

## Human Trafficking Task Force

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:00pm

College of DuPage

Student Services Center, Room SSC2200 (Boardroom)

425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Members on phone:

Rep. Jesiel  
Sen. Althoff

Members at the College of DuPage:

Rep. Bellock  
Sen. McConnaughay  
Sen. Holmes  
Rep. Wheeler – representative

Called to order @ 2:10pm

*Sen. McConnaughay*- Thank you to everybody participating today. We have 5 of these planned all around the state. Scheduling has been difficult because of the legislative calendar. We are hoping to continue through the hearings without interruption. I am very happy to be here and see the task force move forward. Illinois does not have statewide coordination in combating human trafficking. It is my goal is to come up with a road map that we can work from in order to create better lines of communication, better lines of coordination. There is an ongoing list of things we want to accomplish with this.

*Rep. Bellock*- All of your input is very important. If you have suggestions that you think should be done legislation or otherwise, please feel free to contact Gwen Walsh or any of the other legislators on the committee. First speaker is Summar Ghias from STOP IT Salvation Army.

*First speaker - Summar Ghias*  
*STOP-IT, Salvation Army*

Unfortunately, the story often goes like this: A human trafficking survivor manages to leave a trafficking situation to reclaim their life and move forward after a traumatizing experience. But then, they have no idea where to go, who to trust, or what will help mitigate that pervasive feeling that nothing is under their control, and hasn't been for quite some time.

Like any victims of crime, survivors of human trafficking deserve a safety net through a system wide response to human trafficking that goes beyond short-sighted reactionary measures and band-aid-like interventions. As victims of a horrendous crime, they deserve to be treated as victims rather than criminals, have access to safe and sustainable housing options, receive trauma-informed services that allow for them to hold space and make their own decisions, and benefit from criminal justice and civil responses that uplift them so they can thrive within their

own lives and within the communities in which they feel safe. As citizens of the state of Illinois, we can help to bring survivors from crisis to stability with a statewide response that truly meets these goals.

For much of the general public, human trafficking feels like a crime that only happens in far off lands. Unfortunately, the facts tell us otherwise. Human trafficking can and does take place in all fifty states and impacts people of all backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, genders, and life experiences. In Illinois last year, 555 calls were made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and 122 cases were reported. Those numbers hardly break the surface; human trafficking still goes largely unidentified and is even more underreported. We also lack a statewide clearinghouse or mechanism for truly accurate numbers.

What do we know? We know from our work over the last seven years with about 27 other member agencies of the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force that resources are limited, that training and awareness is critical, and that collaboration amongst systems and entities works far better than recreating the wheel or working within silos. When we truly learn about, accept, and acknowledge the role of the multiple player's necessary to provide survivors with that safety net, we can do better to navigate through the various systems in which they may engage. For this reason, it is vital that there be a mechanism by which folks doing the work on the ground and those leading our institutions at the local, state, and federal level are able to regularly work alongside each other. It is also critical that we engage survivors in this discussion from the very beginning.

As you know, human trafficking occurs when someone is forced, tricked, or coerced to work at a place of employment or to engage in commercial sex acts for favors or money. With the passing of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act in 2000, subtler forms of coercion were addressed to broaden previous standards that only considered bodily harm. For many of our clients at the Salvation Army STOP-IT program, psychological coercion is part and parcel to their experience. Chains and ropes are not.

To be clear, violence can and does take place in situations of human trafficking. Often, fear can be a means of control, and violence can instill lasting fear that keeps someone in a situation of trafficking. But that same individual may also be bound by the unseen forces of intimidation, threats of violence, withholding of documents, and threats of deportation or arrest. That same individual may have been allowed to come and go without a controller present while in the trafficking situation. They may have clung to initial promises of a better life, of love, of support, of opportunity. Survivors have to grapple with the reality of these relationships while re-learning what trust could look like with outside parties who claim they want to help.

This is where systems come into play. Survivors may have lost trust with authority and anyone with power. Service providers hope to rebuild that trust by working directly with survivors to provide a range of comprehensive trauma-informed services. This involves simultaneously engaging with partners of all disciplines, including law enforcement, legal service providers, advocates, shelters, hospitals, and the courts to make sure that survivors needs are met. Training and intentionality around working with this population make us one step ahead of the game to avoid re-victimization and victim blaming across the board. Training also helps us with

prevention as we think about vulnerable populations, and those within specific communities that may be particularly at risk. As a result of our local task force work, we have successfully trained 12,382 professionals on human trafficking between October 1, 2010 and June 30, 2017. However, there is much more training to be done.

We know from research by Amy Farrell at Northeastern University that requiring the National Human Trafficking Hotline number to be posted in public places is the most important provision for increasing the number of human trafficking arrests (though mandating the posting of the national hotline does not predict prosecution). As per her research, task forces are the strongest predictors of prosecution of suspects for human trafficking specific offenses. These types of responses and the evidence base to back it up are key as we think about effective ways to prevent, identify and respond to human trafficking.

Awareness efforts should also move beyond media stereotypes and allow for us to think about folks within specific communities, such as communities of color, LGBTQ individuals, youth, undocumented survivors, male survivors, and survivors with substance abuse issues. We must continue to critically examine the complexity of these situations so that no survivor, whether trafficked for labor at a restaurant, as a nanny in domestic servitude, or as a young person on the street, is overlooked.

*Sen. Linda Holmes-* I understand that there are many organizations and institutions that need to address all of the different aspects to this. My concern always is, when you look at a problem that covers this magnitude of issues, how do you make sure that all those groups actually work collaboratively so you don't have them providing services that overlap with each other or because everyone is providing their own services, there isn't a hole left somewhere that there's a service that needs to be filled that isn't? That seems like one of the more difficult things to try to address something like this.

*Summar Ghias-* I think that is why task forces are really important. Our Cook County Human Trafficking TF has about 30 members and organizations. We do come together very regularly, quarterly, to address some of those issues. What resources are lacking? What do we need to fill in terms of service provisions? How can we work better together? Those are the kinds of things I think across the state would be really beneficial.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* One other question for you – can you tell me a little bit, specifically, about what services you provide?

*Summar Ghias-* The Salvation Army STOP-IT Program provides comprehensive case management services to all survivors of human trafficking. That would be men, women, anyone that is undocumented, and anyone that meets the federal government's definition of human trafficking. We provide services to those who are as young as 14 and as old as 77.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* Can you elaborate a little bit about how your clients were referred to you? How are you funded? What other agencies and organizations you interact with? One of the things that I'm hoping we get out of this is an understanding of what network exists right now and what services are being provided within the network. I want to make sure that I have a better

understanding of exactly what it is Salvation Army is doing and how you're interacting with others. Can you elaborate?

*Summar Ghias*- We're funded by the office of Trafficking and Persons and the Office for Victims of Crime. Both are federal grants. No state grants.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- Is that private foundation money? Or is it government funded?

*Summar Ghias*- It is all government funded. We have, in terms of service provisions, we have workers go out and meet with survivors within their communities and develop individualized service plans, talk through crisis that may be occurring that initial on set. We have a 24-hour hotline that survivors can call and that our professional partners can also call in case of an emergency. We would then have a caseworker go out to meet with folks and try to do some safety planning, find them the basic needs that they may have in that moment like food, shelter, clothing, and then work with them to develop a longer term service plan to help exit the trafficking situation and move forward with their lives. We also have a "drop in space" for female identified youth who may have had to engage in survival sex. That is something that is a bi-weekly space that we also have for folks to come to.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- Do you provide housing at all?

*Summar Ghias*- We don't.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- So you provide drop in services and you coordinate with caseworkers so what kind of a role or activity are you engaged in regards to housing, education, medical, whatever the needs might be of the client?

*Summar Ghias*- We work individually with folks. If they are in certain communities and they want to access services in that community, then we will be reaching out to the resources in that specific community. We also have, as part of our task force, we developed what we like to call a coordinated services referral network. It's essentially a space where people are trained and then they become a member of our network. Then we send referrals if we have them. That's a resource available to all of our task force memberships. As a program we have our own relationship with various providers and so we might make referrals to those agencies if we have a working relationship with them. We have been around for about 10 years so we have developed specific relationships with many providers to provide things like housing and some of the other education and counseling needs.

Anyone can call our hotline number. It could be a professional partner or it could be the survivors themselves calling to ask for services. We also get calls routed from the national human trafficking hotline to our program. That's another way, if someone were to call the national hotline and it met the criteria of our service area it would route to us and connect to us here. Underreporting happens for many reasons. Often there's stigma, maybe there's not a proper understanding what can be provided for someone that's a victim of this crime and often we know that underreporting happens with male survivors as well. There are many reasons why someone would not report; such as having negative experiences with authority in the past.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- There is the hotline number for the national human trafficking resource center. Do you have a different one than that?

*Summar Ghias*- We have a local hotline. When I say that the national hotline routes to us, its local to our services area if its related. There are 2 numbers.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- There is one local hotline number that you all work from? Or does each organization have their own?

*Summar Ghias*- Each organization does do their own thing. We always provide resources to other agencies if it's a better fit for someone else. I'm not sure if every organization has a 24-hour hotline number, but there are different numbers for different organizations.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- You mentioned possibly using a domestic violence shelter – when that happens, many of our domestic violence shelters receive state funding. So if you're utilizing those services, are you doing any form of payment from your grants to them or are they just taking that on upon themselves?

*Summar Ghias*- Most instances they take it upon themselves. Often it may require that the trafficking situation is an intimate partner. So that's how they are eligible for the services anyway. And so we are asking them to be informed as to what human trafficking looks like so they can make that determination and realize they are dealing with human trafficking to truly know what the security and safety concerns might be in that situation. Some of us do have working relationships to provide financially but it depends on the agency.

*Rep. Bellock*- Do you think it would be beneficial if the state of Illinois had a hotline and then would refer to the different agencies?

