

# Human Trafficking Task Force

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 12:00pm  
Memorial Center of Learning & Innovation (MCLI)  
2A Curtis Theatre Classroom  
228 West Miller  
Springfield, IL 62702

Members on phone:

Rep. Barb Wheeler  
Rep. Gabel Designee

Members in Springfield:

Sen. McConnaughay  
Sen. Holmes  
Rep. Bellock  
Rep. Ammons

Called to order @ 12:15pm

*Laura Roche* – How we're looking to proceed today, I know we have some people here ready to testify, I think we're mostly Southern Illinois focused today. What we're hoping is, I know we have heard a lot of testimony already and have developed baseline knowledge. What we're hoping you'll focus your testimony on today are the things that might be unique challenges to your organization and maybe some of the unique services you provide so that we kind of aren't repeating what we've been hearing in previous testimony. Then we are also hoping to spend some time afterwards, after having a discussion of your testimony, spend some time talking about the path forward for this task force. Whether it's breaking into smaller working groups or having the whole task force be the working group or having focus areas for certain meetings so that we can develop a road map for things whether it's policy or legislation that is actionable and meaningful. We'll spend some time with the legislators after your testimony to talk about that path forward. Do any of you want to add anything?

*Sen. McConnaughay* – No I think you summed it up pretty well. We've got a deadline in June. It seems like its way off but we have an awful lot of ground to cover because there are so many various elements to this. There's a lot of work to be done between now and then.

*Laura* – Let's start with the testimony. Annie Schomaker is the Co-founder and Director for Eden's Glory.

*Annie Schomaker*

*Co-Founder & Program Director, Eden's Glory*

Good morning. Thanks for being here. Thanks for taking the time. I know you're on a time restraint so thanks we want to work quickly for you.

I'm going to keep my testimony fairly brief because I have an amazing woman next to me who's going to have more to share with you as a resident of our program. I know you've heard a lot so the key things that we see in Southern/Central Illinois – we have a small program for adult women coming out of trafficking and we provide a home in a rural community which is really helpful in the sense of just safety, security, confidentiality, being able to separate from the life and from triggers and all of that. But one of the issues that we really run into is limited services. We have to drive a minimum of 45 minutes to find a trauma-informed counselor and have yet to find a therapist who will receive Medicaid so that's really tough to find someone who has both the skill set to work with our women but also that we can pay. That's one issue and I'm sure you've heard it a lot – issues and services for women coming in from drug addiction. We have a really tough time keeping women in our program when there's a long history of drug addiction because there are such limited services in the area. So we, as a program, do not want to duplicate services because we know there are a lot of people out there doing it as well and we want to partner with them. But because we are in a rural community it's quite a distance to find those types of services so it limits who we can take, it limits their success depending on the needs that they come in with. We've also seen a lot of success by being small. It's a family-oriented type of program where we're able to uniquely meet the needs of each woman who comes in rather than doing kind of residential, hospitalization kind of feel. So we meet them where they are at and develop the curriculum for that specific woman and what she needs.

The other concern that we have is post-graduation and so right now we provide all of the services that they need, all of their care. But once they graduate we want to set them up for success. Knowing that once they get back out into the community, services are going to be limited and they're going to need ongoing counseling because it doesn't just end when they finish with us. Even just interacting with law enforcement or medical services, those kinds of things, we've seen a real struggle seeing trauma-informed services providers. Whether we are interacting with them now or post-graduation or even prior to having them come to us, I think that's one of the issues that we see. We lost a lot of survivors in the cracks because they aren't identified and a lot of our women have come in being triggered by, and being re-exploited, even unintentionally, by those who were trying to serve because they don't have the training. I think absolutely we need more training in human trafficking. We need that in the schools. We need that in service providers. Even if we could fund trainings for strength-based and trauma-informed in our communities would be huge. It would change the focus and it would change the care that these women need and to further promote their success.

*Survivor* – Good afternoon. I'm 24 and survivor of human trafficking. I by no means declare myself to be an expert of law-making, bureaucratic affairs or even statistics. What I do have an expertise in is living in the day-to-day trauma and hurt that human trafficking brings. And I've

also lived through the process of being rescued and making the day-to-day decision to stay in my residential program. I've brought forward all of the possible topics to bring before you today. Human trafficking awareness in elementary schools, resident to staff ratio and accountability for government officials as well as training is important.

I was 5 when I was thrown into the human trafficking world and to be quite honest I didn't know what human trafficking was until I was 22 and was rescued out of it. If there was something along the lines of, you know how they do the DARE programs for drug awareness and stuff like that? I feel like if we did something along that line with awareness of human trafficking, not only would we prevent a lot of the children who are subjected to cruelty as well as sexual exploitation, we would also remove some of the stigma that comes along with being a prostitute or whatever you want to call it. It would teach the children that 1) it's wrong and 2) to be aware and 3) perhaps it would put an end to the shame that comes along with knowing that somebody is abusing you.

The staff to resident ratio, to me, is a huge thing because I like to keep in contact with several of the girls that I came from the safe house with and over the course of the last year and a half that I've been at Eden's Glory, several of them have left and their biggest complaint was that there were 30 other girls in the house with them. With that being said, and as Annie said before, in a smaller group, you're able to not only work one-on-one with that individual, you're also able to create a plan that works for that person. What might work for you, would not work for the young lady sitting next to you. Especially for the girls who are aging out of foster care and have been in group homes for a majority of their lives, going into a facility or an institution-like setting is triggering because it's like I already have a problem with authority and things along that line, so it makes it hard for them to continue to grow and process emotions and deal with things like that. Also, another thing that can be helpful or beneficial to survivors is funding for smaller houses instead of these big elaborate residential places.

Another thing that I feel should be addressed is not only the training for state officials, as far as police officers, sheriffs and people like that, while Illinois has the law that if you can prove that the woman is a victim of human trafficking then you don't get to arrest her. A lot of police officers 1) are not only involved in this but 2) they also don't know the questions to ask because of the training that they are not receiving. 10/10 if you ask the woman if they have a pimp, they're going to say no because she's taught that they are the enemy. It's going to take a lot of work on both sides. There also needs to be accountability of the government officials as well. There are times that I've had clients who are police and a lot of the people I know have had clients who were police and government officials. It's hard to look at someone as your saving grace if they're continually putting you down.

Thank you.

*Rep. Ammons* – I wanted to clarify, you said you served in a rural community. Where are you located?

*Annie* – In Bond County.

*Rep. Ammons* – How many rooms are available?

*Annie* – We have room for 4. It is literally a home.

*Rep. Ammons* – Is your agency funded by the state?

*Annie* – No. We are completely funded by donations.

*Rep. Ammons* – How long can the residents stay at your agency?

*Annie* – They can stay for 2 years. But after 2 years we don't kick them out if they need to stay longer. 2 years is the marker that we look for.

*Rep. Bellock* – How did you happen to find this program?

*Survivor* - I was rescued by the FBI out in Charlotte, NC. They sent me to a safe home called Out of Darkness in Atlanta, Georgia. Then they referred me to Eden's Glory.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – That actually brings up an interesting point because you were found out of state. So is there state cooperative working together to determine where they are sending people?

*Annie* – What we found, in our time, not that we won't receive referrals from Illinois residents, but we usually recommend that they go out of state for safety. Then we network with FBI, Homeland Security, and Out of Darkness to send out of state. It tends to be more successful that way. We have a connection both with law enforcement and service providers to receive the referrals and then we connect with other homes throughout the country to be able to send residents there if they need to go.

