



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2020**

Mission: The Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition is committed to improving our community's response to domestic violence issues through communication and coordination of services.

Introductions

Yael Massen: Protective Order Program and law student
Lyn Keller: Bloomington Prosecutor's office
Liz Stauth: Anthem Medicaid
Amalia Shifriss: Middle Way House
Lizzy McGrevey: Indiana 211
Christopher de Young: Middle Way House
Jennifer Whitaker: Centerstone
Elaine Banter: Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program
Pam Gladish: Bloomington Police Department
Takarta Flagg, Monroe County Probation Department
Peg Smith: Middle Way House
Debra Morrow: Middle Way House
Charlotte Willian
Judge Catherine Stafford

City Staff: Michael Shermis (CFRD), Kat Keller (CFRD)

Guest Speaker Presentation: Elaine Banter - Human Trafficking in Indiana; Identification, Recognition, and Reporting

Human trafficking is the use of force and or coercion to compel a person into labor. Human trafficking is both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. While human trafficking as a whole is very underreported, labor trafficking is exceptionally underreported. In Indiana law individuals under 18 cannot be charged for prostitution, they are only victims of a crime. Fear of prosecution often keeps individuals from reporting.

People of color make up the large majority of trafficking victims: black women are targeted for sex trafficking. In reported incidents of trafficking, there are more adults than minors. However, the total number of trafficking cases in the United States is believed to be much higher than the number reported. Vulnerable youth populations are

susceptible to trafficking. This group includes runaways, youths coming from situations of poverty, abuse, or neglect, those with untreated mental issues, LGBTQIA youth, and immigrants.

Traffickers are most often family members, friends of family, or romantic partnerships. The buyers are most commonly middle-aged white men. The most common time for sex to be bought is 2 p.m.

Sex trafficking is happening all the time, on thousands of different sites.

Red flags to look out for if you believe someone is being trafficked: chronic runaways or homeless youth are at a high risk to be trafficked. Branding such as jewelry and tattoos, as well as excess cash are also signs of trafficking. Other red flags are if the individual has a controlling adult or partner nearby, restricted communication, as well as not having control of their own ID. Carrying around multiple hotel keys, cell phones, or marbles can be characteristics of sex trafficking. The most important red flags are signs of physical or psychological trauma. To report on suspecting sex trafficking, call the Department of Child Services, as well as the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

IPATH

Indiana Protection of Trafficked Humans
Indiana's statewide HT tTskforce

Staff Update

- The Spring conference continues to be on hold.
- The statistics booklet is available both electronically and as a hard copy. Let Michael know if you want hard copies.

Information Sharing

- Amalia Shiffriss: On Augusts 9 -10 "Surviving Jeffrey Epstein" is on Lifetime, produced by someone from Bloomington. This documentary series focuses on the crimes from the perspective of the victims.
- Middle Way House: currently collecting school supplies for the kids of Middle Way House
- Yael Massen: The Protective Order Project may not have an in-person office this year due to IU's new rules to reduce Covid-19.

Next month's speaker is Harry Heyer.