*Summar Ghias*- Yes, as long as it's not duplicating what the national human trafficking hotline is doing. I think there's a way to coordinate with that federal entity as well.

*Second speaker - Darci Flynn*

*Heartland Alliance*

I hope to paint a picture of some of the needs of trafficking survivors and to urge you to support the programs and services that help survivors and fight the threats that make them feel unsafe. Our specialized anti-trafficking program helps to serve the survivors of both sex and labor trafficking in Chicago, throughout Illinois and across 32 states. In addition to the direct services we provide to survivors to help them rebuild their lives, seek safety and meet their personal goals, we provide a wide variety of local, regional, and national trainings and technical assistance on identifying and responding to survivors. We know that human trafficking exists because poverty exists. We know that nearly 1/3 of people living in Illinois are living at or near poverty. And that extreme poverty reaches all 102 counties in the state of Illinois. We also know that people of color and children have higher rates of poverty across the state. Race and age are strong vulnerability factors of human trafficking as well as poverty. We know that many groups impacted by poverty are also disproportionately impacted by violence. Human trafficking does

not exist in a vacuum. However, we often talk about it siloes in other issues. This task force has a unique opportunity to shift this dialogue and truly discuss its intersectionality. The survivors we work with every day experience a spectrum of victimization including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, and a variety of mental health issues. In a lot of ways, myself and my colleagues here today must adhere to the federal and state definitions of human trafficking when accepting survivors for services. But I urge this task force to not be limited by these definitions when addressing these crimes. If we want to discuss feasible, innovative, successful solutions to human trafficking we must care about immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, unemployment, and the list goes on. At Heartland Alliance we serve survivors of torture, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, refugees, the chronically homeless, individuals with chronic mental health needs, and juveniles in alternative detention. Though these that I have listed do not have trafficking in their title or their scope of work, many of the participants with whom we work experience human trafficking and exploitation or are at risk of such victimization. To help us better understand some of these intersectionality's and the realities of human trafficking, I'd like to share a quick story of a survivor with whom we served who I will call Harriett. Harriett was living in her home country where she was experiencing poverty and surrounded by violence and war. A man in her village began to strike up a relationship with her. He would visit from the United States where he had dual citizenship. Over time she began to develop feelings for him and when he presented the idea of going into the United States under a fiancé visa, to pursue a better and safer life, she was excited at that opportunity. Soon after she found out she was pregnant. The couple came to the US to what Harriett thought was her happily ever after. But upon arriving here, she quickly realized that would not be her reality. The man who had courted her now began to physically and emotionally abuse her. He would force her to have sex with him and she became a slave of the home, force to cook and clean for him. She ended up having two children with him. One day Harriett found the courage and bravery to flee the home while her trafficker was at work. She sought services for her and her children from a local domestic violence shelter. At this time, her visa had expired and she was undocumented. The advocate shelter referred her to an immigration attorney who ultimately identified Harriett as a survivor of human trafficking. Perhaps you may be thinking why she would qualify as a survivor of trafficking and not just a survivor of domestic violence? It is because the scheme to bring her to the US was fraudulent, potential for marriage was a lie, and the goal was to exploit her for work in the home. Harriett is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Another piece of Harriett's story is an area in Heartland Alliance has spoken on over the past 5 years. When we met Harriett, she was living in a domestic violence shelter with a short-term period of stay, forcing her to move just four months after she arrived. Because her immigration status had expired, Harriett did not qualify for many long-term housing programs. Consequently she had to move to a homeless shelter with her children that was not equipped to meet her language needs, did not provide culturally appropriate food and was not trauma informed. Time and time again survivors tell us they would rather sleep on the streets than a shelter or residential program. It is temporary, it is unpredictable, and it is not safe. These are not my words, they are survivor's words. At Heartland we do not believe this is enough and we strive to push back against the status quo to better meet the needs of survivors. We have convened on many occasions, including in tandem with the Cook County Human Trafficking TF and survivors to problem solve for safe, affordable housing. Many of those partners are in this room today. As a result we have created institutionalized partnerships to increase safe, affordable housing choices for survivors. At Heartland we operate a transitional

housing program for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. We also leverage Heartland's expertise as a housing developer to strategically consider solutions to the lack of housing for survivors. In 2016 Heartland joined many other services agencies represented here in celebrating a pilot project for the housing authority to develop such a program in the nation. Harriet was one of the many survivors who are able to leave shelter and obtain an apartment through our transitional housing program. Providing this support allowed Harriet to remain in English classes, work with her attorney on her legal case, and file a report to law enforcement. Housing was a critical, life-changing resource provided to Harriet. She remained undocumented, and unauthorized to work in the US. While her attorney prepared her application for immigration relief, Harriet consistently told us she did not have enough to eat, she had no money to purchase hygiene products or diapers for her children, and she could only seek medical care for her children who had health insurance. At Heartland, we refused to accept this as enough. In 2016, our policy team led tireless efforts to pass a bill that allowed survivors of human trafficking and other crimes, to obtain public benefits while waiting for their immigration status. I had the privilege of attending the Housing committee where a survivor shared her experience. I want to take the opportunity to thank you on behalf of survivors for voting to pass this bill. It will not only change lives, it will save lives. This bill will actually go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. As a task force made up of decision makers, I urge you to monitor the implementation of this law to ensure a seamless roll out that leads to greater, faster, stabilization for survivors. Harriet is 1 of thousands of survivors in the state of Illinois. The services she received worked for her because she defined her goals and was given choices. The same services do not work for every survivor that walks through our doors. We must challenge the one-size-fits-all that is often prescribed. For example, many survivors have criminal backgrounds that are often directly a result of their trafficking situation that do not only include prostitution-related charges. For some survivors, they are fearful for reporting to law enforcement because the life or the life of their loved ones is at stake. Therefore, a criminal investigation may not be priority or safe until their family can seek that safety and they can heal from their trauma. While trafficking survivors are struggling to identify resources to help them escape trafficking and build safe lives, the president's recent executive orders and actions are driving fears among many of our participants. Within the past few months, Harriet has called us terrified that she would be deported. She said that after everything that has happened to her, she "would die" if she were forced to leave her children behind. Harriet was able to be identified because she entered a shelter, spoke to an attorney who was trained to identify human trafficking, and report it to law enforcement. 100% of the survivors we serve fulfill the criteria of reporting to law enforcement. Showing fear will only keep people like Harriet from seeking help in such situations and will keep from those who have undergone abuse and exploitations from coming forward.

For those of us who provide services for trafficking survivors, we were worried recent events signal a reduction in the commitment of people who have undergone violence and exploitation. We must make clear to all survivors of trafficking and violence that we will uphold our moral obligation as human beings to support them and help them to thrive. At Heartland we believe that everyone in society benefits when people who experience disparities in safety, health, housing, education, economic opportunity and justice are able to exit poverty, heal from trauma and achieve stability, secure their rights and shape policies that respond to their needs.

Illinois has been a leader and a champion of anti-trafficking efforts. But we can and should be doing more. We must stand up against modern day slavery and support all survivors of trafficking. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

*Sen. Holmes-* I'm wondering, do we actually need to redefine, because it's very difficult and in some cases you could be looking at a case where it's a blatant case of somebody just being here not legally vs. looking at the reason she's there, which definitely puts her into the human trafficking category. It's a matter of how do we get that definition fully across and fully understood and that can be a major difficulty. Are you running into that being a major problem?

*Darci-* Yes. I think to the point that Summar also made, we tried to put the training out there as much as we can is a multidisciplinary approach. Not just law enforcement, not just attorney's. Everyone needs to know about this issue. But then it's what number do you call? Does this program serve US citizens? It gets really complicated because most anti-trafficking services are funded federally and it's not streamlined. It is really hard to make it more coordinated.

*Sen. Holmes-* The only thing I ask of you, if there is a way to redefine this to make it look better, let us know what you think that might look like.

*Darci-* I will let the attorneys on the agenda address that issue. I will say that we didn't need to change the definition to get Harriet her support. I don't think Harriet is the case that people think about when they think of trafficking. Which is why I shared her story today because she still met those definitions of domestic violence and human trafficking and because the trafficking component was there, she was able to pursue further services and support through our program in addition to domestic violence services.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* Can I talk about the legislative aspects to Heartland Alliance? Can you give us a sense, from Heartland's perspective, what is it that we still need to do legislatively in this arena in order to, whether it's a definition issue, or an enforcement issue, or whatever it might be, what's still on the legislative schedule from Heartland's perspective? From Heartland's perspective, is there a body of priority legislation that is out there that either comes from Heartland Alliance or from the Cook County Task Force?

*Darci-* Any time we are proposing or talking about legislation in this area we are always striving to be holistic and we put our name on things that are holistic. This means they serve both sex and labor trafficking survivors as well as immigrants and US citizens or undocumented as well. That is what we are striving to see. We are putting our heads together with a lot of thought partners in the room and across the state about how to address labor trafficking specifically. I think a lot of laws have come forward to address sex trafficking. We can do a much better job when it comes to labor trafficking to protect the workers who are going to work every day in this state. I'm sure more of my colleagues will share more about that as well. In terms of implementation, it's really hard. I think the proposed bill that Summar mentioned is clear evidence of that. In Chicago we tried to go out and do some outreach and hang flyers but we are one entity with the few staff in Chicago. We would love to see it at the state level. How do we do that? I think a task force is a great vehicle to get some of that outreach out in the respective communities.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- I think that we need almost like a separate dedicated task force meeting that identifies, that really works through what we do have on the books. We should hear from the people who are on the front lines --- where are the gaps? What is it we need to be doing legislatively that we haven't? We should have that definitely be a part of the recommendations that come out of the task force. But also identify the statutes that have been created, well intended on our part, that have not been able to achieve the results. I think we need both of those things as a major part of the final outcome of the task force.

