



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
James E. Cockrell

5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Main: 907.269.4542

The Honorable Laddie Shaw
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 120
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Shaw,

As House Bill (HB) 259 is scheduled for a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee, I wanted to provide information to you and the other committee members regarding the goals and direction the members of the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST), a council that was established under Administrative Order 328 and amended under Administrative Order 351 with revised membership and updated duties. Since the CHST has not met since HB 259 was introduced, I am providing copies of the approved meeting minutes from the last three meetings of the CHST spanning from July 2023 through November 2023.

I will be available for questions during the scheduled hearing for HB 259 before the House State Affairs Committee set for Thursday, February 1, at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully,

Bryan Barlow

Bryan Barlow, Chair
Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking

Enclosures (3)

Cc: Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director

**STATE OF ALASKA
ALASKA'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

Host Location: 5500 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99507 (ABI Classroom)

July 19, 2023
10am to 4pm

Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Meeting

Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow- Alaska State Troopers, Chair

Chris Darnall-Assistant Attorney General, LAW

Staci Yates, Director of Human Trafficking Recovery Services, My House

Deputy Commissioner April Wilkerson as proxy for Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman-DOC

Laurel Shoop, Special Assistant & Legislative Liaison, DEED

Representative Sarah Vance, Alaska House

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg-DOH

Allison Mogensen, Director of Client Care at LoveAlaska as proxy for Gwen Adams - Executive Director, Priceless

Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska Senate

Travis Welch, Program Office, AMTHA as proxy for Agnes Moran, WISH/Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, DOR

Lieutenant Amanda Fisher-Anchorage Police Department

Brittany Madros - Tribal Government & Justice Division Director, TCC (joined virtually)

Absent:

Mayor David Bronson-Anchorage Municipality

Others Present:

Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS

Lisa Purinton, DPS

Katie TePas, DPS

Heather Harris, Facilitator, Foraker Group

Minutes prepared by: Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS

Call to Order-Roll Call:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, called the meeting to order at **10:02am**. Roll call was taken by Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, and a quorum was established.

Agenda Review and Approval:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Staci Yates **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg **SECONDED** the motion. Hearing no opposition, the agenda was **APPROVED**.

Introduction of New Members

Deputy Commissioner Barlow introduced new member Lieutenant Amanda Fisher of Anchorage Police Department. Lieutenant Fisher introduced herself and gave a brief introduction about herself and her career. She said she is a Lieutenant in charge of the Special Victims Unit, Crimes Against Children and Cyber Crimes unit, which encompasses human trafficking as well. Lieutenant Fisher said that she has been with APD for 22 years. She said she moved into the council member position when Lieutenant Hrovat moved over to internal affairs.

Meeting Minutes Review and Approval 5.31.23

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said that the meeting minutes from the last meeting were sent out in advance and asked if anyone had any questions about the minutes from the 5.31.23 meeting. Hearing none, Deputy Commissioner Barlow called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Chris Darnall **MOVED** to approve the minutes as written. Travis Welch **SECONDED** the motion. Hearing no opposition, the meeting minutes were **APPROVED**.

Introduction of Meeting Facilitator, Heather Harris from The Foraker Group

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said that the primary topic of the meeting was discussing strategies and priorities for the council going forward from the recommendations outlined in the Governor's Report on Trafficking. He said, in talking with representatives from the Governor's Office, they made a request that the council come up with some priorities from that list of recommendations to help guide future council actions. Deputy Commissioner Barlow then introduced the meeting facilitator, Heather Harris from the Foraker Group who he said would help the CHST to stay focused in that prioritization process and guide the discussion.

Heather Harris introduced herself. She said that she has had the privilege of holding space for interesting conversations for many years through Foraker, a lot around strategic planning; how you set a big vision about where it is you are heading and then from there, how to implement that and move it forward. She said that the CHST has done some of the heavy lifting of deciding what work needs to be done. She said that that the day would be spent prioritizing and discussing what that work looks like and entails over the next year. Heather said that her work experience has primarily been in health and human services, but that she started her career as a crisis line volunteer at STAR and had the gift of working in childhood trauma and sexual assault. She expressed that it was such a gift to be there.

Heather asked if anyone was familiar with the Foraker Group. A few CHST members raised their hands. She said their purpose is to strengthen non-profits in Alaska. She said the Foraker Group has been established for over 20 years and that they are the state non-profit association which means that they look at large policy issues that impact the sector as a whole. She continued, as they do their work in the world, the government, non-profit and business communities must come together for a healthy exchange. She said that they do a lot of work in and with government entities.

New Business: Discussion and Strategic Planning on Top Priorities

Heather Harris asked if this was the first time the CHST members had been in the room together. Some members nodded. Heather said it was important to know and understand who was in the room with them, what gifts, skills, interests, and talents they bring to the room and to know some of the things each CHST member needs to stay present in the space and capacity as a council member. Heather asked that the council go around the room and share that information. Per that request, an introductory conversation between the facilitator, council members and staff took place.

Chris Darnall made an announcement that Laurel Sullivan, an intern at his office was there to observe for the day.

Heather Harris asked the CHST to turn their attention to the Sustainability Model handout they had been disbursed. Heather said she likes to start with that model/handout when making a strategic plan because sustainability deals with how to move the work forward and how to keep it going into the future. Heather said that the Foraker Group created the sustainability model because they go into rooms such as that regularly and ask what does this group need to sustain this work and energy? She said that often folks say they need money to sustain work, but that there are other equally and sometimes more important things needed to sustain the work aside from money.

The Foraker Sustainability Model was shown on the big screen. Heather asked what people noticed about the image. Someone said that they noticed a very intentional focus, that the circle with the word focus in it was larger and that is because, she said, we have to start in the space of having clear focus of who we are before we are able to move objectives forward. Focus is a combination of two things; knowing who you are and where you're going. Heather said that the CHST is in an interesting space because the conversation about who they are is a little vague right now. She stated that they are a council who has come together, but they are not formalized. And some of the work is to think about what the core purpose is and what are the core values of the CHST.

Heather Harris then asked the CHST to direct their attention to the voting synopsis of priorities from the Governor's Report that the CHST members voted on. Heather said that the CHST has set some big, audacious goals that are a massive undertaking. She continued that the way to move those big goals forward is through annual planning. She said some of those things will get done within the year and some will take many years to get done. She reiterated that focus is critically important.

The next part of the Foraker Sustainability Model Heather addressed was the concept of right people. Heather said that if they think of about right people, this is something that comes up all the time for Foraker, especially in Alaska as a young state with many non-profits. So, a lot of human capacity is needed to get a lot of work done. Often, well before staffing issues happened nationally, Alaska has had a human capacity deficit because Alaska does not have the number of people needed to do large projects which is why it is important to be thoughtful about where that human capacity is utilized. Heather said that the other thing to be mindful of about the concept of right people that she said she thought the CHST and government do really well is how to get a diversity of thoughts in the room to move the work forward.

The next piece of the Foraker Sustainability Model Heather Harris went over was partnerships. Heather said that partnerships are pivotal because no one entity can do that work alone. So, she continued, as the CHST plans for the year, they will want to consider what partnerships will be productive to establish and nurture.

The final piece of the Foraker Sustainability Model that Heather delved into was unrestricted funds, which she expressed was somewhat unique because as a government entity, the CHST does have access to grants and other funding mechanisms. Heather continued that what Foraker says about that is that most often, those funds are inherently unsustainable because they are generally not designed to take place over a long period of time.

Heather said that at the end of the image, on the Sustainability Model handout, you see the stacked rocks. She said Foraker likes to think of those stacked rocks as being representative of a "Karen" which is a rock along the path that helps us make our mark, find our way, and let people who come after us know they are going the right way. Heather then asked if anyone had any questions about the model or anything that came up for them.

Representative Sarah Vance said that one of the concerns and one of the requests is that the council be put into statute so that the work does not fall to the wayside or lose momentum as administrations change. Rep Vance said that they have seen the issue of trafficking drop off before. She said she was not able to get an amendment put into the House Judiciary Committee, but that she went and spoke to Senator Kiehl who originally was expanding the CDVSA council and she said she did put in a request to the House Finance Committee to permanently create the council in statute so that it can focus on Trafficking and CDVSA can focus on what they do. She said she did this so there will be work done and funding available every year. She said she intends to have that conversation with the legislature next session so that it will be easier once the council is established permanently in statute to have access to grant funds, which has been a barrier to tackling trafficking overall. So, she said she is hopeful that because there is a lot of visibility spotlighting trafficking with people talking about it in the House and the Senate right now, that they might have the push needed to make great legislative progress.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said it was one of the recommendations that was high on his list because he said he had been a state employee for a while and a prosecutor for a little bit less time. But one of the things he said he has noticed is that when it's in statute, it sticks around. He said that when you have permanency, it kind of lets you establish things, grow, and figure out what you need to do. He continued that it's hard to invest time and resources when that permanency is not in place. Chris then posed the question to Rep Vance what steps the CHST could take to make it easier to facilitate making the council permanently in statute from a legislative perspective.

Rep Sarah Vance answered that the more that the need for the council to be statutory is talked about, the more receptive law makers will be to that. Because the consensus tends to be one of why can't this work get done right now so talking about the importance of what it means to be statutory is imperative. She continued that it is also important to understand the implications of what it means to be statutory because there are a lot of requirements. Rep Vance said that when she was drafting language to propose the CHST being statutorily created to be added to the trafficking bill, she modeled a lot of the verbiage from the statute creating CDVSA as statutory and learned from that that there are numerous requirements and those requirements cost money. So, it will be important to have clear and realistic expectations of what the requirements are. She continued that those are the concerns being brought to the forefront in the conversations she is having; what is the fiscal impact of establishing the council in statute, which is especially relevant to frame out with the constraints of tight budgets and the impact of inflation.

Rep Sarah Vance also said that based on various discussions with CDVSA and the committee, it has felt like there are some concerns from their perspective about adding more to tasks to their plate if the CHST was to not become its own statutory council. Rep Vance expressed that she felt it was important to have the CHST and CDVSA separate because trafficking and domestic violence are separate issues and when you specialize in something, you have the opportunity to do it really well. So, Rep Vance said she approached Senator Kiehl about it. She told him she originally took the whole thing out of the bill and judiciary but left a place marker and asked Senator Kiehl what his intent was. He agreed that something was needed, so Rep Vance put something together. She said it is in the House Finance Committee currently and hopefully January can work on getting it over to the senate. Rep Vance said Senator Kiehl may be able to speak to more about that.

Senator Jesse Kiehl said he thought the process that the CHST would engage in that day would give the CHST the scope of work for something like that. He said that he suspected that they would all be on the same page as to wanting a statutory council to chase down grant money and federal funding for those services. He posed the question as to whether the CHST would want the council to be in charge of the public education campaign or would they want some other department to take that on. He also asked, what are they going to do day in and day out, year in and year out that is worth spending money on and how should they set that up. He said the council's recommendations on that will be tremendously valuable as they navigate the legislative process.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said she thought it was important to ask the question, what is the role of the council? She said she thinks it is imperative to look at the structure and set the focus accordingly with the proper program supports. She said that is the structure that is the most sustainable and has the most action and then one can identify what the gaps are and address them. Commissioner Hedberg said it is also important to take into account the staff time this council and its actions will take. She said she does not imagine the council members being the worker bees, but more she imagines the CHST being the visionary and designated staff/program partners bringing the vision to fruition. Commissioner Hedberg said that as the work plan is drafted, that would be good to clarify.

Facilitator Heather Harris responded to Commissioner Hedberg's insight saying that yes, as a strategic plan is framed out, it is important to view the plan from multiple vantage points and decide who is at 30,000 feet and who is on the boots on the ground. And she said, it is just not possible for the same people to be both at 30,000 feet and on the ground. She said if you can figure out who you are as a council and that you are going to be in statute and stick around for some time, then you are able to lift the vision and stay at this high level altitude and then work with your partners or staffing or other departments or whatever it happens to be to execute the plan. She said that is part of the concept of right people; understanding that relationship and your role in those rooms and working together well is critically important.

Heather Harris said that the other piece that she keeps coming back to was around partnership. She continued that partnership is on a continuum. She said that as you think about CDVSA and this council, think about what that looks like with them in a deeper relationship and connection because there is overlap. She said it is important to recognize where they do overlap so no one is stepping on toes or duplicating work and things are actually being moved forward. She stated that this approach is a little messy because the CHST is setting the vision first in great detail before solidifying who they are as a council. To that end, Heather asked the council to turn their attention to the document that was sent to them prior to the meeting to which outlined key priority areas and action items that were voted as high priority by the Council from the Governor's Trafficking Report. Heather stated that the key priority areas and action items with the most votes had been highlighted accordingly. Katie TePas, staff to the council interjected that if an action item was in progress, that had been notated accordingly in the status column. So, she said, if any of the action items did not show progress, but progress is being made toward them, please make her and Meredith aware of that.

Heather Harris said that as council members were reviewing the document, just getting regrounded to it and seeing where the energy (votes) went around the priorities, she said she would encourage them to think about things on the list that they feel are most critical. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg also said as the council was doing that to evaluate whether they are time sensitive such as if funding is becoming available or down the pike and if it needs to be prioritized by the committee accordingly. Heather Harris stated that is at the heart of the work of the day; to answer the questions that arise around timelines, what fiscal notes need to be drafted and in place, what has to happen in the next three months, and what has to happen in the next six months.

Heather Harris asked if there was anything coming up that the council needs to be aware of. Katie TePas, staff the council said yes, that there are a significant number of federal grants that are available, the bulk of which the deadlines have been missed on, but she suggested the council do a deep dive on the ones they might consider applying for and start collecting information. Commissioner Hedberg asked if the grants are annual and competitive. Staff to the council, Katie TePas said they are annual and most are competitive. She continued that it was important to remember that grants always come with a lot of strings so you always have to weigh how much work it is going to take versus what you will be getting.

Katie TePas said that the other thing she would say, not specific to the grants was that on #2, nobody voted on that one, but in terms of immediate things, she suggested they have another follow up with the Governor's Office about amending the Administrative Order, including the Department of Family and Community Services and Labor. She continued that she just wanted to remind the group that they are the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and the human (being labor) is a topic that the CHST has not really delved into, in part because of minimal expertise at the proverbial table or in the room. She said there are few recommendations on the list of priorities that the council could enact fairly easily, with a vote.

Heather Harris, the facilitator said she would go back to discussing grants and their strings and the weight of reporting. She said one of the things she encouraged the council members to do is to stay clear on their direction and on their understanding as to what their direction should be and what they want to complete. She said that when you start looking at grants, what can happen is, you can start having mission drift and going towards what the grant desires rather than what is needed to move the work forward. So, she encouraged that when evaluating possible grants to identify whether they are aligned with what needs to happen to facilitate the work of the council.

Staci Yates from MyHouse said that under key priority 6, to expand services to survivors of trafficking, MyHouse has a DOJ grant through Alaska Housing under the SAFE-T program. She said that is what pays for her position, pays for safe housing and all the programs. Staci said that under key priority 6, the goal is to expand the SAFE-T program. She posed the question whether that would have to go through Alaska Housing to expand that. Staci continued that MyHouse had been granted a 23 million dollar grant, but that 23 million dollars was spent on a building, not on services. So, she said, if SAFE-T could be expanded, that would be helpful. She said it is a 3 year program and she knows for certain they have it in Anchorage.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said she was still getting grounded in the funding piece of it, and she asked if the federal funding from the Department of Justice only or if there were other funding sources/agencies. Lisa Purinton, from DPS responded and said obviously they would like to leverage federal funding whenever we can to reduce the burden on the state for the financial aspects of this. So, she continued, the Department of Justice is going to have a huge impact on the funding because of the criminal nexus with human trafficking, but there is also health and social services as well as Department of Education grants that she has seen rendered as well. She said in terms of the multi component, multiple departments, multiple expertise coming to the table, the federal government is also doing that too. And so, she said, we're looking at different angles on how to address this from multiple perspectives.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said, what they can do before their next meeting is to compile a list with a summary of what grants are available so a thoughtful decision can be made by the council as to which grants to pursue. She said the issue with the grant will be, if we apply for it and we get it, but we are not in statute and we don't have a full council, that means that she and Meredith (who are already task saturated) are then doing an additional job. So, she said, she does think that grants require staff to apply for and manage them, independent from the staff to the council, herself, and Meredith. She said she does think some of those grants will be fairly hefty in the work that is required.

Staci Yates said that she could reach out to Anne Basham from Ascend Consulting, who had previously presented to the council because she has her finger on the pulse of federal trafficking grant opportunities. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said it would be easy to just dig into the work and start trying to take action, but he feels it is imperative to put a proper foundation under the council to make it permanent. Beyond that, he said it will be important to have a budget and staff in place, because the work of the council cannot be sustained by existing staff in the long term. So, he continued, once the foundation is stable, a platform can start to be put in place to go after funds. He said, sometimes it is hard to want to eat your vegetables before you eat your dessert, but the foundation is pivotal.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he agrees with what everyone is saying because everything he sees is associated with dollar signs in his mind. He continued that in order to do the work, the council will need money and in order to get that money, staff will be needed to put in time and effort to securing those resources. He said he thinks it all goes back to being permanent. Chris said that one of the things he loves as a prosecutor is the change in the status of the new criminal statutes changing up the elements, making charges easier to make. That is instrumental in his everyday work, but when he thinks of it from a 30,000 perspective, he thinks the public awareness campaign is very important. Because he said, he has a case at the moment that is a trafficking case, but he has charged it as an assault because he does not have what he needs to charge it as trafficking. He said he is trying to fit a square peg into a round hole because this might not be the right case, but he thinks if we have a public awareness campaign out there with more referrals and more folks aware looking at the issue, he might get a more applicable case to charge. He might have more charges to bring which lets him use the statutes that we have pinned up creating and enacting, which have harsher punishments and might result in more accountability. But, he continued, he thinks all of that is built upon the foundation of a council that knows it's going to exist plan annually and that can set yearlong goals with the idea that will address further goals the following year and could actually plan realistically.