*Sen. McConnaughay* - Are we in Illinois sending people? Are we doing the same thing – sending people to different states? It was interesting to hear your testimony I probably have an entire host of questions because you said that you were 5 and obviously school teachers, no one knows how to go about this and you at 5 don't know what's normal and what isn't so it's almost impossible for you to be able to express that. So somehow we need to have the training so people know what to look for and what questions to ask and how to ask it. Then they need to know how to proceed. Obviously, as a child, normal is whatever your living because you don't have anything to compare it to.

*Annie* – Yes and sadly that's a pretty common story. Almost all of our women who we have served at Eden's Glory have had under the age of 10.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – This starts at home with your own family? I guess I am curious and I don't want to pry.

*Survivor* – It's fine. So my mother was a drug addict and my father was her pimp so not only watching that over and over but at 5, my mother died suddenly so my father had no means to

make a way. That's where I came in. I began human trafficking when I was 5. Growing up either you are taught that if someone asks you this, then you say this. You go on rambling on and off the script that is given to you. So because I was doing that and I was going from school to school, my father was running from social workers and stuff like that, I never really had the resources to know any better as well as to make sure that I was safe.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – How did you finally get out? You said you were 22?

*Survivor* – Yes. So I was 22 and a week before I actually was rescued by the FBI and there was a John who had called the police on one of the girls that I was working with and the police came and searched the room and they asked who do you work for and I said I didn't work for anybody. I was ready to go to jail that night. It turns out they let us go off on a warning and the very next week I got a call from a man who wanted an out call. My pimp dropped me off at the hotel and I go in and I get in the room and everything is normal until I hear a click at the door and in walks 4 tall, white men and at this moment I know I'm about to be gang raped or murdered or something along that line. I was scared but then they showed me an FBI badge. That is another wave of fear right there. They took me to another room and said they were offering girls help and I said I don't need help. I told them I was good and safe. Then they took me into another room with an FBI advocate and somebody with a non-profit group. I then made the conscious decision to leave the life because I knew if I didn't, I heard God say you're going to die or something ten times worse.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – I want to say thank you so much. It's very helpful to hear this. I think until we hear how some of this works, I don't know how we come up with ways to prevent and make sure in a case like yours that you have that education or the ability to even get out of that situation. Thank you very much.

*Sen. Holmes* – I have one quick question and thank you for your bravery. It takes a lot to come here and have this conversation.

*Survivor* – Thank you for having me. I can't even tell you how much of an honor this is.

*Sen. Holmes* – Annie, can I ask you a quick question about demands? You provide services for 4 young women at a time. Can you talk about what the demand looks like because I'm sure you have a much higher demand than the 4 that you serve?

*Annie* – That's the heart-breaking thing. When we get calls, like I was saying earlier, we have to turn down some of the ones that we know we won't be able to provide the drug services that they need or the drug rehab that they need so we do need to weed through those referrals to say can we provide the services they need or are we just setting them up for failure. So we want to recommend places for them to go but it's heart-breaking to have to say we have an open bed but we're unable to serve you.

*Sen. Holmes* – Because you don't think she's at a point yet where she wants to work with the program?

*Annie* – No. That’s part of it. So we had one woman come in with a long history of drug addiction. She had been clean about 45 days before she got to us. She came in but within a few months of being there she started having some the relapse signs so we worked with her how we could. We talked with her like how bad is it getting. Did she need an in-patient treatment? She said yes so we started calling programs and everyone had a waiting list. The shortest waiting list was 90 days and two weeks later she was gone. We feel like we’re setting her up for failure by saying that we don’t have the medical facilities to walk you down and walk through that type of program. Because it is a home and not a locked facility, they are allowed to walk away at any point. We want it to be completely voluntary. We do have staff on site at all time in case they need something. We keep the medication locked up. We keep any type of weapon locked up. As much as we can we want to keep it a home setting. Because of that, it’s really successful for some women but when those needs start to creep in and we can’t help at our program. Those are the types of things we weed through. She might even seem ready and be ready but we still have to turn them down. The program that we connect with, Out of Darkness, in Atlanta, they’re doing rescues on a daily basis just in Atlanta. They’ve been a great partner to where they can say they have a woman who would benefit from your program and is ready for it.

*Dana Pfeiffer*

*Director, Grounds of Grace*

I’m Dana Pfeiffer with Grounds of Grace. Annie and I work together with some clients. We do have a home too. Undisclosed and it is a family setting. Again, relationships are important so that one-on-one is vital to recovery. We are also completely privately funded. What’s different with our program is its 100% volunteer. Out of those volunteers we do have the trauma counselors. I’ve got a list of everything we do on a daily basis. What is different with us too, yes we have an undisclosed home but we are throughout the whole central region here. I frequently make trips to other counties and we meet each person where they are. At this point we have relationships in all parts of law enforcement, jails, prisons - we make frequent trips there as well. Domestic Shelter, violent shelters, homeless shelters, we’ll get phone calls where they say, “I think we have a case here. Can you meet with them? What kind of services do you have available?” What we have done, and we’ve been in existence for 6 years, we go to those communities like Peoria, Champaign, and Decatur, wherever we get that phone call, and we will meet with those counselors and find those programs in that area and set them up with the trauma, with the services that they need. There is just not enough housing and that’s needed and we stress that one-on-one relationship instead of having a big facility. That’s huge for us. In the Midwest, 90% of our clients are family trafficked. They are not the typical “pimp and prostitute”. There is some of that involved but it started just like her story. The majority of what we deal with is family members. That’s very difficult because even coming down to prosecution, working with the advocates, we need more advocates. Again, I’ve got it all on the list of everything that we do frequently. All the different venues that we go into. Part of the therapy we found that to address that trauma you need untraditional therapy. This means we do animal therapy, horse therapy, and our counselors go and meet each person where they are vs. going to an office. When you meet each person where they are, which is what we do, you’re going to find out more. You also gain that trust because you’re willing to go into their environment and meet them and understand what their circumstances are. Then you make those decisions and make the connection that they need immediately.

Yes, we do work with FBI all the way down to the different city police and everything in between. It takes community relationships. I think it was already mentioned, with training that goes without saying. The awareness listed at all the different places. If there's just a little sign in tattoo parlors and massage parlors that would be a deterrent in itself. To see that there is some kind of presence there. Programs – I just went down and gave a list of the programs that we deal with. With trauma, occupational therapy is huge in life skills, all the different life skills. We're teaming with the universities. Right now we're teaming in Peoria with occupational therapists to come in and help with the girls. Counseling – it's not just one form of counseling with the trauma. It's also sexual assault, behavior, chronic illness, mental illness. We have to address all those different elements. Sensory therapy, that's where I'm going back to the non-traditional because they like to do things with their hands so art and journaling where they can get their feelings and their thoughts out in a non-traditional counseling type of setting. Education – with the GED tutors, mentorship and classes, and I call it a leadership program, where you deal with the anger management responsibility and accountability, conflict-resolution, leadership. Identification support – it's very difficult because the majority that come to us do not have their ID and obtaining that is not easy in any city that we've gone to. This is because you have to work with not only mail to get their identification, but their state ID. With a social security care, more times than not, that is lacking. Again, we have to establish that identification before we can go and get Medicaid, get their link card. It's a process. It usually takes, unfortunately, 2-3 weeks. If there is something we can do to expedite that process, because they need the services immediately. Fortunately, we do have some doctors and counselors that do meet with them that don't require the Medicaid but they're doing it on a volunteer basis so we can fill in that gap. I know for a majority of them, until they get that Medicaid card, which can take 7 days to 2 weeks, it's tough. In 2 weeks time, there's a gap there. There's a crack. If there's something we can do to expedite that would be wonderful. Again, stolen identities are something that we have had to process. Health – our organization, Grounds of Grace, help with prescriptions and family medicines, specialists, counseling support.