*Rep. Bellock*- When you talked about the status, did the federal bill in 2000, did that create a specific status that allows certain benefits?

*Darci*- Yes.

*Rep. Bellock*- So then that's just implemented through Illinois?

*Darci*- Right. So federal law under the Trafficking Victims Protect Act created the immigration relief and the T-Visa and so that anyone in the US that meets the federal definition can apply for that no matter what state they're in because it's a federal protection.

*Rep. Bellock*- Is that a certain period of time for the Visa?

*Darci*- It's 4 years and they can adjust to become a lawful resident and then after 5 years they can apply to be a US citizen. It's a pathway to citizenship.

*Third speaker - Jennifer Cacciapaglia*

*Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation*

Good Afternoon. Thank you for having me here today. I am the president of Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. I am here today with my co-founder, Lori Johnson. Since being asked to speak her today, I spent a great deal of time contemplating how to effectively carry the message and articulate the needs of the survivors we have come to know. I take this responsibility very seriously. Before I go further, I want to talk about language I will use today. When I say "trafficker" I mean pimp. The people who prey upon young citizens and through force, fraud or coercion, more people enter the commercial sex trade or profit from sexual exploitation. When I say "John" I mean the person responsible for the commercial sex industry. They sustain and support it. These men walk among us every day to purchase human being for sex in our communities. When I say "survivor" I speak of anyone who has survived a horrific experience of being trafficked by a pimp or purchased by a John, whether they escape the life of sexual exploitation 25 years ago or if they woke up this morning still in those circumstances, because if they woke up today, they are still fighting something. Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation is a survivor center, trauma-informed, non-for-profit working to eradicate human trafficking and sexual exploitation in our community. We have been a 5013(c) since 2013. We receive no federal or state funding. We are survivor-centered and have adopted the practice of survivor-lived experiences into development of our policies, practices and procedures. Our approach is trauma-informed as it has been developed from the perspective of recognizing the impact that violent trauma can have on a survivors behavior. We further this goal through community outreach, partnering with law enforcement to promote an end demand

approach and coordinating a network of survivor services. We are made entirely of volunteers. In addition to our board, we have developed a coordinated community to stop domestic sex trafficking through an extensive network of local, regional and national partners. Lori and I speak to approximately 1000 individuals each year through community outreach. Our message is simple. So-called prostitution is not what you think it is. Why they would continue to labor under a reason of choice by the survivors that must be corrected when addressing this crime. We must look at it for what it is. A brutal, violent, exploitation by pimps and Johns of the most vulnerable and a lucrative criminal enterprise intricately intertwined with the illegal drug trade. The vast majority of survivors have suffered childhood sexual abuse, are horribly addicted to drugs, usually courtesy of their pimp, and they are certain that we cannot think for them. They see no way out of their circumstances. Even if they found a way to escape, the misplaced shame they feel is hopelessly crippling. An end demand approach, shifting law enforcement efforts to purge this surge is crucial to ending this crime. We know this; a study was published by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation called "deconstructing demand of prostitution, preliminary insights and interviews with Chicago men who purchase sex". During the study, 113 purchasers of sex were interviewed and when asked what would deter them from buying sex, 87% said having their photo or name in a local paper. 83% said jail time. 75% said greater criminal penalty in general. In short, some sort of consequences for their crimes. I submit to you that we should believe them. Their words should guide us in how we reshape the criminal justice systems response to stop human trafficking across the state. Purchase-control in our community who purchase sex and also maintain online forums where they provide reviews of people they have purchased for sex. Offer one another information on where to purchase people and post real time information on the location of law enforcement and how to avoid police. They dub the purchase of humans their great hobby. When there is an end demand and operation by local law enforcement in Rockford, the Johns will mend the disruptions to their activities. The commercial sex industry is a 3-legged stool made up of the pimp, the John and the survivor. Our societal response to these groups is ineffective and unjust. We glamorize the pimp, excuse the behavior of Johns with the ridiculous notion that boys will be boys, as though we should normalize the purchase of human beings. Finally, we criminalize, humiliate and discard the survivor. This broken model places every ounce of shame, humiliation, and both criminal and moral responsibility on the survivor rather than where it belongs, squarely on the shoulders of the persons driving the commercial sex industry – the pimps and purchasers. Human sex trafficking occurred at several venues in Rockford including exotic dance clubs, massage parlors, lingerie modeling shops, street levels, residential brothels, hotels and online. Where traffickers are so often aided and embedded by the corporate pimp. When we come into contact with the survivors taking assistance, we immediately begin a triage addressing safety, food, clothing, housing and medical issues. First above all else, we hold fast the commitment to operate under survivor-centered informed principles. We rely on the survivors to guide his or her next steps and decide what services they wish to pursue. We walk with them in support them in whatever decisions they make. We also recognize they have suffered extreme mind-breaking trauma and it manifests in ways that most of us would know as not normal. Their fear, aggression, anger and distress are not a result of their wish to be difficult or act out. They are surviving as best they can in circumstances that would destroy most of us. While RAASE focuses its resources on adult survivors, we are acutely aware that we are missing an entire population of exploited children in our community. To be clear, the Winnebago county sheriff's department's tactical unit searches for survivors as their time allows. And to date in 2017, 4 minors have been recovered from sex

trafficking in Winnebago County by chance. One of the minors was 14, 2 were 15, and 1 was 17. They were all trafficked by pimps from the northern Illinois region. During the recovery of the 14-year-old, members of the tactical unit observed an alarmingly high number of Johns circling the area in attempt to reach her. In fact, it was the presence of so many Johns that first alerted police of the child's presence on the street. Winnebago sheriff sergeant, Mick Cunningham, advises that illegal narcotics are connected to the trafficking problem in our region. This is consistent with experiences of survivors, with all but 1 woman reporting an addition to narcotics. This addiction is a powerful means of control for pimps. Our primary challenge is the lack of holistic emergency housing and medical detox.

We have a partnership with medical providers and work closely with already tasked domestic violence shelters in the northern Illinois region to provide emergency housing when the shelter criteria are met. These are not the most ideal circumstances for the survivor, staff or other residents of the shelter as a survivor is most often hyper-anxious and fearful as well as suffering from withdrawal symptoms. These critical services are essential and immediate hours following request for help from a survivor and there is simply no current infrastructure to provide them. I cannot go further in my testimony today without addressing the relationship between human trafficking and domestic violence. Domestic violence is used by traffickers as a means to control survivors, manipulate them into human trafficking and further the goal of exploitation profit. The domestic violence experience is nearly identical in human trafficking survivors with the trafficker exercising a systematic method of power and control to promote fear and gain subordination and compliance. From August 2016 to August 2017, 80% of the human trafficking survivors who sought assistance from RAASE described their current circumstance as a result of force, fraud or coercion by a domestic partner. The remaining 20% did not disclose originating events given their circumstances. Sgt. Cunningham reports discovering women being trafficked in every hotel in Rockford and tactical unit says the demand is so high in Rockford. There is such a significant demand for trafficked persons in our community that websites facilitating the commercial industry have dedicated pages to Rockford. Early intervention and identification, supportive services and significant severe consequences to purchasers of traffickers are necessary to effectively combat human trafficking and we need your help in these critical issues. We know the average age of entering into the commercial sex industry is younger than 16 years old. Traffickers and purchasers prey upon our children and we must arm teachers and parents with the information needed to be on the lookout for these predators. Teachers spend a great deal of time with their students and they are in a unique position to notice signs of trafficking. Our children should be made aware with age appropriate curriculum of the dangers of these predators. What it looks like when a pimp is grooming them, and how a boyfriend can easily turn into a trafficker. We also have to talk to our young men. Honest discussions must occur so that they may realize the sexual exploitation of another person is abnormal and destructive. Consistent statewide law enforcement training and protocol addressing the role of domestic violence in human trafficking as well as the effects of trauma on survivors is needed. Such a statewide mandate also conveys a clear message that combatting this crime is a priority. When RAASE speaks to law enforcement we are consistently approached afterwards by officers explaining that they were unaware of this issue and after hearing us speak they can now identify calls that they now realize were trafficking situations. Mary Ogden, a Sargent in the Rockford Domestic Violence Unit attended the Cook County human trafficking task force conference in 2016 and was subsequently was able to identify several trafficking cases which had originally

presented as domestic violence situations. We simply are not sending our officers into communities equipped to identify this insidious crime and we must do better for them. Medical professionals are also in a unique position to interact with a survivor and it is imperative they be trained to identify and safely intervene in these circumstances. Nurses and doctors are the persons most likely to come into contact with a survivor. They are in the best position to isolate them from the trafficker and ask questions. One survivor we spoke with told us a time her pimp brought her to an emergency room. She waited for a nurse to ask how she received her injuries. Or to question the illogical story he told on her behalf. Emergency room doctors and nurses and clinic staff are on the front lines and they need to be armed with information to help. When survivors reached out to RAASE for help we enter a fast moving, critical time to respond effectively. Supportive services and emergency housing are crucial and if we are unsuccessful in offering those, we lose. I simply cannot overstate the need for your help in this area. After our initial triage, one service we offer is application assistance and transportation of survivors and times their children to long time restorative housing in this country. The application process for mid to long-term restorative housing is approximately 3 weeks. In the gap, regional shelters are our only option and they are not equipped to address these situations. While they drive the demand and destruction of the commercial sex industry, purchasers and traffickers have largely enjoyed anonymity and lack of attention from the criminal justice system. We cannot continue to sanction their behavior by ignoring or rationalizing it. They must face harsh penalties and lasting consequences for their behavior. As the effects of this destructive, brutal crime on our communities are immeasurable, the message to purchasers and pimps must be clear. Your violent, abusive behavior will not be tolerated. And has no place in our society. In the same study published I reference earlier, purchasers also express their sense of entitlement to use human beings. Their belief that once they pay for a person that person loses their right to say no or refuse any demand made by them. We read their comments on their online forums where they acknowledge women are not acting with their own free will. Yet this does not deter them. Accordingly, let us call them what they are, sexual predators and rapists. Let us label them publically and legislate the requirements to register them as sex offenders, so that we may all be warned of their presence among us. Thank you again for the honor of speaking here today. I am humbled by the responsibility of carrying this message. From sacred spaces that I have had the honor to be a part of where survivors were able to share their experiences in one form or another, Diane taught me the lesson that we are dealing with people's lives and not everyone survives. Sara and Denise have shown me that despite of our best efforts, the trauma and violence inflicted by pimps and Johns is sometimes so mind-breaking that though one can physically survive, they are irretrievably broken. And Amber, Ally, Rachel, Dorothy and Mary have taught me that in the face of overwhelming cruelty and seemingly insurmountable odds, beauty, love and strength can overcome and win. It takes a great deal of resources, support and collaboration to effectively address human trafficking. The wonderful news is that we are making strides in Rockford with our law enforcement shift to an "end demand" approach, continuing development of a network of survivor services, and with every community member that RAASE reaches, we move closer to a cultural shift in how we approach this horrific problem. Slowly but surely, little by little we will get there but we need your help. For the sake of our children now, and for those children exploited and abused at a young age who survived adolescents, and are now being bought and sold in our community. The ones when they turned 18 our society burdened with a judgement that somehow their circumstances are their fault and their choice. We call them prostitutes and decide they deserve no grace, no humanity and no care. We do not accept that notion. While