Brittany Madros, who joined the meeting virtually said she wanted to say something in relation to grant funding and echoed what Chris had said. She said she and struggled with voting for the action item of making the council permanent because she felt so strongly about other priorities, but that she was hoping it would happen anyway because it seemed like common sense that that would have to happen for any of the other action items to be furthered. In relation to the grant conversation, Brittany wanted to add to the discussion that there is a whole world of tribal grants that states and federal agencies are not able to access, but tribes can apply for. She said there are a lot of tribes in Alaska applying for these grants and using them for their own tribes, but there are about 100 tribes who aren't. And in 2017 an act was passed that allowed for tribes to get 3% of this, the VOCA federal pot of money, to be set aside for tribes. So, it doesn't go to the states, it just is set aside for tribes. So, it's not competitive funding, which technically means 229 tribes in Alaska can be applying for that money and bringing in victim service funding to the state but a lot of them don't necessarily have the capacity or they don't know how, or whatever their barriers are. Brittany said she thinks working with Alaska Native Women Resource Center a plan could strategically be made to make use of the funds for those that aren't seeking this money you know but that can apply. That is one way the money can be brought to the state. So, even though the target audience of those funds are tribal members and tribal people, the way the DOJ money works is it doesn't discriminate. So, if someone has a spouse or has a relative, employer, etc., that's non-native, that money is not solely for someone that is enrolled in a tribe. So, she said she does think there's this untapped potential of grants and access to grants that the state is working to build partnerships with tribes around. Brittany said that this is kind of a way that tribes in the state could work together to fund some of these gaps that the state agencies and nonprofits can't necessarily access.

Heather Harris said the desire and the interest to impact people right now is a huge gravitational pull and you see that in the voting. And, she continued, that's the beauty of the council's work, is to stay at 30,000 feet and say how do we actually sustain this? She said that's really under key priority area #1, coordination and infrastructure for addressing trafficking. She said as the council looked at key priority #1 and thought about what's in progress, what still needs follow up and about their knowledge of the timelines and capacities around the room and as partners, she encouraged the council members to reflect on what needs to happen.

Rep Sarah Vance spoke up to say that there are a couple different things that seem to be in conflict, which is either expanding on the authority of the CDVSA or establishing this council as statutory. And, she said, from a legislative perspective, what the council may want in reference to that needs to be clear. Additionally, Rep Vance posed the question, in order to get federal grants or grants from wherever, what's the cost benefit ratio? She asked if the council was going to bring in so much in grant funds to justify spending millions of dollars per year to support the council for the work? She continued that we know that the work is important and worthwhile. But, she asked, are the dollars that you're going to be able to bring in with the statutory council really going to be so much greater that it compels the work further? Those are some of the basic questions that she said she can see legislators asking. She said that it would be good if over these next months before January as the council is looking at what grants exist, they come up with a potential baseline dollar figure, so that come January the legislature will be listening. Rep Sarah Vance said she could also foresee concern that the CHST is not wanting to pull funding from CDVSA which she thinks could create some tension and we don't want that because the work they are doing is important, as is the work of the CHST.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said the original recommendation from this group was that this group be put into statute as a council of policy and oversight but CDVSA would be the funder for very specific projects. But, she continued, CDVSA statutes have to be amended because right now they say domestic violence and sexual assault. They don't say trafficking. Katie said they also screen that they're not going to be labor trafficking. That was the original recommendation. But the reality is that there is some significant push and pull between trafficking services and then domestic violence and sexual assault. Now, she continued, we could say that much of sex trafficking involves the components of some form of sexual victimization. However, she said, they sometimes are separate and if we push them all together, she thinks there might be some competition for very limited resources. Katie TePas said, when you look at the numbers of the trafficking cases, they are significantly smaller than the overall rate of domestic violence cases and sexual assault. So, she said she thinks that's a discussion for this group to really have of if we have this recommendation, but after further discussion, we wouldn't want it to be entirely separate and this group then becomes just one extensive funding mechanism and to be a funding mechanism you have to have some staff.

Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust said that in looking at this, one thing that we've already touched on a little bit is that it's not just the sex trafficking element. It's also the human trafficking element of this council. And one thing, he continued, if we were to try to just shift everything kind of over the CDVSA, he said he thought you would really lose that human trafficking portion of it as that seems to be more outside their wheelhouse. So, he said, he thought that was something the CHST was considering as far as how the infrastructure should look, that it should be a separate council very similar to CDVSA that's focused entirely on human and sex trafficking.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said one thing that comes to mind in his day-to-day practices in his anecdotal experience is that while trafficking victims probably experience some sexual violence in their history in some of the trafficking cases he has seen, generally, the victim populations are very different. He said that while you might be seeing the same condition, the people are presenting very differently, that condition, with a different skill set. Chris said that is another thing about specializing the work. It puts each council in their own silo because it's just the skill sets that are different even if there is overlap on the work being done.

Heather Harris asked if there was a way that in this partnership that the CHST could still partner and connect with CDVSA on the sex trafficking piece of it and that you could collaborate on grants? Senator Jesse Kiehl said yes, but that there is an efficiency in cost question. He said the CHST needs to figure out, to what extent the two councils should be put together. He said that in their initial report, the notion of adding roughly 3 people that could chase federal grants and grant them out and do the reporting would be \$450,000 in costs. He said the CHST just needs to figure out what they want and how comprehensive a bite they want to take. He stated that he thinks they have got some some excellent reasons to take the bigger bite and do the more comprehensive job, as long as their eyes are wide open on the associated costs. Senator Kiehl said it is possible that CDVSA staff may say they are tapped out.

Heather Harris, the facilitator posed the question of whether the CHST members knew what the price tag would be for the council to be its own separate council in statute. And, if they didn't what would they need to do to learn what that number might be. Lisa Purinton, with DPS answered that saying she did not have the numbers with her at that time, but that the numbers are somewhat dependent on what the mission and scope of the council are. This is a priority to determine because it is going to dictate how large or small a staff can be hired and employed to implement and execute those tasks that the council would like to see tackled. Katie TePas said she could pull the current fiscal note that was part of the bill from last session to give a baseline idea of costs.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said he did not want to be unrealistic. He said when they engage in the bad habit of piece meal things together, they end up doing more work to recover from that that mindset because the focus is not precise enough. He continued that there is a balance between being fiscally responsible and really asking for what we need to stand this up to, to manage it, to support it with the administrative staff and funding that which you, whatever you decide, these key priorities are going to be. He said there's a finite amount of money and there's a lot of competition for that money. But this is an important issue in our society with people dramatically victimized by this. He said he doesn't think we truly, totally know the scope of that victimization yet and if we're serious about setting the foundation for this council, asking for what we need to run the council the right way, that also sends the message about how serious we are in tackling the problem. He said he didn't want to dilute the effort for the sake of a couple of administrative staff or the cost of that.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said that when she takes a step back and reflects on the other councils at the Department of Health has and the structure that's there, she finds their structure model to be productive. She said she thinks it would be good to have a conversation with the CDVSA team to find out if their focus is just domestic violence and sexual assault. Commissioner Hedberg said that one such DOH council she can think of has one executive director over multiple councils. And, in that example, they have one or two planners, and their focus is to provide administrative support to the council while the council is creating strategic direction. Then, she continued, the state employees are applying for the federal grants and then the work is happening by the nonprofits. Also, she said, keep in mind that public campaigns can be contracted out. You take subject matter experts from other departments. But you know a lot of this work needs to be shared with the nonprofits. So, there's sort of an everyone has a slice of the pie of the work that we're doing mentality. Deputy Commissioner Hedberg said that in her experience, it's been very helpful to have that one person as executive director. She explained that the federal funds come in for strategic direction, and then that funding goes through the department out to the non-profits.

Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust asked if everyone was familiar with how the AMHTA was staffed. He said they have one Executive Director, but two councils, like Commissioner Hedberg spoke about. Travis said that the councils meet, and they collaborate quite a bit. He said they each have their own chair, so each council has a focus on how they approach things. He did say that executive director does have quite a bit on their plate because they're balancing both councils with both boards. He said, so we do already have an example of that type of stuff already over at the Department of Health. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said Travis was correct, that model does already exist and in it, there is a position that's about \$150,000 that says they will write the grants and that's funded through that schedule.

Senator Jesse Kiehl said what he thought he could surmise from the discussions was that the CHST seemed to agree that they would like a council board to focus on these human and sex trafficking issues but that collaborates and meets with our Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. And then, as ever with good government, we should as additionally as possible, keep up on sharing expanded staff or whatever we need to do that run the right way, but it would be a good structure to actually do the work every day. He asked if he was correct in his assessment on a consensus. Heather Harris said that as a bare minimum, a discussion with CDVSA is warranted to figure out where the capacities are, where they overlap and where they need to be separate. Deputy Commissioner Barlow said we're pursuing a model like that which we have a couple of successful examples of and conversations with CDVSA where we can become aware of what needs there are without undercutting their capabilities. Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust said that one thing to consider with that model because it's not just the cost of the expanded staff, is that you also have the cost of another council getting people to and from meetings.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said one thing for the CHST members to consider regarding that is that would probably require a statutory change specific to CDVSA because CDVSA/the board/council hires the Executive Director. So, that would necessitate a statutory change. She said what can be done prior to the next meeting is to invite CDVSA to the table and have additional conversations with them. But, Katie continued, that based on prior conversations with CDVSA, she feels confident in saying that they said they could take on the trafficking stuff, but if they were to do so, they would need additional staff/resources to manage that because they are task saturated.

Someone (unable to determine who) asked the question what other states are doing in terms of their councils. Katie TePas answered that they run the gamut. She said some are under the Attorney General's Office, some are under Department of Public Safety. She said most that she has seen are a separate board/council that are in statute, but there is some efficiency to the model of having one executive director for two councils and may provide some cost savings. Katie said she can do some research on the other models and present it at the next meeting.

Heather Harris said in thinking about the key priorities and action items around foundational structure, and the conversations that need to take place with CDVSA, she posed the question as to what is the timeline that those things would need to happen by to realistically move the work forward. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said that was a question he had as well as he said he is not intimately familiar with the legislative timeline. Rep Sarah Vance said that legislative session starts in January and her goal is to have what the council wants so that she can have it drafted before January so she can get approval on it before then. Rep Vance said she is hoping she can go to the House Finance Committee and say that amendment was approved by the council and ask if they would consider adopting it into the bill. She said if we have that ready to go before January, we will be even more prepared. She continued, if we miss that, we can still move the bill over to the senate where Senator Kiehl can do it, so there is a bit of a safety net there. Rep Vance said that she would need the council approved amendment by December 15th, 2023.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said the CHST needs to work through the foundational piece of the vision and the mission and whether it is one or two councils, under the umbrella of the Department of Public Safety.

Commissioner Hedberg asked Rep Vance if that December 15th deadline was in reference to a bill on its own. Rep Vance said no. She is suggesting it as an amendment to the crime bill. She said that is why she wants to have it ready because based on the legislative culture, she feels like this is a request that will only get one shot. Rep Vance continued that the whole conversation that the criminal statutes need to be fixed needs to be followed up. She said a lot of people ask her what happened to the victims and who is looking at that. And that is why the conversation about the council came up. Rep Vance said that she personally thinks that the CHST should be its own separate council because she agrees with Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow that we have not yet even begun to understand the scope of the problem of trafficking in society and that the CHST's role will just expand over time.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said that he thinks the CHST needs to start immediately and start organizing to bring CDVSA for a special meeting to start discussing what is realistic. He said it seems that we're really starting to gravitate towards a stand alone council for CDVSA and a standalone council for the CHST, under a single Executive Director. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said there are lots of different ways to organize it and that there are numerous models across state agencies that can be evaluated as a group. So, she said, she would refrain from gravitating to one option or another at this time. She said she thinks the CHST needs to have a conversation with CDVSA. Commissioner Hedberg said she thinks it is quite critical too as labor trafficking has not been fully discussed so she said she feels that getting the Department of Labor involved as a part of the conversation is imperative. She said she did a lot of work in the seafood industry a couple of years ago and there is a space for us to engage in. She said once the CHST has the necessary conversations with CDVSA, then we can figure out if the two are one, and then the group can consider various models with examples from state government and then that can drive a small budget to prove to the legislature it works and then grow over time.

Heather Harris, facilitator asked for a point of clarification as to whether the Department of Labor also needs to be part of the conversation. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said the intention would be to have a representative from the Department of Labor as a member of the council, which was a recommendation from the Governor's Report on Trafficking; to have representatives from Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Labor. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said it was his understanding that at one point Department of Labor (DOL) had investigators that were looking into labor trafficking, but he said he did not know if that was still happening. Katie TePas, staff to the council said she could confirm that DOL had been doing some labor trafficking investigations prior to covid, but when the DPS staff was gathering information for their report last year, they discovered that investigative work was not currently still happening. Katie clarified that a representative from DOL was not invited to be a member of the CHST under the current administrative order. She said she will follow up with the Governor's Office on that.

Travis Welch asked the question as to who sets the job duties and description of CDVSA. He questioned further if it was the council or a combination of the council and commissioner's office of DPS? He said if it is the council, he thinks they would have to approve the Executive Director to take on leadership of the CHST if it were to be delegated to them to oversee. He stated that it may be that CDVSA would have internal meetings to make any changes or amendments to the structure and job description and duties. Heather Harris said Katie TePas was shaking her head yes that it is the council who must approve those prospective changes.

Heather Harris, the meeting facilitator said there are some tasks to do in relation to that. She asked if that work needed to happen in a subcommittee and if so if that subcommittee was already formed or if it needed to be formed. She asked how these steps get moved forward. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said that since CDVSA is part of DPS, they can lead that subcommittee. Heather Harris asked who DPS would need as partners for that work. Deputy Commissioner Barlow said he would need to think about that further. Senator Jesse Kiehl said that subcommittee should include a legislator, another skilled administrator outside DPS, and a representative from the labor department. Rep Vance echoed the importance of having a representative from the DOL on the infrastructure and strategic planning subcommittee. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg asked if there was certainty that the DOL did not already have a labor trafficking council or subcommittee. Rep Sarah Vance stated that they had a task force a few years ago. Katie TePas, staff to the council, said she is not aware of DOL having any subgroup/committee. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said she feels that either she or Travis Welch should be a part of the subcommittee (though she said she hesitates to volunteer as her schedule is already full) as well since they both having experience with the single executive directors that oversee multiple boards and councils that the group discussed.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said she thinks that the preliminary conversation should be focusing on structure and then once the structure is communicated, a conversation can be had about the resources to support the structure. She said otherwise, it is always going to be a resource scarce conversation. Katie TePas said to Commissioner Hedberg that perhaps if she was not available to be a part of that subcommittee, the subcommittees don't necessarily have to be members of the CHST. Katie said that maybe they can be a member of the Commissioner's organization who is representing DOH. Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said that her Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci would be a great person to represent DOH. Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust said he was happy to participate as well.

Break for lunch, End of Recorded Part 1:

After resuming the meeting after breaking for roughly 30 minutes for lunch, Heather Harris summarized the takeaways and insights from the first part of the meeting day. She said that they had worked through key priority number one and outlined some good next steps around that. She continued that as we continue to move through the priorities just remembering capacity sometimes in these rooms as we get really excited about what to accomplish and what work we want to move forward. She said that we don't want to take too big of a bite when drafting and strategizing an annual plan. She encouraged the council members to take a step back as they went through the key priority areas and formulated an annual plan and ask themselves if it was attainable. She said for the rest of the afternoon they would be working through each of those different priority areas.

Heather said as they look at key priority area #2, which is around curriculum development and training, you see that action #1 had some energy for different votes on the 1st area which is around a stakeholder group to review the existing trafficking prevention curriculum. She said, also in progress, is #2 and there is some follow up needed on #3. Laurel Shoop from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) said she would be able to speak to this priority area a bit.

Laurel Shoop from DEED said there's been some interest in implementing curricula specifically at the educator teacher level so she said their e-learning team, in cooperation with our their school Health and Safety team have looked at a timeline for implementation of this. She said they have identified federal funds for that work (existing federal funds). Laurel said that the third action item specifically says participation should be voluntary. Laurel said DHS is now part of education and that DEED anticipates that this class would be taken by about 100 people. She said the public awareness piece would be really critical in making this a success, specifically because it is voluntary. Laurel said they do have other mandatory reporter trainings and those are mandatory, legislatively mandated for teachers to take in order to be licensed or certified as a teacher.

Laurel Shoop said they have various timelines that they've discussed, but since they're still developing where they are headed and what their priorities are and how they will approach the topic of educating especially from a prevention standpoint. Rep. Sarah Vance said that what she ended up adding was expanding that area of statute that requires schools to do sexual assault awareness training that includes the discussion of human trafficking and safe online practices so it could be part of that same requirement as the mandatory reporting curriculum. Rep. Sarah Vance said she made sure the safe online practices material is age appropriate evidence based. Rep Vance said she will follow up with Laurel Shoop regarding that.

Rep Vance said if the bill were to be passed as written, it would not be long. Travis Welch asked if that would be for teachers to take or students. Rep Vance clarified it would be for teachers to implement just like they have to teach sexual assault awareness curriculum, they would have to teach the safe online practices and sex and human trafficking awareness.