Housing assistance – we're in a place now where we work with other community organizations like safe homes, to help find juveniles who are in the foster care or what not that are below 18. We're actually doing one-one-one and putting them into family homes that have been trained for people who have been in human trafficking. The success rate of that is phenomenal. Then we go to that school district and set them up with their education and then provide all the services with child advocacies and of course DCFS and we set up that program with that individual family to give them the services they need. For the adults, the men and the women, transportation assistance – we have a community relationship in a few different towns but most are not in a place to get on public transportation. For example, Springfield has Access bus where they will pick them up at the doorstep and drop them off wherever they need. That's vital. Transportation and getting them where they need to be. Otherwise we have volunteers that take them wherever they need to go. Legal and system support – as Annie was saying, we're fortunate here but most everyone we take has had some form of addiction. Whether its drug, alcohol or sex, so in that comes everything else that comes with it - DUI and prostitution. We need advocates to help cross that divide in different areas. I can even say Springfield Memorial and St. John's are wonderful too. They have a medical advocate that will help them walk through what is happening and also recognizing what that need is. Not only to connect with us, but to connect with others.

*Rep. Bellock* – Thank you for your testimony. Is your place a residential facility as well?

*Dana* - We have a residential facility here in Springfield and like Annie; we take people from all over. If they are in this area then we try to get them out of this area. Sometimes it's up in Chicago or St. Louis and other places. We are on a network. We work throughout the whole nation.

*Rep. Bellock* – How many do you have in your home?

*Dana* – We take 3.

*Rep. Bellock* – Ok. You made one comment that I thought was interesting. You said that you go to them because in her case they took her out of her state.

*Dana* – When we go to them we're going into the shelters and into the domestic violence places. Yes, sometimes the FBI or the local police will call. Like she said, there's also an NGO or a non-governmental agency will be available. That would be us too.

*Rep. Bellock* – Thank you very much.

*Sen. Holmes* - You were saying that you accommodate for a year. How many individuals per year?

*Dana* – I don't stop to count. I just do it as they come. I'm constantly traveling every week throughout this whole region. So I have no idea what kind of number I can give you because I'm constantly going to the shelters, the jails, the prisons, whoever calls who think that they have a trafficking case. Then I hook them up with resources there in the community. We're making immediate decisions in those moments to get them to the safety that they need first and foremost.

*Sen. Holmes* - You say that you are 100% volunteer based?

*Dana* - Yes.

*Sen. Holmes* - So how many of you are there? Doing the part that you're doing? Then you are referring them?

*Dana* – You mean in our agency?

*Sen. Holmes* - Yes.

*Dana* – Myself. Then we have some interns. Our board also somewhat helps as well. But basically I am it.

*Sen. Holmes* - Ok. So just out of curiosity of yours, because you address both the sex trafficking and the labor aspect, how can you break that down in a percentage? What percentage is sex trafficking and what is more labor trafficking?

*Dana* – I think coming down to awareness because just this past year we've had 3 labor that we are aware of and then the rest would be sex. But again I think it's coming down to awareness and recognizing what it is. Like she said, the majority that we work with, right now we have 3 girls in our house who don't even recognize they've been trafficked. It's the counselors that are realizing the extent of it because it's a conditioned behavior they were born into.

*Sen. Holmes* - Is it primarily women?

*Dana* – It's primarily women and we have had men that we work with and a few boys as well. With that, it's even harder for the men to come out. It's even more taboo.

*Sen. Holmes* - How many are under 18? How many are you dealing with?

*Dana* – We've connected with Garfield Park up in Chicago and with that being said, even them and working with Lincoln Land here, in the juvenile department, again, it's the awareness. It's sad to say but that number is going up. That we're even talking with juveniles. That's why we even started a juvenile program. We don't have the housing because there's just not enough juvenile housing at all. Let alone men's homes. Women's, ok. But the men and the children are lacking.

*Sen. Holmes* – Thank you.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – I have a question as well. You mentioned something similar to a lot of common commentary. But you also said something that I've not heard before that you have a foster home program that is geared towards children who have been trafficked. Can you just very briefly elaborate on what is the additional training and do you do that? Tell us a little bit about that.

*Dana* – Everything that I've been talking about is at ground floor. As we're finding a need, we go out there and fill that need. So with juvenile program, we're working with what's called 'safe homes' that work with the foster system. They already set up families where they're in the position. We work child advocacy centers and whatever needs the child needs even down to the education. So we have another organization that is in that position. We don't do this alone. Especially when it comes to children, there are different organizations. We can be working with 3 or 4 different organizations, not to mention for every 1 person, it takes 6 to 8 people, just individuals not including the other agencies or organizations. That's part of what we do so that we can be 100% volunteer. So with that juvenile program, I find it even easier because as we've gotten into this because there's even more resources available for juveniles even though with adults they still have that arrested development. But coming in on a juvenile level there seems to be more resources available. But with housing, to do it on a one-on-one, that's why we have to work with this program to get them into families.

*Sen. McConnaughay* –Thank you.

*Rep. Bellock* – I just wanted to comment on ‘safe homes’. I’ve worked with them and DCFS but I think a lot of people really don’t understand what safe homes are. Did you want to comment on what they are?

*Dana* – Safe homes, they have their own training where they train individuals, this is usually a husband and wife team, and they will come in and set it up through DCFS and with the foster care and they provide services that are needed to give support to that child. But what we’re adding to that is all the different counseling, making sure they get their education and the support at school. So it’s actually in addition to their program which is already a good program.

*Rep. Bellock* – Most people in the legislature aren’t familiar with safe homes. Legislators are very weary of it because it’s not totally like DCFS but it’s with the agreement of the people that have their children go there and it’s all volunteers. There are thousands of people throughout the United States that do it and DCFS is working with them all the time now. I just wanted to let people know what that is because it’s a tremendous program and the people who volunteer are just doing this to volunteer to help children.

*Dana* – Again, the more that are on this, like you’re saying, yes DCFS is the government agency, as well as the foster care. There are a lot of eyes and ears with this program so in actuality; the children don’t fall through the cracks in this program. Then we come in and offer our services on top of that, to me is a win-win.

*Rep. Bellock* - Just to be clear, a lot of the children who are in this program are not trafficking victims.

*Dana* – In fact, we are one of the first human trafficking organizations to work with safe homes.

*Rep. Bellock* – Thank you.

*Kimberly Palermo*

*Visiting Scholar, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute*

My name is Kimberly Palermo from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. I just want to go off what Dana was talking about first about residential treatment. Right now our state only has 9 facilities and a majority are for women, as she described. There are only 18 beds available for youth and 4 potential available beds for males.

