

Human Trafficking Committee

Notes from meeting on April 23, 2015 in Chicago.

Participants: John Martin, Steve Weller, Sally Kader, Ann Breen Greco, Patricia Lynch, Danielle Malagone, Brandy Mueller, Michelle Hollar Gregory, Joan Churchill, and Elizabeth Lee.

Members were given a copy of "*Trafficking in Persons: Modern Day Slavery*" the NAWJ Program Guide and encouraged to distribute it to a wider audience. The Program Guide will be put on the NAWJ general website under Programs shortly for everyone to access.

Members discussed writing an article about Human Trafficking intervention and/or collaborative courts. The idea is to gather as much information as we can about these types of courts around the country. Members would be encouraged to compile information about these courts, their structure, their services, eligibility, and length of each program, where they obtained the funds for the courts, etc. and write it up in a format that could then be used to create a larger article for others to reference. We could also compare how different courts measure outcomes and whether any evidence based practices are being used with success. This might be a suitable article for Counterbalance. A longer article could be uploaded onto the NAWJ website as a reference guide for other judges.

Brandy advised members that they will be opening up a Human Trafficking Court (Adult) in Austin Texas in the near future. Many of these courts are opening up around the country. Members discussed possibly doing another Human Trafficking Survey to document how many of these courts there are, how they are funded, and where they are located. Most of the courts in existence are adult human trafficking courts run through the criminal trial courts. There are some juvenile human trafficking courts such as the STAR court which involves girls on Juvenile Probation in LA County. It does not appear that anyone has created a dependency based human trafficking court and this may be a promising area where a new best practice might be developed.

Danielle advised that the Center of Court Innovation (CCI) is able to provide technical assistance to any court wishing help in setting up their direct response to human trafficking. This might include guidance in developing a collaborative court but is not limited to that assistance.

John Martin talked about some upcoming interesting opportunities for the committee. There will be a National Human Trafficking Conference in New York on October 8th through 9th (or thereabouts). Teams from every state will be invited to attend. Each team will be led by their Chief Justice, someone from the State Court's Management team, and two others. The conference will be funded, in part, by the State Justice Institute.

Ann advised that the federal anti-trafficking bill passed (after being held up in Congress for a while). The new bill will provide more services to victims although all health related services were taken out from the bill.

Pat mentioned that she has been researching Women in the Cults/Polygamy in the Arizona region. There is potentially a lot of labor and sex trafficking going on in this area given the rural based family dynamics. She would be willing to share more information with our group as she compiles it. We suggested that this too might be the subject of an article for Counterbalance.

Sally mentioned that she has been hosting various Human Trafficking panels at the UN in New York through the Middle East Federation for Peace. This is a great opportunity for more of our committee members to get involved and participate. Sally isn't able to provide a travel budget but if you think of an area where she might be able to do on a panel or a session, or if you are interested in volunteering to speak on such a panel, let her know. Several of our members (including Cathy Serrette) have already spoken at these events and received very positive feedback.

Joy Lobrano (New Orleans) sends her regrets that she was unable to attend the conference and our meeting in Chicago however she wanted to raise the question of what might be done to develop a protocol on the proper counseling of minor victims of trafficking. She included the 2014 Report of the Task Force of Trafficking of Women and Girls published by the American Psychological Association which concluded that there has been very little research conducted on what is the best way to deliver appropriate psychological counseling to victims.

Given that there is a paucity of research in this area (most research is based upon treatment for PTSD, less on sexual trauma, and very little on trauma experienced by HT victims) Joy suggested that this might be a good area for our committee to focus on. She is working on developing a local protocol for counseling provided to minor victims of trafficking (in New Orleans) which might serve as a good template for other jurisdictions.

John advised that the Collaborative will be applying for additional grant money in the following areas and requests that members of our committee assist:

- 1) Fostering partnerships between researchers and human trafficking survivors: while much research has been done on human trafficking and the impact it has on victims/survivors, very little of the research has focused on what survivors have to say about the topic. This project would involve facilitating the relationship and connection between various research groups/authors and trafficking survivors. NAWJ could be of great assistance here in reaching out to local organizations that may have access to survivors and then introducing them to the researcher(s). Our role would be to serve as a liaison between the two groups. Ideas are needed as to how to facilitate this.
- 2) Changing the Perception of Human Trafficking Victims in Court: This project would involve getting feedback from victims/survivors about how they were treated in court and whether there are areas where improvements could be made. Survivors/victims would be asked for feedback on their experiences in court, positive and negative. The project would also involve getting feedback from all the court stakeholders involved in these types of cases, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, social workers, probation officers, and service organizations. The goal would be to develop some type of best practice based upon this research. Our feedback is welcome.
- 3) Developing better measurements, data collection, and analysis of statistics concerning Human Trafficking cases. NAWJ could assist in developing ideas in this area which seems to be a common problem experienced by all who are working in the field.

John is hopeful that the grants will be funded by SJI (and/or others) in the amount of \$500k for each of the categories for a period of two years. The grant applications are due in the next few weeks so many of us might be asked to contribute our thoughts as the Collaborative writes the grant.

From the agenda, it looks like there will be one panel discussion on Human Trafficking at the Annual Conference later this year in Utah. It will be on a Pro Bono Counsel's view of *U.S. vs. Adan*.

Next meeting date: Has not been set yet but will likely be a conference call in the next month or so. Stay tuned!