Heather Harris said that in key priority two, there seemed to already be some action moving forward, partnerships and momentum and funding behind it. She asked if the group felt like this was reasonable to add to the annual plan as a priority. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said he would like to continue to develop public awareness and really train schools to start getting the word out about prevention of trafficking because it seems to be worthwhile. He said that he would support moving forward with whatever way we can or just deciding upon developing that. Heather Harris asked if DEED had already developed something like that. Laurel Shoop responded with a point of clarification that for items one and two for the education and training, they have already identified a funding source for that. She said for the K-12 trafficking curriculum, they would have to modify any curriculum that came pre-developed like the Speak Up curriculum that was presented about at a previous CHST meeting. She said she understood Speak Up had offer to provide and modify that curriculum for free, but DEED does have a procurement process they have to follow.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law asked what kind of timeline, if any, are the federal funding options on that. He asked if that was something where you could apply to a grant in two days or something. Laurel responded that pretty standard federal grants that come to the Department of Education are called SR grants and that type of funding comes to DEED every two years, but that time frame would not be a sustaining part of their program like the council has mentioned for best practices. Laurel said to update the course as needed, it would be approximately \$5,000 annually. The program as its structured now could handle that and it's within the scope of work that the funding is already going to. Chris Darnall asked for a point of clarification; that the funds in question are funds DEED already receives, without having to ask for more money. Laurel Shoop responded in the affirmative. She said they would basically allocate those funds towards that effort. She said their School Health & Safety Team uses those, but this has been identified as a priority for the governor and so they are standing behind it. The 5 grand mentioned would be the total cost and would include the stakeholder group which costs money for the per diem to bring them in, depending on how large that group may be and the cost to customize the course material to Alaska.

Someone (it was unclear as to who) said this is geared toward in classroom education and asked what about home school? Laurel Shoop responded to say that home school education in the state of Alaska is a bit of an interesting situation. She said that they don't mandate those types of training. Staci Yates spoke up to say she had something for that. She said she tried getting speak Up curriculum through Foundation United who created it and they will for free make it more culturally adapted to any area in the world. So, she said she is working with the Knik Tribe to get it into their school system and to update it. She said she hopes to first get it into home school settings because she is a homeschool parent of 20 years. She said she has six kids, so she knows it is a big demographic.

Staci Yates said She said there are so many homeschooling families here in Alaska and that right now they are working on making it an e-learning platform. And as soon as that's done, then she said she will take that to IDEA and to all the major homeschooling families and then just give it to them for free so the parents can teach their kids. So, the parents are learning about trafficking and internet safety along with their kids. And it's always age appropriate, designed for youth in grades K-12. They don't even say the word trafficking until high school.

Rep Sarah Vance said there are also a lot of home schools that are in partnership with school districts so they have all those resources available. Heather Harris said that as they thought about priority area #2, it sounded like the Department of Education was really moving those action items forward. Heather asked if there was anything else on that priority area to discuss or to make sure it was noted? Heather asked if there was a subcommittee within the council for that priority area. Laurel Shoop affirmed that there was by clarifying that in the legislature between the House and the Senate, they have an education committee within each body (a subcommittee).

Katie TePas, staff to the council brought another point of clarification. She said that there were a large number of subcommittees operating last year to put together the recommendations, but none of those are still meeting at present. So, this particular project really would live in education, and we can have members of the council participate in the stakeholder group, but they are taking the lead on that within the Department of Education. Laurel Shoop said that she would be open to participating in and chairing an education subcommittee. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he thought having an education subcommittee for the undertakings related to priority area #2 would be prudent. Rep Sarah Vance, Allison Mogensen and/or Gwen Adams from Priceless and Lieutenant Amanda Fisher from APD all said they would like to participate in an education subcommittee. Heather Harris said that was a good showing of council members and asked if anyone else would like to participate in the education subcommittee.

Heather Harris asked if there were any timelines that should be considered or take note of. Rep Sarah Vance said the deadline has come and gone for a legislative request. Laurel Shoop said that she thinks part of the conversation the subcommittee will have as a group is what that fiscal need is. She said the federal funding source for items one and two have been identified, but she said she thinks funding for three and four are still to be determined. She continued that as a side note to that curriculum development, there are other pieces of legislation involved, specifically one on financial literacy which would be implemented statewide to all children that has a price tag of \$70,000 at this time just to give you an idea of what the cost will be.

Heather asked that the group move on to Key Priority Area 3 around training to identify and respond to all forms of trafficking in Alaska. She suggested that the council members look at how the votes were disbursed for that priority area. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said ANJC is doing some work around action item number 2 as well. He asked if there was something above and beyond that that we should focus on in the next year, given that there's something kind of actively going on in Anchorage? Katie TePas, staff to the council confirmed that once ANJC is done with the curriculum, they are willing to share. Katie said that they would then have that curriculum that that is not school based, but could be used for school bus drivers, medical professionals, etc., Katie said it was her understanding that the main target audience right now is predominantly law enforcement though, but she said she does think much of it can be used for other categories. Katie TePas said there has been some discussion of taking that material and putting it into an eLearning module like the already existing modules Department of Health already has, which would have a statewide reach.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he agreed the focus was primarily on law enforcement officers given that that's where a lot of the experience is. But, he said, there are absolutely plans to get out to the community with service providers. He said he believes they are working on a master slide deck for training that can be distributed to anyone, the content of which the user could pick and choose the slides that address trafficking in Alaska. Chris said he thinks that would be a useful statewide resource.

Lieutenant Amanda Fisher said the material is as plain speak language as it can get as when you think of statutory language. They said the statutes can't be dumbed down any further. They said the material is trying to make it as open book as it can for anybody to be able to look at it and try and understand the concept of what trafficking is. Someone (indiscernible who posed the question) asked if participants could get continuing education credits from that course. Lieutenant Fisher said she imagined it would have to go through a certification process. She said the course is not very long, only eight slides, but that she has encouraged those creating the training to break some of the information into more slides as the slides are text heavy.

Rep Sarah Vance said they should get credits for it, especially educators because that's one of the incentives. She said they have so much on their plate and so many requirements so one of the questions they will be asking is what's in it for them. Katie TePas, staff to the council said that in reference to CE's for medical staff, it may be possible to have a conversation with them about that possibility. She said she thinks that's something that could be done. She did say there is a small cost to it, but it is nominal.

Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust said he had two different things to address. He asked if for law enforcement if the those who were helping with that effort were working with the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) to develop and push that course out. Katie TePas responded to say that she is working with that group on the material and once they are done, she can help them with APSC certification as it is a very simple process. Travis Welch then said as far as training and continuing education for behavioral health providers, the trust provides roughly about \$1,000,000 per year in funding. They do a lot of CEO type trainings that might be a good way to get this information out there to providers and to ensure that they're able to get some credits for it for participating in the different trainings.

Heather Harris asked for a point of clarification as to whether it was the Department of Law taking on oversight of this curriculum project. Chris Darnall said he didn't think it was necessarily LAW taking the lead on that. He said he participates on the APD ANJC Task Force as a member. Chris continued that it is similar to how DEED is taking ownership of priority area number two, APD and ANJC are taking the lead on developing that training, not the council. He said the CHST can provide support and integrate any help that the task force needs, which he said could be useful for a lot of reasons, one being that it would let other folks figure out the nuts and bolts and suss out all the problems in one area and it lets us focus on other things in the meantime to keep that 30,000 foot view. So, he said he would propose supporting that local task force if they are amenable to being supported.

Senator Jesse Kiehl asked if in terms of this material, once it is in good shape and ready to propagate out in the ways discussed, if that was something that the state and various departments would have the resources to do to get it approved as continuing medical/nursing or professional education credits, and APSC approval. He questioned further if that was going to need a resource bump. He said that's the sort of thing that seems like an easy legislative win. He said, but on the other hand, if we're already there and we don't need the money, let's do it this winter and not wait for it. Katie TePas, staff to the council said that for APSC there is not a dollar amount to get a course certified. She said it is a fairly simple process. She said the medical one has a fee involved. She said she can check with CDVSA and see what that is, but she said she felt like it's around the \$5000 mark annually. So, she said, the question is whether this is under an umbrella that's already existing. She said she has to check with DOH to find out if there is a cost to do the online version of this such that anybody can sign into that, get a certificate that they trust and that's something that's sustainable. Katie said she will have sus out some of those things. She said that might be a good win of \$30,000 versus \$3.5 million.

Heather Harris, the facilitator, asked if the ANJC task force is cognizant of the continuing ed portion. Chris Darnall said he knew they had talked about APSC credits in the past but he was not sure where they ended up on that. He said he thinks that's the type of thing that gets folks to do things. He said, for example that he takes CLE courses every year not just because he loves them likes to learn about things necessary for him to take my bar license. So, he said he does think offering those CE's is a productive tactic.

Heather Harris said she imagined the CHST would probably check in with that task force first to see how the council can best support them and potentially be a resource. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he would volunteer to take the lead on that as he could be an intermediary between the two entities given his position on both. Chris said the task force has been soliciting folks from other organizations, other task forces kind of getting best practices because not reinventing the wheel is kind of a mantra that this has been done elsewhere. While Alaska is absolutely unique, the goal is to take what other folks have learned and apply it to our unique situations and hopefully avoid some of the pitfalls. So, Chris said, they have heard from folks from other task forces and what

they have done. He said they are still in the introductory stages, building things up and developing protocols. But, he continued, there's definitely progress being made. Stakeholders have been identified and they are actually getting deliverables. He said they anticipate having some type of training, hopefully by the end of August, but that might be still tentative.

Heather Harris asked if there are any timelines to be aware of for the CLE requirements and how long that process might take. She said she imagined the CHST was also thinking about the financial aspect, potentially having a related legislative ask later down the road. Katie TePas, staff to the council said she would find out the cost is. Katie said she has a meeting with Pat Sidmore from Education the following week to discuss online curriculum. Key Priority Area 3 was wrapped up and Heather asked that the group move on to Key Priority Area 4.

Heather Harris said there appeared to be several items in that priority area that needed follow up. She asked that the council members notice the voting/energy specifically around item #3, around campaign messages. She said that seemed to be an area to start with to get that information out and get the momentum going. Rep Sarah Vance said that one of the things she would like a clarification on are the definitions of sex and labor trafficking. She said one of the things she has discovered is that different organizations have a different definition for trafficking types. She said it seems that all the intakes and surveys using different definitions just create more gaps. She asked if there had been a conversation to try to solidify that. She asked if the plan was to use the statutory definition or just the general concept of understanding? She also asked if the Council had discussed that before?

Staci Yates from MyHouse said she agreed that was important to agree upon for a good foundation to the messaging. She said, being a survivor of trafficking, she didn't know that she was a trafficking survivor until a decade ago. And so, she said, in the campaign, it needs to be clear what trafficking is for the public. If someone who is a victim of trafficking sees messaging consistent with their circumstances of trading sex for food, for clothing, for drugs, they may realize that is trafficking and that they can get help or that what is happening to them is against Alaska state law. So, Staci encouraged that the messaging be simple and in layman's terms.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he wholeheartedly agreed. He said he lives in a world of statutes and elements enacted by the legislature, and he breaks them down into things he thinks he needs to prove to a jury. He said normal people don't think like that. The average person on the street is not going to think about have you been induced or caused under the age of 20. He said, that is not how it works and that causes some disconnected numbers. Chris said they really need to be talking about it, not necessarily in terms of the cases that can be charged based on the elements that are present, but in layman's terms. Chris said the messaging should be explaining to them, this is what trafficking looks like in Alaska; this is what is meant by the word trafficking and here's how they can get help, whether he can get a criminal prosecution out of it or not. He said that's very important to him as a prosecutor. It's important to law. But he thinks in talking about messaging and getting a message out there under a broader umbrella first and then maybe they can talk about the crimes they can charge once they get them referred and go through investigations.

Katie TePas said one thing to keep in mind is one of the provisions under the administrative order, was that public awareness messaging be translated into different languages that we have and we have the language line resource for that. So, she continued, in this conversation it's important to speak not as if we are speaking attorneys or cops but speaking to the public. Katie said there are already some materials out there in different languages that are pretty good so using those materials could be a possibility, but then the bigger issue is how to get that messaging out. She said, as the council had heard from Ann Potempa from DOH, it can be a pretty hefty cost to really run a very large statewide and to some extent complex with the translations, public awareness campaign.

Heather Harris, the facilitator asked if there was a department that naturally goes under that's already being worked on? Senator Jesse Kiehl said that DOH does the Play Every Day Campaign and the Tobacco and Highway Safety Campaigns. DPS does some public safety messaging. He said he thought Department of Health had run the most public awareness campaigns and done them well.

Travis Welch said he was thinking about how different audiences are going to respond to different organizations. So, he said he could see a very broad campaign where maybe each department could customize the information because each segment of the population will respond differently to information depending on which specific agency or department such as DPS or DOH the information is coming from. He said you've got parents trying to get information to them they can protect their kids, you've got victims that you're trying to get information to so they can get assistance. He continued that you've got all these different groups that we really want to try to target, and it may be best to have a collaborative effort of different departments getting this information out there depending on which group we're trying to target with that particular message.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said he agreed that maybe the core message could be the same, but it could be customized by audience and expertise. However, he said, the caveat is going to be the awareness that the customization will be quite drastic like this is what this is and what it looks like to avoid it (DOH) and this is what this is and what it looks like to report it (DPS). DC Barlow said it will be a little bit different depending on what you're trying to get the public right to do with that information.

Staci Yates from MyHouse said it would also be helpful to develop a website about trafficking with customized links for parents, for victims, for providers so they could navigate to those resources; a one stop shop resource center where folks can get help, information and support which could live on the existing website of the council. She said she is often asked where folks can go for links and resources.

Travis Welch said one thing the trust did as they were trying to get information out about something was they had paid articles through the Anchorage Daily News (ADN). He said they had different organizations talking about their experience and their involvement such as APD, The Fire Department and DOC. He said that approach enabled them to get that information to different segments of the population and was very effective. As far as getting content out there, he expressed that he loved the idea of putting different links on the website. He said he thinks it needs to be robust, collaborative and make sure that all the different organizations people want to make sure we target are being targeted.

Heather Harris asked where a communication plan like that lives within the council. She asked if a subcommittee should be created. She asked further who would hold that work to have conversations about which tactics to move forward. Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, staff to the council said there is a public awareness subcommittee, but it hasn't met for quite a while. Heather asked for consensus that in thinking about that collaborative space, all the departments will be identified and the Public Information Officers (PIO) from each respective participating department will be brought together to participate in the subcommittee. Heather asked for clarification that the next step would be to ask those departments to bring in their PIO's to have the meeting. Rep Sarah Vance said that before they do that, they need to know what information to present. She said she recently wanted to provide a trafficking brochure at a screening for the movie The Sound of Freedom. She asked if anyone had a brochure she could hand to people as they went into the theater, so she called Staci Yates. Staci sent her what she had, and Rep Vance took that and made a trifold from her office that had the national stuff and information about the governor's bill. She said that quest for materials made her realize that the state does not have a resource and further that very little is known about the scope of trafficking in Alaska. So, she said, before we bring the PIO's together, the council needs to decide what the messaging will be. Rep Vance said that the other question that she had was can the work begin immediately or is it dependent upon funding.

Senator Jesse Kiehl said he cannot answer the funding question but that he suspects that the group that the council puts together will identify existing resources, identify grants, and submit a budget ask to the Governor, but in terms of what traffickers can be charged with, he surmised that maybe he should not be the one writing the messaging. He said the first three bullets on Key Priority Area 4, under action item 3 seem like the work of a marketing team of people who know what they are doing. He asked if the council felt that there were things missing from those first three bullets. He also asked if that is where they need a public messaging campaign to start.

Travis Welch said that he finds that the definitions of sex and labor trafficking to be extremely important. He said that he believes the CHST can really go towards helping understand what it is we need to communicate, what type of data needs to be tracked and how to track that data. He gave an example of how One DOC has found difficulty tracking recidivism. Travis said that we have a state definition for tracking recidivism or for defining what recidivism is. But then, so many different organizations define it differently based on that organization and how they approach the topic that when we get to trying to report recidivism rates, to the legislature for example, the Department of Corrections would report what it is based on the state definition. But then, a nonprofit organization would report their recidivism rate, which could be drastically different because they're not using the same definition or the same criteria. Heather Harris posed the question as to whether the definitions and criteria needed to be the same for this public awareness campaign.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he did not necessarily think it needed to be the same. He said when he envisions a public awareness campaign, he's less worried about getting granular data out of it. He said he is more concerned about getting the person on the street to become informed about signs and symptoms of trafficking, resources that are available related to trafficking and what they can do if they think they or someone they know are being trafficked. He said he means that from a general colloquial sense of what trafficking is. Maybe not the statutory definition or how it is defined by DOC, but he said he thinks they will find those anyway. But if we have the person out there saying, hey, I think this is trafficking, the rest of us with expertise will find the cases that we want. He said the way you do that is by giving a very simple definition of trafficking.

Staci Yates from MyHouse said that when she started in trafficking recovery services, there was no messaging or resources. She said she thinks the messaging should list behaviors and circumstances consistent with trafficking such as trading sex for a place to stay or food or drugs, or being threatened physical harm, they are holding your ID, or keeping your money in exchange for sex. She said you can and should put it all in one message and then put it in cabs and at bus stops and places where trafficked persons may be. Lieutenant Amanda Fisher said they are in agreement with what Staci said that maybe the best strategy would be to focus on the signs and symptoms of trafficking rather than the definition.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that DPS had 6 subcommittees going last year. That's a heavy lift for DPS. She observed that the group was starting to trend back towards that. She said there is a lot that can be done by the subcommittees and then they can report back. She continued that she thinks if a subcommittee can first work on which of the signs and symptoms should be included, what's the message and maybe a couple different messages depending upon the audience, that would be productive and effective, that would be separate from the education subcommittee. And, she said, once that's done, then the PIO's can gather to say to determine what it will take for each department to customize their message and distribute it.

