

Human Trafficking Task Force

December 6th, 2017 at 11:00am

Bilandic Building, Room C600

160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60601

Members in Chicago:

Rep. Bellock

Rep. Wheeler

Sen. McConnaughay

Rep. Ammons

Sen. Holmes

Sen. Martinez

Called to order @ 11:25am

Antwan Turpeau: I am here to help my counterpart, Gwendolyn Walsh, co-facilitate the Human Trafficking Task Force meeting here today. Within the delinquency office at DCFS, I'm responsible for our dually-involved youth unit, human trafficking unit as well as youth that go in and out of shelter and emergency foster care. With that being said, I would like to transition to our co-chairs, Sen. McConnaughay and Representative Bellock to do the roll call and we will begin our task force meeting today.

Rep. Bellock: Thank you very much Antwan. We appreciate you helping facilitate the meeting and welcome everybody coming in. Sen. McConnaughay and I are thrilled to have everybody that is here and we are proud to say that it is being livestreamed on the ILGA website so people from all over the state can see the meeting here. We're thrilled with all the speakers that we have today because we decided to make this meeting specifically for law enforcement. We want to learn more from you. I was speaking with Judge McGraw earlier and we appreciate any of your suggestions. Our goal is to listen to what you have to say regarding future legislation but mostly educating us and raising awareness. Thank you very much. We are going to move forward and Representative Ammons had something she wanted to comment on too.

Roll Call:

Rep. Bellock-Present

Rep. Jesiel-Not Present

Rep. Wheeler-Present

Rep. Ammons-Present

Rep. Gabel-Not Present

Rep. Soto-Not Present

Sen. McConnaughay-Present

Sen. Althoff-Not Present

Sen. McCarter-Not Present

Sen. Martinez-Present
Sen. Holmes-Present
Sen. Hutchinson-Not Present

Rep. Bellock: Thank you very much. Rep. Jesiel wanted to call in. She had some issues where she could not be here but she will be watching. Representative Ammons?

Rep. Ammons: Thank you to the chair. I just wanted to tell the task force members that I sent a notification last night that from our last meeting in Springfield, we talked about engaging a research student at the University of Illinois who has come up to join me here today. She is sitting in the audience. She is a researcher for human trafficking and will be supporting our task force work. She has reviewed all of the previous meetings already of which we will share her analysis for the task force members after this meeting. We'll clean it up and send it out to all of you with some recommendations that we talked about at our Springfield meeting. I just wanted to introduce her to you. She will stand so you know who she is. She's from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is here to support the research aspects of what we need to do for policy. I appreciate her coming and being able to work with us and to those who will testify for us from law enforcement.

Rep. Bellock: Thank you very much. We appreciate your assistance and we've appreciated all the assistance also from Linda Renee Baker, Southern Illinois and the Paul Simon Institute.

Antwan: Before we get into the remarks, we wanted to talk about how January is the National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. We want to take advantage of this opportunity to get ideas from the members of the public and the audience on different things we can do to bring awareness throughout the state of Illinois – in particular, in regards to human trafficking. If you have any ideas we would like to hear them and see what we can do to make them happen. I have some too as well. I can share them as well as Representative Bellock. Anyone from the audience, public or task force?

Sen. McConnaughay: Just to get the conversation started I'll point out what we've done in the last couple of years at the state capitol during the month of January. A little bit different this year because we really aren't in session in January. In the past what we have done is we have had a trafficking awareness day where we invited key not-for-profits, as well as victims, to come to Springfield and spend the day with us. That was something we have done over the last couple of years. I think we can do something a lot more robust than that. That's what we have done the last couple of years.

Rep. Bellock: That sounds good and we had also talked with Antwan earlier about maybe having a press conference here in the blue room and invite some of those groups to be with some of the legislators. Also have some of the groups we have been working with over the last several months to raise awareness.

Rep. Bellock: If anyone wants to submit others, on the DCFS website that DCFS is the agency that is in charge.

Antwan: I'll gather some of these ideas and follow up with the task force. I'm sure we'll communicate what the actual plan is. One thing from a messaging stand point that I think is very important is to continue to reiterate that minors that are involved in human trafficking are victims and not offenders. I think it's important to reiterate that message particularly when it comes to how minors interact with law enforcement.

Sen. Holmes: The press conference here in Chicago could be a possible idea but I think what we maybe want to do is reach out to whichever social service agencies or local police departments and try to get a coordinated day in January where we sort of do this in every single community. Come up and do something and make a splash and get picked up by the local media. Let's try to make it into a bigger thing. Instead we should have the focus be on the individual communities. We have so many communities that are affected and I think that we have so many communities that are actually impacted where there is no awareness. Those communities don't even realize that it's an issue in their community. I think that we need to do some outreach to maybe local police or local human service agencies and try to get our local agencies involved.

Sen. Martinez: Just the fact that in the immigrant community there has to be much more communication. A lot of that is done through media. Mundo and Univision are very popular and they are CBS and NBC or ABC. One of the things is that in the immigrant community you know that they don't speak up because they don't know their rights and don't know what's going on and they are the most targeted. I'm not just talking about Latino's. I'm also talking about the Asian and many other stories that we hear about immigrants hiding in the shadows that are part of human trafficking but they don't know where to go. I think besides the community outreach, there also needs to be a media campaign to explain what is really going on out there and how we can help so this doesn't continue to go on.

Rep. Bellock: Great idea, Senator. I think that's terrific. Even here we have come up with some ideas. We don't just want a press conference but we want to make it a day. Judge McGraw, when you speak you can mention that to the law enforcement community too because that would be something. The media, like Senator Martinez just said, is good too.

I think it would be helpful not just with one day but throughout the month have some public service announcement on commercials or maybe on the radio. Just so that we can get it out as much as we can.

Bellock: Ok. Great idea. I know one of the t.v. channels has been doing some specials on human trafficking so we might be able to reach out to them and ask if they could help us in that respect.

Sen. Holmes: Law enforcement is going to be particularly important because unfortunately a lot of the victims are not coming forward because they are just as worried about being criminalized as those who are initiating the actions. I think law enforcement is critical. That is the segue to you all.

Antwan: Our first remarks will come from Chief Judge McGraw from the 17th Judicial Circuit Court. Thank you for coming today.

Judge McGraw
Chief Law Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit Court

Thank you for having me. Thank you to everyone for focusing on this important issue. I'm going to begin with some introductory remarks as to how this issue came to my attention. Then I'm going to tell you what we've been doing in the 17th Circuit to respond. My name is Joe McGraw and I'm the Chief Judge of the 17th Circuit. I'm also the Chairman of the Conference of Chief Judges. There are 24 circuits throughout the state of Illinois and the Chief's get together on a monthly basis and there we also meet with a representative from the Supreme Court present and we talk about issues that are important to the court. We also review legislative issues and policy issues. A couple of years ago when Rita Garman was Chief Justice, she challenged me to develop a response to human trafficking from a court perspective that would be able to be replicated throughout the state. I told her that I didn't know anything about the topic but when Chief Justice Rita Garman asks me to do something, I say, "yes ma'am". That is what I did on that occasion. I began the educational process. Before that I think I had the same kind of misconception that many people have that this is something that happens in other countries or that it has something to do with human smuggling. I didn't think it happened in our area. In Rockford we asked Creighton University to review the back page ads that, as you know, advertise sex for sale. We learned something very interesting. We learned about the high number of ads that are actually indicative of human trafficking in Rockford that it's a very young age of the women who are depicted on the back page ads. Both based on the description and the pictures that appear. We also learned about the sizes of the stables of those who are doing the trafficking. I think this is a bit of an eye-opener not just for us but for law enforcement because law enforcement has attempted to suppress prostitution with periodic sweeps and arrests in certain geographic locations. After this they then started their own back page stings where they would advertise someone for sale and then would arrest the john's who came to show up and respond to that ad. That was amazing – the volume of traffic that was generated by one back page ad that was advertising a young person for sale for sex. That was at the early stages.

I, with the Executive Director of Dream Catcher, with her organization and her van, went driving around at night to accompany her while they met with women who were out on the street and she gave them hygiene materials and let them know that if they wanted to get out of the life that there is an opportunity to do that. I got to see that firsthand. I got to see a side of Chicago that I had never seen before. It was hard to believe that environment coexists with this environment that we find ourselves in today. I've talked to women who have been manipulated, beaten, traumatized and shamed. I became aware of the scope of the problem. I visited many courtrooms throughout the country where there are different attempts to deal with the women and people who are being trafficked for commercial sex. I came here to see Cook County's example as well.

There are two categories; those who are being trafficked and those who are at risk of being trafficked. We attempted in our Circuit to identify how to identify those who are at risk of being trafficked because of course those who are arrested for prostitution as adults, we have a court response to that. I'll talk about that in a minute. For those who are entering the life, the data shows us that many women get involved when they are girls in the 12-14 age group. So if we can identify those who are at risk at being trafficked before they get too deep into that lifestyle then

we are not only working on ending the demand, but we are also working on interdicting the supply - by intercepting girls and boys who are being drawn into this at the front end.