First I want to talk about the poll that we conducted last spring, the public opinion poll for the state of Illinois. My goal was to measure the general public’s viewpoint of human trafficking victims and awareness of the issue. The Simon poll was conducted Saturday, March, 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The sample included 1000 randomly selected registered voters and the margin of error was 4+/- 3.1% points. 60% of the interviews were conducted. 51% of the voters surveyed disagreed or strongly disagreed that sex trafficking affects their area with 28% reporting that it does. While 1/5 voters, 21%, did not know or refused to answer. Voters in Chicago, 32% reported that most often sex trafficking affects their area. This was reflected

similarly in the rural regions outside of Cook County and the collar counties with 31% of voters reporting that sex trafficking affected their area. Only 26% of voters from Chicago suburbs reported that sex trafficking affects their area. Support was strong for legally requiring human trafficking training for law enforcement. 6/7 voters, 86 % reported there should be mandated training for human trafficking for the state of Illinois. 1/10 voters, 10% reported that training for human trafficking should not be required by law. This shows that even though a majority of voters reported that human trafficking does not affect their communities, they still believe there should be mandated training for law enforcement. They were also asked, “Which comes closer to your view - Prostitution or drug-related offenses committed by sexually exploited adults should not be prosecuted or such offenses should be tried like any other charge?” Overall, 22% of voters said that sexually exploited adults should not be prosecuted and 69% said they should be tried like any other charge. 9% of voters said they do not know or they refused to answer.

In many instances, trafficking occurs in conjunction with other crimes that cannot be clearly identified as just drug possession. The spring 2017 poll reflects that much more needs to be done to combat modern day slavery including public education efforts. I would like to note that this poll was conducted 1 week before the human trafficking billboards were posted in Chicagoland areas and near O’Hare International Airport. This upcoming spring, the institute will be conducting the annual poll again. The upcoming poll will reflect the effectiveness of prevention. Overall, this poll just shows that we need to do to educate the general public and I think that’s a piece that we’re also missing and should be included in the state plan. Similarly, human trafficking is what domestic violence was 20 years ago. So looking at what domestic violence has done and kind of implementing those efforts in human trafficking awareness would be key. Especially with postage, I think if we have posters up in schools and universities in the back of bathroom stalls or in the general public in businesses that would bring more awareness.

There are 1300 middle school, 1500 high school and 300 institutions of higher education in the state. I think those are prime populations to educate, especially at a young age such as middle school. Obviously, these trainings would be developmentally appropriate for the child and include the following topics such as evidence-based sexual assault, gender socialization, sexual justification, empathy and healthy relationships.

Overall I think that health care professionals should also be trained. As SIU medicine has stated, there are 5686 hospitals in the entire country and only 60 of those hospitals have programs. That is a very small number. A study found that 56% of US victims require emergency department treatment while in captivity and 25 sought emergency department treatment multiple times. That just shows you how many are getting access to healthcare. That’s just a prime location to make sure these people are getting trained. The American Academy of Pediatrics placed human trafficking on the top 10 policies supported by the board.

In our poll we talked about how law enforcement training should be mandated. There are 19 states and DC that mandate trafficking training throughout our nation and Illinois is not one of them. I think that is also a prime population to educate and train. The training needs to be trauma-informed. This education would also mend the lens of prostitutes classified as offenders, instead recognizes victims in those instances.

*Sen Holmes* - Has anybody seriously looked into, I was in a meeting last week and they were talking about the Aces Program. I was wondering, is that a great way to flag some of these kids particularly at a young age that don't even understand that this is not normal behavior? Also to help figure out whom some of those kids are? I don't know how you can start asking those questions and what roadblocks there are legally in order to do that. I guess my question is – are you working with the schools or something? I thought the Aces program was fascinating.

*Kimberly* – I brought copies of the Aces programs for you guys. I think Kristen might be able to answer more about the schools because she does education programs. I just do policy and research. I look at other schools throughout the states and how they do education trainings and how that's effective.

*Rep. Ammons* – Because this is multifaceted, it's hard for you to separate the topics out. From our standpoint, we are policy makers so we're looking at all the state agencies that are impacted by all of this. When you talked about the poll, you made the distinction between human trafficking and other sex crimes, which to me is all trafficking, right? In my mind, if you have to utilize your body for money, to me, is trafficking. I think the distinction that I'm having a difficulty wrapping my mind around on how to change the policy is that there is a crime side then there's the drug addiction side that's involved. And all of that, to me, is victimization. How do we make the distinction where we're saying this is human trafficking and this is not? Could someone answer that along the way? I don't have a clear answer.

*Kristen Eng* – I can speak to that. My name is Kristen Eng and I'm with Hoyleton Youth and Family Services. We provide a number of trainings across the state. I've heard questions on funding. We do have a contract with DCFS where we're now their primary resource for providing that training for investigators, caseworkers and mental health providers. We also do community providers as well. In regards to that question, that's one of the things that in the field of discussion can sometimes be very limiting if someone doesn't meet the criteria to receive funding. To give you a clear example of where they might be seen as similar, but there are 2 differences, for sex trafficking, there has to be an exchange of something of value. So our agency is a child welfare agency so we often times have sexual abuse victims that are clients with us in the foster care system. With that, you may have a family member that's an offender. I don't want this to come off as me not being sensitive to the topic, but saying it's just sexual abuse, meaning a father or mother has had sexual relations with their child but there's nothing in exchange is different than sex trafficking. There has to be that exchange of something of value. One of the things that we often find in trainings is that a number of people will say after the training that they think they've worked with a victim or they think they have a case that is a sex trafficking case. The thing that people often times miss is that exchange. They also have a really hard time wrapping their head around that something of value doesn't just mean money. To give you an example, a couple months ago, early spring 2017, we were providing some training to Illinois State Police. There was a wide variety of individuals who were in the room in regards to the number of years they have been in the field. We had a gentleman come up to us afterwards and say that he had been in the field for 20-something years and this is not something that he usually sees. Then we had another person come up to us who said that the types of crimes they saw in the area is where the dad wants to have sex with the daughter and then they tell the daughter that they'll buy them tickets to a fair in town. As they were talking to me she said that it's not exactly

like human trafficking. By definition it is. That is something of value. Someone had to pay for those tickets and you could put a price tag on it. One of the challenges is you may not necessarily have enough evidence for prosecutors to put a trafficking charge on it or people don't feel comfortable because they don't feel like they have as much success so we lose could potentially be data because it gets listed as another type of crime. This is why you hear a lot of us talk about that overlap between those different crimes which is really challenging.

*Alex Eckert Enyart* – I'm Alex Enyart, attorney at law. In terms of labor trafficking, you're looking for movement which is kind of distinct from sex trafficking in that you're looking for workers being put on a bus or being put on a van or being put on a truck and being taken to where they're in a vulnerable position and they can't leave that position. When they can't leave they're position, they're passport might have been taken. Or they were trafficked and being told they were going to Florida or Texas and they end up in Michigan. Economically they have no money and no way of getting back.

*Patricia McKnight*

*Survivor, Certified Human Trafficking Trainer*

My name is Patricia McKnight. I'm a survivor of family trafficking as well as a state certified trainer. I'm creating an alliance nonprofit community service in Clinton County. We have very few, if any, services in that area. There's very little training that reaches down there. To coordinate relationships with law enforcement, educators and even healthcare workers is challenging. For me, I was trafficked as a child beginning with my step-father and my mother who coordinated the trafficking. They would take me out to involve me in luring in men. There were private parties at our house that involved boys that I went to school with as well as men who worked with my father at the coal mine. The tragedy is that at that time, I didn't get out until I was 17. He was threatening to lock me up in a trailer on a piece of property. At one time I made my way out but the lasting effects are something that I didn't even recognize in my ongoing relationships and especially as a parent. While watching my own kids, as much as I wanted to be that perfect parent, my own emotional boundaries made it very difficult for me. So in what we're doing, in building the Butterfly Dreams Alliance, is to empower society relating to many forms that may not begin as human trafficking but a lot of these crimes don't start as human trafficking. They have underlying effects. They first have to take control of their victims in some way. As Kristen had said, perhaps they are manipulating with some sort of sports game tickets. For me it was just strict terror. Terror was the constant 24/7 control that allowed him and her to enslave me to answer the ring of a little brass bell and to do exactly as ordered without any objections whatsoever. The voice is taken from that person and you have to learn to reclaim that. In that sense, it's been ten years of working very hard.