Katie TePas said that one of the entities that needs to be on the subcommittee but that is not represented on the council is the AIJ because they are representing the limited English Language Learners. She said AIJ is the entity the council will be leaning on heavily to translate all that messaging.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow suggested that the public information officers come up with a product collectively that meets the general message. He said it may have its own little twist depending on the discipline of those involved, health, law, public safety so on and so forth. But then, he said, the question is cost. So, he suggested that it be budgeted for and developed internally, at least in the beginning, before work is done on the budgets for public outreach and successive years. First, he suggested we develop something internally that's of sufficient quality. And even if it's just on the websites, the department websites themselves don't cost anything except for people's time and expertise internally. Heather Harris said what she thought she was hearing was that the intention would be to do it internally with a small lead up and then as the council is stabilizing and the infrastructure is in place, then to go to the Governor and legislature to ask for a larger financial campaign, longer commitment to a broader, more professionally done campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow confirmed that yes, the idea would be develop it to the point they can internally within their own budgets and using the mechanisms they have to get the word out. And if they want to get beyond that to reach for a higher level of quality or to distribute it to a different audience with different mechanisms and that costs money, having that proof of concept provides them with a leg to stand on to ask for money.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that she was taking notes and she would need to know who wanted to be on this subcommittee. She also said, this is going to be probably the more difficult conversation, which is to talk about signs, symptoms, screening, behavior without power, however we choose to define that, but then it's the resources. So, we're saying if you see this then call (the police), but then we also want to be directing survivors to a specific place. So right now, that's going to have to be the national hotline or what the group discussed was, if we have regional stuff, we can be directing them to the local victim service programs, which are the existing programs that are currently most if not all funded by CDVSA. But, she said, there needs to be a larger conversation of what resources are we directing people to?

Rep Sarah Vance said that she thinks that Department of Labor should be able to have a message that goes to their industry because she has already had someone from a trucking company that wants to develop some training for truckers on trafficking. She said the hospitality industry is already doing things. Restaurants are already doing things. When she was requesting to have trafficking stickers installed inside the bathroom stalls at the airport, she said she asked herself why it was so hard. She said any time she travels out of state she sees those stickers in bathroom stalls across the country, but getting approval to put them in the bathrooms at the Anchorage airport was very challenging. The handprint sticker that she was able to get placed in the bathrooms there has the national hotline on it and she said she would question greatly how that helps a local victim and they said it that's the number one way that will direct them to local services. She expressed that if their efforts stay consistent with that, it will be beneficial. Rep Vance said she is working on getting the stickers placed on all the ferries as well.

Katie TePas, said that the National Hotline have an internal list of resources that they refer to. But then, she said, the next phase is another layer. So, for example, if they refer to agency x and agency X doesn't have a 24 hour hotline, a victim will have to wait and so those are some of the struggles with not having a specific statewide hotline. Katie said that of all the CDVSA funded project service programs, most of them have 24 hour coverage. She said she thinks that was where they settled on some of the public data in the conversation, ultimately relying on at least getting directed to a regional victim service provider which would mean they have to talk to the hotline get them all the correct information and updated resources. But, even then, if a call comes to them, how do they determine if one resource is a better fit than another? There would need to be some training on who to refer to for both human and sex trafficking victims.

Chris Darnall from LAW said that when she mentioned that the national hotline refers to a list of regional resources that they know about, he wondered why we don't just tell them about all the other resources that we have and it sounds like that could be possible. He asked, practically speaking, how possible that was. Katie TePas said she would start with having a conversation with Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). She said they are the membership program of most of the funding shelters in the state and that she would notify them of what we'd like to do and then they can have that conversation about the programs. If they say yes, then she said she thinks it's a simple reach out to the hotline to say here's the list. She said she would instruct them that if they get calls, referring to X is the best direction. And part of that conversation with the network has to be whether they are willing to do training with folks on working with victims and survivors of trafficking. Katie said sometimes we automatically assume they can do it, but they might not have that specific unique expertise that's identified to this particular topic with this particular victimology.

Heather Harris said it sounds like there is some tactical work to do there by this council. She asked if she was hearing that a subcommittee needs to get made (one for every strategy area?). Heather said it was okay to say we don't know and at the end when we talk about the other priority areas to say, okay, what really is the thing we're going to report this year? Staci Yates said she really feels public awareness is big. She said she would be willing to chair that subcommittee because she said that is part of her passion, getting that awareness to the parents.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said in relation to the translations in action item 4, they are going to cost money. So that would be a fiscal note, but it just depends on the length of the document. Katie said she would recommend using them because a lot of them are certified. There are 9 languages that were recommended to have the public awareness messaging translated to. Heather Harris asked if in thinking about the committee coming together, doing this work, the translation piece costing money, in the timeline of things and the budget cycle, if there is a timeline of when some of this work needs to get complete so that it can be incorporated into legislative requests. Chris Darnall from LAW said it would be nice for the subcommittee to convene and to have some kind of deliverable by December of some kind, even if it is just the update of the council website attached to DPS. Staci Yates from MyHouse added that January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month so it would be good to have it by then and then they could push it out in January for that month.

Heather Harris asked if the department has the capacity to provide the administrative support to that committee, or if it needs to come from somewhere else. Katie TePas said she will take on a conversation with Commissioner Hedberg to see if that is something they can staff. Katie said that sometimes the subcommittee work is tedious because of the scheduling and reminders. But what is most needed is one of the council members to be the lead for the meeting and facilitate those discussions versus it falling on her because that means she has to maintain expertise on all of them. So, she said, it is easier, if one of you (the CHST) is taking the lead and if we as the staff to the council are just doing some of the background scheduling. Laurel Shoop from DEED asked if the subcommittee meetings needed to be publicly noticed. Katie TePas said they are publicly noticed, but they are not recorded and meeting minutes are not generated from them as DPS does not have the staffing capability for that. Technically speaking, she said, the administrative order has been fulfilled. She said the council is working above and beyond that.

Heather Harris said there has been a lot of conversation about the interest in this public awareness piece and the importance of getting the communication out. She said the council was strategizing about staffing and how tasks were going to happen. She said, as the council members were thinking about structure and support to the council, this is where some of those funds would be needed to make things come to fruition or help things move forward. Heather said she heard Katie request that someone take the lead on the committee to provide kind of hold that space and facilitate it. She asked if anyone would like to volunteer. Staci Yates reiterated that she would chair that subcommittee. Heather wrapped up priority area 4 by saying they'd had some big, big takeaways, some uncertainty about translation costs, what that looks like, but a timeline, and a lead to champion the move forward.

10 Minute Break

Heather Harris said they made it through Priority Area #4 and they were on to #5, housing insecurities and vulnerabilities, which she noticed did not necessarily get a lot of votes, but that could be because this priority area just feels down the road and it's not realistic to tackle presently. So, Heather encouraged the group to pause there for a moment and make sure that is a correct assessment in thinking about an annual plan to determine if there's anything that's needs to be done this year in this key priority area. Laurel Shoop from DEED asked if there was still a designee from CDVSA on the council as they were recommended to be the lead fiscal agent for action item 8 of Priority Area 5. Senator Jesse Kiehl said his recollection of that language was that the report recommended lead fiscal agency be that agency, not necessarily that they had the money. Senator Kiehl said one of their legislative goals when designating who will be fiscal agent would be that they recommend they put the budget requests together whether they would like to have to receive federal money or bill the general fund or whatever else we come up with. Heather Harris clarified that they would then be considered the fiscal host to pass funds through. Senator confirmed yes that was the case unless the Executive branch decided upon another entity to put forward the budget request.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that originally this recommendation was reflected such that the CHST was the policy arm and CDVSA was the funding agent so depending upon what happens with the legislation and what is decided with the infrastructure of the council, then all of that would change and lead to a bigger conversation.

Rep Sarah Vance said key priority 5 is being worked to some degree as MyHouse has a DOJ grant that goes through Alaska Housing. Heather Harris said it sounds like externally, outside of the council, there's work moving this forward but right now maybe there isn't an area to focus on for this council relative to the annual plan, but maybe if there's an opportunity for the council to support a particular project who is doing work in that area right now, that could be taken into consideration. Katie TePas said, specific to the SAFE-T program and the grant through AHFC, she can check with AHFC and find out if there is an ability to increase that funding amount. So, she posed the question as to whether they apply for a specific amount and if that can be increased.

Travis Welch from AMTHA said they have a proposal in their Mental Health Trust Fiscal Year 25 budget, which goes before trustees next week to provide funding to ANDVSA for housing support for victims receiving services from their member organization. He said this is funding that can be a safety net for individuals who don't qualify for some AHFC programs. For example, he said, people who are here legally but not yet citizens, or their victims of a crime that don't always qualify for something. So, he said, this is funding that if someone does not qualify for a program, could potentially still get funding (in FY 25). Travis said that in developing their trust budget, for example, one huge benefit of being part of the process of these conversations is that he can go to trustees when we have a proposal and report that in meetings with the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, this has been identified as a need. He said this money goes to serve trust beneficiaries, so these conversations are a huge help in getting this funding approved.

Heather Harris turned the attention the council to Priority Area # 6, expanding services for survivors. She said this was the area that had the most attention and votes. She said it looks like action item #2 is the one that needs some follow up. Staci Yates said that #2 is basically the SAFE-T model and that's what MyHouse does. She said they have the wrap around services, have member support and on site mental health counseling. She said they do have on site medical services now that works with sex trafficking survivors. So, she said, she thinks this one is something they want to see expanded statewide. But, then again, she said it will also take funds to pop up more of those sites statewide. She reiterated that MyHouse is being supported by the SAFE-T grant through the Alaska Housing, but that expanding that could be a big lift.

Rep Sarah Vance said that the more that the public awareness campaign gains ground, the more that people will organize and there will be different organizations that pop up. She said knowing that trafficking is a bigger issue than most people realize is going to help overcome the hurdles and to getting implementation for these services. She said right now people are still like, well, there's all these other things that are a much higher priority, not realizing that a lot of what they're dealing with are people who are being trafficked. Rep Vance said this is obviously an area that she thinks the Council needs to continue to work on because it's one of those things that's ever evolving, but she said she thinks we're going to see once the public awareness campaign gets going, this one will naturally grow. Rep Vance said when looking at # 6 on Priority Area 6, the development of a rural guide or toolkit with resources for survivors and primary prevention for communities is possibly something that could be worked on, because right now one of the things that seems to be a need is to compile some basic information as that is a consistent request she gets.

Rep Vance said that the next question that someone asked her when they saw that the only number that she had listed was the national hotline was what other resources they call if they have someone. She said her best friend reported to her that she has people coming through all the time who want to know what resources they have, who they should call and what they should do. Rep Vance said that is something that shouldn't take funding necessarily, just manpower to pool the regional resources. She said a lot of the tribes are putting trafficking on their websites as awareness that she had not seen before. So, they're trying to reach their communities. But she asked do we have a one stop shop of in this region there's these resources to reach out to. She asked if the council has compiled anything like that and is that something that Priority Area 6 can focus on for this next year.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that particular recommendation came from Brittany who unfortunately had having trouble signing back in to the meeting. So, she said she while she could not speak for her, she could follow up with her on maybe her taking the lead as a tribal representative on this group as well as there's the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. Katie said she can see what they have specific to this project because she said she does feel like on this specific item having tribal representation or a tribal representative meeting is going to be pretty convenient.

Rep Sarah Vance said she gets calls all the time in her office randomly asking for resources. So, she said when that list of resources is compiled, it would be good to send it to the executive branch and ask them to communicate that to the legislators because she said they often are that bridge between the public and the executive branch of available resources. Katie TePas said she will have to talk with the AST side of the House, but that DPS has two newer Tribal Liaison positions; one that's working for the VPSO program and one that is directly assigned to AST. Darlene Dye, the AST based Tribal Liaison can be a resource and could potentially help on that project. Katie also said the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center does have a guide for missing persons so she hopes maybe there is a companion guide relevant to trafficking.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law suggested that action item 6 be assigned to the Public Awareness subcommittee so that as he said it seems like an easy, deliverable, solid win and if the plan is to do that, he said other regional tribal corporations might be a really good resource to have on that group.

Travis Welch said that requests for funding have been coming in since this council started to do its work, and he said he is in the final stages of finalizing grant proposals for their CEO to sign that would provide some of this funding, but it's just a drop in the bucket as far as what really is needed. He said he knows there have been a lot of conversations with CDVSA and ANDVSA and member organizations about billing Medicaid because a number of these organizations provide services that are Medicaid billable. However, he said, the administrative burden to billing Medicaid is huge. And also, the information that has to be provided is sensitive information and you're talking about victims of violent crime. He said he did not know if there's some work that can be done to try to mitigate that, but there's a lot of funding out there that could be utilized just through billing Medicaid that's not accessed right now that is sustainable. Staci Yates confirmed that billing Medicaid is a task saturated process as MyHouse does bill them.

Deputy Commissioner April Wilkerson from DOC said she feels the challenging part of it is getting the individual eligible for Medicaid. She said she knows when Medicaid expanded for their inmate population, they worked diligently on this 32 page packet and necked it down to two pages because they didn't need all the other services. She said she thought Commissioner Hedberg would probably be the best person to assist with that. Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust said that for nonprofit organizations who provide services to trust beneficiaries, which that would be doing, the trust does offer technical assistance through contractors that they have contracts with to work on setting up those systems.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law asked if that was something organizations (aside from MyHouse that does bill Medicaid) are aware of. Travis Welch said that at least with the organizations who they mainly work with, they're very much aware of their technical assistance programs. He said that was a conversation that was happening with ANDVSA member organizations to ascertain if they want to bill Medicaid and if that is something that they feel that they can do and still provide the same level of service to the people that are providing services? He said he knew Director Casto had had a number of conversations with different organizations about how that would work. There are just some barriers such as privacy (and how to maintain it), which becomes a big issue with billing Medicaid. Chris Darnall asked whether the privacy concerns raised were coming from community settings (patients/clients) or from providers. Travis responded that the concerns have been coming from providers who are not wanting to provide the information that they would need to sign someone up for Medicaid or ensure that they're signed up for Medicaid or to even bill Medicaid.

Staci Yates from MyHouse said that they have all their clients sign up for Medicaid as part of their intake process given that they are homeless youth. She said MyHouse helps them get driver's licenses, birth certificates and various things they need for stabilization. Heather Harris from Foraker said that what she has seen in the nonprofit sector, as far as providers, is that it's the infrastructure and administrative burden around Medicaid. So, she said, a lot of direct service organizations are doing case management to help clients, but for the organizations themselves that bill, Medicaid is still such a heavy lift. And, she said, many of the providers are not the size of MyHouse. And when the organization is small, they don't have a number of clients enough to make it worth the heavy lift of the administrative burden and infrastructure needed to actually bill Medicaid. Senator Jesse Kiehl asked if medical records were needed to bill Medicaid. Heather confirmed that yes, part of that process requires submitting medical records.

Travis Welch said the trust has provided funding for electronic health records so that organizations can bill Medicaid. Chris Darnall (LAW) asked if that technical assistance and support from the trust that Travis mentioned earlier was a one time thing to get the organizations set up or if it was ongoing. Travis said they do provide funding, kind of like bridge funding, to help an organization transition and get to where they're more sustainable. He said it is something they evaluate and address on a case by case basis for each respective organization. Heather Harris said that is a valuable resource for nonprofits. She said nonprofits can get their money in two ways. They can get earned (Medicaid or private pay) or they get it charitably given. She said most nonprofits specialize in one and sometimes dabble in the other. So, she continued a lot of the providers are charitable organizations and so to make it shift into earned revenue that way, it takes a lot of the energy and so there are grants they can help build and grow systems, but then there has to be continued support to maintain that.

Rep Sarah Vance asked if to address Priority Area 6, action item #1, some of the statutory need to expand services to trafficking survivors was just a matter of needing to add funding. She said what was originally in the governor's bill was CDVSA expanding their role to include sex trafficking so that the money they got could be utilized, but then asked if there were other areas of funding that have not been considered where additional funds could be allocated. Senator Jesse Kiehl said unfortunately those action items under this priority area with a huge number of votes as these being critical things for us to work on are also the most expensive things, and the most time sensitive. Katie TePas suggested that maybe that particular area be tabled until Commissioner Hedberg returned. She said she thought she would be back around 2:30pm.

Heather Harris, the facilitator suggested the group move to Priority Area 7, which is about establishing demand reduction diversion programs. She said there was nothing currently in the progress under that priority area and none of the action items under it seemed to garner a lot of votes. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said he thought this priority area had a lot of merit but was more applicable and appropriate to address in the long term. Katie TePas, staff to the council said that one thing to consider is that part of the public awareness campaign can be targeting people who are purchasing sex. Senator Jesse Kiehl said that almost a year ago when the council was putting the report together, he felt like there were new demand reduction programs, though they were not well established in many places. He asked if there were evaluations being done in those places and if there is research under way or published showing the efficacy of those demand reduction programs. Chris Darnall, Department of Law said there was a limited number of studies out there on the actual efficacy of those programs. He said he suspected in the past year that might not have changed too terribly much, but he said he thought that was worth looking into. He said he is an evidence based person by training. Chris said he liked the idea, but that he would want evidence showing they work, and it would be worthwhile to put effort in the following year to look into whether there have been new studies, whether there is more research, even if this will be addressed in the public awareness campaign. He said he still thinks the council should renew their familiarity with the evidence out there.

Katie TePas said there is limited research out of Ohio on the efficacy of those programs and many of the programs only work if law enforcement is doing stings to catch the purchasers of the sex and then they're put into "john school" where it's actually the cost savings and part of their fee then pays for this course plus part of the fee goes to victim services. So that is a way of funding victim services. Katie said that it can be part of the annual plan to research demand reduction programs and their efficacy. Rep Sarah Vance said it would be very helpful to have data saying those programs actually work because she said, from a public standpoint, it would be a very heavy lift to put money into a "john" school. She said the fact that we don't have laws still going after the "johns" is a problem. She said when she first about the concept of demand reduction schools she hadn't heard of it, but her mind went to the educational component of addressing this culturally with young people.

