



Jeri Burton: President

Tricia Methner: Exec. Vice President; Stephanie Streuber: VP, Public Relations

Madalena Robertson: VP, Social Media; LiNor Briley: Treasurer;

Sue Burtch: Secretary

October 20, 2019

Call to order: 11:33am

Intro of Board

Treasurer's report: beginning balance \$3657.91; income: \$284.90 (Nat'l rebate); expenses: \$424 (stamps, CC theatre, Square space); \$3518.81 (note: postcard writing party \$106 donation for stamps, \$75 spent on stamps, \$31 deposit for November report)

President's message:

Future meeting we will have a census discussion

Tea with Alice & Me Event - March 28, 2020 - Clark County Library

Moms Demand Action meeting today at 2pm

Tracy Puckett: need 3,000 volunteers for caucus - currently have 1,000 - need everyone's help!! Caucus is February 22nd, and 4 days of early caucus

Next meeting: November 17th - 2:30, Sahara West Library

Upcoming events:

Tea with Alice and Me - Suffrage 2020 Centennial Event, March 28th, 5pm, Clark County Library

Special Guest: Presidential candidate, Julian Castro - Jeri Burton gave him suffrage sash (made by Zoe Nicholson) and ERA NOW button - thank you, Secretary Castro for your support of the ERA

Today's Topic: Child Sex Trafficking in Nevada

Guest Speakers: Lena Walther, co-founder of Awareness is Prevention (AIP) and Electra Skrzydlewski, regional representative for Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

(Lena)

Child sex trafficking is an epidemic and is growing rapidly - most people don't understand the magnitude of the issue - it is beyond comprehension.

Nevada is number one and is 68% higher than number 2, New York - in Clark County it is a 50 million dollar business - involves 14,000 to 17,000 minors - business surpasses drugs and arms trafficking - 150 billion dollar business

Cost of sex trafficking: this is a public health issue - costing tax payers 32 billion annually - one victim can earn from \$250K to \$500K per year for one pimp - a pimp can have 5 or 6 victims - estimate 300,00 under 18 lured into sex trafficking - average age 12-13 - younger children are injected with hormones - life long health problems and trauma related illnesses - every year victims get younger - often beaten and starved - result in having shorter life span

Common misconceptions: assumed that victims are prostitutes or promiscuous, juvenile delinquents or gang members, runaways, female and chose lifestyle - not true, can happen to any child - male or female. Minors brain not developed enough to make this lifestyle decision. Lured by good looking, smooth talking people

Understanding victims: low self-esteem, no understanding of inner power, lack of family support and/or neglect, family abuse or socially isolated - #1 thing parents can do is build self-esteem in their children

Warning signs: absences from home or school, changes in behavior, lifestyle or clothes, suddenly have money, material possessions or tattoos, new older friends who dominate, parties, drugs/alcohol, signs of gang affiliation, excessive time spent on social media

Stay Alert!: sex trafficking is in every community - could be a nail salon with quiet technicians and a dominant person watching girls - usually male - watch for vans with blackened windows moving slowly through neighborhood - be aware while shopping is someone is following you or group of children. Be careful in parking lots - Fashion Show Mall and Downtown Summerlin are the worst in Clark County. Need signs in public places, schools, etc. **See Something, Say Something - sex trafficking hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text: INFO or HELP to BEFREE (233733)**

2 ways to create change: Empower children so they know how to stay safe and healthy - build up self- esteem. Create a support system around children at home and in the neighborhood - safe places to go. How to stop men from becoming traffickers? Go after buyers - eliminate the demand. Don't talk to unknown online - they use younger person as lure

Alarming trend: Teenagers make up 1 in 10 patients for sex counseling - two years ago it was 1 in 30 - pornography on cell phones is a big threat

Child pornography statistics:

1998 - 3,000 images online per year, 2008 - 100,000 images online per year, 2014- 1 million images online per year, 2018 - 18.4 million images online per year - 25% of parents thought their children had never seen pornography, in reality, 53% had seen it of girls and 63% of boys - these are the ones they found - there's probably even more images

AIP programs: (AIP works on awareness not with victims) Create safe neighborhoods, Law enforcement training, education and training to the public - promote the Swedish model. Work with churches, schools, neighborhoods. Self defense training for all ages - empower 6-7 year olds

Awareness through the Arts: Innovative, fun and creative - interpret trafficking scenario through art form of choice - competitions - ages 11-17

Prevention: limit access to the internet - monitor social media - be aware

(Electra)

There is hope! Nevada's new AG is a partner in combating sex trafficking - establishing sex trafficking as crime and moving to federal level - state legislature is doing the work

What is trafficking: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of slavery, forced labor, exploitation or adoption.

