

ROSC Consortium Meeting  
January 29th, 2024  
Minutes Taken by Carissa Van Den Berk Clark  
Minutes Edited by Savannah Welch, ROSC Coordinator

- ◆ Jami Linhart, ROSC Coordinator, opens the meeting with introductions of new members, reminders to sign in via the physical sign in sheet or within the chat box via Zoom chat
- ◆ A motion to approve the Planning Committee Minutes from March was provided by Elyse Schoen
- ◆ A motion to approve the ROSC Meeting Minutes from February from February was provided by Lindsay Minor
- ◆ Jami recalls that copies of the Strategic Plan was sent out to the Planning Committee via email following the last meeting, as well as made the current attendees aware that physical copies were available at the front of the room
  - ◆ Savannah Welch, ROSC Coordinator, alerts online attendees that a copy of the Strategic Plan will be emailed out following the meeting
- ◆ Jami and Savannah share that the ROSC Facebook Page remains active with organizational updates, and encourages individuals to follow for ROSC related news and education
- ◆ Michelle Dettwiler, Recovery Project Coordinator through Recovery Corps, played their anti-stigma campaign video with an emphasis on utilizing proper language and viewing individuals for who they are rather than their diagnosis
  - ◆ Michelle explains that the video is the “kickoff” for their anti-stigma campaign which will encompass Macoupin and Montgomery Counties
    - The campaign will feature personal stories, educational pieces, art pieces, and various other media pieces to grab the attention of viewers
    - Michelle will also be utilizing purple sunglasses, the color of recovery, to make a statement within the towns
      - ROSC attendees were given a pair of glasses
      - Michelle explains that table tents, business cards, and window clings will be distributed around the counties with QR codes linking back to the website
- ◆ Jami explains that the Planning Committee, formerly known as the Subcommittee, now occurs on the 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. via Zoom only
  - ◆ She continues to share that the Strategic Plan is currently under review prior to starting the selection process for the project
  - ◆ Jami explains that the Planning Committee will be selecting a barrier to work on quarterly which will have an action plan surrounding it
  - ◆ Jami shares that Kelly Jefferson of NAMI will be reporting out this meeting
  - ◆ Kelly Jefferson shares that during the 1st meeting, the Planning Committee worked to identify quarterly barriers and topics to discuss and action plan around
    - Kelly will primarily report out with backup from Kevin Schott and Savannah Holthaus
    - The Planning Committee will be reviewing the Strategic Plan to inspire action
  - ◆ Jami introduces Officer Doug Cochran of the Kansas Police Department (Edgar County) who will be speaking on Human Trafficking

- Savannah recalls that there are handouts provided by Officer Cochran at the front of the room, as well as sent out online via email prior to the ROSC Meeting
- ◆ Officer Cochran shares that human trafficking is a concept that strikes both a personal and professional cord for him
- ◆ He states that he will aim to describe both what human trafficking looks like, as well as what a trafficking victim may present as
- ◆ Officer Cochran states that human trafficking, despite the common notion that it's simply sex trafficking of young, foreign women, includes both sex trafficking *and* labor trafficking
  - He explains that traffickers use physical force, fraud, and coercion- such as withholding someone's personal documents or utilizing illicit substances, to maintain control over their victims
  - He further enforces the fact that *anyone*, regardless of age, gender, or immigration status can be a victim of human trafficking
- ◆ Officer Cochran takes a moment to debunk the misconceptions between *trafficking* and *smuggling*
  - Trafficking is a crime against a person which is exploitation based and necessitates the use of force, fraud, or coercion, and requires the person to be engaged in some form of compelled work
    - A victim of trafficking is also not free to leave
  - Smuggling is a crime against a border during which an international line is illegally crossed by an individual or with a substance
- ◆ Officer Cochran explains that labor trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and obtaining of individuals for labor services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion
  - Red flags of labor trafficking include:
    - A highly controlled and hazardous worksite
    - Out of place, heightened security
    - Substandard safety
    - Workers arrive together via "dropoff"
    - Workers are prohibited from speaking to passersby
    - Workers appear fearful, anxious, submissive, nervous, tense, avoid eye contact, or appear to utilize scripted responses
    - Most often appear in the fast food industry and on construction sites
- ◆ Sex trafficking is "for the purpose of engaging in a commercial sex act"
  - Red flags of sex trafficking include:
    - Living in a home with lots of individuals with no relation
    - Living with a sponsor, caregiver, or employer
    - Traveling with an individual who is not your family member
    - Having fake documents
    - Isolation from outside supports