Rep Vance asked Staci if, as she has been addressing the education aspect of tackling trafficking, if that is a component of not just talking about, this is what trafficking looks like, this is what being groomed looks like, but the concept of educating young people on the fact that they shouldn't buy sex from someone because it is not respecting an individual to purchase sex, especially because that person could potentially be there against their will. She asked if that is part of the educational curriculum? Staci Yates from MyHouse said that is part of the Speak Up curriculum. She said when she does personal presentations, she always talks about that and about the effects of being exposed to that at a very early age too. Rep Sarah Vance said there was a country in Africa that had the highest rate of rape in the world and first, they taught the young girls not to go in dark alleys or dress provocatively and it didn't change the statistics at all. Then, they started teaching the boys about having respect for the girls and women and it dropped significantly. When they started teaching young boys about what a respectful relationship looks like, they reduced the rate of rape by 40% just by educating their young people. So, she said she thinks priority area 7 is extremely important and addressing it with young people by focusing on the educational component will be far reaching in the reduction impact.

Heather Harris wrapped up Priority Area 7 and directed the council members to turn their attention to Priority Area 8, identifying gaps in information on trafficking. She said, so again, there was not a standout real priority with the voting, but she said it tells her that there is some interest in addressing those in the more near term. She asked if there was anybody that wanted to start them out on that topic? Staci Yates from MyHouse said that under #3, commission a study on student knowledge risk and response, she said that in the Speak Up curriculum, it does a pretest, but she didn't know if that was sufficient to address that action item. And then, she said, for action item #1, to develop the screening tool for commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking of minors, she said she knew a lot of the nonprofits use their own trafficking tools. She said she created one for MyHouse and Covenant House and Priceless have their own. But as far as the council, she said it would be nice if they had a screening tool resource that all the other service providers could utilize.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said they saw this with the data report when collecting data for it. Rep Sarah Vance said she recommends that the council have a specific baseline tool because as the issue grows, more organizations are developed and if the council is a distributor of grants, there's going to have to be a certain criterion for different organizations. She said developing a baseline screening tool will also help with the collection of data. She said when reading the report, she was surprised by the lack of cohesion between organizations. She said she thinks that while not a high priority to happen right away, she said she thinks establishing a baseline screening tool within the next year should be a high priority. Heather Harris asked if a screening tool is needed in the public awareness space? Lieutenant Amanda Fisher said she didn't think a screening tool was necessary for a public awareness campaign. And, she said, it sounded like numerous screening tools already exist. She said, there may be several in other states that already exist that could be compiled to look at together and decide what the best one is for our state, for our communities, and for our cultural differences so that we can compile a screening tool that works best for us, or at least a baseline of one to build from. Staci Yates from MyHouse said the screening tool is useful for law enforcement, health care providers and service providers.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law said that one of the subcommittees he was on at some point in the past year tackled this issue a little bit and one of the things they ran into was that everyone has different grants and therefore they're tracking different things according to grant requirements. So, he said, a universal screening tool was a bigger lift than it seemed because there really is no one-size-fits-all for these organizations. He said he would love to have a universal definition of trafficking, but that if he's going to pick one, it's not going to be the criminal definition because that's the narrowest, that's what he absolutely can prove beyond a reasonable doubt. So, he said he would air on the side of the broader definition while reiterating that making a baseline screening tool for everybody might be harder than imagined.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said it came up in 2 subcommittees: CSEC, commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as in the data subcommittee. To speak to what Chris just said and what Rep Vance had said, she said she has given up on having one definition and started telling people she does not think it's worth the effort to pursue that. Instead, she said, what we have to do is, when we talk about the data, we footnote what their definition is, which is what is in our data document, which will continue to be updated annually. Katie said that Kristen Harris from Prevention Now who presented to the council at the previous meeting, is having a meeting in the next few months during which they are expected to talk about screening tools. She said, just as a reminder, one of the things that her group is doing is they're trying to work with providers around the state to figure out partially this, this lack of data and how to streamline a screening tool. Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, staff to the council said that when Kristen Harris from Prevention Now presented to the council about the screening tools that were identified in the Human trafficking Data assessment, they found 11 individual screening tools in Alaska. Accordingly, Katie TePas said there are many entities that do have screening tools, so she thinks part of the discussion has to be who doesn't have them and who needs them. Heather Harris said it sounded like Prevention Now was doing some valuable work on this issue, but the council's energy would not be going toward key priority area 8 at this time.

Rep Sarah Vance said that on action item #7 it says to establish a system for ongoing data coordination. She said she knew the council did all the work to put the report together by soliciting data from various entities, but she asked if anything had been communicated as to a timeline on updating it for 2023 data. Katie TePas, staff to the council said that the plan is to update it annually and have a draft of the newest one done by the beginning of legislative session in January. Katie said that a lot of the data that is collected is calendar year data, so updated data will be solicited at year end. So, prior to that, Katie said the hope is for the data subcommittee to reconvene to ask what else is needed for inclusion in the document and what is unclear. She said she thinks that despite it being a very heavy lift for DPS that they can start that work now to update it for 2023 data. She said going forward, it should be easier for those that have already given them data to replicate that. So, Katie said, her ask for that then is for the council to review the data summary document and at the next meeting, there can be a discussion on anything the council might feel is missing from the document.

Lisa Purinton from DPS said that one thing to consider about CDVSA is that as a grant funding source, when they're going out to get those federal funds, they have to provide numbers and data that are consistent. So, she said, if the plan is for the council to eventually have them be a grant funding mechanism for the service providers and the prevention programs, then that's something to think about for those data definitions and that's not something that will be able to be shifted on right away if everybody has their own different ones. She said if you're trying to go out for those federal funds and this is the funding source, you're going to have to have some level of consistency on whatever those mechanisms are. So, just something to think about for future growth she added.

Heather Harris asked if in thinking about the timeline of that future growth and the work by Prevention Now, if that is enough of a lead up to then get that common definition to move forward to be a funding entity here and not be a grantor that gets yet another definition. Katie TePas said her recommendation is that they would not necessarily going to come to a consensus on a definition because the feds have one, the state has one. Instead, she said she thinks, they have to accept that. She said they just have to be able to explain it, but they can talk with the existing folks who are granting money out to discuss figure out how to how to be the granting agency but have it be broad enough to meets the organization's needs.

Travis Welch from the Mental Health Trust said in regards to what Lisa just said about how CDVSA has to have some specific data that they collect or report on in order to get federal funding for the different grant programs they apply for. He said he kind of views it in a similar way to the NIBRS report. He said they have certain data points that they have to report to the FBI every year for law enforcement. He said he looks at this as being similar such that the council has certain data points that we're going to want to collect uniformly among all the different programs that we work with that we then would then provide to the feds in order to be eligible for grant funding.

But then of course, he said, the organizations would have data they're going to collect on their own that isn't a part of that data set for their own grant reporting for the various programs that they provide beyond just what we're looking at. Lisa Purinton, DPS said that in her former life she was a chief who worked on crime reporting and one of the things that is always a challenge because of state laws is that every state has their own laws and they're going to classify different crimes accordingly to their statutes. And so, she said, when the FBI had the huge challenge of trying to say how do you compare murder in Alaska to the murder rates in Florida, questions were raised such as has crime gone up or down and are certain states better or worse than others. And so, she said, they had to come up with a common definition that was very generic. So, what law enforcement agencies do is they take those statutes, and they code them accordingly. They say if it's this, then we're going to code it this way. And so, the agencies can still keep their definitions, it works for their organization, but they're saying when it comes to federal funding, we're going to call it this and this falls into this category. And luckily with human trafficking and labor trafficking, there are only a couple codes to have to work with. She said it is a data mapping process that is done for each organization and then the council would be the keeper of that data map that says here's where you have to map it to, and you keep it in a very generic format. She said it doesn't have to match state law and it doesn't have to match federal law, it just has to be applied consistently.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that when the bill passes, it will create that statute definition. Sex trafficking will become a sex crime. If it is a sex crime, then that falls under the felony sex offense report that all municipal police agencies have to participate in. And then we generate that. So, she said, there will be knowledge of that particular area. But, she said, the caveat is that most of these cases go unreported and therefore are not representative of the amount of victimization.

Heather Harris, the facilitator reflected that it sounded like Priority Area 8 was probably on a longer term timeline, but that presently it is mostly about the annual report data. Katie TePas said, she suggests that the data subcommittee be responsible for Priority Area 8, if the council approves and DPS/the data subcommittee will work on generating the annual data document. Chris Darnall from Department of Law made a motion for the data subcommittee to start meeting again and seconded it. Katie TePas said she will talk with Commissioner Heidi Hedberg about this as well, but she said they could potentially get questions added to the Behavioral Risk Assessment Surveillance System and the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System. So, she said the questions would have to be drafted and likely submitted in the near future.

Chris Darnall from LAW asked for a point of clarification for this group. He said, in reference to action item # 8 that when he sees the words meta-analysis, his brain goes to beta and analytical study of the research that's out there in journals. So, he clarified if that is what is being asked of the data subcommittee to go ahead and do? Katie TePas responded to say she believed that this recommendation was one that Travis Welch had brought up during the data subcommittee. She said there's layers of data available. There's data that exists within the state of Alaska. And then there's also all sorts of additional research that has been done nationwide and that we need to do a dive on because that can help us inform our policy decisions, not just on this, but in terms of national trends and best practices. Senator Jesse Kiehl said there is legislated research agency available for that.

Travis Welch from the Mental Health Trust said that he had a meeting scheduled for the following day with Brad Myr Stol with the Alaska Justice Information Center to line out what the trust would like to see them work on. So, he said he would discuss that with him.

5 Minute Break

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg returned to the meeting. She brought her Deputy Commissioner, Emily Ricci with her who she introduced to the council. Heather Harris gave Commissioner Hedberg a brief update on the context of the council's Medicaid questions and a synopsis of what she had missed. She said the council had opted to put a pin in some questions and discussion until Commissioner Hedberg returned around Department of Health and their capacity around Medicaid.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said she would give a brief, super high level response and then defer to Emily for any input. She said she wanted to especially highlight the bullet points under Key Priority Area Action Item #1 which included recovery services, food, peer support, mentoring programs and trauma informed counseling. She said she thinks the relevant question is who is the audience? Is it nonprofit organizations or is it suppliers for the nonprofit organizations? Commissioner Hedberg said that trauma informed counseling is a curriculum that they have embraced at the health department and has already been completed in many of their positions. She continued in saying that all their public health centers have trauma informed conversations and that their eligibility technicians are trained to have trauma informed conversations. Whether they all do this is a different question, but there's training around it.

She said Department of Health has peer support and mentorship programs. She said, within Medicaid, within Behavioral Services, there's substance use peer mentoring. She said she does not think it's an apples to apples conversation. She said she does not think all the nonprofits are trained for awareness of sex and human trafficking. Commissioner Hedberg said she thinks that goes back to the other key area around developing a curriculum. She questioned if the bullet point of medical services was in reference to EMS or the Emergency Department of a medical facility. And then, regarding the bullet point of legal services, she said she was only aware of the nonprofit organization, Alaska Legal Services, but she did not know if they had training relative to trafficking. Commissioner Hedberg said she thinks there is room for there being a connection or how they can make a connection, but it is not always nestled in tightly.

Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci of DOH said that she would add that when she thinks about a peer support mentorship program, she suspects that when we're thinking about peer support and the Medicaid system as we described today is a covered portion and potentially a very small amount. She said one of the items that they keep going back to again is what is the use case for Medicaid funding. She also said she thinks the other division that she thinks could be involved in this is the division of public assistance, division of behavioral health, but also healthcare services that have to do with access to medical services, if that's what the third bullet entails. Another thing to consider she said is that a lot of times victims do end up leaving the state for safety purposes and depending on if they're absent, as it relates to insurance provided through Medicaid, there would need to be a process for transitioning them to Medicaid coverage elsewhere.

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg said the substance abuse treatment and emergency response bulleted item has Narcan in there. She said the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention, which is under the division of public health has federal funds with which they purchase Nalaxone (Narcan) and then they give it out to nonprofits. In addition, she said that the legislature approved \$460,000 out of the opioid settlement funds and that's going to go up through grants to any nonprofit organization that wants to apply for prevention treatment and recovery. It's going to start small because she said they are trying to get a bill passed with just securitized funds, but there are options out there.

Heather Harris asked if, when the council thinks about this component around that increased funding, are there other funding sources being considered or is Medicaid the funding source to really hone in on? Senator Kiehl clarified that the language in there is not increased funding, although that may very well be required. He said the language is actually to increase funded services. So, he asked, whether it is to help other nonprofits begin to bill Medicaid for eligible services or whatever else, where should we, not just your department, but where should we as a council be focusing this next year's work to get more service to more victims of trafficking? What are the opportunities? What's that next thing?

Commissioner Hedberg said she thought those were excellent questions. She said she was not aware of a comprehensive list of nonprofits that serve this population. And as simple as that is, if there's a list and that list can be given to our directors and our directors can be aware and say here's a funding opportunity, make sure you apply. This is how you apply and providing the technical assistance for them to apply. It's still competitive, but it would be making sure there is a connection to and support in applying. She said she thinks that would be extremely helpful. Staci Yates said she almost thinks all those services require different programs. Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci said the individuals need these programs braided together in a way that they can utilize all at once. She continued that if there are certain organizations in different areas that can serve as navigators or the central place, they can help coordinate these services. And then we can come alongside them and make sure that they have what they need to enroll in the Medicaid programs, to be billing Medicaid Services, to support the eligibility legal services. So, she said the idea is that we're surrounding these organizations with that kind of braided coordination to serve the needs of each vulnerable individual.

Commissioner Hedberg said Emily's input reminded her of an earlier discussion about having scenarios (with a strategic plan for wrap-around services depending on the needs of the example) and then when we have cases that come to us that meet the criteria of that example, then we can figure out and reverse engineer how we support that individual with wrap-around services by asking questions such as where is their greatest need that we can identify. She said we can make sure they have the resources for substance abuse treatment and medical treatment. Rep Sarah Vance asked, out of all the bulleted items listed under action item #1, what is the one that is the least funded? Commissioner Hedberg said before the funding, she thinks it goes back to the data, like how much of the resources are being used, so we know if some are being used more than others. Chris Darnall directed her to the Data Summary Document as a helpful tool toward that end. She said she would like to review it.

Travis Welch from the trust said it sounded like there was a great need to do inventory checks as to what resources are available statewide. Commissioner Hedberg asked if the Data Document reflected a comprehensive list of nonprofits. Chris Darnall said no. Heather Harris said that goes back to their previous conversation about a rural guide with Brittany but also probably an additional list of nonprofits serving this population. She said that seems like a good step in this next year to move forward, find out what resources exist and what partners are available to move that work forward.

Commissioner Hedberg emphasized that they would need the data before funding. Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, staff to the council commented that they will be doing the Data Document annually. She said they had spoken about it while Commissioner Hedberg was out and advised her that DPS will be requesting submissions of new data prior to January and then hope to have it solidified by maybe just before then. Commissioner Hedberg asked if it was all voluntary. Meredith said yes. Commissioner Hedberg asked if it was all nonprofits participating. Katie TePas, staff to the council said it was state and nonprofits who participated in a mid-level dive into who was working on trafficking that had data that wanted to share that by no means represents every entity either directly or tangentially. Commissioner Hedberg asked what the reasoning was by the entities who declined to share data. Katie TePas said it was either because they couldn't pull what we wanted, or they couldn't provide it within the timeline that we could use it. She said she did not think anybody actively refused to provide data screening tools to really.

Heather Harris said that as the council started to wrap up their time together, they were just going to go through and do a quick overview of each of the areas specific to timelines and major takeaways.

Heather Harris said that for Key Priority Area 1, the area that had the most conversation in the beginning, which resulted in key questions such as what is the structure of the council? How is this going to come together? And so, she said there is a subcommittee that DPS is going to lead. We're going to invite CDVSA to that and Department of Labor or their task force to make sure that labor is represented. Travis is going to participate in that, as will a representative from Department of Health. That is going to have a timeline of December 15th so that there's a clear amendment to the legislature to get that moving forward.

Heather said that for Key Priority Two, around curriculum, Department of Ed is leading that and the council is a supportive body to that work. There is a committee to provide that support and that committee will be Priceless, Department of Ed and MyHouse.

Heather said that Key Priority Three, was around the potential for CDVSA and Alaska Nurses Association to pay for CE's for medical professionals. Katie said a key action item from this priority area was also the potential for help on Department of Health's online training portal and seeing if there is a cost for that. Heather said there is a joint task force of ANJC and APD doing work under this key area and Chris Darnall will be the liaison to the council for that work.

Heather said that for Key Priority Four, there will be a Public Awareness Campaign, which Staci Yates has agreed to lead. She said Rep Vance will participate as well. There's a timeline of December. As January is anti-trafficking month, they're trying to put some information out into the world then. The committee is going to develop some messaging and then hopefully connect to what would look like several departments PIO's including departments such as DOH, DPS, DOL to come together to determine how to disseminate that information to their specific audiences moving forward. Katie is going to talk to Department of Health to see if there's any staffing support that could be possible for that.

Heather said that Key Priority Five is around housing. She said the takeaway here was for AHFC to see if funding could get increased and Katie was going to work on that. And there were big takeaways on #5 long term with ideas about where the council would like to see improvements, but it's a big heavy lift that is down the road.