So we began the task force of all of the stakeholders in Rockford and Winnebago and Boone County which is consisted of State's Attorney's, Public Defender's, DCFS administrators, child advocacy centers, center for forensic interviewing of children, court services (adult probation, pre-trial, juvenile probation, juvenile detention workers), guardian's at litem that work with abuse and neglect system were part of the discussion, RAASE; Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, youth runaway services, sexual assault counseling, mental health providers as well as not-for-profit that are providing shelter for women who are somewhere in the system. We learned some things after meeting with this group. We became educated together. We now don't hold those misconceptions that I spoke about when we first started. One of the first things that we did was that we identified, based on those discussions, all the stakeholders said the primary need is education – what are we looking for? One of the things we developed was a pocket card for the first responders. Law enforcement, medical personnel, and school personnel, those in juvenile detention and so forth have one of these in their pocket. It's a series of questions so you can make certain observations so that you can maybe see what is there to be seen. The old adage is if you don't know what you're looking for then you'll miss it every time. This is a way to heighten the awareness of law enforcement and first responders who may be responding to a domestic violence call, maybe responding to something that doesn't present initially as someone being trafficked. This comes in many guises. That was one of our initial steps. We developed a protocol for when youth are arrested and they are brought to a juvenile detention center they then submit to a screening. The DC Circuit Court developed a validated risk assessment tool called the Star Assessment. What it does is it gives a series of questions and a score which gives you a predictive value of the likelihood that someone is at risk of being trafficked from low to moderate to high. We started doing that with all the kids that cycled through our detention center or go to our juvenile assessment center. Whenever a juvenile is arrested in Rockford they go to the assessment center where an overall assessment is conducted whether they need to be lodged or not but now part of that assessment is the Star Assessment. If the score indicates whether they are lodged or not, they are now connected with social services. Often times it includes mental health and substance abuse because those two seem to predominantly occur together. In addition to that, for all of our adults who are arrested whether for prostitution or some other crime, we do a pretrial risk assessment called the Virginia Revised Risk Assessment. I know around that state you've heard that we are going to a standardized pretrial risk assessment tool. I think it is referred to as the Ohio Instrument. We've been doing this for several years using the Virginia Revised. This gives us information about various risks and needs. We have now added the question to that assessment, "Have you ever exchanged sex for food, drugs, shelter or anything of value?" In addition to all the other risk factors that the judge has available to him or her at the time, they now know whether or not the person has at least given an indication on whether or not the person is being trafficked.

I'm here to tell you what we need from you, consistent with the task force duties. Identification is necessary. Often times we see women and men in a variety of different contexts such as domestic violence or other situations. For prostitution, probably the chief need is that those individuals have a safe place to go because we don't want to incarcerate them. We have a victim center prostitution call where we connect them with a dedicated state's attorney and a dedicated

public defender and also volunteers from social service organizations. One of the things we need is a safe place. They need a safe harbor. They need 72 hours where they can get away from the abuser. We don't want to lock them up and we don't want to re-traumatize them and keep them in jail. We need to have somewhere they can go and get away from the pimp or the abuser. We need to have specialized treatment. These women need to have access to a licensed clinical social worker. These are complex cases where often times there were many attempts to get out of the life before they are successful. Each of these is an opportunity to establish a rapport with these women. As far as implementing a system of sharing human trafficking data, one of the tasks of the task force, we need a statewide system where DCFS can share information and where DCFS can start using the Star Assessment. That is my recommendation. I know DCFS has a protocol that they use but it doesn't result in any numerical evaluation. If you're sharing information from place to place, it's much more subjective and not specific to what DCFS protocol showed vs. what a specific investment tool shows which is easily translatable and easily transferable. DCFS right now uses a protocol – one of the things you will receive in your packet is in Wisconsin they use a specific matrix. A series of questions to determine if someone is at risk, high risk or confirmed and based on that scoring system, they then reach a conclusion and that information is tracked and passed on to social services. We need a way to do something like Wisconsin throughout the state. If DCFS suspects human trafficking they can use a quantifiable instrument or tool to reach a specific conclusion.

Another thing, DCFS needs to reorganize the way the circuits are organized. There are 24 circuits throughout the state of Illinois. DCFS needs to be reorganized so that it mirrors the judicial circuit so we are dealing with the same DCFS people, same supervisors, same communications, and same exchange of information and so that within that circuit at least, if not statewide, there is a uniformity or practice and communication. When I speak about what I think are deficiencies at DCFS that in no way shape or form should be misinterpreted as a criticism to DCFS. They're great people doing great work. These are some things that I think need to be done to make it just a little better. I mentioned that the protocol needs to be developed.

Policies – right now DCFS will not hotline a case unless the alleged perpetrator is a caregiver. That's just their own internal protocol. The problem is, that a lot of those that are victims of abuse or neglect that are suspected of being trafficked, if the trafficker is not the caregiver (the caregiver is defined as the custodial adult that has custody and care of the child). If the caregiver is not the one accused or suspected of trafficking, DCFS does not hotline that. That information just falls off the table. It goes nowhere. So 1 of 2 things; DCFS needs to redefine their duty to expand the scope of caregiver so that even if it's not the court ordered caregiver, not the court mandated foster parent, if it's whoever the child is with, whether it be pimp, boyfriend, who knows, at the time the suspected trafficking is detected by law enforcement, DCFS hotline should not be limited to just those that are alleged to be occurred by the caregiver. These kids in the foster care system, in the care of DCFS, if it's not reported by the DCFS hotline, it goes nowhere. If for some reason it's determined that as a follow onto the expansion of the scope of caregiver to include reporting by anybody that the child is in custody of, it also needs to be reported by DCFS to law enforcement. Instead of just saying that it's unfounded and letting it rot. The duty of DCFS needs to be expanded to include communication with law enforcement so they can follow up even if the investigation needs to take place outside the parameters of the custodial caregiver.

Those are some things that need to be done. The last thing I'm going to talk about is the prevention piece. Right now Rockford University goes to some of the schools in District 205, which is the main school district in Rockford, and they teach a curriculum called "Deceptions". It's an attempt to dramatize the true life story of someone and how they got into the life. Right now the Rockford University faculty and students have to request from a specific school the right to come in and present this information –this preventative information and awareness-raising piece. Many of the schools are somewhat skittish about this. They are worried about parental push back and wondering what the child is going to be told. Well, these are middle school kids and high school kids and they need to know about this. As I said, the 12-14 age group is when things are happening and parents may not be aware and not know the signs they need to interpret. Again, I have provided the information to you about the detections curriculum. I believe that legislatively school districts need to have, as part of their curriculum, a detection and prevention piece on human trafficking not only for the students, but to train the school counselors, teachers, and coaches. There are many ways for adults to intersect with the life of the child and unless they've been trained on what to look for, there's a whole variety of things, warning signs, red flags, unless they've been trained and know what to do with that information, it's going to continue to progress. The "deception" education piece is very important. I provided links on how to learn more about that.

One of the duties is to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking but you also have to recognize that by the time someone is identified as being trafficked, they're far down the road. We want to provide assistance to those who are at risk of being trafficked. Part of that are all those steps that I've spoken about. Before it's confirmed, using the different assessment tools – the star assessment tool, using a question that augments the pretrial risk needs assessment to determine if the person is at risk of being trafficked, because you know, these are the subject matter experts, the people to my right. These are the people who I learn from. I am not a subject matter expert. I'm merely giving you a court perspective – one small part of it. What I've learned is that people aren't going to self-report that they're being trafficked. They don't see themselves as being trafficked. The thing is to identify those who are at risk of being trafficked before they are necessarily self-identified or charged with the crime directly related to prostitution or the life. The Vera Institute they use a validated screening instrument/scoring system to determine someone who is likely someone who is being trafficked. That is being used in other states and it's a risk assessment tool that's also been validated. Those are the things that give us the heads up. We need to be able to intervene sooner rather than later. We have a prostitution court which is a victim-centered court for adults in Rockford. They meet with service providers and we try to find those who are abused or neglected and at risk of being trafficked, delinquents who are at risk of being trafficked. We try to connect them with services but we need placement options, safe houses, a 72-hour window to get someone away from the sources of someone who has drawn them into the life.

In conclusion, these individuals intersect our justice system in so many different ways – domestic violence victims, drug charges, mental health court. The sooner we can identify what is at the root cause and address those root causes, the sooner we can have a meaningful impact. Part of it is raising awareness. We are working on that. Part of it is having something quantifiable and specific and transferable so that wherever they are in the system, this information can help them

get the services they need. We have community-based services, residential treatment, all that translates to money. I know you know what that is. That's your job. You've got materials for everything that I've referenced - I've given to your staffer. I will entertain any questions if there is time for that.

Sen. McConnaughay: Thank you for coming in and sorry if we rushed you. We hope you didn't leave anything out because it was very helpful. Hopefully we'll have an opportunity to have an additional conversation. I have a couple quick questions. I have a lot of questions. I'm going to keep it to a few quick ones. So if I understand you correctly, you have in your circuit, when a youth, and I think maybe an adult as well, you have an assessment protocol that now also includes determination of evidence that they are either being trafficked or they are subject to it?