RAASE cannot supply all of the support for this issue, you are in a district position to provide a clear voice of leadership aimed at drawing together the needed response and gaps we cannot fill so that we may better respond together. Your leadership also sends a clear message to perpetrators that their behavior has no place in our communities. But more importantly it sends a clear message to survivors and families broken by these crimes, you are valuable and we are here for you. Every day. All of us. You are not alone.

*Sen. Holmes-* I want to say that I'm impressed with the amount you are able to do especially without federal or state funds. That's extremely impressive. On the other hand, specifically, what do you want from us? I think legislatively you are looking to us to have harsher penalties for those who utilize the services. I would assume, not knowing the penalties for the pimps that are actually providing the services. I would love to know specifically what can we do to help the work that you are doing?

*Jennifer-* We would like to see mandated training for law enforcement and for medical professionals and for teachers. That is specifically what we would like to see. We would like to see legislation that requires age-appropriate curriculum for both boys and girls. Again, harsher penalties for purchasers of sex.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* So you are doing this on a volunteer basis? I agree it's pretty tough to do this when you don't have any funding. SO that means there is some committed leadership. You are one of them. Where is the other leadership coming from? My sense of this is that this really requires advocates and really dedicated individuals who think this is a priority to address that. I'm guessing that's how Rockford began the end-demand push that's ongoing. Can you talk a little bit about that? Local leadership can really make a difference in a community.

*Jennifer-* I will tell you quite frankly we went to our community. When I say Lorie and I speak to 1000 people a year, we spoke to 1000 people a year. We knew we were not going to be successful just her and I knocking on doors, we needed the voice of the community behind us. We knew once we talked to parents about what was happening in our community, they would not be able to look away. We started out very slowly. Then our turning point was the election of the Sheriff of Winnebago County. WE went to him to talk about what we had learned and the cook county sheriff's human trafficking task force and he listened and heard us loud and clear. He asked us to give him 3 weeks to assign specifically detectives he thought would be good at this to a task force to look for survivors and he did. He called us and they listened to us and came in and met with the cook county sheriff's team. It was just a momentum building. We currently have a mayor that is now sitting, Mayor Tom McNamara who is dedicated himself to providing an office to domestic violence that we are very happy about and he is working with us to try and develop that. Other than that it was really just reaching people. Once they know you can't look away. It's been a momentum building four years.

*Question-* Are you only talking Rockford?

*Jennifer-* The only number I cited was the percentage of survivors we have seen that identify as domestic violence survivors. I can't tell you that they're all from Rockford. If someone calls us and they need help, we don't turn them away. We specialize in domestic human sex trafficking.

If we ever had a situation where someone reached out from outside of that criterion, we would certainly connect them immediately to services. We know women are being brought to Rockford from Byron, Freeport, Jamesville, Deloitte, and we more importantly know men in those communities are coming to our community to buy people for sex.

*Question-* When you say volunteers, are these professionals?

Everyone on our board. I am a practicing attorney. Lorie Johnson also has a full-time career. Everyone on our executive board are full-time professionals and then we get a lot of offers to help and we will provide training to people who want to help and provide the right spot for them. We will not allow people to come talk to survivors. There is a rigorous training that we ask people to go through. We do have an army of volunteers who help out along the way. We also have fantastic corporate partners like the United Way, Rosecrance, we can get somebody medical detox with no insurance because the understanding we have with them. Rockford University has partnered with us. We network and meet with everybody.

*Rep. Bellock-* Are the state police working with you in that area?

*Jennifer-* They have called us once looking for an interpreter that we were not able to help with. We do not have a lot of direct relation with them. It's really the city of Rockford. We are in contact with our FBI agents and the Winnebago county sheriff's department.

*Fourth speaker - Megan Rosenfeld*

*Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation*

Good afternoon, I am going to skip a lot of the intro in the interest of time. My name is Megan Rosenfeld and I am the policy director for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation or CAASE. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am humbled and honored to be here with the other speakers today and I appreciate your commitment to determining what more Illinois can do to combat human trafficking and better serve the survivors of human trafficking. Human trafficking has been getting more attention over the last decade or so but it is not a new problem, While increased public attention is a positive development, CAASE cautions against efforts to frame the problem as novel, in part because the most effective responses to it will require the creative application of already developed wisdom as it relates to previously better seen but still challenging dynamics of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, rape, poverty and bigotry against people of color and LGBTQ communities.

I am going to echo a lot of what Jennifer, Summar and Darci have said before because I think there's a tendency to try to isolate and segregate these problems but they are not be isolated nor segregated. When we talk about sex trafficking, people often have a stereotypical image in their mind. The most common one is of a youth who has been kidnapped, transported far away from home, forced with extreme threats of violence to provide sex to adults that she is afraid of. While this description does fit the circumstances of a small portion of trafficked people, it fails to describe how sex trafficking mostly happens and it interferes with our society's capacity to see and respond to the problem appropriately. It's similar to the problems caused when rape is equated with a violent gun-wielding stranger. Victims, who are mostly raped by non-strangers, who use alcohol and not punches to get what they want, end up not being believed and

opportunities to teach the importance of consent to non-violent men are ignored. Fundamentally, in order to craft responses to sex trafficking that are effective, CAASE believes it is critical to provide quality understandings of who is at risk, who is causing the problem in the first place, what can be done to stop men from buying sex as well as helping survivors heal and thrive.

As an attorney working primarily in domestic violence law, a couple of jobs ago, I saw a number of women who came forward and ultimately identified as victims of domestic violence. They would usually come to see me only because it was part of their case plan. Child Protective Services was telling them they needed to in order to keep their children. It was either the state or the abuser telling them via legal threats against their children, that if they did not take legal action, they would not be able to maintain contact with their kids. In describing their relationships I saw a pattern. The story often went like this: as a teenager she was in a vulnerable situation. Perhaps she was living in or near poverty. Perhaps she lived with mental illness, diagnosed or undiagnosed. Perhaps she was already a young mother. She would meet a man who courted her and pursued her with so many markers of a romance film. He'd check in on her constantly to show that he cared. He verbalized love quickly and often. Their relationship moved fast. Within a few months they would be living together and very often she would be pregnant within the year. At some point during the first year, the constant check-in's would morph in from being romantic to being controlling. Eventually the relationship would turn abusive. And often an element of the abuse would be sexual abuse and coercion into having sex or certain sexual acts that she didn't want to participate in. Coercion into making videos that he would later use to blackmail her with. Then, eventually, coercion into having sex with his friends. Sometimes my clients would not know that their boyfriends and husbands were not getting paid to have sex with their friends and they would only find out later. I want to emphasize that none of my clients during this time period identified as prostitutes or sex trafficking victims. None of them. It was just through them telling their stories that that was an element of the abuse that they suffered with their partner. They only identified as domestic violence victims at the last possible second in order to get services in order to maintain relationships with their kids. These are labels that people do not want to adopt. These realities are among the reasons that we at CASE often describe prostitution as commercialized domestic violence. We favor the term sexual exploitation. Many of the women who are in the sex trade today are mothers. Many were first trafficked or pimped by a boyfriend or a husband or parent. Many continue in the sex trade even after escaping their first trafficker because they feel it is the only avenue open to them. Just as our society is increasingly familiar with the reluctance of battered women to identify as victims, to better understand that they rarely leave their abusers, so too should our society understand that solving sex trafficking will require women who are tied to people, who exploit them in complex ways. We must always remember that even people being treated horrendously, often hate being called victims and being identified as victims. One of the biggest reasons people who are being sex trafficked are not accessing safety or supportive services, beyond the initial reluctance to identify that I am a victim of sex trafficking, is public and social systems refusal to treat them as victims. I'm sure you are all aware of the Simon poll that Kimberly Palermo shared with us – 2/3 of Illinois voters polled said that sexual exploited adults should be prosecuted for crimes relating to sexual exploitation specifically prostitution and drugs. This is unacceptable. Victims cannot come forward with confidence that they will not be prosecuted until policing and prosecution practices change. People who have lived experiences with prostitution deserve specialized services. Over and over again at any meeting you have with

services providers who work with people being exploited in the sex trade, the first, the middle and the last answer about what they need is housing. Long-term supportive housing. There are not enough emergency beds transitional housing, or long-term affordable housing for survivors of sexual exploitation. Moreover, many of the other services besides housing are lacking. I am holding our 2012 proposal on statewide services, which I will leave behind and it's also available on our website. I'm going to email my testimony and the pdf from the website. According from the introduction, Sen. Hutchinson wrote, "If we want to stop the cycle of sexual exploitation in Illinois, we must offer survivors of sex trade the support and services they need to start over. This guide and demanding Illinois for services that includes ideas for offering survivors access to housing, trauma-informed counseling and other important resources. These specialized services can help people from many different backgrounds."

