculum for school-based youth and provide recommendations.

The CHST will coordinate with Department of Education and Early Development's (DEED's) trafficking curriculum review committee. The curriculum rubric reviewed will be for age-appropriate curricula for school-based youth. The recommended curriculum rubric will be hosted on a DEED website.

FY24 Tasks:

- The DEED will establish the educator curriculum review committee and facilitate the review processes.

Timeline:

- Pending legislative outcomes that may impact implementation of the tasks, DEED will develop the educator curriculum rubric review committee to review for development and incorporation into the educator eLearning course.
- In **May or June 2024**, the curriculum review committee will meet virtually to develop and adopt a process for reviewing curricula **following the legislative session to ensure alignment to legislative priorities.**
- In **June or July 2024**, review committee will commence review of educator curricula.
- In **August 2024**, a virtual meeting will be held to discuss committee members' reviews.
- In **September 2024**, a rubric for school districts to use to review curricula will be completed.
- Meetings will be ongoing as a review process is established.

Subcommittee:

CHST members, Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC), the Department of Law (Law), Department of Health (DOH), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Anchorage Police Department (APD), Priceless, MyHouse, and DEED will participate.

FY24 Recommendation # 3: Develop an e-learning module for educators.

Develop a professional development e-learning module to increase the understanding of educators about the issues, indicators, and resources for trafficking of youth.

Incentivize and offer training for educators to use K-12 trafficking curricula, which would be voluntary.

FY24 Tasks:

- Establish an e-learning development group.
- Coordinate with the curriculum review committee to review existing trafficking prevention curricula.
- Include the e-learning module in the recently launched Trauma-Engaged School Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Suite for educators.
- Develop promotional efforts to encourage educators to review the course and point to the curriculum website for those who offer these for students as part of the health curriculum.
- Explore inclusion of a question about trafficking in the 2026 School Health Profiles, a survey of secondary school health teachers conducted every two years by DOH.
- Research other incentives.
- Evaluate possible funding streams. The estimated budget range is as follows:
 - **One Time Cost: \$60.0 – TBD**
 - \$20.0 for course development
 - \$10.0 for stakeholder group stipends (\$2.0 x 5)
 - \$25.0 for e-learning module
 - **Ongoing Costs**
 - \$5.0 seats for users, updates for best practices
 - **Potential**
 - \$10.0 - \$20.0 Free annual CEU Support (\$50/CEU)

Timeline:

- Pending legislative outcomes that may impact implementation of the tasks, e-learning development group will meet and gather information for the development of the course development and begin the planning process.
- In **May or June 2024**, gather material for course from curriculum rubric review committee, **following the legislative session to ensure alignment to legislative priorities**, and draft course content.
- In **June and July 2024**, submit course content to contractor for production.
- In **early September 2024**, e-learning development group to meet in **Anchorage** for review of draft.
- In **October 2024**, submit edits to contractor.

- In **November 2024**, conduct a virtual meeting to complete a final review.
- In **mid-January 2025**, course goes live and is added to the continuing education credit suite of Trauma Engaged Schools courses to boost educator engagement.

Key Priority Area 3: Training to identify and Respond to All Forms of Trafficking in Alaska

FY24 Recommendation #4: Develop discipline specific training for medical providers, mental health/behavioral health providers, advocacy, and law enforcement (other than APD).

FY 24 Tasks:

- Review curriculum developed by the Anchorage Task Force (APD and ANJC).
- Research continuing education requirements and partnerships for different disciplines (medical, behavioral health, etc.).
- Evaluate costs of additional e-learning module for non-educators.
- Explore partnerships with the University of Alaska-Anchorage (UAA), Center for Human Development.
- Connect with Alaska Behavioral Health and DOH regarding trauma training for providers.

Timelines:

- In **September 2023**, CEU research to be presented at CHST meeting.
- In **October 2023**, invite staff from the Alaska Child Trauma Center at Alaska Behavioral Health to present at the CHST meeting regarding their current projects.
- In **November 2023**, invite Anchorage Task Force members to provide an overview of their developed curriculum at the CHST meeting.
- In **December 2023**, obtain cost estimate from DOH to develop and place module on their e-learning platform.
- No subcommittee established. Law will be the liaison with the Anchorage Task Force.

Key Priority Areas 4 and 6: Public Awareness Campaign and Expand Services for Survivors of Trafficking

FY24 Recommendation #5: Develop and disseminate messaging on trafficking that is direct at survivors, members of the public and purchasers (demand reduction)

FY24 Tasks:

- Establish a Public Awareness Campaign subcommittee to be facilitated by CHST. The CHST member from MyHouse will Chair the subcommittee and Representative Vance will participate.
- Evaluate messaging from other states and entities.
- Draft messaging with a focus on identifying the signs and symptoms (indicators) for individuals or members of the public.
 - Ensure consistent messaging and resource referrals for all materials.
 - Contact the National Hotline/CDVSA/Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) to determine which resource to direct entities to (local, regional, or national).
 - Initiate communication with ANDVSA and member programs to ensure local and regional resources are trained.*
- Meet with the Public Information Offices (PIOs) (Health, Labor, Public Safety, Corrections, and Law) for assistance in developing a communications plan to include feedback, material development, and dissemination.
- Evaluate the cost of translation of materials and develop estimate of costs through utilization of the Alaska Institute for Justice's expertise. Recommended languages are listed on page nine (9) of the September 28, 2022, report.

*This is directly linked to the development of training materials for providers, including victim-based advocates.