I believe that we have come a long way. I believe that now human trafficking is very much noticed nationwide. I think it's something that all of us are highly concerned about. We know that there are all these underlying factors so in targeting one, we can address many others. I also believe it has caused a lot of the environmental effects which put a person at this high risk of being trafficked. It could be overall family wellness, economic challenges, criminal actions, addiction disorders, even past learned behaviors or tolerance of those behaviors.

In following up with have to put a value in order to have it be considered trafficking, my value was the price of a couple glasses of beer. For \$5, \$10, whatever they were willing to offer out, was what I learned my value was. That's the worst case scenario because that's the value of that person trapped in that scenario definitely believes that about themselves and has to rebuild from that point forward. In the 2015 Illinois list of counties with the highest number of reports, the top ten counties range from Cook down to St. Clair, these are heavily populated areas. Victims are more likely to interact. They are more likely to be taken in some form, maybe possibly in connection to another crime. So the likelihood of rescuing them or connecting with them, being able to get them out of the life, is much more prominent. When you get into the rural, smaller areas of Illinois, it's not as likely recognized because there are fewer services that provide a focused inside look at how this tragic crime develops. It's my belief, and in the Butterfly Dreams Alliance, that providing that training, not only about the surface warning signs of someone who is being trafficked, those red warning signs that we teach in standard training, but also the victims trauma behavior. They will absolutely deny being trafficked and in fact, with most of these victims, I've been assisting survivors of sexual offenses and trafficking since 2010, and in that, more often than not I hear "I was shared." That's the way that I had looked at it myself throughout all my years. I was being shared. That didn't even register to me as being trafficked. As it does to many of those who I still talk to today to men and women both.

In the training areas, when you let them know about trauma behavior and the denial of trafficking, or "sharing", directing with healthcare professionals has been an issue that I believe is crucial. When you go in for healthcare, my healthcare needs are long an ongoing. I was left with physical injuries so now I have a whole list of needs that need to be met. It's almost impossible to get a quick evaluation. When I go into my local OBGYN office, which is a very prominent OBGYN office, serving not just Clinton County but many of the surrounding areas, and I ask a simple question, "do you ever ask your patients if they're safe?", the answer is, "no". They don't have anything addressing human trafficking. Our local hospital does not. Even our small town local police force and sheriff's office do not. I know that one county sheriff and two Washington County sheriffs have gone to trauma-informed care training. But that is the extent of the training we have gotten in our area. So we are at zilch. As you've heard here from everyone who has testified so far, they are starting to see more and more that when someone comes in for domestic violence assistance, once they get into counseling and start building that relationship of trust, they seem to find out that they've been trafficked. A child sexual abuse case can go from just mom or dad abusing that child to sharing that child. Maybe it's just for the sheer perverse need to do it or maybe it's for the price of a couple of beers. More often than not, and according to the 2014 Family Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse, parent to victim was 262 reports. Parent/boyfriend/girlfriend was 254. Sibling to a victim was 242. Grandparent was 128. Aunt or Uncle was 169. Step-parent was 166. It's everyone who has the ability to control what that person is doing especially if it's a husband over a wife or a boyfriend over a girlfriend or if it's a parent or grandparent involved with the child. The closer they are the more manipulation and the more control that they do inflict and they will inflict.

My organization is developing and incorporating as a nonprofit volunteer organization. Independently, I have been helping clients from sexual abuse to trafficking to domestic violence since 2010. We are developing this based on youth empowerment as well as adult and parental recovery and life skills. Life skills such as recovering from past drama with parents, or even

addressing the possibility that they have gone through some type of trauma and that it's related to their addiction, to their anger, or related to a mental health disorder. These are the beginning ways that we can help change the path to make it safer in the homes for not just the parents, but also for the kids. This builds healthier family units. For the youth, this concerns creating teen roundtables. We are bringing volunteers in from a local university to sit down and work with our local teens and empower them to discuss all types of conversations. Whether it's the school issues, home issues, bullying issues, addiction issues, violence issues and even the possibility of what human trafficking is, what labor trafficking is, because in rural communities we do see a lot of the migrant workers come in. We don't speak their language so we don't know what scenarios they are dealing with. Hopefully they see them in schools. Hopefully the social service directors there are making contact with them and helping them. By empowering educators, law enforcement, healthcare workers, community leaders and community nonprofits, and giving our youth the knowledge of what these offenses are and what can trigger them as well as how they can be involved and more vigilant to prevent them is a stepping stone we can all use in hope of bringing about some end to what we've learned for generations as well as to what we can change now. They see the updated reports. They see the news and the information. But what do they have to say about it? We want to listen and we want to provide that tool for them.

I also feel that a more family wellness approach in the social services and caseworker connection, again working with that parental education and trauma recovery is key. Because you have a report against a child or something else related, what you're seeing on the surface could very well be hidden and silent. In rural areas they are not going to come forward. In very small communities everyone knows them. The resources are not there. If they talk to someone, what happens next?

To bring about change in our human behavior and dismissal of the offenses, that can take away a victims rights to seek help and take away the voice of the most vulnerable. I believe that we must develop community response and support networks within every small community. One that will include our schools, doctors, educators and our law enforcement team. We cannot encourage this prevention, intervention and recovery without first involving our communities and qualified peer support at every level.

Thank you.

*Rep. Bellock* – Thank you for your testimony. So you are a certified human trafficking trainer, is there a certification from some group?

*Patricia* - It's through Rescue and Restore.

*Rep. Bellock* – Ok. So I wondered how large of group that was? Do people all over know it?

*Patricia* – Yes. Kristen has the information.

*Kristen Eng* – Rescue and Restore was through available funding federally. We were a part of the initiative from 2011-2014. At that time one of the focuses within that program was to help train other additional speakers to go out.

*Rep. Bellock* – Back to the Butterfly Dreams Alliance. What exactly is that alliance?

*Patricia* – This is building our educational alliance through the local doctors and medical professionals and law enforcement that are in our area that are going to serve directly in the Clinton County area. We've been losing services left and right and we just lost our only domestic violence shelter for a five county area. There are very few services out that way.

*Rep. Bellock* – So I have one other question. When you talked about the top ten counties, do you feel there is an increase of the issue or are people becoming more aware of it?

*Patricia* – I think people are becoming more aware and are becoming more involved with the higher populated areas. There is a greater chance of that person being seen and that person being reported because in the small communities, we see the same people doing the same daily things every day. The things that happened, not only to myself, but to thousands of others like me know these parties happened in our very own homes. Our parents lured these people in and then we did what we were ordered to do for the evening. In a rural community, a family having a party is nothing. You're not going to get anyone to report that party. If we know more about what might possibly be going on and we notice those underlying signs of distress, we have a greater possibility of pulling them out of any bad scenario, give them family support and also identify that it is in fact trafficking. Then we move forward with it that way.

