

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: "Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: *It's Happening in Our Backyard*"

Report Date: June 16, 2016

Response by: Marin County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: F7-F10
- We disagree wholly or *partially* with the findings numbered: F1-F6, F11-13

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations R1-R2, R4-R5, and R7 have not been implemented, but will be implemented.
- Recommendations R3, R6 and R8 require further analysis.

Date: September 13, 2016

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 7

Marin County Board of Supervisors

Response to Findings and Recommendations from Grand Jury Report
"Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening in Our
Backyard" (June 16, 2016)

FINDINGS

F1. Human Sex Trafficking is mostly unrecognized, under-reported, and rarely subject to intervention in Marin.

Response: Partially disagree. Although we agree that human sex trafficking is mostly unrecognized and under-reported, we do not necessarily agree that it is rarely subject to intervention. Our law enforcement departments have adopted a victim-centered approach toward this crime that did not exist some years ago.

F2. A significant number of human sex trafficking victims are from Marin, not just transients imported from other areas.

Response: Partially disagree. The District Attorney confirms that there certainly are some victims of sex trafficking who live in Marin County. However, given that the true number of victims who are being sex trafficked in Marin County is not known, it is difficult to say with any certainty that a significant number of them consider Marin County to be their primary residence.

The Sheriff staff encounters more individuals from other parts of the Bay Area that come here to engage in this activity than are found to be residents of Marin County. However, sex trafficking victims that are from Marin may be taken to other parts of the Bay Area to be forced into this activity. Additionally, victims often work outside their counties of origin to avoid detection by law enforcement who personally know them by sight. Victims may also work out of their home counties to avoid being noticed by friends and family while on the street or hotels.

F3. Reports from two Marin County victim advocate organizations show that approximately 30% of the victims they aid are under the age of 18.

Response: Partially disagree. Although we do not have perfect data, the Sheriff's experience with human trafficking operations conducted in Marin County has been that approximately 10%-15% of the victims are under the age of 18.

F4. Some Marin County law enforcement officers still believe some human trafficking victims are criminals.

Response: Partially disagree. The Marin County Sheriff believes that the Sheriff's Office deputies of today have been trained and see this topic with more clarity than deputies of yesterday. Additionally, this crime and victimization is highly publicized and spoken of frequently in the law enforcement community.

We cannot report on what all other agencies in Marin may believe, so ultimately we cannot fully agree or disagree with this finding.

F5. State law mandates that officers receive two hours of training on human trafficking and some Marin agencies may not be complying with this law.

Response: Partially disagree. The Marin County Sheriff's Office has received training on the Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking. We do not track the training efforts of other agencies in Marin so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this finding.

F6. Training of Marin County law enforcement on the Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking has been inconsistent across agencies.

Response: Partially disagree. The Marin County Sheriff's Office has received training on the Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking. We do not track the training efforts of other agencies in Marin so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this finding.

F7. Law Enforcement officers and others who are closest to human trafficking believe that California mandated two-hour POST training video on human trafficking is not sufficient.

Response: Agree. The Marin County Sheriff's Office has developed several members that are experts in the area of Human Trafficking. These members receive additional training at conferences and then bring back that knowledge and share with the other members of the office.

F8. Marin law enforcement agencies rarely use multidisciplinary training, incorporating collaboration between Children Family Services (CFS), the District Attorney, law enforcement experts, and possibly victims.

Response: Agree. Although though there is a collaborative effort when it comes to working cases, there is no current collaborative training that includes law enforcement agencies, Children Family Services, the District Attorney and other community based organizations.

The District Attorney's Office meets regularly with local and regional law enforcement agencies to work on cases and share intelligence on possible traffickers and individuals who may be suspected victims. There is certainly room for greater collaboration, which partners are trying to achieve through the Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking, of which the Board of Supervisors is supportive and encourages.

F9. Training for firefighters and EMS professionals in recognizing human trafficking victims and reporting the crime is inconsistent in Marin.

Response: Agree. We are not aware of any training that firefighters and/or EMS professionals receive in recognizing human trafficking victims and how to report this crime. Marin County Fire Department and EMS personnel will be trained in recognizing human trafficking and how to report it, and will incorporate this into their annual training by December 31, 2016.

F10. It is difficult to determine the extent of human trafficking in Marin because of inconsistent classification and definitions of the crime, as well as the lack of a central clearinghouse for this data.

Response: Agree. Although there may not be clear categories of crime for human trafficking, the local law enforcement agencies that participate in the enforcement of human trafficking have a clear understanding of this topic. They meet on a regular basis, share information and conduct joint enforcement operations throughout the Bay Area. The meetings include

federal, state and other law enforcement agencies from around the Bay Area.

- F11. The Marin County School Districts do not provide education on a systematic basis for students, parents and teachers in recognizing signs of human trafficking.**

Response: Partially disagree. The County of Marin does not have direct knowledge regarding whether school districts provide education for students, parents or teachers in recognizing signs of human trafficking. As a result, we cannot fully agree or disagree with this finding.