Timeline:

- In **August 2023**, finalize participants for subcommittee and schedule 1st meeting.
- In **mid-October 2023**, draft completed for review by department PIOs.
- In **mid-December 2023**, work to be completed and approved for release in **January 2024**. January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

FY24 Recommendation #6: Develop a rural resource guide or tool kit for survivors and communities.

FY24 Tasks:

- Establish a Rural Resource Guide subcommittee with the CHST member from the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) as Chair with representation from tribal entities including the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
- Review existing resources from other states and entities.
- Complete an evaluation and determination as to local, regional, and state resources.
- Develop a final product.
- Disseminate an electronic resource guide.

Timeline:

- In **August 2023**, establish participants and convene first meeting. Provide examples from other states for review.
- In **September 2023**, the subcommittee will not convene to provide for subsistence hunting and fishing.
- In **October 2023 through February 2024**, subcommittee will convene to begin discussion on content.
- In **March 2024**, present draft tool kit to CHST members for comments and feedback.
- In **April – May 2024**, finalize draft.
- In **June 2024**, distribute final tool kit and work with Department PIOs.

Key Priority Area #5: Address Housing Insecurities

FY24 Recommendation # 7: Evaluate expansion of the Survivors Assistance for Escaping Trafficking (SAFE-T) grant.

FY24 Tasks:

- Contact Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to determine if funding can be increased for an additional site/community for the SAFE-T grant.
- Provide assistance to AHFC to evaluate possible locations, if requested.
- Depending on information obtained, additional tasks may be added by the CHST.

Timeline:

- In **July 2023**, the CHST will reach out to AHFC and ANDVSA.
- In **September 2023**, the CHST will report findings to members at the meeting.

Key Priority Area # 6: Expand Existing Services for Survivors

FY24 Recommendation #8: Evaluate the ability to expand individual access and organizational billing for Medicaid.

FY24 Tasks:

- Provide data summary document to DOH and collaborate to evaluate gaps in services.
- Develop a statewide resource guide of non-profit partners serving this population.
- Determine regional organizations that are the best single points of contacts for survivors.
- Further evaluate what grants are available to fund the work of the CHST and determine which ones warrant applications. TCC will lead the evaluation of grants available for tribal entities.
 - **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC):** [Funding & Awards | Office for Victims of Crime \(ojp.gov\)](#)
 - OVC FY 2023 Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking
 - OVC FY 2023 Human Trafficking Fellowship Program
 - OVC FY 2023 Field-Generated Solicitation: Increasing Options and Expanding Access for Victims of Crime
 - OVC FY 2023 Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program
 - **U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services:** [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#)
 - Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HTYPE) Demonstration Program
 - Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities Demonstration (VHT-NC) Program
 - Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach (DVHT-SO) Program

Timeline:

- In **July 2023**, the CHST will meet with data subcommittee to begin work on the FY24 data summary document and utilize this as a stepping-stone to the development of a resource guide.
- In **September 2023 or November 2023**, the CHST will determine whether a subcommittee is necessary to develop this resource guide or if this can be tasked to staff or another department/agency. This project should be coordinated with the rural resource guide.
- In **September 2023**, the CHST will determine if a subcommittee is needed to review identified grants and whether or not they warrant application.
- In **November 2023 and January 2024**, the CHST will determine best entities to apply for grants (CHST, one of the Departments, a non-profit, or a tribe).

Key Priority Area 7: Establish Demand Reduction Diversion Programs

***FY24 Recommendation # 8: Further evaluate the efficacy of demand reduction programs.
For the purpose of this document, demand reduction refers to any effort to purchase sex.***

FY24 Tasks:

- Research and evaluate evidence-based demand reduction efforts including models that provide an avenue of funding for victim services. These models are often referred to as “John’s Schools” and are dependent on law enforcement conducting stings to identify potential participants.
- Research and evaluate other demand reduction models including EPIK, Don’t Buy It, cyber patrols, and law enforcement responses.
- Focus immediate efforts on changing social norms through public awareness campaigns (see recommendation #2) and evaluate existing media campaigns.

Timelines:

- In **August-September 2023**, Senator Kiehl will ask Legislative Research Services to conduct a formal review of John’s Schools/demand reduction programs .
- In **September or November 2023**, request EPIK to present on their demand reduction efforts. Evaluate additional possible presenters at the **November 2023** meeting.
- The CHST, as part of the review of other states’ trafficking councils, will determine if there are any other promising demand reduction programs.

Key Priority Area #8: Identify Gaps in Human Trafficking Information

FY24 Recommendation #9: Build off the success of the first data report and update this document annually and disseminate in January so that the document will be available for legislative session.

FY24 Tasks:

- Reconvene the Data subcommittee and determine if any additional members are needed.
- Meet with Prevention Now to determine progress on screening tool for providers and provide update to the CHST.
- Evaluate adding a question to both the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
- Secure funding for data related project to include the Mental Health Trust (Trust).

Timeline:

- In **August 2023**, the CHST will reach out to YRBS and BRFSS staff. If there is an opportunity for them to be added to either survey, the Data subcommittee will be tasked with developing questions for either survey.
- In **mid-August 2023**, the Data subcommittee will convene. The subcommittee will meet monthly or as needed.
- In **early August 2023**, the Trust will meet with UAA's Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC) to request their assistance with a meta-analysis on research related to Labor and Sex Trafficking. Additional timelines will be implemented based on the initial meeting with AJiC.
- In **early January 2023**, draft data summary document completed for the CHST review and approval.
- In **mid-January 2024**, disseminate data summary document and publish on website.

Subcommittee: Chris Darnall, Chair