Judge McGraw: Yes.

Sen. McConnaughay: So that's part of your program now. Did you develop your own protocol? You talked about state of Wisconsin and New York. How did you come up with your protocol? Did you mirror someone else's? Did you adapt? Is it just at the arrest? Do you have the collaboration and cooperation of all of your law enforcement? Your circuit is the entire county?

Judge McGraw: Two counties. Winnebago and Boone County. Rockford and Belvidere are the two main cities.

Sen. McConnaughay: So that's the other part of my question. Where is your collaboration on that? How are you getting the buy in to include that in the protocol? Is it at the law enforcement level? Is this type of protocol in your circuit being used in schools or hospitals? That's kind of a broad question.

Judge McGraw: That's ok. We did a nation-wide search to see which validated risk assessment tools are there for determining risk for being trafficked? There's one in California - I can't think of the name off of the top of my head. There's one in D.C. So we looked at both of them. We looked at the complexity of each survey and instrument in terms of administration. We looked at what it would require to train somebody to be qualified to administer the instrument. We also looked at the cost. After evaluating everything, we determined that the D.C. circuit instrument, the star risk assessment, seemed to have the best validation. The LA county instrument has great validation as well but the D.C. circuit had their developers come out and present to us and do an all-day training for us with some funds that we had. The state's attorney's office used some of their drug forfeiture money to help pay for that.

We meet every couple of months and we're broken into an education group and a workgroup. We also have IT involved to study how we might be able to use either cell phones or other internet-based methods for people to reach out to us for help. That's still in the developmental phase. We meet every couple of months, one hour over the lunch hour. We advise what's happened to date and what we're working on. Then we break into smaller groups. Like this pocket card, we came up with that through various law enforcement and first responders together with the data that we developed. Now that every month there's a Chief's meeting with all the Chiefs in the county. We apprise them what we've been doing to date. We make sure to keep

pushing these cards out because people should use them. We keep pushing that to the front of their mind.

What were the other questions? I know you asked me several.

Sen. McConnaughay: I think you did a pretty good job of answering it. So you did a lot of research into your protocol before you adopted it. I think we all kind of made a note that we want to hear more about the star assessment to understand a little more about that. Do you think based on your experience so far, that the system that you use is a good template statewide? Part of the impetus behind this task force is the recognition that we really do not have any standardized protocol across the state –whether it’s in the judicial circuit, law enforcement, schools or whatever. We don’t have a standardized protocol. Do you think that what you’ve come up with, the template or something similar to that is a good model to work from as a statewide template that would work?

Judge McGraw: I give you a qualified yes. Why it’s qualified is because I don’t know that we have enough experience under our belt to say, “Ok here are the things we’ve learned and here are the course corrections that we’ve made.” I think we would probably need another 12 months to maybe then look back and re assess. We need to keep going back and training the trainers so that there is no leakage as to what our vision is and try to make sure that everyone is following the protocols. We’re always learning what we need to do. The star assessment, I think, is great. I don’t have any questions about its validity. It’s low-tech, easy to administer, low burden on pretrial services, low burden on juvenile detention and juvenile probation. One thing that does is gives us a standardized metric, if you will, to quantify risk of being trafficked. Right now that’s not being done in any standardized way or at all. I say yes to that. As far as the pretrial risk assessment tool for adults who are using, we’ve added something to the Virginia revised. That’s an assessment tool. We’ve added something to that. When Illinois goes to the Ohio risk assessment after the 1st of the year, they’re going to a standardized tool different to what we’re using. I’m assuming we’ll have the freedom to modify or add to it. All that does is give you some information. I can’t tell you whether or not it’s enough information because we haven’t been doing it long enough. We haven’t been able to circle back and see those who said “yes” and what we later learn about them. We’re at the front end of these things. That’s why I’m giving you a qualified yes. Everything we do is evidence-based and we have a scientific basis for doing it. Sometimes we don’t know what questions to ask. Do you know what I mean? I’m thinking that as we go forward, it’s something we can then qualitatively relate and right now we don’t have enough data to do that. It’s low burden and low tech and I think that it’s something that could be implemented statewide.

Sen. McConnaughay: Thank you very much.

Sen. Holmes: Judge, I just want to say that was an overwhelming amount of information but some very good information. I think I learned a few good things out of here. I think this has always been an issue that concerns me too. When you’re finding women – I mean jail is not a safe place – while you’re taking them out of the hands, let’s face it, if you’re the person actually selling them, that actually puts them exactly where they want them because then you can come and bail them out. That’s the exact opposite of a safe place. I think it’s going to take coordination

with social services in order to develop these safe places. We know from past meetings that there really aren't enough of these. The other point that I think was interesting is – I would have to say that it concerns me that you seem to be doing so much in your circuit, but if we don't have something statewide, we never address the problem. I'm going to assume that if it gets tough then people move around a lot. So if there's no coordination between any different locations, obviously nothing happens. I want to make sure I understand, we talked about with DCFS, they are the ones determining if some of these issues are found or unfounded?

Judge McGraw: They do if it's a caregiver but my point was this – DCFS does not hotline a complaint that one of the kids is being trafficked or facts that constitute that unless the person allegedly doing the trafficking is the caregiver. So if the child is in foster care, they have a caregiver. If the complaint is that the caregiver is somehow doing something inappropriate with the child and it comes to DCFS's attention they hotline that. If the information is that someone other than the caregiver is doing something inappropriate with that child, DCFS – it's not their area of responsibility. They're only responsible for the caregiver and they don't pass that information on. DCFS often times hears what's going on with the child but if it doesn't pertain to the caregiver they don't take further steps. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Sen. Holmes: Yes and I'm seeing that as an enormous hole as everything that it's an entire host of people we are completely overlooking.

Marian Hatcher: Senator, I just want to piggyback off of what the Judge is saying. What will happen in these situations – they're not doing absolutely "nothing". What they will do is informally reach out to law enforcement. They have reached out to us at the Sheriff's office and we've done some training for them. We've also done interventions with youth in care at the residential facilities.

Rep. Bellock: Excuse me. Can I ask you to introduce yourself?

Marian: I'm Marian Hatcher – Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Cook County Sheriff's Office. I just wanted to echo what you were saying. Since the beginning of when they started to look at human trafficking in the DCFS response to this issue. It's a matter of training. The protocol is in place that it should not still be addressed that way. For years we have sat at the table with the last 2 Directors of DCFS regarding the appropriate way to address the issue with the hotline. It's unfortunate that it's still not being done.

Sen. Holmes: That's something that we've definitely learned here. As we are making our recommendations, that happens. Like I said, we've got a huge gap here.

Antwan: I'll just speak from the DCFS standpoint because that is one of my areas. I do agree that the scope of the definition for a potential trafficker probably can be expanded. But to echo what Ms. Hatcher just mentioned, there is procedures around what to do even if the case is unfounded. There is still a significant incident report that needs to be created internally – whether that allegation is founded or not. There's follow-up and procedures for caseworkers and contact to law enforcement to report that. But, training could be the overall issue.

Judge McGraw: If I could add something else in response to Senator McConnaughay's question, you're talking about statewide protocol. Again, I strongly urge consideration of what Wisconsin is doing – the matrix for reviewing the level of risk. DCFS has a policy that they use. We are not critical of the policy but somehow the specific assessment needs to be followed that is not so much subjective but results in some kind of scoring and some kind of quantification so that this person is identified in a discernable and discreet way in terms of them being trafficked and what the next steps are. When you're talking about things statewide, whenever there is discretion or what you leave to the good judgement to the individuals is fine to a degree but I think you need to have certain tools in place to make sure everyone is asking the same questions and scoring it the same way so that you can say you'll know from person to person that it was done the same way each time. Again, I'm not critical of DCFS. They are great partners with us. These are just ways to make things better.

Sen. Holmes: Statewide policies also would make it more simple in the training aspect because then people would be trained in the same way to look at the same things. I think the 2 big takeaways here are that we need to make sure because people tend to not self-identify in this, which we make sure we don't lose people through the cracks. I think that even though there are internal policies within DCFS, we need to make sure there is an actual component in there that says they do go out and talk to and do communicate with law enforcement in that area so that they are aware of what is going on. I agree, not only do we need a complete and total statewide policy and awareness - if one thing is happening in one jurisdiction and people move that it doesn't get overlooked, that there are these background and red flags have been raised – I think once we get a handle on that it needs to be expanded nationwide. It's very easy if you've got an issue in Southern Illinois and it's known in Illinois then what happens if things get a little hot here, do you move and cross the border and operate out of St. Louis?

I think you brought a lot of interesting points and thank you very much. We've got an awful lot of work to do.

Rep. Bellock: Thank you very much, Judge McGraw.

Rep. Ammons: Just one question. I just looked at the Wisconsin indicator guide. Is there data somewhere in relationship to this demographically that Wisconsin is using? In terms of who is ultimately identified as at-risk and where those communities are. I'm reading some of the risk factors that could be questionable and lead to other things outside of monitoring them for potentially sex trafficking.