Trafficking occurs when children and young people manipulated, forced to leave their homes and are moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.

Often trafficked for sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, forced marriage, domestic servitude or forced commercial labor as tools for committing crimes (child at a business should be checked out) - crimes could be involving drugs or weapons. Traffickers can be family members. Traffickers groom children, families to gain trust - promise a better future. Trafficking is also an economic crime - get money for documents or transportation then family is indebted to trafficker. Traffickers can work alone in small groups or medium sized groups or can be large with an extensive network.

Data points: African American and latino children most affected by sex trafficking - 52% of all juvenile prostitution arrests are African American children (FBI) - 50%-90% of child sex trafficking victims are in the welfare system. Instability creates opportunities for traffickers to bond with vulnerable victims. Domestic data is limited-when refugees and immigrants are in hostile communities, the likelihood of seeking legal support to protect children is less likely - Internationally, 76% of refugees surveyed in the Mediterranean indicated that they have been trafficked or exploited. 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, and although they are 7% of the population, homelessness is a risk factor that increases chance of exploitation. In 2017, an estimated 1 out of 7 endangered runaways reported to the national center for missing and exploited children were likely child sex trafficking victims. 88% of these likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing. While anyone can be a victim - refugees, impoverished, homeless or runaways, LGBTQ, African American or Latino, and youth interacting with the child welfare system are more vulnerable to this exploitation

Warning signs: poor hygiene, malnutrition, fatigue; shows signs of physical or sexual abuse; orphaned, living apart from family, unable to access parents or guardians; closely monitored by adults; living in substandard or temporary housing, very few or no personal possessions; claim to be visiting; inability to clarify where they are staying or unaware of city they're in; lost sense of time; not registered or attending school; spend an uncommon amount of time on chores or indoor activities; seen in inappropriate places for children like brothels or factories; have money or possessions that are uncommon for children to have; are not permitted to speak or unable/unwilling to speak for themselves; share scripted, confusing, or inconsistent stories

How do we address?: demand or reduction becoming more in conversation. "National Johns Suppression Initiative" goes after buyers. Law enforcement creating innovative ways: Captain Prestridge of Texas Dept of Public Safety realized that they made over 3 million traffic stops each year where they identified fugitives, stolen vehicles, and drugs, but not one of those stops identified a missing or at-risk child - so he created a no cost, 2 day training course designed to create awareness of the resources available to patrol officers seeking to establish the status of a child who may be missing, exploited, or at risk of being exploited. The training encompasses: trauma-informed protocols for communicating and interacting with potential child victims; best

practices for creating the necessary conditions for cooperation with law enforcement; information on the importance of connecting victims to the appropriate social services. This program (IPC) has been adopted in Utah and Arizona with rescues reported in both states. To date, 10,000 individuals have been trained, 250 instructors have been certified and is responsible for rescuing over 500 children so far. Program is funded by a COPS grant of less than \$100,000; program is the basis for the National Crimes Against Children Patrol Operations; IPC training has been written into Austin Police Dept Policy; Texas Parks and Wildlife have issued an initiative to train all Texas Game Wardens; August 2019, the National Tribal Emergency Management Council has been trained; program presented at Interpol headquarters in France; Smithsonian police have been trained; trainings have been conducted in Arizona, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Wyoming, Canada, the UK, and Australia; training being conducted in-state is a Nevada POST approved course.

Senator Cortez Masto introduced the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act at the start of the 116th Congress - of course, it's being held up in Judiciary Committee by Senator Graham.

In 2019, IPC training came to Nevada - participating agencies: LVMPD, State of Nevada Child & Family Services, Dept of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, So NV Children's Assessment Center, Clark County At Risk Youth Support Unit, Commercial Exploitation of Children, Nevada Highway Patrol, Transportation Security Administration, State of Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, LV Palute Tribal Police, US Dept of Justice, No Las Vegas Police Dept, Awaken, Nevada Attorney General, Henderson Police Dept, Nevada Dept of Public Safety, Parole and Probation, the Nevada Dept of Public Safety Investigation Division, Nevada Park Services, Nevada's Child Welfare and Protective Services, So Nevada Family Justice Center, City of Las Vegas.

Florida - requires traffic education in school districts

Action items:

- 1) Contact Senator Graham to get hearing for IPC legislation
- 2) Contact Mitch McConnell to get vote on VAWA - being held up because there's tribal protections and gun restrictions in bill

Meeting adjourned at 1pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Burtch, Secretary