Heather said that Key Priority Six is about expanded services which had just been discussed so she said they did not necessarily need to review there but was about looking at what are the resources around the State and trying to compile some of those and also about looking at Medicaid and potentially expanding who bills it.

Heather said that Key Priority Seven is around demand reduction. This is that idea and thought around "john" schools which the council decided there was not a lot of capacity and knowledge at presently about the success of them. She said there was a volunteer from the legislative divisions research body to be able to look at the success of those schools moving that forward. And then the other take away was to think about this curriculum component around maybe Speak Up or something of that nature to change the culture and by providing education to youth specifically to kind of change the narrative.

Heather said Key Priority Area 8 was about gaps in information about trafficking. She said the data subcommittee is going to come back together and Chris is going to be leading that charge. She said data will be updated annually and Travis has a great perfectly timed meeting the following day at the Mental Health Trust to integrate some of these priorities into mental health priorities.

Katie TePas said the only thing she had missing from her notes is the request to know what grants are available. So that will be something that will start internally. She will reach out to health and education to see what they are aware of and potentially DOC from the other side to get a little environmental scan of what's available. And then, she said, discussions can start happening about what to apply for and what is needed to apply.

Heather Harris asked if Katie wanted to talk about a timeline for the next meeting. Katie said she had spoken to the Deputy Commissioner and they were thinking the next meeting would be in September, which will allow for time to start pulling together the subcommittees. Katie TePas said, in addition to that, the data report would be sent out to the council again for their review. She asked that they reflect on if anything is missing or lacking clarity and be ready to discuss that at the September meeting. Katie said they will look at some potential models from other states. They will have a conversation with CDVSA and they will look at grant options.

Public Comment:

With that, I just want to confirm that we are not taking public comment here today. If there is something anybody online there, the comments can be sent in written format to DPS.CHST@alaska.gov. That is the appropriate place for public comment regarding today's meeting. He said they would get the communication out regarding the next meeting, which is expected to be mid to late September.

Closing Comments:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow expressed his gratitude for the staff and their efforts, the council members coming together and each person's efforts to move the work forward to combat trafficking.

Adjournment:

Someone (indiscernible) **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting; the motion was **SECONDED** by someone (also indiscernible). Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:00pm. Recording stopped upon adjournment.

STATE OF ALASKA
ALASKA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Host Location: Virtual via Teams
September 20, 2023
3:00pm-4:30pm

Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, Department of Public Safety
Chris Darnall, Assistant Attorney General, Alaska Department of Law
Staci Yates, Director of Human Trafficking Recovery Services, MyHouse
Travis Welch (as proxy for Agnes Moran), Alaska Mental Health Trust
Representative Sarah Vance, Alaska House
Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska Senate
Deputy Commissioner April Wilkerson as proxy for Commissioner Winkelman), Department of Corrections
Laurel Shoop, Special Assistant to the Legislative Liaison, DEED
Brittany Madros, Tribal Government and Justice Division Director, TCC

Absent:

Mayor Dave Bronson, Anchorage Municipality
Gwen Adams, Executive Director at Priceless
Commissioner Heidi Hedberg, Department of Health
Lieutenant Amanda Fisher, Anchorage Police Department

Others Present:

Katie TePas, DPS
Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS
Jake Almeida, LEG
Alan Faulkner, member of the public
Malan Paquette, member of the public

Minutes prepared by: Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called for a review of the meeting agenda. He mentioned that there was a slight amendment to the agenda which was the deletion of the item introduction of new members as there were none to introduce. Chris Darnall from Department of Law MOVED to approve the agenda, SECONDED by Staci Yates from My House. Hearing no opposition, the motion PASSED.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called for a review of the minutes from the previous, 7.19.23 meeting. Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust MOVED to approve the minutes from the 7/19/23 meeting, SECONDED by Chris Darnall from Department of Law. Hearing no opposition, the motion PASSED and the 7.19.23 meeting minutes were approved.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow opened the floor for new business. He started with an update on the FY 24 Plan. He said the council members should have had ample time to review it and provide feedback on it, but said he knows that everyone is busy, so he wanted to provide an opportunity to discuss it at the meeting if anyone had any feedback, questions, or concerns about the FY 24 Plan, which he pointed out included the recommendations and the organizational structure of the council.

In response, Laurel Shoop from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provided notes as to the timeline DEED made to the curriculum rubric. She said that recently DEED gained a new Commissioner, Commissioner Bishop and that prompted some internal discussions with the FY 24 Plan. She said that after reviewing the plan and discussing HB 68, DEED thought it would be prudent and fiscally responsible to delay that timeline a bit to make sure that it aligns with legislative priorities and outcomes of HB 68. She continued that as HB 68 is currently written, it would amend Erin's Law and that piece of law requires that the governing body of each school district adopt and implement a curriculum. She said DEED is very supportive of local control for our very diverse state. Therefore, DEED provided recommended edits to the annual plan to reflect a curriculum rubric to assist districts in selecting curriculum that would meet the requirements of the new law, if passed. Laurel said she was happy to answer any questions anyone may have on that.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow expressed his gratitude to Laurel and DEED for their work on that. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he wanted to make sure he understood. He said it sounded like the Department of Education is on board with recommending a curriculum, but not necessarily mandating one. Laurel answered that he was correct. She added for further context that it is very rare that DEED develops, creates, implements, provides curriculum directly to school districts. She continued that the biggest piece of curriculum that DEED has developed in recent years would be the Alaska Safe Children's Act, which Erin's Law was a part of, as well as Bree's Law. She said that undertaking was a big fiscal burden on the state, upwards of a million dollars and counting. So, she said, because Alaska is a local control state, DEED's recommendation is to develop a rubric to help districts select curriculum and have that freedom/guidance to choose appropriate curriculum. Chris Darnall from Department of Law had a follow up question. He said it sounded like DEED had an abundance of offered, but not mandatory curricula. He asked what percentage of jurisdictions accept those offered trainings and curricula. Laurel Shoop responded that she would follow up with Chris as to that information.

Staci Yates from MyHouse asked if the different curriculums will be uploaded to the e-learning platform that the council previously heard Pat Sidmore talk about. Laurel Shoop responded that that is one of the avenues DEED will resource. She highlighted the fact that the Department of Education and Early Development does not endorse any specific curriculum (per procurement guidelines) but are hopeful that developing a rubric can help guide schools to those curriculums and she continued, the e-learning platform would be a potential resource for that. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow asked if anyone else had any comments or questions on the annual FY 24 plan. Katie TePas, staff to the council, spoke up to make sure the update on the organizational structure would not be missed. Deputy Commissioner Barlow told her to go ahead and proceed with that. Katie deferred to Travis Welch from the Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMTHA), who is a member of the organizational structure subcommittee, to provide a quick overview of the meeting.

Travis Welch from AMTHA said that in their 7.19.23 meeting, the Council discussed what a possible structure for the CHST could look like. He said that, in that conversation, the discussion was started of having a shared Executive Director with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) board. The recommendation was two boards with one Executive Director. He said that the subcommittee met a few weeks ago to frame out what this would look like. He continued that Diane Casto (CDVSA Executive Director), and Brenda Stanfill (ANDVSA Executive Director) were both in that meeting and offered their expertise, insight, and opinion on the proposed structure. In that conversation, variables such as staffing, current task saturation, and responsibilities of CDVSA were considered and discussed.

As a result of that discussion, the conclusion was that it would be appropriate to have the CHST and CDVSA share a common Executive Director (2 separate councils, 1 ED) and shared staff. But, he said, to make sure that CDVSA is not overburdened as they are already task saturated, there would need to be two additional positions that would be working with the CHST. He said that there would need to be an amendment to the drafted FY 24 Plan to accommodate that recommendation and, there would need to be some legislative work within the CDVSA statutes to bring those proposed changes to fruition. Travis said there would need to be some statutory work giving structure and authority to the CHST. There would also need to be a budget for the CHST as they would need funding to be able to hold meetings and undertake council actions. Travis asked if anyone had any questions, comments, or concerns about the update.

Katie TePas, staff to the council, said the Organizational Structure subcommittee concluded that if this were going to work, they did not want to dilute the resources of CDVSA. She said that would necessitate the hiring of two additional staff, one of which would be a Program Coordinator II or Criminal Justice Planner and the other would be an Administrative Assistant II. There would need to be some statutory changes to CDVSA, specific to their duties (as outlined in AS 18.66.050) because they are currently tasked with hiring the ED so that would become a shared responsibility. Then, Katie continued, we would need an enabling statute for the CHST (which she stated is in the works). Katie said the Chair of the CHST, Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, needs to have a conversation with CDVSA. This group will be putting forward a request that this be considered to the Alaska legislature. Katie said she observed that there were a few questions.

Representative Sarah Vance said she just wanted to make the clarification that the CHST was not in the current piece of legislation (HB 68). She said that was something that she emailed the House Finance Committee about including but was not included in the current legislation as they were unable to add it before the end of session. And, ultimately, having this delay has allowed for this to be approached in the right way. Rep. Vance said she is glad to hear that the CHST Chair will be having a conversation with CDVSA. She asked if the group discussed a timeline; if there was a plan to reevaluate this model after 5-10 years to see if it is still working because she emphasized that the CDVSA ED already has a lot on their plate. She said it is her heart that this council, the CHST, have all the resources they need because she thinks the issue is even bigger than we realize in Alaska. She said clarification on that would be helpful and receipt of anything written so that she and Senator Kiehl can start to plan for whether this will be an amendment or a separate bill on its own.

Katie TePas, staff to the council, said that she could answer Rep. Vance's questions and provide clarification. Katie said that the conversations that were had on the timelines were not as specific to what Rep. Vance said. Katie said that no concrete timeline was determined as to a benchmark point in time to evaluate the progress and efficacy of the proposed model. But, she said, they did discuss timelines for staffing and what the immediate fiscal needs would be. Katie mentioned that CDVSA's ED Diane Casto was retiring November 2nd so there was discussion about that timeline and the fact that CDVSA will be in a rebuilding process. She said there were a few concerns expressed about that, but that if this were to happen, it would need to go through the legislative process and thus would be, 10 months to a year out from coming to fruition. Katie TePas asked if Travis Welch had anything to add. He said he echoed everything Katie said but said he did think that while he would leave it up to the drafters of the proposed legislation, he did think setting a benchmark for evaluating the efficacy and progress of the model would be prudent.

Brittany Madros asked if there had been any discussion about the respective duties of each council and whether there would be any repurposing of CDVSA duties to the CHST to allow for them to absorb the additional work of sharing an ED. Katie TePas said that the Organizational Structure subcommittee did not drill down to that level. She said she felt that was a bigger conversation that needed to be had. But, she continued, what the group did say was while the need is great, we need to make certain where we are starting is attainable. So, Katie said, if the CHST were to assume the same 16 duties that are outlined in statute for CDVSA, that would not be feasible with the existing 2 staff. Katie TePas also said, as a reminder, that if anything is passed in statute, amendments can be made down the road. She said that if we start too big, the staffing and resources will not be in place to succeed.

Katie asked Travis if he wanted to add anything further. He said he just wanted to reiterate that the intention of the Organizational Structure subcommittee was to set it up so that the work of the CHST does not harm the work of CDVSA. The intent is not to burden that staff more than they already are.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law asked if adding two positions is a big ask legislatively. Deputy Commissioner Barlow responded that we are trying to structure this for success and part of that is to ask for adequate/needed staff. He said he does not see that as unreasonable or a huge lift if the state wants it to succeed. Senator Jesse Kiehl responded that it is a great big ask, but when we need them and make a compelling case for the need, we get them. For example, he said, for several years in a row, we have added 5-10 Troopers because we needed them and made the case for them. And, he said that in other places, there were positions that were not needed, and jobs were cut. He said he thinks the bigger barrier of taking these steps will be the political perception that another function of government is being added; that the government is branching out even further. Senator Kiehl said he thinks there is strong push back against that given that it is a matter of public safety and how much overlap there is in victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and victims of trafficking. He said it will take a group of legislators and administration pushing together.

Rep Sarah Vance echoed what Senator Kiehl said. She said she thought it was a fairly small ask to only add two additional employees given the scope of the work. Rep Sarah Vance said that she spoke with the Governor today and she told him she supports his bill. She reiterated that this undertaking will take all of us, the House, the Senate, and the Councils. She said that seeds are being planted to make the needs known from a budgetary perspective.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said she just wanted to add two things. She said, as a reminder, one of the reasons that CHST is a separate and distinct council from CDVSA is because of labor trafficking. These cases are a little bit different and have unique nuances of control that many sexual assault or domestic violence cases do not have. Additionally, she said, while DPS has done a good job of absorbing the additional work, if we want to expand our effort, we need more support.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow asked if there were any final comments, questions, or concerns regarding the FY 24 plan. Katie TePas, staff to the council said what is needed now is a motion to approve the annual plan with the following amendments:

- 1)The organizational structure will be: 1 director, 2 boards with 2 additional staff to include a Program Coordinator 2 and an Administrative Assistant 2.
- 2)The next step will be to have the chair and selected members of the CHST meet with the chair and selected members of CDVSA.

Lastly, there needs to be recognition/understanding that in order to see these recommendations come to fruition, there needs to be a statutory change/amendment to CDVSA's duties (as outlined in AS 18.66.050) and a statutory establishment of CHST.

Laurel Shoop from DEED made a motion to adopt the FY 24 annual plan with the outlined amendments. Staci Yates from MyHouse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the FY 24 Annual Plan was approved with the amendments specified above.

National Governor's Association Trafficking Task Forces

After distribution of the NGA's Memo of Trafficking Task Forces to the council members ahead of the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there were any task forces that stood out as ones that should be reached out to to present at future meetings. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he is always willing to hear from other Task Forces. He said he would always be willing to set time aside to get that done.

Rep. Sarah Vance recommended reviewing the Shared Hope International grading system to see which states garnered favorable grades and request presentations from those with the best grades. Meredith McDaniel-Stroh said she will send the link (<https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/>) with the grades out to the council. Rep Vance mentioned that the Task Force in North Carolina have been doing a great deal of work and have been working with Anne Basham, who presented previously about Speak Up Trafficking Curriculum. Laurel Shoop from DEED said she suggested reaching out to task forces in states that share borders with other countries given Alaska's unique geography. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said that any place with reservations tend to act similarly to "the Bush" and that it seems to be like a large area that is disconnected from a lot of transportation infrastructure so places with reservations or a large Native American population might be useful because of the parallels we see in Alaska. Laurel Shoop from DEED said New Mexico would be a good example as they have a population that are similar to ours in that respect.

Demand Reduction Reports

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said he knew that Senator Jesse Kiehl was going to work with the legislative research division to draft a report on demand reduction and asked if he had any input or update to share. Senator Jesse Kiehl responded that he has a first draft of that report and that he has asked a couple of clarifying questions and should have it back within a week or so and will distribute that to the council through staff when it is ready.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said that Epik is one entity that does demand reduction across the country, with a unique model. She said Priceless had utilized that model previously. She said that if the council were interested, she could set up a presentation from them for the next meeting. Senator Jesse Kiehl said it would be worthwhile and he could send a draft of the report from legislative research to Epik in advance of their presentation. Katie TePas said she will invite them to present at the next meeting.

Subcommittee reports, if any:

Rural Alaska Trafficking Subcommittee:

Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, staff to the council, provided the update that the Rural Resource Subcommittee was waiting to convene until after subsistence and until after the Alaska Federation of Natives conference had ended and would schedule their next meeting sometime in October or November.

Public Awareness Subcommittee:

Staci Yates, Chair of the Public Awareness Subcommittee made an update on the subcommittee efforts thus far. She said they had their first meeting on September 8, 2023, and at that time reviewed some existing public awareness campaigns and materials about trafficking. She said the subcommittee agreed that all the messaging should be very Alaska specific about what trafficking looks like here. She said they also discussed preparing some social media graphics and expanding a sticker campaign utilizing the "Are You Safe?" hand sticker that Rep. Sarah Vance was able to get into Alaska airports. She said those stickers have resources for trafficking victims and said the plan for expansion of the sticker campaign included ferries, libraries, buses, bus stops, convenience stores and medical facilities. Staci said they even suggested having them made into air fresheners and hanging them in cabs so that they are in line of sight to trafficking victims who tend to be moved around a lot and may be being transported in cabs. Staci said the subcommittee had discussed having DPS staff do a cost analysis for what that might cost and what it would cost to have them translated as there would be up to 9 languages to translate the sticker to.

Staci said that Rep. Sarah Vance already made a tri-fold brochure about trafficking and the subcommittee would like to utilize it with a few revisions necessary to customize it to the audience. Staci said that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month so the subcommittee should be doing a rollout then of some of those deliverables. Staci said she had previously developed an ad about trafficking with Rotary and it is already being aired. She said she will share that with the council members. Chris Darnall from Department of Law said he has two boxes of stickers, flyers, and brochures about the Blue Campaign (in various languages) that he has been looking to get rid

of that he would like to give to the subcommittee to go toward their efforts. Laurel Shoop from the Department of Education and Early Development said she would like to extend DEED's support with that January rollout and said they will assist in any way they can. Katie TePas said January is coming quick so we should set aside some time at the November meeting to discuss what we might be able to do as an organization. One obvious thing she continued would be to disseminate the newest version of the annual data summary document which should be available by then. Staci Yates from MyHouse said that she is already working at MyHouse to do t-shirts and coffee sleeves in the Mat-Su Borough in January for Trafficking Awareness Month. She said the coffee sleeves are a big hit and recommended possibly doing that in Anchorage.

Data Subcommittee:

Chris Darnall, Chair of the data subcommittee gave a brief update. He said the data subcommittee reconvened in August. At that time, they identified who was missing as members from the group. He said they proposed having someone from the Department of Labor join the subcommittee. Chris said they identified a possible data analytics vendor to speak with, Gcomm, an organization that looks at large data sets and identifies trends and indicators. They are currently working with the state of West Virginia. The plan is to, at some point, hear from them about what they do and see if it would be beneficial for them to present to the full council down the road.