- Inability to enroll and attend school regularly
  - Consistent worry that the “family” needs money
  - Frequent moves
  - Inability to go to appointments alone
  - “Hovering” from a caretaker
  - Branding or tattoos (barcodes, moneybags, verbiage from another culture/language)
  - Isolation from outside supports
- ◆ Officer Cochran begins explaining principles of Trauma Informed Care, beginning with a brief lesson on the importance of language surrounding the word “prostitute” explaining
    - ◆ *“There are no prostitutes, only individuals who have been prostituted”*
  - ◆ He explains that trauma informed care is an approach to engaging individuals with a history of trauma which traditionally includes six principles
    - ◆ Safety
    - ◆ Trustworthiness
    - ◆ Peer Support
    - ◆ Collaboration
    - ◆ Empowerment
    - ◆ Voice
    - ◆ Choice
  - ◆ Trauma Informed Care places an emphasis on offering choices to individuals and placing priority on their wishes, safety, and wellbeing rather than what you believe their treatment should look like
  - ◆ Officer Cochran shares that not all human trafficking victims will identify as such, nor will they accept help due to the traumatization
    - ◆ Some individuals may have suffered memory loss, may experience dissociation, may be living with substance use, may be made to have felt shame and blame, etc.
  - ◆ Officer Cochran shows an educational video which aids in putting the impact of human trafficking into perspective. The link to view this video is below:
    - ◆ Stop Traffick <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMyExi2q-ZI o>  
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.11alive.com/video/news/stop-traffick-event-involving-72-buses/85-c4affde5-8f01-49b9-a0dd-af60b36ed59b&ved=2ahUKEwjNlaGLk5CFAXUTv4kEHSaKABYQwqsBegQIARAE&usg=AOvVaw07K8WqNIWyfevhNvR7Ep3E>
  - ◆ Officer Cochran states that individuals who wish to assist in preventing human trafficking might:
    - ◆ Educate themselves and others through the sharing of the information provided today
    - ◆ Reporting suspicious activity that could be related to human trafficking warning signs
    - ◆ Trusting your gut, believing victims, and trusting law enforcement
    - ◆ Knowing your resources such as the National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888

- ◆ Officer Cochran shares that he is a contact and ally for us at  
KPDdcochran22@gmail.com
- ◆ He goes on to educate that most victims of trafficking have been made to fear for their lives
  - Due to law enforcement training to “interrogate”, a barrier is often created between victims of trafficking and the police
  - Traffickers provide food, shelter, clothing, and some form of physical livelihood
  - Law enforcement must try to relinquish the interrogation style and instead focus on questions such as *are you safe where you are staying? When was the last time you ate? When did you last sleep?* To build trust and avoid fear and blame
- ◆ Officer Cochran reminds us that trafficking victims can be anyone and provides an example of a wealthy couple from Chicago, a Stockbroker and a Nurse, who trafficked their young child to fund vacations
- ◆ He explains that often times, these individuals are able to escape their situations due to observant passersby, nurses, educators, law enforcement, and every day people, for example:
  - An individual at a truck stop noticed a young girl tucked into the corner of a truck with a spanish tattoo on her. He engaged the girl to speak and realized she spoke no spanish. She broke down and alerted the man to her situation and was ultimately able to separate from her trafficker
    - Unfortunately, in many cases, traffickers do not let victims away from them in public scenarios, which is why it is important to trust your gut and contact law enforcement
      - You might take down a physical description of the alleged victim and trafficker
      - A license plate number, vehicle make and model, direction of travel, time of encounter
  - Officer Cochran reminds us that often times, the “bottom girl” or the girl who helps lure or recruit other girls into the trafficking ring, is a victim herself, but has been abused for such a lengthy period of time she has gained the trust of the trafficker out of necessity for survival
    - He states that the victims often time have to meet quotas or monetary values per day- and may experience severe punishment if they are unable to do so
      - There have been cases of girls being burned, nailed to the floor, and encountering other forms of severe torture
      - It is often the job of the “bottom girl” to ensure other victims are meeting quotas to avoid punishments
- ◆ Traffickers often groom and build trust with children and young adults through acts of kindness, compassion, compliments, attention, and love bombing, or filling a need that the individual does not currently get filled elsewhere

- For example: a trafficker may purchase a new iphone for a young woman, and then ask for naked pictures in return as a token of appreciation
  - Once the trafficker has the naked photos, they can use the photos as leverage to threaten the child with
- Some traffickers allow children to attend school regularly in order to attract and recruit additional victims
  - School bus drivers are an excellent ally to have as they are often the first and last person to see children before school starting
    - They may see different individuals picking them up and dropping them off under suspicious circumstances
- ◆ Officer Cochran shares that it's pertinent for parents to check their children's phones for applications that can aid traffickers in contacting victims
  - Facebook is still one of the largest platforms utilized by traffickers
  - Parents should be weary of children coming home with clothing, electronic devices, and items they do not recognize
- ◆ Officer Cochran shares that traffickers are often cunning, and may come to events and trainings to educate themselves on the methods the police are using to identify and catch traffickers
  - He shares that, in a past training, a young lady came forward and shared that she was trafficked, and that her John was in the audience
  - For this reason, Officer Cochran request a sign-in
- ◆ Community updates ensued as followed:
  - Community Wellness Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 10 a.m. both at Beacon Church and via Zoom
  - Packets provided contain a poster for the stigma campaign equipped with a QR Code
  - The Health and Wellness Fair featuring the American Red Cross is upcoming on Saturday, April 27th
  - The Race for Recovery will be held on April 20th, and booths are available for interested organizations
  - The Phoenix Center will have Free HIV/HCV testing on Thursday, March 28th
    - Pizza will be provided
- ◆ Patrick Miller of Chestnut will speak on the IL Faith and Recovery Collaborative in April
- ◆ Closure