We must recognize that women from the sex trade are victims and criminals. We must treat them as such. What is the question that you have asked everyone else and might already be lurking, I will head off for a second – CAASE is not currently advancing any particular bill in Springfield. We are proud of the previous laws that we previously championed and are grateful to live in a state whose legislature was first in the country to completely prohibit the arrest and prosecution for children being sold for sex. We are focused on now is that current Illinois law is understood more effectively utilized. As the task force knows, the general assembly passed a law in 2012 that authorized fines for pimps, Johns and traffickers as a new fund for specialized services. I believe all of the members who were members of the task force voted for the law and we are deeply grateful of your leadership on that end. Now I am asking you for more help because despite the law, fines are not being collect. Whether its law enforcement not investigating pimps, John and traffickers, prosecutors not prosecuting offenses or failing to ask for fines as part of the plea, or judges not levying asked for fines as part of the sentence almost nothing is going into the fund for specialized services. This is one of CAASE's and end-demand Illinois' priorities. We are not advocating for new legislative action. We are attempting to educate and persuade law enforcement to implement the laws that are already on the books.

Again, thank you for inviting us to testify. Thank you for your dedication to work collaboratively in looking at the issue from all sides. I look forward to collaborate with the task force and DCFS to develop the state plan to address human trafficking. I have our statewide plan and copy of one of things that Jennifer mentioned, an analysis of buyers of sex in Illinois.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* On the enforcement of the law that provides penalties and fines, is that because they just don't know about it? What is the reason in your experience as to why at the local level, the court system, law enforcement is just not making this a priority?

*Megan-* I don't know. Without naming a specific community, I will say that the most recent thing I heard was that they don't want to put money in the state of Illinois. The prosecutors were not going to ask for it because they did not want to put fines in the state.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* There's an opportunity to collect several different fees. Is it that they would rather collect fees that they could put in their local government coffers? Or is it a total distrust in state government?

*Megan-* I am not sure. We are looking at the Chicago city ordinance and discussing possible changes in the Chicago city ordinance. I think that to mirror the Illinois law, a specialized would not successful and it would just go to general funds. I'm not sure what the reason is. Not to redirect your question, but to go to another issue we are having, that is my top priority right now, the coordination of efforts around the state. It's not necessarily super-useful for me to go to one of the 102 counties and just call a prosecutor and ask how many Johns have you been charging and what exactly have you done with that? We recently created a spreadsheet of all the multi-disciplinary teams and task forces that there are in this state. I was surprised that there were very few. There are maybe a dozen. Again, with 102 counties in a large state. I can email that information. So my next goal would be to work with those task forces and for them to find out in their community. It might have been Summar or Darci who said that collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach is necessary. We agree at CAASE. That is our best avenue to getting the laws actually implemented.

*Sen. Holmes-* Do we have the appropriate law in place for the charges that should be against the Johns or does that need to be strengthened? Is the problem that we don't have the right law in place? Or is the problem that we are not charging like we should be?

*Megan-* I would say the latter.

*Sen. Holmes-* There doesn't seem to be an emphasis on them being charged because quite simply, if that was being done, and used as a deterrent, you run into a supply and demand issue. If it comes to onerous to be a John and be penalized for doing it, then there is less of a need to have these poor women being put in this situation.

*Megan-* Exactly. Traffickers wouldn't do it if it wasn't profitable. It's only profitable because Johns are purchasing. That is our belief. I think Jennifer had exquisite testimony as to why end-demand is such a critical component to stopping trafficking.

*Sen. Holmes-* We do seem to have the law in place that punishes that enough but we're just not implementing it and not charging those who are breaking the law.

*Megan-* Exactly. I'm also going to leave my card and brochure on the table.

*Fifth speaker - Ruth Ayukesong*

*DHS, Bureau Chief, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking*

Good afternoon. I would like to start by telling you my story. My experience with human trafficking as a citizen in my community and then as a Segway into my professional career. 17 years ago I met the first trafficked survivor. She was a foreign-born survivor and pregnant. As a caseworker at the time in one of local offices, now known as the family community resource centers, I knew very little about human trafficking. As a matter of fact, I had never heard those words. Sitting in my community church and listening to the horror stories this survivor told the members. I knew I needed to get involved and to help somehow. Either to first get medical services for this pregnant survivor or getting her in contact with an agency to help her overcome the trauma she had described. So returning to work on Monday I sprung into researching and asking questions. Finding out that there was a lot of fear for deportation, I was advised to contact

an agency at the time. I became a volunteer, pro bono, to provide services to this victim and I offered her my home as a safe haven. I also provided her my home for a year and I was present when her baby was born.

My first awareness with the word human trafficking was in 2002 when I contacted the second survivor. She was at the train station in Schaumburg sitting on the floor crying. Again, foreign-born. But everybody was such a rush to go to work that nobody stopped to ask why. As usual, I stopped. I discovered she could only speak French. Thank goodness that is one of the languages I speak. Upon finding out that she had been brought to this country to braid hair, the person who brought her had taken away her ID and her luggage. She needed to pay back for the airfare. I could only think of one other agency and that was legal aid foundation where she received services. Both of the survivors that lived in my house are both nurses today and one of them is married to a pharmacist.

My family has been impacted by human trafficking as well. My brother's sister-in-law lost her 3-year-old child who was kidnapped and trafficked. In Africa, trafficking is either alive or dead for body parts. That is why I was determined to become part of the team in DHS that would work hard to stop this crime.

In DHS as the bureau chief, I have been there for a year and a half. The role that we have taken the past year and a half internally, DHS took a look within its structures to make sure that most of the numerous possible frontlines points in the organization, where our staff may come in contact with survivors, were trained. We have 79 family community resource centers. We have 45 divisions of rehab services offices. We have 6 or 7 mental hospitals and 7 state operated developmental centers. We have approximately 1500 social service agencies. Externally, DHS considered working together and collaborating with other state agencies and community partners to increase outreach efforts, identify, assist and restore survivors. There was a human trafficking initiative through the Governor's office and DHS took the active role, due to the rigorous collaborations with the community. The initiative works internally and externally with partners to identify, respond and support the survivors. DHS does not fund any agency. DHS also identified a representative for the statewide human trafficking task force as well as the Cook county human trafficking task force. DHS identified 1 liaison and 1 back-up liaison for each and every local office or family community resource center. DHS has collaborated with Freedom from Human Trafficking, Salvation Army STOP-IT Program and Metropolitan Family Services to provide trainings to local office liaison. DHS also developed a computer-based training model and trained all the caseworkers throughout the state working in the public offices to understand the indicators, identify victims, be aware of who can assist them, and lend the best practices when responding to survivors. And understand the public benefits and eligibility. Over 3500 DHS employees have been trained and this training was made mandatory. When I became bureau chief, I found out that foreign-born survivors were sent to 1 office for services in Cook County. This created hardship and an unnecessary burden for the survivor. Today, all family community resource centers in the state can process those cases and the human trafficking liaison assists the survivor by ensuring that services are quickly obtained and less stressful. They are also, the contact point for all providers in the community when they experience any difficulties with the local offices. DHS community resource center caseworkers have received the basic training and have the skills. Now as you know we have a bureau of domestic violence, sexual

assault and human trafficking because there is a very thin line across those three units. Trainings are being scheduled for domestic violence providers and the Department of Aging. We collaborated with some community providers that provided training for teen pregnancy services and teen pregnancy prevention providers. The bureau is collaborating with human trafficking providers to provide trainings also to the division of mental health hospital staff and the mental health provider's state wide. The bureau staff participates in multi-disciplinary meetings on human trafficking and they have a pilot program that was established for the emergency room nurses and doctors. Community agencies do participate.

I have outlined 3 public acts and some of the actions DHS has taken. The specialized services for survivors of human trafficking fund. As you know, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, provided that offenders in trafficking-related crimes were fined a portion of those monies would be deposited into an Illinois department of human services fund for use of victims of those crimes. DHS shall use the monies to make grants to non-governmental organizations to provide specialized trauma-informed services specifically designed to address the priority service needs associated with prostitution and human trafficking. DHS conducted a meeting of advocates, survivors, and partners. The purpose was for the group to prioritize all possible ideas for the funds within the guidelines of the public act. IDHS also initiated contacts and connections with all agencies involved in collecting the fines. In order to provide the funds. DHS met with honorable Joseph G. McGraw including other judges, the staff of the office of Illinois Courts as well as the Director of Children and Family Services. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about the existing fund, trafficking, and programs as well as the role the courts have to play in helping address this issue. IDHS collaborated with Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation to provide witness testimony at a human trafficking survivor panel meeting to judges from all counties in the state which was held on February and April of 2016 in Lombard, IL. The second Act the Human Trafficking Recourse Center noticed the Department of Human Services was directed to post on its website a model notice by January 1, 2016. That was accomplished in collaboration with some of the partners here and providers here today over several months and the poster is on our DHS website, available in approximately 15 languages. The mandated posting provides victims of human trafficking as well as anyone who suspects human trafficking with essential information on where to obtain assistance. The third act was public awareness of a national hotline in collaboration with IDOT, ready to be posted in bus stops, truck stops, train stations, airport and rest stops. We have identified some problems in the past year and a half. Since January 2015, as my colleagues and partners here today have also mentioned, no fines or monies have been collected. From the 3 sources identified from the act, no collection system clearly defined or set up and by whom? Most businesses and other establishments are identified in the public act and they do not put up the posters. DHS receives calls from small businesses across the state complaining about difficulties in identifying the other or third language, most widely spoken in the county as required by the federal voting act. However, counties have a listing, as we have been advised by the Illinois state board of elections.