He said they discussed BRFSS and the YRBS and the possibility of having questions added to the BRFSS and the costs that would be associated with that. They discussed finding possible funding sources, to include the Trust. Chris said that after discussing the nuts and bolts of how and how much, they eventually settled on the idea that the plan is to try to get a question on the 2025 survey as that seems like the most realistic goal to aim for with fiscal and legislative timelines. He said the data subcommittee also discussed the meta-analytic survey landscape on trafficking data and settled on asking AJIC to conduct a survey of the research analysis that has been done regarding trafficking. The idea is to get an overall picture of what the landscape looks like on the literature side. He said they discussed the data summary document and corrections/additions they wanted to see for the next release of it. He said the aim is to get the document updated by January. He said they plan to meet twice a month toward that effort.

Education:

Laurel Shoop, Chair of the Education Subcommittee provided an update. She said they have not met yet. But she said, the School Safety and Wellbeing Summit was hosted the week prior in Anchorage. It was a two-day summit. She said that Erin Terry of the FBI and Sgt. Eric Taylor of DPS presented at about human and sex trafficking, and it was a very impactful presentation.

Katie TePas, staff to the council made the comment that Agnes Moran from the Alaska Mental Health Trust was on the call and had been for a while.

Public Comment:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow opened the floor for public comment. Alan Faulkner representing Dot Lake Village provided public comment. He said he was encouraged to hear progress is being made on CHST actions and objectives.

Closing Comments:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow asked if anyone had any closing comments. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris Darnall from Department of Law made a motion to adjourn. Staci Yates from MyHouse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

**STATE OF ALASKA
ALASKA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

**Host Location: Virtual via Teams
November 28, 2023
8:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.**

Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, Department of Public Safety
Chris Darnall, Assistant Attorney General, Alaska Department of Law
Staci Yates, Director of Human Trafficking Recovery Services, MyHouse
Agnes Moran, Trustee, Alaska Mental Health Trust
Representative Sarah Vance, Alaska House
Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska Senate
Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman, Department of Corrections
Laurel Shoop, Special Assistant to the Legislative Liaison, DEED
Commissioner Heidi Hedberg, Department of Health
Lieutenant Amanda Fisher, Anchorage Police Department
Gwen Adams, Executive Director at Priceless
Tanya Keith, Division Director of Labor, and Workforce Development
Commissioner Kim Kovol, Department of Family and Community Services
Alexis D. Johnson, on Behalf of Mayor Bronson

Absent:

Brittany Madros, Tribal Government and Justice Division Director, TCC

Others Present:

Katie TePas, DPS
Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS
Jake Almeida, LEG
Lisa Purinton, DPS
Lisa Morley, CDVSA
Kaci Schroeder, LAW

Minutes prepared by: Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, DPS

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called the meeting to order at 8:30a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called for a review of the meeting agenda. Staci Yates from MyHouse **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman from Department of Corrections. Hearing no opposition, the motion PASSED.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow called for a review of the minutes from the previous, 9.20.23 meeting. Agnes Moran from the Alaska Mental Health Trust **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the 9.20.23 meeting, **SECONDED** by Chris Darnall from Department of Law. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED** and the 9.20.23 meeting minutes were approved as written.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Commissioner Barlow gave an overview of what had been included in the board packet sent to council members prior to the meeting including the Governor's updated administrative order pertinent to the council (AO 351), which proceeds the previous one, and among other things adds the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development as part of the council membership. Accordingly, he introduced two new members to the council: Commissioner Kim Kovol with the Department of Family and Community Services and Director Tanya Keith with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. He thanked them for joining the council and the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Barlow gave Commissioner Kovol and Director Keith the opportunity to introduce themselves. They did so.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Katie TePas if there was anything else about the administrative order that should be mentioned. Katie TePas, staff to the council said that she wanted to make certain that everybody had looked at the AO to see that it does reflect, for the most part, the CHST FY24 plan. She expressed a big thank you to the Governor's office for issuing a new one that was reflective of this group's decision and the work and the path forward that they see for at least the next year.

She said that the new AO and the FY 24 plan are both posted on the CHST website. Katie TePas also reminded those present to virtually raise their hand if they are council members and want to be called on or take themselves off mute to speak and identify themselves. She said it is helpful for preparing the minutes to do that for the record.

Presentation from Erica Atzenhoffer, Human Trafficking Unit supervisor, Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow introduced the first presenter of the meeting, Erica Atzenhoffer, who is the Human Trafficking Unit supervisor for the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in the state of Georgia, which is one that has robust anti-trafficking efforts. Erica greeted the council and introduced herself. She said that the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is based in Atlanta. She said her plan was to give an overview of the structure, functionality, mission, purpose successes and initiatives of the Task Force.

Erica said that the CJCC is an executive branch state agency in Georgia that acts as a federal pass through agency whose core function is to receive funds from the federal government and then based on what the needs are in terms of victim services, disperse those funds accordingly across the state. She said that her unit oversees all things human trafficking, but they also serve those that are working within the space of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and other community programs. She said victim compensation is also under that umbrella.

Erica shared some background on the CJCC. She said it was created by the Georgia General Assembly back in 1981 as that executive branch touched on all things restorative justice or criminal justice. She said they are administratively attached to the Georgia Bureau investigation, which is their state law enforcement entity. She continued that they work very closely with law enforcement, the Attorney General's office, as well as Child Protective Services. She said they also partner with local police departments, sheriff's offices, prosecution offices, non-profits and victim serving organizations across the state.

Erica said that trafficking has been a priority of Georgia for the last several years. Under the current governor's office and his administration, has been a main priority and platform and focus. She continued that under Governor Brian Kemp and his wife, the first lady, they are trying find innovative ways to build on what has been already accomplished. Erica said that Georgia is also looking at the offender side and making sure penalties for those crimes are increasing as well.

Erica continued that the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force operate the task force by addresses addressing the five various elements of the trafficking continuum which includes vulnerability, recruitment, exploitation, withdrawal, and reintegration. She said that they have over 230 task force members and it is a true MDT approach. She said that prior to the task force being under her oversight, they mostly addressed FSAC and child sex trafficking, but since her background is in working with adult survivors of sexual abuse, she wanted to give visibility and representation to adult survivors.

Chris Darnall inquired as to whether prosecutors or law enforcement were involved in the MDT. She answered in the affirmative. She said they have both federal, state, and local government agencies, which includes local prosecution offices, Attorney General's offices. She said every kind of municipality is welcome to apply and join as far as law enforcement goes as well including local sheriffs and police departments. They also have representation from Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is their state law enforcement entity. She said it is key to have state partners, federal partners, and local partners to truly make sure trafficking is being tackled from all different lenses and perspectives. Law enforcement and prosecutors are heavily involved in the statewide task force. So much so, in fact that they have their own work group dedicated to coming up with initiatives or projects circling around prosecution and investigations.

Erica continued that members of the MDT working directly with victims can be in a community-based setting or in a residential setting or in any other way that they might interface with victims (therapists, school social workers, educators, etc.) They have quite a few folks from academia across the state who help out with the data and research that they collect. The MDT also may include faith based organizations and people from the medical field such as sexual assault nurse examiners. She summarized that the task force really invites anyone who may be interfacing with victims to join.

Looking at the five different elements that the that the trafficking or that the task force operates under that trafficking continuum, there are nine different bullets. Each of these nine different bullets represents one of the nine different work groups that make up the task force. And each of those nine work groups have a narrow focus. Persons are encouraged to apply to the work group(s) that best compliment their skill set or expertise. Some work groups are more robust than others depending on the need and scope of the projects.

Erica said she would shift to speak about a few successes or examples of the projects that some of the work groups have created. She said that work group 2, which was focused mostly on youth awareness and safety came up with a robust comprehensive guide utilizing CDC guidelines in Georgia and across the nation to look at specific programs that are utilized or implemented within school systems. They were able to work alongside legislators and create what is referred to as the “TARG”, which stands for technical assistance resource guide. This robust guide lives online. Erica said she would be happy to share the link with the council, but the target audience of it is educators. This is a great resource for those within the school system that want to bring some sort of awareness and training to both faculty, staff, and children alike about what exploitation is, what it looks like, what the red flags are for it, how to protect oneself and who to call should it happen.

Erica said that the work group took their knowledge, and their skill set made it as easy as possible on educators under a new law mandating training on those topics to provide them with vetted, appropriate programs based on CDC guidelines. So, they made a list of recommended programs and why they recommended those programs. It has been a huge success both nationally and in Georgia.

Erica shared another example of a success from work group 5, which mainly consists of prosecution and law enforcement. They have been working on creating a trafficking response guide over the last few years. This guide, which is in the final stages of completion will be very robust in nature and will utilize a true MDT approach to serving victims in a trauma informed and compassionate wrap around way. It will also be a literal how- to from an investigator standpoint and from a prosecution standpoint to walk through start to finish how to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, which will be inclusive of both sex and labor trafficking, for children and adults.

Another success Erica mentioned was that they’d held a labor trafficking round (work group 6) table specifically for those impacted by labor trafficking and exploitation. This all-day event brought folks together to ask the following four key questions: 1) How do we increase awareness of Labor trafficking? 2) How do we better serve these individuals? 3) How do we capture data? 4) What can be of course done on the state level? From that round table, they developed what they call the labor trafficking report, which also lives online, and Erica will be happy to share a copy of it. Erica continued that the first original report came out I believe in 2019 or 2020 and was updated in 2022.

Erica continued with sharing about the Enhanced Collaborative Model, which is a grant that was funded to CJCC under OVC and BJA and helped to stand up some other initiatives CJCC has undertaken. Under that enhanced collaborative model, that dual funding stream through OVC and BJA, some of those funds helped to stand up on the human exploitation and trafficking (HEAT) unit. This is the first law enforcement unit dedicated solely to investigating human trafficking cases under Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). Their state law enforcement entities are now able to fund a number of agents to solely looking at and investigating both sex and labor trafficking cases across the state of Georgia. They have seen a lot more investigations because of the HEAT unit. They all work hand in hand to make sure to stay connected on what’s being done on the state level as well as the local level as well.

Erica said they have also created a data clearing house for trafficking data. This is also another initiative under the ECM grant. She said they are fortunate enough at CJCC to have an in-house statistical analysis team that were the brains behind developing this initiative. The data clearinghouse provides mostly law enforcement (it is not open to the public) with pertinent information and data regarding trafficking. The statistical analysis team of the data clearinghouse has been able to identify high risk areas for wage and hour violations and determine how that could intersect with labor trafficking (red flag hot spots). Some of those red flag hot spots have turned out to be verified sites of labor trafficking which resulted in many individuals being arrested and many labor trafficking victims that being removed from that situation and then able to either go back to their country of origin and reunite with their family or receive the appropriate services depending on what they were looking for.

Another initiative Erica wanted to highlight was the statewide CSEC Response Team which is operated by the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia. They oversee all of the Child Advocacy Centers (CAC's) in the state of Georgia. Finally, she said, she wanted to share that the CJCC had developed a statewide hotline and website which has been of great benefit to victims getting connected to valuable resources. Erica wrapped up her presentation and shared her contact information with the council.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow thanked Erica for her robust presentation and asked if anyone had any questions. Chris Darnall from Department of Law thanked her for the incredibly informative presentation and asked if she would be available to come to the CHST data subcommittee meeting in December. He said he had a number of follow-up questions about the data clearing house. Erica said she would rather somebody from their statistical analysis team be the one that joins that meeting and speaks to that as they really are the brains behind the data clearing house. Erica said she would be happy to make the request on our behalf and connect us with the analysts that they work closely with in the unit. Erica said she would be sure to send the links for the TARG and the Trafficking Report over to Meredith so she could disseminate them to the council.

Presentation from Justin Euteneier, Epik Project

Deputy Commissioner Barlow introduced the next presenter, the Director of Programs at Epik Project, Justin Euteneier. Justin said he spent his formative years in Anchorage, so he was excited to speak to the council about demand in Alaska. He said that their organization started in response to the founder of Epik Project, Tom Perez, responding to the issue of vulnerable kids in Portland being trafficked about 12 years ago. He said that as an organization they spent a couple years trying to figure out what their role as men could be in that. Justin said they took some time as an organization to really learn about the issue. He congratulated the CHST on the FY 24 plan. He said he had read through the documentation for the CHST and was encouraged by the eight key priorities outlined in the document. He commented that the collaborative approach to reducing demand that he read in the in the language of FY 24 priorities is so important.

Justin posed the rhetorical question, what does demand mean? He said many people might have different definitions. A collaborative approach is going to be a more effective approach. Justin said he was glad to see that a public awareness campaign was a part of the CHST FY 24 plan because it is imperative to educate the public about what drives the demand for sex trafficking and being able to get some content out there to talk about what's going on, not just the nuts and bolts of the mechanics. We can't arrest our way out of the problem. Justin said his favorite key priority from the FY 24 plan was to establish demand reduction diversion programs.

Justin said that Erik Project helps teach the local Sex Buyer Accountability and Diversion (SBAD) class in Portland. They have run that for several years and programs such as that can be highly effective, depending on how they are run. He said they are a civilian based organization that primarily targets men to become involved in these issues. He said, sex trafficking is a supply and demand business and in 10 years talking to sex buyers, the overwhelming majority of people that he has talked to are men. He said it is a men's issue and demand is the driver for it.

When Epik Project was founded, they set out talk to buyers and they did not really know what that would look like. But over the last decade, they have learned a lot and built a lot of relationships and really developed their program. In the last decade, they have conducted roughly 1500 cyber patrols which is what they call it when a group of trained volunteers gather together to post decoy ads on known prostitution sites and field phone calls and text messages from buyers in response to those ads. Those 1,500 cyber patrols have involved roughly 14,000 volunteer man hours from men across 35 different cities in the country, which has led to over of 1/4 of a million purchase attempts from about 140,000 buyers across the United States. Justin explained that they define a purchase attempt as a singular text thread or phone call that a buyer initiated in order to try to purchase their decoy.

Justin said they also participate in buyer operations with law enforcement. A buyer sting is where they arrest the buyer, they process and question the buyer, and once the buyer is free to go, they are referred to Epik Project as a resource to speak to immediately after being arrested. Justin said that of every buyer sting he has participated in, every buyer except for one or two has chosen to stay and talk to them. When they do, he said they generally share that they are emotionally dysregulated or lonely or have a sex addiction. \

Their job is not to necessarily say that's okay and make them feel better, but to ask questions to get them to understand why they do what they do so they can start taking steps towards getting better, which results in not buying sex anymore. He said they teach at their "John School" and do a lot of collaboration with the survivor community on research, presentations, trainings, public awareness and so much more. One of the most impactful things the men of Epik Project do is they make an anonymous hot homemade holiday meal that they provide to one of the victim advocacy groups. The female victims are having something nice done for them without anything being expected of them in exchange.

Justin shared a short video of what a cyber patrols sound like. He said that video was made awhile ago and one change since then is that they do not use a script anymore. They moved away from the script so the volunteers could really just go with the flow of the conversation, try to ask open-ended questions, and getting the buyers talking. Justin said the aim is not for a group of civilians to be acting like cops. Justin said they are civilians trained by law enforcement who operate much like a neighborhood watch program who speak to guys, to communicate to them that they have no authority or power over them, and to find out if they are aware of the harm and the trauma and the pain that they are causing and what is going on with them.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law asked if Justin was aware of any research supporting the efficacy of SBAD or if it is more anecdotal. Justin replied that there is bit of research out there on John schools, but those who run those schools do not always collect a lot of data. He is working to try to change that within their local John school to get a little bit more technology focused so that data can start being tracked. So, currently it is more anecdotal. But, he said, hearing stories from survivors and reading the pre and post surveys read from these guys, especially the younger ones, it is astounding to witness some of the paradigm shifts that some of them have. So, they can be incredibly effective, if administered properly.

Justin then showed the platform where Epik Project talks to buyers and highlighted an example of a text message conversation with a buyer. He said they teach their volunteers to ask questions. Justin said he posted a few decoy ads that morning and he had already received 5-6 responses from potential buyers. Someone asked in the chat if Epik Project posted decoy ads in Alaska. He said they used to post decoy ads in Alaska. They had a team of volunteers that they were collaborating with up in Anchorage a handful of years ago, but that team is no longer operational. He said that is something that they can offer as well if the council is looking to demonstrate the actual demand in in Anchorage or surrounding cities. He said they would be happy to post a decoy ad and advise the council of any data on that.

Gwen Adams from Priceless said that Priceless has worked with Epik Project before and it was very effective. She said they would receive an average of a couple hundred calls on the nights when they had volunteer teams receiving them.

Justin said Epik Project is expanding their programs into prevention as well. They partner with a lot of different anti trafficking organizations, and task forces like the CHST to collaborate to do this work. Justin wrapped up his presentation by saying that sex trafficking is about supply and demand and there's no way to ever solve the problem of vulnerable being people being trafficked without addressing demand head on.

Chris Darnall from Department of Law asked how long it would take to post ads and get an idea of local demand. Justin said he could have an ad posted that afternoon and start getting data and information within minutes of posting the decoy ad. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow thanked Justin for his presentation on demand reduction.