- F12. Human trafficking outreach has been fragmented and is currently insufficient in reaching critical audiences.**

Response: Partially disagree. While community outreach can always be made more effective, there is a core group of community based organizations that have conducted public outreach and information sharing among stakeholders. The Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking currently has a Public Awareness Committee and a Victim Service Committee who are responsible for raising awareness. The Board supports and encourages the continued efforts of the Coalition.

- F13. The Marin County Coalition to End Trafficking Coalition needs dedicated resources to make it more effective.**

Response: Partially disagree. Per the Sheriff, the problems associated with Human Trafficking can be effectively addressed without additional dedicated resources to make those enforcement efforts more effective.

The Board of Supervisors recently awarded the Coalition to End Human Trafficking a \$5,000 community service grant to establish a website that would expand community outreach and bring together individuals and organizations in the County that have an interest in ending human trafficking. This website is now available on the Internet at <http://www.mcceht.org>. The District Attorney also understands that the Coalition intends to apply to the Board of Supervisors for a subsequent community service grant to assist with coalition logistics and outreach campaigns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2015-2016 Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1. All law enforcement officers should be consistently trained in the *Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking*.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented in the future. This training will be incorporated into the Marin County Sheriff's training requirements by the end of training cycle 2016-17. All District Attorney Inspectors who have not yet been trained on the protocol will receive this training on or before October 31, 2016. Finally, Deputy District Attorneys who have not yet been trained will receive this training on or before December 16, 2016.

- R2. All Marin law enforcement agency heads should ensure their officers receive the California mandated two hour human trafficking training.**

Response: This recommendation has been implemented by the Marin County Sheriff. In addition, Marin County District Attorney Inspectors are California Peace Officers and those who have not yet received this training will receive the mandated, two-hour human trafficking training on or before October 31, 2016.

- R3. The Board of Supervisors should convene a local group of human trafficking experts (including CFS, law enforcement subject experts, FBI, victim advocates, DA's, and perhaps a victim) to create a multidisciplinary training presentation. This training should include the unique roles of all County personnel, resources, and processes in addressing human trafficking. Additional resources will be needed to support this training as none are devoted to this task now. This training should include information on the trafficking of females and males, as well as LGBTQ.**

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. This recommendation was recently discussed at a Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking meeting. Chief Tricia Seyler of the Belvedere Police Department reported that this topic will be discussed with the other Chiefs of Police to gauge interest in developing a multi-disciplinary training. Further, the District Attorney believes that this difficult and

complex issue requires more analysis before the development of a multidisciplinary training program is commissioned. The Board of Supervisors is supportive of continued engagement regarding this issue; however, further analysis is required from the partnership of agencies currently studying the issue, including goals, scope, potential alternatives and cost.

- R4. Once this multi-disciplinary training package is completed, Marin County law enforcement agencies should ensure that all Marin law enforcement officers be trained.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented in the future by the Marin County Sheriff and District Attorney. Once this training package is complete, the Marin County Sheriff and District Attorney have committed to training their staff.

- R5. Marin County Fire Departments should ensure that all EMS personnel are trained in recognizing human trafficking and how to report it, and incorporate this in their annual training.**

Response: The recommendation will be implemented in the future by the Marin County Fire Department by December 31, 2016. They will implement monthly training sessions utilizing the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign human trafficking awareness training materials. All first responders will receive 1.5 to 2.0 hours of classroom training. The Department's training calendar will be adjusted to include this training on an annual basis.

- R6. The Board of Supervisors should fund the creation of a database that systematically tracks adult and minor victims, using consistent classification and shared definitions to properly identify the victim and the crime, as well as document its prevalence. Data should be gathered from any organization dealing with trafficking victims, including law enforcement agencies, government agencies (e.g. Marin County Health & Human Services), civic organizations, and victim advocate organizations.**

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. Per the Sheriff, there are restrictions on sharing crime and medical data outside the discipline that is entrusted with it. Further, the District Attorney

believes that further analysis would be warranted, with development of clear data sources, definitions and classification guidelines in advance.

- R7. Marin County Office of Education should work with the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership to develop educational programs to ensure that students, parents, and teachers are trained in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented in the future. Our understanding is that the Marin County Office of Education and Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership is currently developing an educational program and it should be implemented within school year 2016-17.

- R8. The Board of Supervisors should provide the Marin County Human Trafficking Coalition resources necessary to expand community outreach to schools, faith communities and the public. The Coalition should explore a grant for a dedicated position that supports coalition logistics and outreach campaigns.**

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The County's baseline budget already includes resources that are used to address human trafficking. The County of Marin's law enforcement officers have adopted a victim-centered approach toward this crime and will institutionalize this approach in its ongoing training programs. Pending further analysis regarding a potential new multi-disciplinary training tool, data collection efforts or outreach efforts, the Board may consider any specific funding proposals in the context of other priorities during the annual budget process.