Some identified agencies that provide human trafficking awareness training have federal grants. They have access in training for groups of agencies that contact DHS in the community when requesting for training is challenging, perhaps, because of limited staff. In 2015, I could identify only 3 long-term facilities for survivors. Today, there are about 9. There are a few drop-in centers as well. There are more options for residential facilities for female adult survivors of sex

trafficking but not LGBTQ and male survivors. I've also stated five recommendations that I would like to read unless you ask me to read it to you. Some recommendations:

- An intensive awareness publicity campaign for the state is necessary and critical. Most persons including agencies, especially in suburban areas, and even downstate are not aware that this crime of modern slavery is in their community.
- Identifying the enforceable agencies for the poster requirements of the public act 99-0099 is important. Requiring businesses and establishments to post this public act will increase the awareness in the state and perhaps generate some funds as well.
- Counties are encouraged to provide maps with languages widely spoken that could be linked through our IDHS website.
- More short-term and long-term residential facilities are needed across the state. I know also because I do volunteer in the community as well.
- A possibility into looking into using existing domestic violence shelters could be highly recommended.
- Safe havens, a place of refuge or security should be considered or encouraged as additional residential options. Drop-in centers as well as long-term.
- As a volunteer I offered my home to victims and it was quite helpful.

Thank you very much.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- You had 5 items you were recommending?

*Ruth*-

1. An intensive awareness publicity campaign for the state is necessary and critical.
2. Identifying the enforceable agencies for the poster requirements of the public act 99-0099 is important. Requiring businesses and establishments to post this public act will increase the awareness in the state and perhaps generate some funds as well.
3. Counties are encouraged to provide maps with languages widely spoken that could be linked through our IDHS website.
4. More short-term and long-term residential facilities are needed across the state
5. Safe havens, a place of refuge or security should be considered or encouraged as additional residential options. Drop-in centers as well as long-term.

*Sixth speaker - Jane Flanagan*

*Attorney General's Office*

Good afternoon. I appreciate the opportunity to be here. We've had so many wonderfully qualified speakers today, that I am going to try and focus very narrowly on what I have to contribute. I am the chief of the workplace rights bureau within the public interest division at the Attorney General's office. In that capacity, the workplace rights bureau essentially works to protect and advance the rights of Illinois workers, particularly the most vulnerable, including immigrant workers. We investigate and litigate against employers who engage in repeat workplace laws and we respond to constituent questions and complaints and do trainings about workplace rights and employment rights. So often when we are talking about trafficking we are talking about sex trafficking. But the way that I encounter trafficking is really instances of severe exploitation or labor trafficking apart from sex work. Today what I would like to do is focus on some examples of the kind of coerced or exploited labor that we see, the ways in which my

office has tried to address that, and the challenges in doing so given the existing legal framework that we are operating under.

Some of our prior speakers have sort of talked about the problems with trying to quantify labor trafficking numbers so I will skip that. What do we know about labor trafficking? We know that labor trafficking victims may be brought to this country from abroad or may be trafficked domestically and live here already and be US citizens. We know that a majority of victims who originally enter the United States with unlawful visas that may expire. As Summar said, labor trafficking victims may be kept physically restrained or they may feel under such economic control that they feel that they can't leave the situation. As one of our speakers said, the image of that sex trafficking victim locked in a back room doesn't really apply. I would say the same is true for labor trafficking victims. The most common industries for labor trafficking are domestic services, agriculture, restaurants, hospitality and construction, so a critical thing to remember about labor trafficking victims, is that they are often working in plain sight. They are cleaning our hotel rooms, they are preparing our food, they are caring for our elderly. We may not realize they have been victimized. Labor trafficking victims often share similar circumstances or characteristics. They are frequently recruited via their social network or their own immigrant community here in the US. Or some kind of third party employment agency that makes that kind of connections. They experience severe wage violations, non-minimum wage violations, often in some kind of debt bondage. They owe a debt up front and that keeps them in this situation. Control. Whether that's the debt bondage, the threats of calling immigration, the threats to family members, actual violence, sometimes it's control over the victims housing or transportation. A few examples or scenarios that we have seen from investigations that I have worked on; one of which is a case that is currently pending in federal court that involves employment agencies in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood that targeted vulnerable Latino workers for work in restaurants across the US. These agencies placed ads in Chinese newspapers that we have translated copies of. They said in the ads we have the very best Mexican workers, we'll send the best Mexican workers for your kitchen work. They did send them and transport them. Workers were placed in these jobs across the US. They worked 11 hours a day, 6 days a week. They were paid once a month only after their fee to the agency had been deducted from their pay. They were housed by the restaurants, transported by the restaurants, to and from work. If they complained or if they got hurt they immediately lost their housing. In which case they would go back to the agencies and get another job. We also have an ongoing case that involves cleaning companies that targeted Ukrainian women for domestic cleaning work in the Northside of Chicago, immigrant community. They advertised in the Polish and Ukrainian newspapers. They required a security deposit to begin work. They told the women that here in the US it was customary to work for free for a few weeks before you started getting paid. They targeted the most recently arrived, the least sophisticated. People told us that in the interviews they were asked, "Do you have family here?" Anyone who had any real connections was seen as a negative. They weren't given the job because they couldn't be as easily exploited.

Another example, a factory job where workers were told they had to sign up for an immigration service, that they were undocumented and would get fired and they would call immigration if they didn't sign up for this immigration services. They paid thousands of dollars. Most of the immigrants couldn't pay up front. Those fees then came out of their paychecks. I saw one paycheck for \$8, a guy who had worked 55 hours that week. But after the fees came out of their

check, and of course no immigration services were provided and most of the workers were not eligible for immigration relief. They just kept them working essentially for free for a certain amount of time.

One important point, all of these scenarios I just described were investigated pursuant to our civil enforcement authority under Illinois wage laws or the Illinois human rights act or title VII of the federal civil rights act. As you know, the Attorney General is not the primary criminal prosecutor in Illinois and we do make referrals when we do believe there should be either a federal or state level prosecution when we think it meets the definition of involuntary servitude. But often, like in the scenarios that I discussed, criminal prosecutors examine those cases and determine they are not sufficient to make a criminal prosecution. So we try to use the tools we have to address these situations that probably fall somewhere on the spectrum between a basic minimum wage violation and a criminal labor trafficking prosecution.

Illinois does have a civil cause of action for trafficking victims. It has since 2006. It is our understanding that that law is rarely used and it can only be brought by a victim. For example, the AG's office, or the states attorney or an organization wouldn't have standing to bring that kind of a civil cause of action to recover damages for those victims. So it really leaves an already traumatized victim to be the plaintiff in a case to face the trauma all over again. As I said before, it's really left us trying to hobble together using the civil tools that we have to address these situations but when you think about how to tackle trafficking and the issue of labor trafficking in this state, I urge you to think about these forms of severe labor exploitation that may not meet the most coercive criminal definition but are far beyond what our normal "I didn't get my last pay check" kind of looks like. We do see these scenarios, we are limited in our ability to address them and this kind of labor exploitation, it doesn't just harm the victimized workers it degrades the quality of jobs and wages across the board in an industry for all other workers. It also makes it harder for the law-abiding workers who are trying to run the restaurant next door to compete the free or nearly free labor. I am happy to answer any questions.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* In Illinois, what is the extent of civil prosecution for restitution or recovery for damages to victims to pay for services to pay for housing? Is there anything on our books that if we had a court system that was paying attention to this that already exists would allow putting that burden on the Johns and the traffickers?

*Jane-* Certainly in a criminal prosecution, you can seek restitution so restitution might involve payment of money as well associated with the criminal prosecution. In some of the scenarios that we see, there isn't going to be a criminal prosecution and so we are looking at civil tools. When you are talking about the civil tools, there is a civil cause of action for trafficking victims in the predator accountability act. It's kind of buried in a sex trafficking remedy. Like I said, it has to be brought by the victim. So there isn't a state agency.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* So is that the key? It has to be brought forward by the victim is hardly utilized?

*Jane-* That's my impression.

*Seventh speaker - Sheri Schweizer*  
*Kankakee Center Against Sexual Assault*

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be here today. I appreciate having a seat at the table and talk to you about what we are doing. I echo a lot of what was said earlier already today so I will keep this short.