Overview of Trauma 101 Training and Advanced Trauma Training for Behavioral Health Providers by Taylor Jacobs and Rick Rau, Mental Health Clinicians at DOH, and Rozel Buzby, Training Manager and Kristin Mortensen, Clinical Director at Alaska Behavioral Health

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow introduced the next speakers from Alaska Behavioral Health and Department of Health to provide a joint presentation on Trauma 101 Training and Advanced Trauma Training for Behavioral Health Providers. Rick Rau, a Mental Health Clinician 3 with the Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health introduced himself. He said he takes care of trauma informed care and equity inside their division. Rick said that with trauma informed care, they are looking towards improving trauma relationships and making sure that people who are in need are getting the resources. He said his primary role is to secure grant funding to ensure those resources persons need are funded and available. He said they partner with several agencies, one of them being Alaska Behavioral Health. Rick introduced Rozel Busby and Kristen Mortensen from Alaska Behavioral Health and said they would go into further explanation of what is offered for Trauma Institute training and the programs that are available through their grants. Rick said his contact information can be found on the DBH website. He shared his screen to show exactly where that information could be located under Trauma Informed Resources. He noted that the website lists him as being in Anchorage, but he is actually based in Juneau.

Rozel Busy introduced herself and said she has been the program manager of training at Alaska Behavioral Health for the last five years. She reviewed their training opportunities. One of those trainings is Trauma 101. That curriculum was started at Alaska Behavioral health over a decade ago. It is a free training that targets mental health and social service providers, and it can come in several formats, both online and in person, anywhere from three to six hours. There is also a condensed shorter version that is one hour. This year their target for that training is to reach 300 providers. They offer continuing education credits for licensed professional counselors, as well as licensed social workers. Rozel said they typically bring up national expert, as well as have local Alaskan experts come for that conference. This year, it will be a two day training, in the first or second week in May.

Next, the Clinical Director Kristin Mortensen introduced herself and talked about specific trainings for clinical providers. Kristin said she is also the Director of the Alaska Child Trauma Center. She said some of the things they strive to do is to provide universal training and support to community members and trauma informed care, but also to provide specialty training in evidence based treatment frameworks to providers across the state. Kristin continued that in terms of client needs, Alaska Behavioral Health is a specialty clinic that focuses on working with individuals, children as young as three, youth, adolescents, and adults who've experienced different types of traumatic events. She said they have been doing that work since 2005, when the Trauma center was founded. Kristin said it is an essential mission in our community to address and to help people be resilient in the face of traumatic events. They offer specialty treatment practices at their clinic, and they train providers across the state to be able to implement those specialty practices as well. Their foundational practice is something called ARF, which stands for attachment, regulation, and competency framework. It is a method of providing services that is a systems orientation, so a way of understanding an individual and a family's traumatic experiences, but also a therapeutic practice and that's a two day training. She said they typically offer that once a year, but this year they are offering it twice, once in person and once via zoom so they can reach rural providers across the state.

Kristin said they also typically sponsor trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy once a year, which is the most well researched child-based practice for kids. It is 12 sessions of treatment and involves the caregiver and the child and it's a way to create meaning making around their experiences and help them recover from those experiences. She said their third most commonly utilized evidence-based practice is something called cognitive processing therapy and that can be used with youth, adolescents, but typically it's used with adults who've experienced traumatic events. It is a very effective 12 session protocol for military personnel, those with single episode trauma and those types of experiences.

Part of their orientation process and professional development process for their masters level clinicians is receiving training and credentialing in these three different therapeutic modalities. She said they have 30 adult providers across the state both in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Wasilla in their clinics and are available for telehealth across the state. They have 25 child and adolescent providers across the state both in those three physical locations and via telehealth. They have clinicians in Anchorage, Fairbanks and now in Nenana, the newest district that they are working with. She said, access to care is available, which is important because access is key to helping people recover and address their mental health needs. Right now, she said, persons receive services within 3 days of a call. They are able to offer an appointment to be seen within those 3 days. And for those who are experiencing a crisis, they have same day access for those who are experiencing a psychiatric emergency.

Chris Darnall, Department of Law asked if any of the trainings that Alaska Behavioral Health provides have a specific trafficking component? Kristin answered that they are not specific to individuals who've experienced trafficking, but they are specific to different trauma types. She said they do have trainings that focus on sexual abuse and sexual assault specifically and have really good outcomes, but nothing that's been developed specifically for individuals who've experienced trafficking.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow thanked the presenters for their presented and opted to take the scheduled five minute break prior to the next presentation.

Anchorage Task Force Curriculum Update from Sherilyn Leone, ANJC

Sherilyn thanked the council for the invitation to provide an Anchorage Task Force update. She said, as far as the Anchorage Task Force is in the process of finalizing their Human Trafficking (HT) 101 introductory curriculum. She said is is going to be two Power Point presentations with recordings that will be presented to APD'S Patrol and Dispatch. One presentation will be like the legal response to HT and all the different statutes and information that they would need to know from a legal perspective. And then the second one is going to be more of a trauma informed response that includes some of the signs that you may see from someone experiencing trafficking and what can be done to help. One of the things that their partner, Covenant House will be doing is creating a tangible tip card. That will be a business card that patrol can keep with them with hints reminders of what they can do to be trauma informed and what they can tangibly do to help someone in crisis. And then, on the back side of the card, there will be resources of some of the different agencies involved in the task force itself.

Down the road, APD is going to contract with an external trainer for more in- depth human trafficking training for APD that will also be hopefully rolled out to other law enforcement and service providers within the community. She said they also just got word that Anchorage Airport PD and Fire Department will be joining their task force.

Staci Yates with MyHouse asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the card once it is finished. She said she will definitely share with the council when it is ready for release. Laurel Shoop from Department of Education thanked Chris Darnall for connecting her and Sherilyn. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow thanked Sherilyn for the curriculum update.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said the next item of business was a discussion of the statutory duties that have been developed and are going to be recommended to the Governor's office to the legislature. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Katie TePas, staff to the council to provide some background on the document. She reminded the council that the organizational structure subcommittee has met several times. At the last meeting, they came up with the recommended statutory duties of CHST. These duties are in line with a council that does not have an exceptional number of staff. Katie reminded the council that right now the council's administratively supported through DPS, which consists of DC, Barlow, Meredith, and herself. She said, that is part of the reason for the duties being narrow. She continued, the duties are mirrored to some extent after the duties of the Council on domestic violence and sexual assault, so the language has some similarity.

At the last meeting, there was the recommendation put forward for the one director two boards model. The recommendation is CDVSA and the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking would share a director. The CHST would have a shared responsibility with CDVSA for the hiring of the Director. Then, the Executive Director shall hire staff. One of the obvious recommended statutory duties is making the annual report to the Governor on the activities of the Council, including recommendations for programming services and legislation. Then, the council will notify the legislature that the report is available.

Another recommended statutory duty is to develop and implement a data collection system on labor and sex trafficking. That is already in process. What the CHST has not really delved into yet is the latter part of the recommendation on duties, development of standardized definitions where applicable. This is something the council is striving for.

Another proposed statutory duty would be to receive and dispense federal money and award grants and contracts. As a reminder, the CHST is not operating under any specific state general funds or any federal dollars. The next proposed statutory duty would be to oversee and audit entities receiving funding. Another proposed statutory duty would be coordination and consultation regarding educational materials, public awareness and resources with Department of Education and Early Development, Department of Corrections, Department of Health, Department of Law, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, other state agencies, community groups, survivors and provide technical assistance. And the last one is to conduct public hearings and create opportunities for public input on issues relating to labor and sex trafficking in Alaska.

Katie explained that the verbiage would also codify the membership of the CHST. She stated that the two newest CHST members, Tanya Keith from Labor and Commissioner Koval from Family and Community Services had been added to the document.

Representative Sarah Vance said she has submitted a request for a draft bill based upon these recommendations already because the process of getting a bill drafted takes some time. In it, she said, she included the language that the council had previously discussed of wanting to adopt the one director, two boards model. She said she has discussed options with Senator Kiehl as to whether if it should be an amendment as we've discussed before on the crime bill or if it should stand alone and the conclusion that they came to that if it's a stand-alone bill, the discussion in committee can be just about the statutory council and the crime bill can move through on its own because it's a hefty bill already. She said she submitted it that last week and hopefully will have an update for everyone to look at the next meeting.

Representative Vance said asked if anyone had reached out to CDVSA to find out their thoughts of sharing a director? Katie TePas, staff to the council said that Diane Casto, was at two organizational subcommittee meetings and did speak for CDVSA. She was supportive of the idea with the large caveat that it will not work if the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking does not get adequate staff. Diane was very adamant that the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cannot take on additional duties without additional staffing. This was discussed at length in the subcommittee meetings. Katie continued that the plan is and remains that once the new director with CDVSA comes on board that she and Deputy Commissioner Barlow will meet with CDVSA and their board chair to discuss that further.

Katie added that the initial ask for staffing, as a reminder especially for our two new council members, was an administrative assistant 2 and a criminal justice planner or some type of program management position who can look for grants and also do the grant writing. Once funding is secured, then the focus can be shifted to potential expansion of programs and services.

Representative Vance said the conversation on staffing will come when the department issues the fiscal note once the bill has its first hearing and the CHST will have the opportunity to justify why that's needed at that time. She said, there is a very strong position in the department for the CHST to make their case for those positions and to be able to justify that, but it doesn't necessarily have to be included in the bill language.

Representative Sarah Vance also made the announcement that she would be hosting another justice in Human Trafficking Week the week of January 22nd through 26th, 2024. She said she was inviting every known advocate to the halls of Juneau that week to saturate the hallways to talk about human trafficking to hopefully highlight some of the work the council has done and get movement on these bills so they can hopefully get passed this year. She said she is going to invite Katie TePas, staff to the council to speak on that Monday to report on the work that that the council has done.

Commissioner Kim Kovol asked that the document be updated to add DFCS in accordance with the Governor's new order. Katie TePas said that it would be added, and the updated version sent back out to the council. Commissioner Kovol also said she sits on the CDVSA board and echoed the previous comments that CDVSA cannot take on any extra burden of tasks and adequate staffing will absolutely be needed for a one director, two boards model to be productive.

Director of Labor and Workforce Development, Tanya Keith said she had a recommendation for Representative Vance's legislation. She said, if there is a statute on return transportation currently that's within the Wage and Hour Act and if it could be changed, it would help a lot. It requires that if an employer pays for an employee to go to the place of hire that they provide returned transportation back. But it's very limited. So, if the employee quits, they're not provided return transportation back. And what Department of Labor has seen many times is that people (generally very young people) are being brought to Alaska from the Lower 48 to a very remote place and because they lose their way home, they are stuck there and vulnerable to exploitation. She said it would be good for that caveat to be taken out and have the legislation mandate that if transportation is provided to a work site, it must be provided back as well.

Representative Sarah Vance said she would love to connect with Director Keith offline to learn more about what they could do. She said, she is working on a human trafficking package of bills and has several things that she considers foundational (along passing the Governor's crime bill, HB 68) to establishing the council in statute. She asked that Director Keith email her office in reference what she was requesting, and she would see what she could do to help.

Katie TePas asked if there were any other questions on the recommended statutory duties, any edits, additions, or concerns other than what Commissioner Koval had requested and had been agreed on. Katie mentioned that Lisa Morley, acting interim Executive Director for CDVSA was on the call and said she would like to give her an opportunity to speak on the topic since it will impact CDVSA as well. Lisa did not have anything she wanted to add.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked that a formal vote be taken to approve the recommended statutory duties with the caveat that the Department of Family and Community Services will be added prior to submission. All board members present voted in favor of the proposed statutory duties. The document was approved according to the vote.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow deferred to the subcommittee chairs to provide their respective updates.

Education Subcommittee:

Laurel Shoop from the Department of Education and Early Development, Chair of the Education Subcommittee gave the update that they had met on Monday, November 6th. Laurel said that one of the objectives from the Governor's Report is to gather resources for educators on curriculum for schools in Alaska. In order to do this, the education subcommittee decided that they would gather what resources are currently available to give a mind's eye for what already exists so they can give the council a better understanding of all of the educational resources that are out there. She said, hopefully by the next council meeting, they will have a 2023 status report of education resources for Human and sex trafficking for schools. That information is being gathered currently and will be due to her by Friday, December 8th. She said, the Education Subcommittee will meet next on December 18th, 2023.

Laurel also said that she and Katie TePas are collaborating to provide a link to the Alaska Safe Children's Act website on the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and vice versa. The Alaska Safe Children's Act is made-up of Erin's Law and Bree's Law and that has the majority to do with domestic violence and sexual assault. So, those resources are being expanded so that hopefully more folks can connect to resources.

Additionally, she said, a question had been posed at the last meeting about the rubrics that are used for educational resources. Laurel said of the top priorities in the state of Alaska for the Department of Education is teaching kids to read at grade level by third grade. The Alaska READS Act was passed and there is a rubric that teachers can use to connect with resources specifically on the science of reading. There are other things that come along with the Alaska Reads Act, but that is one example of the rubric that is used specifically for purposes of the schools themselves to connect with resources that are locally in tune with the culture within this vast state.

Laurel said the Department of Education and Early Development is looking at developing an e-learning curricula, e-learning course on their website that would be targeted towards educators to help them navigate this complex topic and as well as developing this rubric so they can connect with those curriculum resources, again citing that regionality specificity for each different region of our state.

Data Subcommittee:

Chair of the Data Subcommittee, Chris Darnall, from Department of Law provided an update. He said the data subcommittee met in October. He said the main goal at this juncture is to recreate and put out another copy of the trafficking data summary document. The goal is for that to be an annual product. To that end, he said, they have solicited data from numerous partners who provided data last time, a number, a number of those partners have submitted data in response to our request. Meredith McDaniel-Stroh, staff to the council, has a copy of the data and is working on synthesizing it and building the document. The goal is for the document to be an annual snapshot from July to July every year being produced to go ahead and give a baseline, and data points to examine and identify the amount of trafficking that is occurring in Alaska. Chris said he will certainly be reaching out to the data clearinghouse analysts in Georgia to see if they would be willing and available to present at the next data subcommittee meeting.

Similarly, Chris said, it was his understanding that since the last meeting, Alaska Housing and Finance had secured grant funding to collect Alaska trafficking data as well.

He said he was endeavoring to get a representative from that organization to show up at the next CHST or data subcommittee meeting to find out the specifics of their endeavors and avoid duplication of efforts. Chris said the next data subcommittee meeting would be December 21, 2023. Katie TePas stressed the point Chris made prior that the data the subcommittee requested this year was a bit different. The data subcommittee made the decision to have data from July 1 to end of June so that it is a fiscal year snapshot. The decision was made not to use calendar year data because most entities aren't able to get their data submitted in time for inclusion in order for the document to be ready for the start of legislative session in January. Katie said, the goal is to have the final draft of the document ready for the council to review and approve at the January meeting.

Public Awareness:

Staci Yates, Chair of the Public Awareness subcommittee gave an update. She said the Public Awareness subcommittee is currently working with Katie and Meredith on a brochure to release in January for National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. She gave recognition to Rep. Sarah Vance who had already created the tri-fold and the public awareness subcommittee has been able to utilize that as a template to build one specific to the CHST.

Additionally, Staci said, several draft logo options have been created and will be voted on. Katie clarified further that the Deputy Commissioner would pick his top 5 favorite of the draft logo options and the council would then take a formal vote on them. This is expected to happen prior to the January meeting, likely via SurveyMonkey. Meredith said she has the SurveyMonkey survey ready to go with logos and once Deputy Commissioner makes his selections will disseminate it to the council.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said she and Staci are also going to have a meeting with the DPS PIO's, public information officers to discuss some additional options for the month of January, including starting work on a proclamation. And something the public awareness subcommittee will continue to explore is verbiage and content for a PSA. There are a lot of national PSA's that can be drawn upon for examples, but the subcommittee will need to "Alaskanize" whatever is created. And, she continued, when those ads are created, the subcommittee needs to make certain that they can be translated as language access is one of the priorities of the council.

Commissioner Kovol asked how persons join the subcommittees. She asked if they are assigned to a subcommittee or if they can join whichever they would like to join. Katie said that Meredith can send the new members a list of the respective subcommittees so they can see which they would like to join.

Katie TePas, staff to the council said it may be prudent to have a discussion on the issue of Labor trafficking because again, much of the subcommittees work really is and has been focusing on the sex trafficking components. Katie said, in the data submitted for the trafficking data summary document, AIJ, the Alaska Institute for Justice is the entity who's had some data on labor trafficking. But other than the presence of it showing up in the data, there is not currently a subcommittee focusing on labor trafficking.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow said he certainly agrees with Katie that there could be benefit for there to be a labor trafficking subcommittee. Tanya Keith from Department of Labor said labor trafficking doesn't typically fit in with the sex trafficking statutes and there has been some difficulty getting cases prosecuted once they have been found. So, developing some ideas or procedures on how to get more labor trafficking on the forefront is a great idea. Katie TePas said she would reach out to Tanya to have some additional discussions about that.

Katie TePas reiterated that Meredith would send the subcommittee list to all new members and stated that all subcommittees are publicly noticed, but they are advisory in nature, which translates in such a way that they don't follow Robert's Rules of orders. They are informal, but they are recorded.

Public Comment:

Deputy Commissioner moved to public comment. Katie TePas asked if anyone was on for public comment if they would identify themselves . She said they would have 2 minutes to speak. Alexis D. Johnson said she was sitting in for the mayor and had taken good notes and would be reporting back to him. No other parties provided public comment.

Closing Comments:

Katie TePas made the request to the council that if members had any specific topics/presenters that they wanted to present at the next meeting to please let her know. She said that the intent is to ensure that the information being provided to the council is useful in line with the AO as well as the CHST FY24. To that end, Meredith, staff to the council said she has been reaching out to task forces like Georgia who had favorable report cards from Shared Hope and is working on getting some of them to present at future meetings including at the January 2024 meeting.

Adjournment:

Deputy Commissioner Barlow called for a motion to adjourn the November 2023 CHST meeting. Commissioner Kim Kovol **MOVED** to adjourn. Chris Darnall, from Department of Law **SECONDED** that motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.