Judge McGraw: I am not familiar with that information.

Rep. Ammons: Ok, thank you.

Rep. Bellock: Ok, Antwan wanted to ask a question briefly and then we wanted to thank Judge McGraw. Your testimony was fantastic. We had talked at the last meeting about how we were going to have small working groups and I asked Judge McGraw to help with the law enforcement working group and we also put out the letter that we would like to host a few of these meetings besides the working groups in other parts of the state and he said he would be

interested in Rockford. I think that's fabulous. I know there are some people that have to leave by 1. After Antwan asks his question, we're going to ask the other 3 speakers to speak and then ask question after that. It's only fair that you get to speak before other people have to leave if that's ok with everyone else.

Antwan: Judge McGraw, my one question is about the Star Tool. Does that distinguish youth that are in care and youth in the general population?

Judge McGraw: It doesn't distinguish between them. It could be used regardless. It's used in the D.C. circuit where it was pioneered and validated. It is not limited to one population or the other.

Antwan: I would like to be on the working group with you too.

Judge McGraw: Thank you, sir.

Rep. Bellock: Thank you very much for traveling here and for your expert testimony. It was fantastic. I really appreciate it.

Antwan: Thanks again. Our next speaker is Marian Hatcher. She is the Human Trafficking Coordinator with the Cook County Sheriff's Office and famously known for her appearance in "I am Jane Doe."

Marian Hatcher

Human Trafficking Coordinator, Cook County Sheriff's Office

Thank you for having me. On behalf of Sheriff Tom Dart, Amy Alvarado and I are glad to have the opportunity to share some of the things that are going on in the Sheriff's office. Before I start talking about what is going on at the Sheriff's office, I want to tell you a little bit about me. First of all, I am a survivor of the sex trade which makes it very personal for me. What the judge was talking about in terms of the intersections in the criminal justice tether is very important. That's a part of my story. Domestic violence led to drug use, which led to prostitution, which led to trafficking for me. Incarceration was in there. I received my rehabilitation and my second chance in a jail setting, drug court. It's important because sometimes that's the specialty court that a sex trafficking victim may come in contact with services. All the things the judge was talking about, not only assessment tools but the right service provision provide different mechanisms to identify, especially what you were saying, Representative, sometimes you are going to find other things. This is important. I'm sure the questions they were asking 13 years ago when I was in custody facing 3-7 years in a penitentiary identified me as a victim of domestic violence. I was homeless at that time only because I was missing for almost 2 years. I wasn't homeless when I was with my family but when I was running from the pain of being brutalized by a husband and then eventually being raped and beaten and all of the things of being a prostitute. My answers to those questions changed with the experience. What I said before that was not what I said once I was in custody. I just want to say that the jail-based treatment that I received is what the Sheriff's office foundation of gender responsive service provision has been since late 1999. What happened in 2008 was that Sheriff Dart noticed an increase in population of women being in jail for prostitution and put together a team to address that problem. With that said, he started the Human Trafficking Response Team. That basically put the survivors of human trafficking,

former incarcerated recovering addicts like myself, working side by side with our special operations and vice unit. In February 2009, we did the first sting operation with them. Since then, until the other night, yesterday, we've provided services and interventions/rescue/restore, however you want to phrase it to over 600 women and girls. Amy Alvarado came to us this year so now we have not only survivors but also people with clinical backgrounds and social service providers working with our human trafficking response team. We have a clinical response, whether it be inside the jail walls or in the community. We also provide local, state and national victim support and technical assistance from the Department of Corrections statewide basis in terms of their recent attempts to beginning to add assessment questions that include human trafficking identification. We worked with Dr. Melvin Hinton, the head of Mental Health for the Illinois Department of Corrections in coming up with 5 questions that are being added to their assessment tool this year. We also provide assistance on the Federal level in terms of legislation that has an impact on allowing what law enforcement can do and funding. There were 8 points. We worked with Representative Vicky Hartzler's office to make sure that there was a 9th point to combat human trafficking specifically focused on demand. The Sheriff's office has a very broad local, state, national and international effort surprisingly since it is a county. But it's a county that many people from all over the world come to. Sheriff Dart has not only looked at the victim services, but also at what causes and drives this business model that we know of. Human trafficking brings in billions and billions of dollars. That's the demand. It's the buying of sex. We piloted, in 2011, a sting operation with 8 jurisdictions throughout the country to go out to find sex buyers and we arrested 216 men. Since then we have executed 14 operations of which God has a sense of humor because I am the coordinator and as a survivor it gives me great pleasure to be able to coordinate these operations. We have 101 arresting agencies and over 200 partners with all levels of federal law enforcement including the diplomatic security folks because we have embassy to embassy issues with sex trafficking across the borders. We've arrested nearly 8,000 sex buyers 7,637 men trying to buy sex from women and girls and a few trying to buy sex from men, boys and transgender. The importance of laying this out is that this is a huge human rights violation. It's a huge system of prostitution that is so prevalent that it's right in front of everybody. It's in the strip clubs. Places that have legal licenses like the strip clubs and in the five-star hotels. This is where you see people going from airports; somebody that you're walking next to is probably coming from somewhere or going somewhere to possibly be trafficked. Or it could just be a person walking next to you on the street. There are so many ways that it can present itself. When it comes down to our answer to it at the Sheriff's office, there is no one size fits all. We make sure that we are on call 24/7. We make sure that we are available to local law enforcement and non-profit providers. We have our own human trafficking unit that's funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. We have 9 beds but we can place as many women as we need to because of our long-term relationship with Haymarket Center. It has been a primarily women population in our recovery unit there from domestic trafficking but we have had women from all over the world from Japan, China, Russia, you name it. Sometimes women are there just for overnight safety. Sometimes a woman is there for the entire stabilization process of 90 days or more depending on what her needs are. Many of the women that come there are coming either directly from the Cook County Department of Corrections or a specialty court judge. Sometimes they walk in the door because they know about the programming and the services that are there. There are many different ways. 73% success rate of women coming there since 2011 when the unit first began – it's called COPE (community outreach program enhancement). That partnership is extremely important. I received

my treatment from Haymarket 13 years ago inside jail walls. The preference is for women to get the help they need outside of the jail walls and connect the dots before they need to be handcuffed and shackled.

Today, as I said, over 600 service provision contacts with what we would consider as at-risk, they were identified as trafficked and prostituted eventually, we see the connection between sexual exploitation so we don't differentiate between the words prostitution and trafficking because people get caught up in that. They then identify what a trafficking victim looks like vs. a prostitute and there is really no difference. They look the same. They may have brown hair or blonde hair or brown eyes or brown skin, it doesn't matter. There is no difference in the people who are selling them either. They could look like you and me. They could be a man in a suit or the pimp that's portrayed in Hollywood. There used to be a lot of that but now they look like business men and women. There are a lot depending on the culture. In massage parlors, this is just the way it goes – you make money, you don't talk and they're very hard to help. The trafficked youth in care, I have to look at my notes because that's not my primary focus, but I want to give you an idea of our experience with that. Through our child protection unit, Sgt. Dion Trotter, the Sheriff put together a child protection unit in 2012 to recover youth in care that had gone on run or might have been kidnapped (but more so had gone on the run). 750 youth in care have been recovered by the unit since 2011 through October of this year. The important connection to DCFS at this point is the partnership that began in 2016 where DCFS provided a number of child welfare specialists who work directly with our unit and so there is specific attention given to how to make sure that there's additional information on that child's history that might not show up on a child protection warrant that helps you in terms of locating them or their special needs. We have identified, obviously you can go with the statistics in terms of a child being missing or a runaway on the street after 48 hours, the risk of them being trafficked increase. That is true. It doesn't take that long. As soon as they hit the streets the bad guys are out there just waiting for them and trying to pounce. Where the concern that I have, and I had the opportunity to talk to you about this, personally working with youth in the residential treatment facilities that are contracted is the enormous amount of prostitution that is known to be going on by staff. The enormous amount of in and out activity and the blowing of horns. I was actually there doing a training with Commander Lean and Sgt. Trotter at a location that had – just because they are 18, they're still in DCFS custody. Just because they 18 does not mean you shouldn't give a crap anymore. I'm sorry this was the feeling that I had that staff did not call the person that ran it, the vice president of that particular group. She was very concerned about it but the staff that worked for her, they pulled up ads on back page and they knew these young ladies were looking at and were posting themselves and the sex buyers were blowing horns. This is regular activity. I'm getting phone calls from people who know the work that I do. I think there were 15 beds. 12 of the young ladies there, we were for sure that they were posting their own ads on back page. So some of it is a matter of training and some of it is a matter of people who need to care. Sometimes I think a lot of it is that it is not unlike being a teacher. You get worn down. I'm not blaming the staff. It's hard because this population is not an easy population to work with - whether it is the drugs or the mental health issues. The mental health issues are off the chain. I am dealing with young people who are taking more medication than me and I have MS, fibromyalgia and PTSD. Some of the young people that are 16 and 17 years old or 50 or 60, they have bipolar disorder, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and many of them have complex mental health disorders that make it extremely difficult if they are not medicated properly to do a

proper intervention. The screening tool sometimes doesn't even come into the mix. We have our own tool which we'll share with this body. We'll send you what we've been using what we've been working with at DePaul University who has done a great deal across the country in terms of prostitution research. We sometimes can't even utilize the tools that we have because the individual is so broken or doesn't have the ability and will do more harm if we try to ask questions too soon. Sometimes it's just making sure they have a glass of water, a soda, and a bag of chips to just sit there and just be with them and wait for them to start talking. While there's a lot of tools and the tools that the judge spoke of are extremely good – we vetted them for different things – but there's no one size fits all for those either.