*Rep. Bellock* – My take away from that is how important it is for education in schools and for social workers in schools to be aware of that with children. 8-10 years ago I don't think people were aware of heroin and opioids.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – I would also add that obviously funding is going to be a major component because it seems like in order to get the amount of education out there for people to even realize, I'm not sure people really do realize how big of a problem this is. I'm certainly sure that they're not realizing that when people think of human trafficking they think of it as taking people from a different country and bringing them over here and either putting them into a situation of prostitution. I don't think people are looking at the situation that you two women have been brave enough to come out and speak about and quite frankly it's the unspeakable because we don't want to admit that people can and do when it's your own parents trafficking their own children somehow for profit. I think it's clearly unspeakable. I think it's a huge hurdle to overcome to make sure that people are realizing this. I think it's a huge hurdle when speaking about being a small community. Were people in the community even aware or suspecting? Who's going to come forward to bring that up?

*Patricia* – Exactly. I attended the same school system for 6+ years. I suffered severe neglect. We lived in the center of town. Everyone knew my parents. Everyone knew and despised my step-father. It was nothing for people to be aware of how despicable he really was. They saw publicly beatings, name calling, inappropriate name calling, driving me back and forth to places, and intoxication and drug use. That was publicly witness and yet not a single person or neighbor, family friend, educator spoke. I wasn't taken to a doctor or dentist. The educators and the classmates that were involved never said a word.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – I'm sorry. I don't know how it gets passed the state? Don't we have requirements that children have to get physicals for a certain grade levels?

*Patricia* – Yes. When they check the child out they give them the basics. Back then, I don't know how my parents got passed it. I honestly do not. I'm covered with scars. My body is 80% covered with scars from a skin rash that ate away at my body. I couldn't bathe in my home. It was a dangerous home. I was filthy. I was covered with body odor and soars. My front teeth had decayed and broken off by the time I was 13 or 14 years old. These are things I cannot get fixed. I had to go on disability because the last final beating that I took was a spinal cord trauma. I have cysts inside of my spinal cord from bruising. It's the long-term effects and the burdens. We spend an estimated, for prevention and lifetime recovery, \$150 billion every year. If we can get in there and use some of those funds, we can change the future for a lot of people. We can give them back their life skills like the ability to get an education. A child cannot educate themselves when they're living in this. A young woman cannot educate themselves when they are living this life. Getting out of it and finding out what a safe and healthy relationship was took me until I was almost 42 or 43 years old. By that time my children were already grown. One was getting ready to graduate high school and the other two had already graduated high school. I see this third generational emotional distress that's now impacting my grandchildren. That's when I decided that when I went through my recovery I had to do something. I couldn't just sit back and do nothing and let it all continue. I then got together with the National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and started working with them. I then took my certification for domestic violence and took my certification for human trafficking trainer. I've been helping and speaking in any way possible, free of charge and just because it really matters.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – Thank you. You're being brave enough to speak up and do all that you do may positively impact other people's lives. Maybe their situation can be prevented so that it doesn't get to that. I think it's a lesson to us in government, particularly when we talk about our issues in government such as budget. I think so often we don't realize that when you talk about a local domestic violence shelter having to close its doors, I'm going to assume that's due to a 2 ½ year budget impasse. I think do we understand that damage and the ultimate expense it's going to cost us for not doing such preventative measures. I think that needs to be a lesson that all of us take to heart here. Thank you very much.

*Kristen Eng*

*Prevention Supervisor, Hoyleton Youth & Family Services*

I'll start by telling a little bit of the background of where I'm coming from so you can see and I'm going to try and touch on other topics that we haven't yet spoken about. I do echo everything that has been said. As a prevention supervisor, half of my team works with evidence-based curriculum in a school setting or a community setting as well as residential child welfare settings. We work with the kids on different topics like substance abuse prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, and anti-human trafficking efforts. I also oversee our Puentes de Esperanza program where we work with low-income Hispanic families within our area. So that has the different challenges and unique perspective as well. I also coordinate the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force. With that, I'll start where training comes from. Where we talk about we do need training across the board. I meet a lot of professionals who have much more

experience than myself but they've never had this training come to them or they're having challenges seeing what the application is in our daily life and how we go about it. One of the things we see in the rural area is the law enforcement and our first responders are the ones having to deal with victims and survivors. I've worked with law enforcement officers who have said that the mom is calling me talking to me about their kid and I don't know what to do. It's hard having to balance your job as an investigator if you don't have services that you can refer people to. In addition to that, out of the norm training – when we did the rescue and restore intuitive a couple of years ago, one of the things they appreciated was the encouragement and focus on not just first responders but maybe working with the individuals who are doing them in sections in different buildings because they see the different things. Maybe working with the postal service system because the mail person comes day in and day out and can notice the different things that can go on. So the out of the norm trainings should really have a heavy focus on multi-disciplinary team approaches. That's something that we are seeing across the nation. That's one thing we see with our Child Death Investigation Task Force. We work with Child welfare providers, coroners, law enforcement and the child advocacy centers to really address those different things. So multi-disciplinary team approaches, we have a couple throughout the state in select areas, but Illinois is a big state. We have a lot of group to cover so it's definitely a challenge when you don't have enough resources.

In regards to the schools, we are finding that challenges come from administration not wanting this to be presented to their kids. I joke about it, but I talk about the ugly topics. Nobody wants to talk about trafficking and nobody wants to talk about child deaths but we need to talk about it. We find that we have educators and parents that come to us at different presentations and trainings and then ask us to come to their school. We can come to the school if the administration will let us come to your school. The work that we do in the schools, we often find that the more at-risk schools are more open and willing to have us come into the area because they recognize their kids are seeing this day in and day out. Our agency's main office is extremely close to East St. Louis where they have a lot of risk factors there. We are right across the river from St. Louis and we often times find that individuals are being crossed from state to state. We'll have individuals who may live in Illinois but they're being trafficked in Missouri. In the schools when we are working with the kids, they recognize this and know what this is. They'll tell you who are bad people and who to stay away from in their communities. They'll tell you the areas that you don't want to go to. Some of them even tell us the local law enforcement they don't want to talk to because they'll get hurt or killed. So we are trying to build relationships with them the best that we can. At this time we don't have funding that allows those direct victim services. Often times we're offering referrals or consultation to work with different agencies or groups. We try to provide guidance as best we can. We do have private funding that allows us to do that within our immediate area. We also have the DCFS funding that allows us to be statewide. We also have a contract with Heartland Alliance that allows us to work with foreign-born individuals. I want to say that Urban Institute had a 2014 report where they had interviewed over 100 labor trafficking victims and survivors and they said that they came into the United States with the proper documentation but what had happened was that their documentation was held by their captor and by the time they were finally able to get services, they didn't have the correct papers. We had a man who was working for a lawn care company and it went from an exploitive situation to a trafficking situation. It was exploitive in regards to the money wasn't being properly given to him over time. But then it became a trafficking situation because there was

actual implied harm to him and his family. When he came to us, one of the challenges for us was he couldn't work so he was the sole provider for his family. Luckily our contract with Heartland Alliance allowed us to have minimal funding to help eliminate some of the things his family was dealing with at the time. There are challenges that come along with that as well. We have individuals who are fearful for domestic violence situations because they're afraid of what is going to happen to them or their family.