I am from KCCASA that is the Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault. I am the training advocate and anti-trafficking coordinator there at KCCASA. Often times, people think of human trafficking as something that happens over there. When asked, many people do not believe that human trafficking is something that is happening in their community. That is the thought I have heard expressed in professional and non-professional groups alike when doing human trafficking training and awareness events. At KCCASA we are a sub grantee under Heartland Alliance for an OBC grant. This grant has allowed us to reach out to our communities to serve both foreign-born and US citizens. Through awareness and training, we have seen an increase in the number of victims identified as victims of this horrible crime. We have provided case management services to a couple of adult victims and have identified minors as victims as well. In addition, we have met victims who have sought services at our local hospitals and most recently had a call to our hotline in regard to labor trafficking. That call was because of a poster they saw hung at one of our local college campuses. There is no doubt that training and awareness are key components in increasing the identification of survivors of human trafficking. The training of law enforcement is a challenge and getting them on board is a work in progress. We all know that victims of human trafficking do not very often identify themselves as victims. It can seem as if victims are in collusion with their traffickers when in all reality they may be suffering from Stockholm syndrome. In the case of minors, they see themselves in a consensual, sexual relationship. Minors cannot consent to sex and if they are receiving anything of value in exchange for sex, shelter, food, drugs, alcohol, clothing, etc., then they are indeed victims of human trafficking. In the grooming process, the traffickers gets the minor used to engaging in sex in exchange for things and then begins to pimp them out to others. This is a difficult thing for law enforcement and others to understand so training is key when dealing with an issue like this. We must remember there is no such thing as child prostitution. We have had 0 projections of human trafficking in Kankakee and Iroquois counties. I believe that with more training, the likelihood of those kinds of charges will happen. It is difficult because these survivors would have to be willing to work with the state's attorney. In the cases of minor's although there is no need to prove force, fraud or coercion, the proof of them receiving something of value may be difficult to show if the minor is unwilling to cooperate. Furthermore, many times, victims are afraid of other charges that may be filed against them such as drugs, prostitution, theft or forgery. In a training I went to, I listened to a speaker who once was a victim of human trafficking and she said so often times, these crimes are interwoven and that's why people don't seek help. She said that in her case, when you live that life, they either get you addicted to drugs or you take drugs to deal with the situation you are living with. She said when they tell you to write your name and sign a check, I was told once to sign a check for \$500 and she said I'm not signing that. He told her to go turn a few tricks and come back with a \$1000 and he said if you don't then you know what's going to happen. She said she knew exactly what was going to happen. He was going to beat me to a pulp like the week before. She said let me tell you, real quick you learn to sign your name on the check or steal something from the store that he tells you to take. That's something we really need to remember when they are charged with other crimes. Locally,

KCCASA is part of the Kankakee/Iroquois human trafficking task force as well as our Sexual Assault Response Team. I'm in agreement with everyone here today that having that multi-disciplinary approach is not only important but necessary in being able to fight this heinous crime that we are faced with. In addition to that, KCCASA also has been going to meeting with Greg Harris, out of the central Illinois US attorney's office in Springfield. We are in the process of developing a central Illinois task force because we see the need of our agencies working together and that we're all working together to serve the victims in central Illinois.

We must all come together to combat this heinous crime that is happening here in our communities, along our interstates and on our computers. I thank you for your willingness to serve as leaders and to work collaboratively in this fight against human trafficking. Thank you for allowing me to be here today.

*Rep. Bellock-* Is the KC in KC CASA stand for the Casey foundation?

*Sheri-* No, it's the Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault.

*Eighth speaker - Miguel Keberlein*

*Immigrant and Workers Rights Practice Group*

Good afternoon. My name is Miguel Keberlein and I am the Director of the Immigrant and Workers Rights Practice Group at LAF. We are also currently the only organization in Illinois that provides free legal services to all victims of human trafficking whether it be sex, labor, regardless of immigration status, gender, anything.

*Rep. Bellock-* What are you a part of now? Or are you your own entity?

*Miguel-* LAF is broken up into 5 distinct practice areas. I oversee the area that is anti-trafficking.

Today I wanted to quickly address some of the structural issues in society where we have sort of allowed labor trafficking to happen and to flourish in many ways. A couple of examples here in Illinois have to do with really the low-wage economy and how workers are brought, specifically in agriculture, to work in Illinois. At the peak of the agricultural cycle, July, we have about 75,000 migrant seasonal workers here in Illinois. There's a system that's set up that has large agri-businesses contracting with farm labor recruiters who bring workers in. Many of those workers are brought in from southern states like Florida, Texas, and the system is set up so the FLC's are independent contractors. So a large agri-business says we need 5000 workers here, you bring them in. We need you to pay them, house them, make sure that everything is in compliance with the law and whatever is left over from the money we give you, is yours. So right on the front end you have a lot of people who are enticed and encouraged to cut corners because what's left over is there's. So you have these recruiters who end up with a lot of power. They bring a lot of people and entice them good work, free housing, access to child care if they need it. Access to other things they may need. When workers get here, they may spend the last dollar to get here to Illinois, it's quite a different story. They're housed mostly in migrant labor camps. Some are licensed by the state. Some are not. All of them are horrendous. The largest one we have is an old hospital that was part of a air force base in Rantoul, Illinois. In July, 450 workers are housed there a year and its quite horrendous to thin about workers coming in after a

long day in the fields, drenched in mud, pesticides, and everybody trying to get a shower, the place becomes real hell hole. It really does. A lot of these workers, who are here, end up in a situation that lends itself to human trafficking. You have a lot of workers who work in agriculture, there are no time clocks in the fields, there's no way to rah out to complain because the companies have already set these guys up as independent contractors and said they're the boss so there are high incidents of sexual violence in the fields. There are high incidents we know from the status of human trafficking going on. These are mostly US citizens in lawful positions.

If that wasn't sort of bad enough as a structural system, you look at some of the laws that don't apply equally to farm workers. Farm workers are not entitled to overtime pay. Farm workers do not have the protections to unionize. It's an industry that has high incidents of personal injury every year. It's one of the only industries where we allow children as young as 12 to work lawfully. So you have farm recruiters who are bringing in thousands of people at a time. Many of them are children and nobody bats an eyelash because that's what it's supposed to be. That's what the law says. With our triangle of Chicago, Indianapolis, East St. Louis, have a lot of people who end up being labor trafficked first and then sold off into the sex industry. It's a real issue and its structurally set up that way. We also have a guest worker system that the federal government sets up so people can come in on H2A and H2B visas. This is basically visas for low-wage workers. H2A is for people in agriculture. H2B are for people who are in any other industry. That may be carnivals, restaurants, massage parlors, anything that's in the low-wage economy. So it's interesting that the H2A visas is the only visa that we have in this country that has no cap on it. Any other visa category in the country has a cap on it. That's because we have this structure to exploit farm workers that's in place. No for an employer to participate in the program, they just have to go to the DOL and say that I can't find enough US eligible workers to do this work so let us bring in workers. How do they certify? They have to show that they advertised in a newspaper for workers and no one responded. Again, they use a friendly recruiter. Friendly recruiter goes to a foreign country, many times that's Mexico but often times its other places like South Africa or Southeast Asia. The employers on the hook, under the law, to pay their inbound and outbound transportation cost and processing fees, provide free housing and they have to pay the prevailing wage. On paper the program looks quite expensive, but what happens is you have recruiters who go into these small towns indifferent countries and basically say to workers, I have maybe 50 visas available for great jobs, you're going to make in agriculture a prevailing wage of \$12/hour. \$12/hour in a country where you make \$2/day as minimum wage that's quite enticing. So many workers mortgage away things they don't have. They pool money together to pay for the visa and come. They arrive here in debt and sometimes that makes them a victim of human trafficking in a situation that they can't get out of. We have a lot of structural systems in place right now that encourage human trafficking and that make it very lucrative. The hybrid seed industry in Illinois is a \$35 billion/ year industry. It's one of the issues in addressing human trafficking, if we don't honestly look at the structures in place that allow it to flourish, then we're constantly on the back side of things just being responsive to situations instead of trying to prevent them. Thank you very much.

*Rep. Bellock*- Did you say \$35 billion or million.

*Miguel*- Billion across the country.

*Rep. Bellock-* Would that all come under those 2 visas?

*Miguel-* No. In the country we have about 4 million migrant farm workers across the United States. Many of those are here on those particular visas, many are US citizens, many are lawful residents, and some are undocumented. They have no status whatsoever.

*Rep. Bellock-* How many would you say come into the country in a year under those 2 visas?

*Miguel-* The H2A visa, I think last year, I want to say 160,000. But you have a lot of states where it's really flourishing like North Carolina and Florida. Illinois is growing. We have 7000 that come in every year. Under the H2B it's a little bit harder to detect, that is capped at 66,000 but each time they've met that cap they go to congress to ask for permission to extend it. They have never been denied.

*Rep. Bellock-* That was mentioned at one of our first meetings about technology companies.

*Miguel-* H2B in landscaping, in restaurants. A lot of those workers they get here and they are highly isolated, they don't know where they are sometimes, even geographically. They don't have transportation. They don't have access to services and the services they do aren't often responsive to what they need.

*Ninth speaker - Lou Longhitano, Supervisor of Human Trafficking Unit  
Cook County State's Attorney's Office*  
Good afternoon, my name is Lou Longhitano.

As a trial lawyer by trade, the whole idea of testimony in the form of a prepared statement feels a little strange to me, so I will try to keep this short, and I welcome your questions in follow-up. And I thank you for the opportunity to talk this very important topic. I would like to address both the scope of the problem we face, here in Illinois, and where we still fall short despite our best efforts so far.

I supervise the Human Trafficking Unit at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. I have been with this unit since its inception as an "initiative" in 2010. We are still a tiny little unit (3 attorneys) in a huge prosecutor's office. But as such, I am pretty closely familiar with all the cases that we have investigated and prosecuted over 7.5 years. In a world of "squishy" data I can talk in real human terms, and based upon an extensive experience. We have prosecuted 145 felony indictments in our HT Unit over 7 years, investigated many more than that, and recovered hundreds of survivors. And when I say we, I speak broadly in terms of all my federal, state, county, and local law enforcement partners, without whom none of our cases would be possible. And our work as law enforcement would also not be possible without our service and advocacy partners who support the survivors as we pursue those who prey upon them, but since several of those partners are here today, I will confine my comments to a law enforcement perspective. (That number of 145 indictments only represents the Cook County cases. Dozens of additional indictments have been prosecuted federally by the US Attorney's Office during the same period. We collaborate on all of our investigations. But I don't track their numbers.)