The most important thing I think is to bring attention to the issue. Continue to do things like this. One of the things that I'm not sure if this body has used, the workgroup output that was done when Stacy Sloan was still here and that workgroup Commander Lean was the representative in terms of the locked residential facilities for youth in care and things like that. There's a great deal of really good information that came of that convening and might want to go through another workgroup or one of these subgroups you have been talking about. These are really good amount of information that kind of connects all of these dots. I actually went to the very last meeting in Springfield with them. But the most important thing I think right now is that you're paying attention to the issue and you're talking about it. You are trying your best to see what makes it systemic. That's the broken part. I represent the Sheriff's on Shared Hope International Response Council and what we do is look at the entire country in terms of juvenile justice in the area of human trafficking. The grade that Illinois has received again was a B. I did, at the direction of my boss, the director of public policy, an analysis on what needs to happen in the state of Illinois for the child welfare system for Illinois to get an A. I'd be glad to share that with this group because I know what it would take to get A in the state of Illinois because we care. With that being said, any questions or thoughts? We are here. We love hard work and we love it when people are truly passionate about this. As a person who 13 years ago was sold, there's nothing better than doing something like this today.

Rep. Bellock: We'd like to ask some questions. I had some concerns from one of the rep's that has to leave at 1 to be able to hear the other 2 speakers. Can you stay so we can ask the questions? Is that ok?

Sen. Martinez: Just hearing you and your story – who better an advocate and expert than you on what we should be looking at and how we should be working together to resolve this. It has gone on for far too long. I know we have had these conversations for the longest time with the Department but we just don't seem to be moving forward on this issue. It's getting bigger and bigger. When I look at the numbers, especially here in Illinois, what are we doing to address this. I'm glad that we have someone like you. I admire you. You are my new hero. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you've been through. I'm glad that you are here with us sharing and willing to continue to work and move forward. Thank you very much for everything. I have to say that. Thank you.

Rep. Ammons: Thank you. I also have to leave at 1 but I wanted to ask, you don't have to answer it at this point because I'll listen as I'm driving back south, speak to the intersectionality of sex trafficking and labor. You said you don't make the distinction between prostitution and human

trafficking. We kind of, by virtue of how we see it, made that distinction so as you respond to questions later through this process, if you would address the costs and the intersectionality of the labor. The demographics I've pulled show a greater challenge on the labor side because it may start one way and then fall into another. A second one is understanding what we found as we tried to research and prepare for this hearing is information and data is so scarce, right? So it's hard to write policy for stuff if you really don't understand what's happening. If you could at some point address those.

Marian: We have a kitchen sink on data so along with the research I was talking about on DCFS, specifically youth in care that was done by the University of Illinois that many people have not seen. I'll make sure you get that as well as the data that's available. Unfortunately, Representative, they didn't start collecting data until a hot minute ago. We have some partners who have recently put together a great deal of information and we'll make sure you get that. One of the things I want you guys to understand is that this is a demand-driven problem and we do have the largest data set on who is buying sex in the world. We've arrested almost 8,000 men and about 5,000 data points demographics say they're business sector. I'll tell you who is buying sex and you're not going to be surprised because this is a matter of disposable income. The primary people buying sex are Caucasian men who have education, at least high school, but a lot of them college and more. They're also married with children. 50% are married and educated and have children. This is part of the brokenness of the American family. The haves are buying the have not's. A lot of time they are people of color.

Ammons: As I look at the labor piece it mirrors that, right?

Marian: Yes.

Ammons: But we don't seem to prosecute people or businesses that are trafficking human beings for cheap labor, right?

Marian: That's right.

Antwan: Thank you. Amy Alvarado.

Amy Alvarado

Policy Analyst, Cook County Sheriff's Office

Marian talked a lot about what the Sheriff's office is doing so I'm not going to touch too much on that. I do want to come back to what you said earlier about labor. We're talking about human trafficking and I think often times we focus solely on sex trafficking and that is a problem. Labor trafficking is a huge issue. We have to think about where your food comes from. You have to think about where your products come from. Who is making them? How are they being treated? These are issues that need to be addressed as well. I think it's easy to sensationalize sex trafficking because what's the old adage? Sex sells, right? It's easy to focus on that. I think we really need to open the discussion up to labor trafficking as well. I think it really has not been talked about enough. When we talk about human trafficking people think of sex. Part of the reason, and Sen. Martinez mentioned the immigrant communities and how difficult it is to gain trust and access within the immigrant communities especially with the current climate regarding

immigrants it's going to be even tougher. I think it's important for us to really look at and use our social service agencies as conduits to those communities and to gain trust so that they can feel a sense of confidence and trust in talking to people in those social service industries that know that they're going to be helped. In terms of what is needed and in this arena I think will be housing - emergency housing specifically. We've seen so many social service agencies cut funding for mental health and all sorts of things. We didn't really have funding for housing for human trafficking in the first place. That needs to be addressed. We need more funding for housing. Not only for sex trafficking but for labor trafficking as well and not only for women but men as well. The majority of housing out there is for women. There's maybe only 1 or 2, from my research, places that provide housing for trafficked men. That's a problem. When we talk about trafficking it's always about "she". What about the men? We know statistically that men are less likely to report in sex trafficking because there's the stigma and shame. I think really opening up our horizons and really thinking about looking at it holistically as opposed to just sex trafficking as a hot topic with these young women and young girls. These young men and young boys need to be looked at and labor trafficking needs to be looked at just as closely. Labor trafficking is very difficult to work around with law enforcement. Again, it's because we don't have enough resources to provide people who are in need. Where do we provide that sense of financial gain, what very little that may be? I really want to focus on the social service aspect. I've been in social service for 17 years. I've worked with domestic violence victims and then transitioned into human trafficking as well. My heart of it is working on getting resources especially with youth. We talk about youth and youth in care and trying to figure out what we can do and prevention methods. Why don't we look at what's needed. What's missing? What is causing these children to go out and feel that they need to do that? There are some fundamental baseline things that are missing. Maybe it's food? Are we addressing what is needed for these kids to go on and function without having to rely on being sold or trade sex for a meal or a couch? We really need to start focusing on what as human beings can we provide to other human beings to help them get out of that at-risk category.

I worked with the state's attorney's office before coming to the sheriff's office. The Cook County human trafficking task force also has a variety of social service agencies and legal service providers that gather quarterly to try to address these issues and we are part of that task force. There are also subcommittees to that. It's not enough. We need funding. That's the bottom line. We don't even have funding to be cut. That's my main drive in being here. That's what needs to be looked at. Again, I can't emphasize enough that it needs to be looked at holistically in terms of men, women, boys, girls, labor and sex. It needs to be looked at as a whole and not just sex trafficking.

Marian: Just to piggyback on something very important, when it comes to men and boys and transgender, a lot of times it doesn't present and look like trafficking. Even with prostitution, it looks like survival sex. It's the same thing. It's all part of the same broken system that exploits an individual's humanity for them to be able to eat or a place to lay their head at night. So we have to remember that. That is why a lot of times we prefer to say exploitation of individuals so that we take the "sexual" out of it. The commercial can stay because of the fact that we're dealing with labor trafficking. A lot of people don't realize, if you look at the UCR, there's more labor trafficking convictions because sex trafficking convictions are much more difficult. These cases are much more difficult to bring out to get an actual conviction. A lot of times we take their

narcotics or their weapons or whatever and we take the charges all around it instead of taking the act of human trafficking or act of involuntary servitude charge. It's extremely difficult to prove.

Amy: I don't think enough people are aware of, and I don't if you guys are aware of the Polaris Project, they run the national human trafficking hotline. They recently found that there's a lot of recruitment with young youth, young boys and girls, for magazines/sales crews. That's labor trafficking. Again, opening our horizons and thinking more about what human trafficking is. There are people who recruit young, vulnerable, at-risk youth to sell magazines door-to-door and they're being forced to work long hours. They are being forced to take drugs and they are not being fed. Thinking of that and really it comes down to training. At a residential facility, I'm not going to name it, they do have training on human trafficking and they talk to girls about it. But I think it's sort of cookie cutter and it's not always a cookie cutter situation. We really need to be focusing on money for training and money for social services. We really need to be able to go with the flow because technology is always changing. People are always changing. We really need to focus on changing with the current.