In addition to that, our work with the child welfare system and working throughout the state, we find in our residential facilities that most of the workers we speak with are telling us that it's their young boys that are being trafficked. Unfortunately in our field we don't talk about that because right now the limited data that we have really shows the females are the victims and the males are genuinely the traffickers. I always say it's an equal opportunity. We have the female traffickers. We have the young boys who are also victims. We are just not sure what those services look like. Some of the school programs that we work with or young groups that we started hosting, we'll talk in regards to expectations within their community and then it starts the discussion to where you can see how the kids are starting to normalize some of these behaviors. Trish talked a little bit about generational things that she is now finding are impacting her grandkids. That's something where if you have mom or dad who is already involved in this life, it somehow starts to become a little more normal. These are just some of the challenges that we're finding. We're also seeing this in young, juvenile offenders as well. We are often asked what happens to the juvenile offenders. I don't actually know the outcomes that come from that but we do have where the 16 or 17-year-old offenders are traffickers or are recruiters. We don't have an easy path for a lot of people when they have different charges. Unfortunately, when we are talking about the path forward and when thinking about what is actionable and meaningful, one of the reasons everyone keeps bringing up services and training is because it becomes a little bit easier. But the reality is that none sound the same and there is no one size fits all answer to how we are going to fix this issue in our state.

*Alex Eckert Enyart*

*Junior Partner, Eckert Enyart Attorneys at Law*

I would like to reiterate what Kristen said. There's a tremendous amount of trafficking happening in St. Louis. It's listed as the number one human trafficking hotspot in the country and no one wants to say anything about the strip clubs that are in the East side in Washington park and East St. Louis. I don't go to those places and I don't know much about them but they do say that they have Eastern European accents. Local law enforcement and no one on the East side has been willing to talk about that. I am more here to talk about labor trafficking. The one time you can say on to a lighter topic because sex trafficking is so atrocious.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – Do any of us know about this?

*Rep. Ammons* – I do. I just went to East St. Louis. My family is originally from St. Louis. When I went there with a cousin, we drove down the main streets and said this city is dying because there is no economy. Everything that you want is in East St. Louis. That you really don't want. It's a good place to look if the task force wants to see what this is.

*Alex* – I'm an attorney in Belleville. I'm a partner with Eckert Enyart Attorneys at Law. My practice is predominantly in Southern Illinois with some Central Illinois. I also teach at Lindenwood University and I've been an interpreter in the courts and various agencies for over 11 years now. I worked for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation in St. Louis and also the St. Clair County Public Defender's Office. Predominantly right now I'm assisting folks with issues in relation to their immigration case. In the summer of 2012, while attending Southern Illinois University School of Law, I worked for the Illinois Migrant Workers Assistance Project based out of their Cobden office. I believe you all have already heard from Miguel Kerberlein who runs that organization. In 2012 my service area was roughly the Southern third off Illinois. My office was in the Jackson Migrant Union camp outside Cobden, Illinois.

There's a tremendous diversity of agricultural products within the southern 30 or so counties that migrant farm workers worked on. In terms of employers, the largest you're going to see in Collinsville is Keller's. They grow almost all the horseradish in the world which actually is harvested in the winter which makes it hard to find human trafficking victims there. Eastward to the Indiana border you see significant corn detasseling which is where they'll go through and detassel three rows of corn and leave one with the tassels in order to create this specialty hybrid that ADM is producing. What ADM will do is they'll hire contractors who hire subcontractors who will go and find the guys, predominantly men, and bring them over. They'll bring them up from Texas or Florida or bring them across the border from Mexico and up into Illinois into the corn producing belt. These guys move at a break neck pace. The move from South to North which is the way our state is. They have these fast, temporary jobs where they'll bounce from communities on the Eastern side of the state. They're not really in any towns for more than a week. Then in the southern portion of the state, we have tremendous orchards in and around Carbondale. There, the migrant population is center around Cobden. The majority of these farm workers are Mexican. An enormous number of these folks are also H2A workers which are the legal farm worker visas. I like to refer to remember it as "help to agriculture". In fact the longest bus line actually ends in Anna, Illinois. It starts near the Guatemalan border and it dead ends with all the workers to get off at Anna to go pick peaches in southern Illinois. There's also a tremendous amount of blueberries that are grown in southern Illinois and this is where we see the real child labor come out. It's not often times viewed within the community as exploitive but they view it as taking their kids to work. This is really encouraged because the kids have their tiny hands and they do go in and get the blueberries very easily. It's a real delicate fruit so it's very difficult for adults to pick. So you will see kids go out and work in the fields. During my time with IMLAP I did see human trafficking operations working in southern Illinois in the tobacco fields. There are some tobacco fields in southern Illinois region of our state. We found large groups of men out of Mexico who were being taken around in these large vans. They were being bussed around in the middle of nowhere. They had their passports taken at the border and they were being held and paid below minimum wage. We are talking \$1 or \$2 an hour. When an H2A visas worker reported at the time were reporting that they were receiving \$14.75/hour. Other cases you will see with labor trafficking are a lot more subtle in terms of young girls being brought from Central America. I had a friend who was brought over for her quinceanera to pay for that. Her family brought her in and said they would just work for a little bit told her she'd be able to save up some money to pay for your 15<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She's 27 now and is still here. She has been here for over a decade while working in the hotel industry.

Regardless of the types of trafficking or the divisions of labor involved, as advocates and attorneys we see some of the similar problems with these cases and these types of victims. The number one issue, especially for farm workers, is logistics. Migrant workers, by their very nature, are migratory. They move around. Historically they were African-Americans on the Eastern side of the United States. The Western side was historically Latino labor. Now it's almost exclusively Latino labor. In terms of modern migrant farm workers, these are Latin American folks. They don't often understand technology the way we do. I don't mean to sound condescending but it's because these folks often coming out of the Guatemalan highland. If you say you need their fax number for a line in Guatemala and they'll give you everything but the last 2 digits. They don't understand that an email address or a fax number has to be specific. You can't just make it up. It's extremely impossible to maintain contact with these folks. They're poor and don't have access to phones. Your average case is going to take a year or two and to them that's one or two growing seasons.

Another factor is going to be the remoteness especially in the rural areas in central and southern Illinois. These areas are really just shelter for human traffickers. There's no difference between a 20-foot wall or 20 miles of beet fields between you and the nearest landline. We've seen individuals die in the fields. In 2011, a migrant worker died up near Urbana-Champaign because he couldn't get out of the corn field. Last, we see fear. Migrant farm workers have always been one of the most vulnerable populations in society and this has been aggravated by recent Federal practices and the recent federal crackdowns in immigration policies. They don't typically speak the language, mostly Spanish. We are now starting to see that that is even a stretch, Most of the time it's rural dialects. Spanish is normally their second language if they even learn Spanish where they are coming from. They also fear law enforcement and sometimes this is merited but sometimes it comes to their advantage. Some things that we would like to see as advocates would be the enhancement of the U or T visa program. I believe there is legislation pending right now which would mandate sheriff's signing off on U visas or providing a reason why they do not sign off on a U visa. Does everyone know what a U visa is? U visa is a visa to allow a non-citizen to remain in the United States if they're a victim of a crime, predominantly domestic violence. T visas are for victims of trafficking. It applied to any crime. It is applied to witnesses as well as victims. Often times, local law enforcement is extremely reluctant to sign U visas. While a judge, state's attorney, sheriff or local police chief can have the authority to sign off and have that recognized by immigration, really under best practices you want the sheriff to sign off on it. Historically, from my experience, the sheriff is the last person who is going to want to sign off on a U visa. There's a lot of misinformation that the sheriff's and local law enforcement have about this. The most important thing about this is that it allows people to stay here and get their case resolved and find justice for the victim. Another instance that would certainly help is to encourage local state's attorney's offices to prosecute wage and hour violations instead of just referring it to the state's department of labor or the federal department of labor. What these allow you to do is get the U visa immediately because you can get a sheriff to sign off on it and get that process applied for immediately. Local state's attorney's offices have the power to prosecute wage and hour violations. This would be extremely helpful in situations such as corn detasseling where they are moving through very quickly. Then they can stay in the country and it does provide them a pass for a green card and then a pass for citizenship should they choose to seek that path. Doing this would really eliminate a lot of these log jams that we see in terms of getting

someone a U visa so you don't have to worry about deportation and you can start focusing on a civil case or maybe even helping with the criminal case pending against a trafficker.