I would think numbers like that would be solid proof that we have a problem right here, in our back yard, and that we need to step up to protect our sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters. But human nature as it is, everyone wants to believe they are safe and insulated from something this horrible, and that it can't happen to our kids. Everyone I talk to, at conferences, at my kids' soccer games, or even within my own profession assume this is something that only happens to immigrants, the homeless, and kids in the projects. So I tell them "sure those are people at risk, but..." I see cases come across my desk with victims recruited from and exploited in cities and small towns all over northern IL, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, and many other states. Towns like Arlington Heights, Lansing, Evanston, Naperville, Oak Brook, Glenview, Schaumburg, Gurnee, Buffalo Grove, DeKalb, Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Wheaton... and the list goes on for days. So that made me wonder, what are the numbers? So I did the math, based just on the cases that we indicted in Cook County, the city of Chicago only accounted for 50% of our cases. And Chicago PD has a full-time dedicated Human Trafficking team with reinforcements from FBI out looking for cases every day. Small departments in the burbs accounted for half of our cases. (And that doesn't count the many cases from towns outside Cook County, which had to be referred to other agencies.) I am frightened to think what those numbers might look like if these smaller departments had the manpower and resources to look proactively for these cases. None of us can afford to be complacent. This is our problem, no matter where we live or work.

I attribute the growth of identification to the directed effort of our Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force. We have made great efforts to train law enforcement across northern Illinois and increase their capacity to identify and work with survivors in a victim-centered way. We started in Chicago, and then expanded to other departments who would host us, and the cases have followed.

But while I am so proud of my partners in law enforcement for how far we have come, I have to acknowledge that we have a long way to go. We still fall far short in two particular areas I want to highlight. We (now I use that pronoun for law enforcement everywhere across the US) are simply not identifying many labor trafficking cases or any forms of trafficking perpetrated against members of the LGBTQ community. I constantly hear people say that law enforcement just doesn't care about these victims or cases. And I think that is total rubbish. I think we have to look at why we don't have as many of these cases.

1. With regard to labor trafficking, I think the problem is that police have to wait for leads to come to them. A vast majority of our sex trafficking cases are the result of police proactively looking for it. Victims rarely come to us. We find them. And because the sex trade is an illicit business, law enforcement has a legal basis to investigate even before they find evidence of force or coercion. They can't do that in a business that is legal on its face. We can't start gathering bank; phone and employment records on a restaurant or nail salon just hoping something fishy might emerge. We need a lead or complaint to open an investigation, and those are rare. But what could help is if other agencies like state and local departments of labor, finance, licensing, professional regulation, and even inspectors for health, fire, buildings, OSHA... etc. were trained and encouraged to look for signs of trafficking and report to law enforcement. (It would also be nice if workers in industries that are in places to see signs of trafficking were also trained to identify and notify. This could include workers in the transportation and hospitality industries,

utility workers, cable installers, medical professionals, educators... etc.) These could generate leads for law enforcement to investigate.

2. And with regard to the LGBTQ community, the gap in trust for law enforcement is far bigger than a human trafficking issue. We need to figure out a way to bridge that gap in trust so the community will feel safe and welcome to engage and communicate with law enforcement. I don't have answers here, but they have to start with expanded fluency, understanding, and communication. I am privileged to work on one of those multi-disciplinary teams that are changing the world, one human being at a time. I appreciate this body bringing statewide attention to this problem. Thank you for your time.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* Where are you seeing the cases that are being persecuted is for the most part because they've been proactive, and I go back to when I asked this question earlier, that it's a leadership issue – is it coming, and it brings you eventually to the education piece in where does the first priority need to be, as to who needs to be educate. Is it the police chiefs and sheriffs? Is it Mayor's? Is it state's attorneys? Is it judges? How would you, because the proactive effort came from somebody who decided they wanted to focus in on this. If you had to prioritize all of those various governmental entities, how would you prioritize who needs to understand this issue?

*Lou-* The short answer to the 'which' was just going to be yes. The way we prioritized, we first as soon as leadership started with the state's attorney's office, the US attorney's office and the Salvation Army STOP-IT program decided we needed a task force and we needed to do this. We left mostly to the Salvation Army to find the 50% of the task force that are services and advocacy-oriented and we tried to bring the law enforcement to the table. The first priority we said was just guessing and we didn't really know. Who is coming into contact with these people already? Those are the people we need to get to first. We went to vice units and CPD - they had vice units. Not every small department does. But we went to them first because we figured they're seeing human trafficking victims every day and probably misidentifying some of them or many of them and in many of those instances because nothing is being said to them but in other instances because there not asking the right questions. So we went to them and we trained them first. The second priority we made was to go to domestic violence and I am echoing my partners statements earlier today about the overlap and the fact that a vast majority of sex trafficking is domestic violence or domestic violence are parts of the human trafficking scenario. We went to domestic violence because somewhere in the neighborhood of 25% of our cases are cases that are coming in as domestic violence cases. Often misdemeanors and when you ask a couple additional questions about 'why did your boyfriend throw you down the stairs?' if the answer emerges it might very well be 'because I didn't earn enough today' / 'I didn't want to go out today' / 'because I didn't do this or that'. So it turns out that it's actually a sex trafficking case. So that was there second priority.

Once we started doing that and I started training my own partners in the office because we then see the case and train them and we started re-identifying cases within our caseload that came in as something else. Something that fit the cookie cutter kidnapping, aggravated battery, domestic battery, sexual assault, whatever it was, it came in as that because that's what the cops knew and the triggering incident was that one thing but there's a larger, broader crime over time that was

happening. My partners started identifying some of those cases in many of those suburbs. Once they started seeing the police officers in those departments suddenly saw the misdemeanor domestic battery was actually a class X voluntary servitude case they talked to some of their bosses and a combination of seeing all the numbers we were putting up, the Chicago police department and the sheriff's police making cases in those suburban towns, all of a sudden those towns recognized they had a problem in their town and a lot of them have come to us and sought training. We spent a whole day in Schaumburg giving a day-long training to officers there and in different places around our county, around Illinois, around the state and even around the country.

You guys asked a question about restitution earlier, it also relates to the question you asked about the fines and fees, and are we as prosecutors just saying forget that? That's not what's happening, at least in Cook county, when we are talking about the cases against the traffickers, which are the cases that my unit prosecutes in general, not the often missed misdemeanor against the demand side when it comes to the trafficker cases. Our first priority is restitution for the specific victim who is in front of us. So every penny that we can squeeze out of the defendants in our cases, go to them. And it goes right there. I have never had a case where there is any money left over to go into fines and fees. Usually we get huge restitution orders that go unsatisfied because the defendant doesn't have any money. We send him off to prison for 12 years, the judges are even reluctant to sign the restitution order for \$87,000 for a guy who's going to prison for 12 years. They say 'how are you going to get this money?' he'll say, "I don't know judge". Even if he gets civil judgment for some injury that happens to him in the jail while he's in custody, I don't want that money to go into his commissary fund; I want that money to go to my victim. So sign the order and we'll worry about collecting. If the money ever turns up later, we can seek judgement on that order. But we have recently received \$49,000 for a labor trafficking victim on a case which we secured from his bond before he was locked up. We had the money in the courtroom. But that was every penny we had from him so there was no money left over to go into the fees.

*Sen. McConnaughay-* So I'm guessing it's easier to go after the trafficker in that case but what about the Johns? Is there ever any sort of restitution that is paid in a prosecution case by the Johns? Somebody brought that up that to hit them in their pocketbook is another way to get this.

*Lou-* Typically, a John case, a demand side case, typically those cases, most of those demand enforcement cases and our sheriffs police and Chicago police department do a lot of those and few of the other departments like Arlington Heights and a few others have been doing more and more of it lately but those cases usually involve undercover officers doing reverse stings and therefore there's not a victim to seek restitution for. It would be a case where you would receive fines and fees which would go into the fund and that would be great. Our office has never, never since our task forces inception in 2010, turned away a demand side case. But, we've encouraged our partners to file demand side cases with us. Even though the Chicago police department and the cook county sheriff's police do a lot of demand enforcement, Sherriff Dart makes a big deal out of it; they don't file any of those charges with us. They don't file not because we turned them away, they don't file it under the state solicitation of the sexual act statute which would trigger this fund. Instead they file it under the Chicago city municipal ordinance or the cook county municipal ordinance because the process is quicker and easier. I don't know whether it also favors them financially to file it that way. But they have not filed them. It's not like we're

refusing to charge any of them. We've actually begged them and their response is that historically it's been a nightmare to file with you guys before the task force the states attorney never wanted to handle John cases because they thought they were too small for them and they also have the issue they said there's still a lot of judges, even now that your office is willing to file them, you're going to go to court and the judge is going to say not guilty and it goes away. We file these city ordinance violations with the city attorney, it does go much better for us and we do collect fines and fees. For the sheriff's department, 50% of it is actually going into their women's justice program. So it is going to services but it's not going into the state fund as it was intended.

*Sen. McConnaughy*- Maybe we don't need the state fund. Maybe it needs to go into services at the local level? Maybe that's where we got it wrong? Maybe that's what we need to be doing, is reinvesting that at the community level.

*Rep. Bellock*- But that's maybe what the state fund can do? Designate to the local communities?

*Sen. McConnaughay*- Yes. Whatever is collected goes back to that community.

*Lou*- I still like the fact that there's a state fund because I don't want to see a jurisdiction in some other county that decides not to make a priority of it.

*Rep. Bellock*- Thank you. We are going to wrap it up. Each time we have one of these, it makes the subject bigger and points out the work we have to do. On behalf of Karen, and Sen. Holmes and myself, we would like to thank you. It was very informative and thanks to all the speakers who gave testimony today. Every one of them was informative. Are we going to create a website for people to go onto to get any type of information we're getting on this? I'm thinking that a lot of people want to find more information about what we are doing so we're going to work on that too.

*Sen. McConnaughay*- We also talked about the idea of the task force members also having a meeting to try to prioritize some of the subject areas that we're focused on and how deep do we want to go and do we want to break off into subgroups?

*Linda Renee Baker, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute*- Thank you Kimberly Palermo, Visiting Scholar, from the Institute for assisting facilitating and supporting DCFS in the planning of the session.

*Rep. Bellock*- Thank you for everything. Linda Baker has been very helpful to the task force. The University of Illinois-Springfield helped to really organize the entire agenda for the last meeting. So thank you very much. Any other comments? Thank you very much.

End of meeting.