Antwan: Thank you. Aaron Kustermann with Illinois State Police

Aaron Kustermann
Illinois State Police

Yes, sir. Thank you. First of all, I know the Director takes this seriously. Director Schmitz is a proponent of our work in this and so he encourages us to work on these problems and so we really appreciate the time you're allowing us to talk about these things. I'm going to try not to repeat. I'll cut the stuff that they said. I wanted to talk about some things in kind of three different categories;

- the reports and the studies and strategies
- the training and awareness
- enforcement

These are three big things that we are looking at and the first is reports and strategies. I sit on a group that looks at this problem in the United States at the state police investigative level. It's the exact same challenges that they're talking about at the county level, exists at the state level, in almost every state. There are some states doing some pretty excellent things and some unique things but I think this applies to all of these problems. It's such a big deal and there's so many challenges that without some really creative and innovative solutions. Somebody finding one cool thing that works in Minnesota and one that works in Texas – we are probably not going to get to a best practice in Illinois if we just only do what has been happening. As others have mentioned, the demand is increasing and that's a real problem. In December of 2013 we picked one day and we found 407 escort ads just women - 407 individuals. That's a big number. That's an Illinois only number and it's a big number. That's a lot and that number keeps going up. The only reason that number is going up is because the demand is going up. People aren't posting for their health. They are doing it because they are making money off of this and it's increasing. The only way to really know this is to really put together the real data. What is the real quantitative information about this? Are there more? Is it more organized? Where are the trend lines going in the country? Is it individuals who ultimately become trafficked and ultimately be gobbled up by some organized criminal group?

On the training and enforcement side, you've heard from the other witnesses about the outreach and training. There are some really cool programs happening in Texas and lots of other places where police officers come and teach other police officers how to identify during a traffic stop. It's a very short amount of time. Our officers are very good at finding guns and narcotics and other things during traffic stops but not necessarily understanding things – like the judge mentioned – you don't know what to look for you don't know what you're witnessing at the time. We spent a lot of energy on that after 9/11. We educated police officers on what to look for and suspicious activity. If this guy is on his way to doing something crazy, we teach how to interdict that. We are planning in 2017 to roll out two different trainings through our organization alone. These are people that are generally expert's in how to find contraband. We're going to teach how to find people who are being trafficked and see these symptoms and then encourage reporting to our Intel operations and to other people like advocates. Then we can do something about it and not just arrest people. Nothing is going to come from that. We're really not going to change what's happening with the demand and supply of people by arresting people which is what these other states are doing. We are focused on the identification at the traffic stop process and then getting help to the right people. The other thing we are doing on the intel side, in the group I have a responsibility for, is renewing our human trafficking details. We don't prosecute people that when we talk to somebody and we bring them in and ask us to teach us what's happening – where there is a problem in a hotel or really bad guys who are beating people. Who are these organizations? Who are these individuals? For us to learn about the problem – the goal is not to prosecute people. We have had problems with people and resources so we'll be going through those details in the coming year. We'll be able to talk in private about the outcome of some of those things if the task force is interested.

In conclusion, there are three things. The information sharing and collaboration - I've heard a lot about things I've never heard about before and we've spent a lot of time on this. So it would be really cool to have some kind of fusion with these pieces of information that are already in somebody else's case system. We don't know that and it's a high likelihood that we may be encountering somebody who has already accepted help and already is working with some victim advocacy group or in some other system and we wouldn't know that. There doesn't seem to be collaboration across enforcement and recovery groups.

Next is training – the Cook County effort is really impressive and has been going on for six years. There is a summit they do; it should be a statewide thing. It should be everywhere and it should be funded. There are some really incredible things coming out of that and it could be easily done throughout the state using lots of systems that would increase a lot of awareness with very little dollars. ER doctors and nurses that are going to see these folks.

I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

Sen. McConnaughay: Thank you to all three of you. I have more questions than we have time. We've all been following this issue and a couple of different things come to mind. One is, it keeps coming back in my head, and you can never stop demand. Aaron you really talked about the demand side, going after the john. It seems to me there are three players in this. There is the john, the pimp and the victim. The approach to this has to deal with all three players in the problem.

Marian: It's a demand driven business model. I give you the Twinkie story. When Twinkies were taken off the shelves, the entire planet lost its mind. Twinkies are back on the shelves now, right? There are thousands of buyers. There are hundreds of thousands of men buying sex. If you look at the people being exploited - you're buying this woman and this woman is having sex with 20 or 30 men daily. They got smart. They sold drugs. Even the gang members are selling young girls. You sell the bag of whatever one time and then you sell the girl 30 times - do the math. This is not just low-hanging fruit a lot of times on street level operations that we do, you are getting low-hanging fruit. That guy isn't going to buy again if you pick him once or twice. He's done. These are the ones where you have to topple the king. They protect these individuals in terms of making sure that they don't get to a point where law enforcement can identify them because they want to keep her moving from city to city. You need to topple these people who think that they are untouchable.

Sen. McConnaughay: So to my point, it's really more about going after the trafficker than the john. I'm not saying that you don't go after the john. In terms of the task force, for the task force to look at a smart strategy here on how to go after this, and I am one that still keeps asking the questions as to why we don't have more enforceable penalties on johns. That's another conversation. I guess the question then becomes, what are the things you have to do so that a trafficker says, "Illinois is not a good place to traffic"? What is it that we, if we're trying to be very good at making a difference, what is it from your perspectives do we need to do that says to a trafficker that this is not a good place to traffic?

Marian: It's all about the money. Make it to where they can't make money.

Sen. McConnaughay: How do we do that though?

Marian: There are different ways you can do it. First of all you put the manager out of business by going after those who are buying. If you put a lot of effort into those who are buying, especially those who are buying our children, you are cutting the legs out from under it. That's my opinion.

Sen. McConnaughay: So going after the john is really about making the john very apprehensive about looking for sex to buy in Illinois? That's part of what drives him.

Marian: That's part of the reason we need so much technical assistance across jurisdictions or across the country because it does move. If you do training in Cook County then he'll go to Will, DuPage, Kane or Winnebago. When I did a speaking engagement we recruited the police chief from Rockford. They're now part of the operation. I was glad to see the judge was here. We have to make it so uncomfortable and so difficult so that you don't think twice about going to Kane County or to Kankakee because they are doing the same stuff over there. We don't want you feeling comfortable crossing over into Gary, Indiana because they're doing the same thing over there because we partnered with them. You have to take the money away from it. How do you do that? You get rid of disposable income of the buyer. We have to increase the fines and penalties for the buyer. The sheriff is going to the county board to double the fines and penalties in Cook County but also will be starting a sex buyer database for the first time - the guy who put me in

the system and the guy who bought me. They're going to have it so that for two years if the individual gets arrested by the Cook County Sheriff's police, their information would be in the database for up to two years. If they don't offend then it would drop off after two years. You have to make the buyers feel the heat. What you were saying about the penalties – it's more like a slap on the wrist. They arrest the prostituted individual. Only up until a few years ago, it was a felony and now it's a misdemeanor. We don't have that for the person who bought them. Now it's not so easy and the buyers are feeling it. We look at a lot of the review boards and lot of the information that he was talking about. If you look at the review board conversation when we first started doing the national operation, they thought we wouldn't keep doing this. Well, we did keep doing this and I kid you not if you look at some very important research that came from the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, it's called "Our greatest hobby". The review board research shows that over time, over the first few years that this sting operation was run nationally, people who had been buying for 20 and 25 years finally got popped and said that they weren't going to do it anymore. These are the guys are the ones who are driving the business model itself. Low-hanging fruit can be stopped but the ones up here that feel they are untouchable - that is where we have to go.

Antwan: Can I chime in here for a second. So you are absolutely right. I went to a training with the Department of Justice and the FBI a month ago on Human Trafficking. They indicated that it is definitely a growing business. It's a \$9 billion industry. One of the other ways they mentioned how to attack it is with the folks who choose to cooperate with the traffickers and they gave a very specific case study where a hotel that was aware that they were using that facility to traffic, they ended up finding the individual and arresting the owner of the hotel and confiscated assets for victims. They found that that was another effective approach to go after the folks that turned a blind eye.

Aaron: Can I comment on that? We had a very similar problem. The only way that we could get the hotels attention was to go to the owner of the franchise. Whatever brand name hotel chain it was and we would say that we think this is happening here. We couldn't get them to stop anything until we got the franchise's attention and threatened to take away the sign on top of their building. Then it was over. They'll just keep trying. I think that's the creativity that is needed. If we find an alternative way to deal with that.

Amy: I think that also should apply when we're talking about labor trafficking. There are big corporations who are trafficking victims. They are in the meat packing industries, agriculture, hotel industry, restaurants and nail salons. We need to really go after those businesses and maybe take away licenses can be a useful tool.

Marian: You have to go after the money. That's a really good example. They've done that in a number of other places where they are taking the cars and the actual business itself. You have to go after the money. However it looks, those things work.

Sen. McConnaughay: Thank you.

Rep. Wheeler: Thank you for bringing up the hotel industry. I think that was brought up a few sessions ago on this task force. We sort of forget about it and it gets put on the back burner.