Last, I suggest increasing funds for organization such as Illinois Migrant Workers Legal Assistance Project. Their southern office has been eliminated for several years now. The Jackson migrant camp no longer exists. It's now just a migrant farm worker camp that's owned by one of the orchards down there. As a student worker, I had a \$2000 stipend over 3 months including mileage. Programs like this are cheap and affordable and they're an effective way to put eyes and ears in the fields. Beyond this there is a need for more permanent human rights observers and human trafficking observers in hotspots in metro east. It takes a long time to build trust with these communities and I found by the end of my summer employment there you would have these connections and what not but you would always start from the beginnings the next season. To have permanent positions or some sort of structure put into place, you would have a gateway into this community. Migrant farm workers always say that the work for fruit picking is 'pescando' which means fishing. You are fishing in there for the perfect apple. That's the way in finding these cases are. You're never going to find perfect cases most of the time they are bad cases. But it is fishing and if you have people on the ground that can reach out and find the stuff, you would be able to have a much more successful prosecutions filed. Thank you.

*Survivor* – Before we go, I would also like to bring up the fact that I've been trying to get my name changed ever since I have gotten to Illinois, about 15 months ago. It's really hard because you don't want for it to be published in the newspaper. Anything to make that process easier.

*Rep. Ammons* - So the name change issue and expungement issues is, I think for the task force, I think I have a better view of what we talked about at the beginning of this meeting as to why we need to segment this out. Expungement, criminal records, name changing – we have laws on the books that might preclude that from happening. We have some statutes that would create a real difficulty to read through all of that which means this task force needs to segment itself. Segment itself into the labor piece, temporary worker piece, migrant issue, to the trafficking and sex crime issues and the economic issues that drive them all. I'm not sure how we want to do that but the task force members themselves should really gather together and talk about how we want to set this up.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – Is that something we could do this week while we are all here? It's hard for all of us to get together but I would love it if we did take that time.

*Sen. Holmes* – This is such a broad topic. There are so many pieces of it and I don't know how we're going to break it up. We're supposed to have a report by June.

*Sen. McConnaughay* – That is not a lot of time. What has been very enlightening for me is to hear the story. Until we hear the stories, until you start grasping the problem, how do you come up with ways in trying to address the problems? To be quite honest, we can sit here and hear how many stories? Everyone is going to have a different component to it.

*Kristen Eng* - I think one of the other things that can be done is that we have different tentacles in different areas so working with the knowledge that people have in those areas. I didn't even

touch on something that I wanted to, but there's a connection between drugs and trafficking. One of the things we're doing right now is trying to highlight that and there really isn't a whole lot of studies out there but if you talk to our side in trafficking they'll say drugs are involved. If you talk to the drug side they'll say prostitution and human trafficking is involved. You all could be utilizing that knowledge that is already out there.

*Sen. Holmes* - Do we have other states that have measures in place that you guys have looked at and thought they were doing it right? That way we don't have to reinvent the wheel if somebody has already done something that we can look at and tweak it to fit us if we need to.

*Kristen* - A lot of the states that are out there right now that are doing a lot of work are a lot of the outer state; California and states on the East Coast. I know the child advocacy centers are really focusing on the multi-disciplinary teams. Florida and Atlanta has gotten a lot of work done. I think it's taking a combination of all of those things and finding out what fits us in the Midwest. Often times we find trends on the outer parts of the states that hit up later.

*Sen. McConnaughay* - Can I ask a question that is a little bit different from what we are talking about? Most of our conversations today have been about victims. One of the areas that I don't think we've talked enough about is what is the penalty in the labor market? What is the level of penalty for a business that engages in trafficking? In sex trafficking, what is the punishment for a john or a trafficker? We don't talk enough about that side of it which is very much in our arena to look at the level of penalty. Whether it's knowing that your name is going to be made public or that you would have to pay a financial penalty. What are the deterrents that we should be looking at that help reduce demand. We are never going to eliminate demand but deterrents are important.

*Alex Eckert Enyart* - I was a public defender for 3 years. I would say sentencing is not going to impact it because you're going to be such a scumbag that you're going to be prostituting people out, you won't care about 6 years vs. 4 years. You won't care about a 1 or 4 class felony. What really needs to be out there are more eyes and ears. You're only going to be able to curtail it by catching people. It's because people don't get caught so they keep doing it.

*Sen. Holmes* - In the case of the farming arena, isn't there a value to increasing a financial penalty on that farmer?

*Alex* - There are but they aren't going to pay the fines unless they get caught.

*Sen. McConnaughay* - That's the other problem because it goes through a contractor and a subcontractor before it gets to the person who really has the check book.

*Alex* - You're never going to see them paying out.

*Rep. Ammons* - You could but it takes political will to do what you are saying. When we worked on the temporary worker deal that we just passed, that bill, even with its improvements, it wasn't enough to do what you're describing because we are dealing with companies and businesses and they won't pay because we won't make them pay. Department of Labor whose responsibility it is

to enforce those rules, they don't enforce. We have a huge enforcement issue that we found as we were working on that bill. It's something as we start studying the segmentation of the problem, right? So we're talking about the labor employment problem. There's a family problem. With children, there's an educational issue in schools that are not providing the necessary information on trafficking. So we have all these problems that need to be addressed. There are studies and there are already tools that are out there in Illinois. We need to figure out what the task force objective is. How can we segment that out? Then find the resources that exist in California already that we can bring to Illinois that may address a portion of our issues we have here in our state.

*Patricia McKnight* - Something that I have brought to the coalition and something that has bothered me for a long time is that if there is no way to prove financial gain, such is with the case whenever a family trafficker is involved, and it is a hidden issue, you cannot prove any type financial gain. It could be a mother who dismisses that her daughter or children are being used because she's doing it for shelter. It could be a parent who is doing it for the price of a couple of beers. There is some type of gain. But if there is no proof of financial gain you cannot prosecute and without prosecution you cannot provide the victim services and there is no victim restitution. Therefore, the burden of healthcare, dental services and ongoing therapy care becomes the burden of the victims because they cannot take their case into court. Nobody can prove that an act of trafficking actually occurred.

*Someone in the audience* - Some other states post the name of the john's that way they are shunned from their community and also some states, for human trafficking they're not sexual predators in their communities. Some places like Tennessee have that and it helps because then they are on a list and they can't live near a school and I think that would also be a good way to approach that further.

Some counties do.

*Sen. McConnaughay* - But that is a community by community activity.

*Rep. Ammons* - I would be open to having an early morning meeting with just the task force members to talk.

\*Task force members begin to schedule a meeting for a follow-up meeting. November 7<sup>th</sup>.

\*Rep Bellock suggested the task force break into working groups. 1. Law enforcement - state's attorney's, and judges. 2. Service providers - what is being provided and what is needed. 3. Awareness and education.

*Member* - Let's also separate the labor from the sex trafficking.

\*The survivor on the panel suggested that there be services provided to remove any branding or tattoos that their pimps make them get so that they are identified as theirs.

**End of meeting.**