Thank you for bringing that up again. In regard to the different (labor and things) is the county health department involved in this labor trafficking, whether it be in agriculture or the meat packing? Are they trained? Are they aware that this is something they should be looking for as well? Not just law enforcement?

Amy: Yes. Part of what the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force has is a subcommittee on labor trafficking. What they are trying to do is reach out to all these different players. The EOC is part of it and the Department of Human Rights and we really educate people on that.

Rep. Wheeler: I'm assuming the county health department has to do licensing for all the businesses that you mentioned, right?

Amy: Right and that is something that we want to try to do and it's a lack of education and a lack of resources.

Rep. Wheeler: Is there anything we can do in this state in regard to being able to get the county health department more involved? Especially with the licensing and being able to identify labor trafficking?

Amy: My suggestion would be to maybe have somebody appointed and to have point persons within the county health and appoint them to that labor trafficking subcommittee. We should get them engaged so that we can all figure out how to work together. That's basically what we want to do. We want to streamline for all victims of both sex and labor trafficking. Make people aware of it so they know what to look for and know what are the red flags. Then they will know what we can do as a whole to combat it. And appointing people that have an interest in it. I think that sometimes if you just pick somebody and put them in there, they may not be fully invested in it and it may be an assignment that they are told to do. Maybe somebody who is on board and really wants to do something about it and wants to learn and help would be really great. Getting one person on board is really key. More than one would be great but at least one.

Marian: Part of the problem that you're going to have is that there are so many city and township representative so we say county but then we only deal with certain licensing. Primarily it's a city thing. The city of Chicago does this. Then you have your small municipalities. That's why I think the state is so important. The state structure itself can get around having those small pieces to have to function a certain way.

Rep. Wheeler: That's why we have the different police departments – McHenry and Lake County, that's where I represent. Our police department does a good job and some of them say this isn't happening in our area so we don't have to worry about that. But the health department by us has to bring a license and say this restaurant or this business. I'm pretty sure they have to look at the license of the different nail technicians and the massage parlors. So this is something I think we do statewide or by county, we have the county health department whether you're in Crystal Lake or McHenry County, the health department has to get involved.

Sen. Holmes: Can I ask a question? Are all three of you involved in the Cook County Task Force?

Amy/Marian: We are.

Aaron: My group is not but I'm sur our local...

Amy: I know that when it first started, the Illinois State Police was at the table and then that kind of fell off.

Sen. Holmes: It's been around for how long?

Amy: It started in 2010.

Sen. McConnaughay: Ok. And it's working pretty effectively, right?

Amy: Yes. If we continue to get funding that would be great. It's going. We've had the annual conference which keeps growing and growing every year. People in attendance and people from around the country come and speak on the different issues of labor trafficking and sex trafficking so I'm getting awareness out there and training people. The training subcommittee groups go out and they train if you give them a platform. I think this is effective.

Sen. McConnaughay: There is no question if it is. It wasn't meant to suggest that it isn't effective. It's more about how we take the effectiveness that is going on in Cook County and take it to a broader statewide approach. It may be unfair to ask all of you this question. Maybe we need to sit down with the Cook County task force and talk about if this is something – it's up to them – what makes sense? Does it make sense to expand the existing Cook County Task Force? Does it make sense to do something in addition to the Cook? The intensity of an urban environment, maybe that needs to be left alone. Maybe there needs to be additional sister organizations that is statewide? That's one of the things that we as a task force have to grapple with as part of the recommendation. Getting that input from them is important. I would be interested in getting your perspective on that.

Marian: I will be honest with you; you absolutely have to have a statewide system. They are still arresting – the Illinois Safe Children Act was passed in 2010 and still in downstate Illinois arresting young women.

Amy: I will say this – there was funding for an Illinois statewide task force at one point. That was a couple of years back. I don't know if they've lost funding and I have not heard of a meeting.

Sen. McConnaughay: There is a fund that was created by the General Assembly but one of the problems, and I didn't get a chance to ask the judge, one of the problems is the judiciary by and large doesn't know that they can issue fines to put money into that fund. We have some things that are on the books that aren't even being utilized in Illinois because of the lack of awareness. That's not a question that can be answered today but it is one of the questions that I put out to you – how does a statewide effort, I think everybody here agrees there has to be a statewide effort – how does it work with Cook County? The last thing we would want to do is to in any way minimize the Cook County Task Force's effectiveness.

Marian: I don't think that that would necessarily happen. When you look at Illinois as a whole – we think of Cook County just because it's large, right? One of the things that I do, because I'm also an ambassador the United Nations, and I'll tell you, what it looks like in rural America, it looks different. It's the same problem but it's different. And guess what? The incarceration is the same and the homelessness is the same. There are a lot of familial sex trafficking or intergenerational issues that are going on in rural American that look different. I think it's the opportunity that either it can grow from that – I think it's a great place to start. I don't know if the way that it's funded that they would even want to do anything more than that. It's a great place to start because it's been successful. Their subcommittee structure is stellar and I haven't seen any task force myself, and I'm all over the planet for the Sheriff, I think what has been accomplished is definitely something that can be replicated on a statewide basis. I think the more rural or municipal structures that other parts of the state have make it different.

Amy: Especially with Southern Illinois. There's a big cultural difference.

Sen. McConnaughay: Right. Our last meeting was downstate and we really did learn a lot about how different it looks downstate. It's just as real. One more question and then I'll be quiet. If you had to prioritize, because this is complex, the more you get into this, the more you realize just how complex this whole thing is. If you had to prioritize two things that you would want the state to say that this is priority number one and this is priority number two – what would those two things be? What do you think those things are? Because it's hard not to want to go in about 20 different directions on this. In terms of overall effectiveness, what do you each think is the number one priority and the number two priority in terms of what the statewide effort could achieve.

Amy: Me, coming from a social service perspective, I would think funding for social services would be housing and treatment would be number one.

Sen. McConnaughay: Housing and treatment.

Amy: I think that those are my two. Housing and social services and funding for them. Housing and transitional living because we can open emergency housing but then long-term what does that do? It's sort of like youth in care. You can house them until they are 18 and 21 but then what? After care services are important as well.

Marian: What she said, of course, really, because of DCFS – my thing is the best way to have a paradigm shift is to start with the formative years. Obviously with our young children in school, if they are not getting what they need in the household then they are going to get it somewhere else. That's a problem in our society. They go outside of the home to try to get their basic needs met. Whether it be bling or whether it be love. Whatever it looks like. I guess because of some of the things I've been able to do with the residential facilities – I'm really concerned and I want Illinois to be at an A. Illinois has done a lot of good but my boss had to tear apart and break apart the systems that are analyzed by our justice response council at the federal level. We look at every state and every child welfare system. I would have to say that just because I have had the opportunity to do that, I would like for us to look at what needs to happen to the state of Illinois

according to the experts from Shred Hope International for the state of Illinois to be at an A in terms of how we treat our children that are either at-risk or have been trafficked. That would be one. Which means getting in your business.

Two – we have to increase the training and the ability for law enforcement to do this work. We will not arrest our way out of this because if we could do that and if they really were enforcing laws - because half the people that I've recruited to do the National Johns Suppression Initiative didn't know they could arrest the buyer in many cases where statutorily it was already there. It was just the matter of the fact that historically you would arrest the prostituted person. You don't want to get me on my soap box. I'm sure you and I could go forever on that one. As a survivor who grew up in law enforcement environment – literally from handcuffs to sitting in the office with a sheriff and representing him all over the planet. I kid you not; there is no one who has more respect for the criminal justice system and law enforcement than me. I wouldn't change any of it. Angels with handcuffs came to get me. Today those same angels with handcuffs that we work side-by-side with care about individuals. They care about the person. A lot of times people have problems with the word “rescue” but when law enforcement is busting down doors and you guys are doing the stuff that you do, you know what I'm saying. Police put their lives at risk. They are rescuing women and girls, men and boys, whatever they look like. They are going in and they are getting the victim whatever situation happens to be and they don't have the tools, the education (a lot of people don't know about the stuff that you talked about today). One of the things that we do – I have a list of over 400 for the National John Suppression Initiative, and we've only got 25 states represented, only half the country I have to recruit. We provide this type of information and other intelligence information that can't be shared. We provide Shared Hopes basic human trafficking 101 or webinars from the cities and provinces sexual exploitation. That is 11 cities that have been doing the grass roots. A lot of the stuff we work with Thorn and we work with Microsoft and Google. We work with all these different folks to try to get the technology. We have our own arrest app that made my life easier. I was doing everything with excel spreadsheets for years to gather the data. Now I have the app so anywhere in the country – its real time and it's web-based. The law enforcement puts the information in and I can see their arrest information right up front. It takes money. But you have to be able to be educated. They have to have the capacity to actually do the work. Why does it cost us more money to arrest a guy? Because there are less women in law enforcement. We must increase law enforcements capacity to do this work because in the end while there are all different ways to come at it, in the end it's a crime. We're talking about criminal behavior. Human trafficking is illegal. Whether we do the nonprofit thing and the advocacy thing, the victim service and all these other things, the wrap around part – we still have to increase law enforcement's capacity to go after the criminal activity. This is organized crime even when it's disorganized. If you look at prostitution as an occupation, I do not and will not get on the pro-lobby thing, but it is the most dangerous occupation a woman can be in. I'll get the data for you but it's 51 times more dangerous to be in prostitution than the next occupation and that's working in a liquor store. That is no way for anyone to live. You can't legalize and make it less violent. It is going to be more violent like it is in the Netherlands and Germany.

Aaron: I'll say at a tactical level – if you're at a place where you are writing legislation – the systems that have people's names in them at the state level that say that this person is in this treatment or this person is probably being trafficked that should be accessed by law enforcement.

Right now it's very difficult to have access to a DCFS system. The police just don't have access to that. DCFS people don't have access to the police information.

Sen. McConnaughay: Sorry, just for clarification, tracking of victims or tracking of?

Aaron: That would be tracking of probably victims/ protective persons. People that are in protective care. There are names and phone numbers in those systems. Right now there are probably a lot of lawyers in both my organizations that would say don't do that.

Antwan: We are trying to experiment with that and the Chicago Police Department because we feel that it is important to delinquency prevention. We hope that we can work that out.

Aaron: If I were running legislation it would be a permissible activity that law enforcement could access these things and vice versa. Right now that it's not permitted; our councils get crazy and look for a way not to do it. That's the first thing. Information sharing is key to this thing from where I sit. I don't know what she knows and she doesn't know what I know.

Next is the training piece. If every policeman and every fireman – I'll pause on the fireman thing for one second because you mentioned health inspectors. Firemen are also in these buildings doing fire inspections and fire marshals are in these buildings for occupancy purposes and granting access to them. Just like on the counterterrorism side, they see anomalies and they report those things to us on a regular basis. We have a very robust outreach with fire service. They could be generally not used in human trafficking but it absolutely could be used in human trafficking. If they see beds in the back of a nail salon and it doesn't make sense, people shouldn't be sleeping there. Those things are real easy but you have to have that supply chain. We need to know about that and the confidentiality that the firemen are then still trusted. We can still use that information however it comes into our networks. That training piece - all of public safety with the police has got to be done collaboratively which is the general best practice but generally not how law enforcement is done with firemen in the room.

Marian: Our arrest app - they had a hackathon basically in Boston for a weekend and this was done at no cost for us because what we did was provide them the history, my spreadsheet and word history during the operation and they developed this tool from that at no cost because eventually other law enforcement will buy it.

Sen. Holmes: As I'm saying, his idea is sort of 2-pronged because what that sort of thing does is not only heightens awareness, which is extremely important, but it also would act as a deterrent. I think it's kind of a really interesting concept that I think we should look at that.

Marian: You want to do more than just deter. You want to disrupt. It's more disruption that we're looking for. We used to look more at deterrents but we want to get all up in the way now. Believe it or not, Craig's List is still in business and their email commination is up. In Chicago, the last study that we did, we have more activity on Craig's List than we do on back page right now.

Rep. Wheeler: I don't want the comment in regard to the human trafficking fund that we put in a couple, 2 or 3 years ago, to go unnoticed. We were having a discussion prior to this meeting and I said there's a fund, is there money in the fund? And a few of the staff members were like, there's a fund? If it's a matter of the judges not knowing, is that what you said Patty? That it's a matter of the Judge's not funding and allocating to the correct fines? Because that could be changed. Is that something that we need to put out immediately to the judges saying that you are not utilizing these funds and these fines need to be placed when appropriate?

Sen. McConnaughay: I talked to Judge McGraw a little bit outside about that.

Marian: You should talk to Kathe Morris Hoffer at the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation because we have been working them for a long time about the fact that it's not working.

Sen. McConnaughay: He said that typically the judiciary, it's not that they don't care; it's that they're focused on other things.

Rep. Wheeler: I don't want to imply that they don't care it's just that we need to keep reminding them when it's appropriate, these fines need to be allocated into this fund. We need to keep reminding them.

Marian: Let's keep it real. When there's no violence involved, the judges are not using it. If there is violence involved, then they would.

Rep. Wheeler: So here's my next question – maybe you have a direct answer or maybe a ballpark figure. You had mentioned that besides mental illness, there is a drug usage issue for people who are trafficked. I'm going to guess mostly for sex trafficking. Could you give me an idea of what percentage of people are also involved with the use of drugs? Or the drug trade?

Marian: From our personal study we did 173 women of 600 where we had an actual profile of prostitution, 80% had a drug problem. The drug problem was either to mask the pain of what they were dealing with and having to go through that every day or someone started them on the drugs when they were being sold.

Rep. Wheeler: The reason that I ask that and I'm not fully aware of how this works in local communities. Like I said, I'm at McHenry and Lake and a few of my police have said that when they have drug forfeiture dollars it comes back to the local communities. Currently, they have to spend it on education or equipment. What are we going to buy tanks? And I think a few of them did buy tanks. They say there is so much money here and our hands are tied to how we spend this money and we could spend it so much differently. So my question to you – is there an opportunity, if 80% of the victims are probably also involved in drug use, would this be an appropriate use, allowable, not forced, for some of these local communities who get this money in the drug forfeiture?

Marian: What would they use it for?

Rep. Wheeler: Housing, resources, follow-up intel.

Marian: If they could use it for integrated treatment and housing, we would jump up and down.

Rep. Wheeler: I think there's an opportunity and you know maybe that's not true in other communities so I don't want to speak for all communities within the state. But this is what some of my chief's in my area have said – we have so much money back, which is great, but our hands are tied. I'm sure everybody would stand in line and say “wait, we want money to go here.” But I think this is an opportunity to look at whatever statute has the local forfeiture or dollars back returned to the community.

Aaron: I think that's great. We should also look at federal. A lot of state cases and local drug task force cases will end up in seizure under state forfeiture act. You might want to make sure that they're not in conflict with one another because there are times when people on purpose send it through to federal seizure or state seizure because there is an advantage fiscally. There might be opportunities to do both those at the same time.

Marian: The public morals nuisance act for Cook County – that ordinance was passed in December of 2008 right before we started working with vice in early 2009. It is 100% restorative justice. 100% of the money goes to women and girls. 60% goes to the Cook County Department of Corrections for women impacted and underserved. 40% goes to juvenile detention for the program for the young women. There are different models that can be used on how to replicate that. Some other places in the country use part for victim services, part for law enforcement capacity to do the work. There are all kinds of creative ways for it to be done. One of the things I think we should look at is the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is using –they're funds. How we use it creatively to fund the unit at Haymarket for the trafficked women too. It's specifically criminal justice-involved women.

Rep. Bellock: You were all fantastic. We were hoping this would be a fantastic meeting and it certainly was with a lot of information. I could only say that after going through all this with Cook County – when we originally had that bill about creating the task force, twice somebody came down to the capitol from Cook County and said “you don't really have another task force because we have one in cook County”. I said the point was that we were trying to raise awareness throughout the state so you have done a great job. I think that from this meeting today, we realized that all you said and Judge McGraw that we need to do a statewide. What we talked about is we have had 6 of these meeting so far and we've decided that we were going to break down now into smaller working groups. One of them being law enforcement. We would hope that we would see you in that group. Judge McGraw said that he would be very interested in doing that. That way we could sit around a table and take in what has been talked about. We have been writing as fast as we could. Then we would do 4 working groups. Everybody will be a part of that if they want to. We're so willing to have a task force meeting out in Rockford. That would be fantastic. It's hard for legislators to get around the state so we're thinking those small working groups could really get some concrete suggestions like you gave today. Somebody working and writing at the same time to move forward with legislation and awareness and education. There were at least 50 good suggestions that were brought up today. Besides us trying to narrow it down to 2 and 2. It's been fantastic.

Marian: Our commander is included in our trio could not be here today.

Rep. Bellock: Right, you guys were fantastic and we really appreciate all of you and Judge McGraw. It certainly was an educating experience for us. We've heard a lot, and combined, we've heard from some of the small homes downstate last time. Judge McGraw had said to me before we started the meeting that most of those are totally nonprofit and support themselves. If we could help them and help others. They know the model. The one lady that testified said that the FBI had sent somebody to her and she was just in a small group home in Southern Illinois. If we could use that model to enlarge that and work with everybody. It's just one segment of it but it's an extremely important segment. We look forward to working with you again in smaller working groups.

It's been a great experience. Thank you very much Antwan for facilitating it. We appreciate that. I guess we'll be back in touch with the members. Gwen we thank you for all your work too. We thank everybody who listened in and everybody who is on the ILGA livestream who heard all the essential information today on this major issue. The more we have these, the more we find out how many people are working on it and that's why it's so important. I think for us to have had a statewide task force to show us how much is being done and then how we can hopefully we'll be able to bring together and move forward on a statewide basis. Thank you very much.

Antwan: That adjourns our meeting. Thanks.

***Stacy Sloan, former DCFS Human Trafficking Coordinator (submitted comments via email):
The DCFS Hotline will take a report on pimps and traffickers. [PA 97-1063](#) amended the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) to expand eligible perpetrator for this allegation, it became effective January 1, 2013.*