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**STATEWIDE COUNCIL ON  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
ANNUAL REPORT





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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and as required by Section 16.617(5) of Florida Statutes, I am pleased to present the Council's 2023 Annual Report to Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and House Speaker Paul Renner. The Annual Report provides an update on the Council's ongoing work over the past year.

The Council was created by the Florida Legislature to build on existing state and local partnerships working to combat human trafficking, and our Council members have worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission of coordinating Florida's response to fight all forms of human trafficking and support victims. This year alone, the Council assessed the frequency to which social media platforms are used to assist, facilitate, or support human trafficking within Florida; the Council hosted another successful Human Trafficking Summit to bring potentially life-saving educational content to attendees across the nation; and the Services and Resources Committee formed a workgroup to conduct a study and make recommendations for the regulation of adult safe houses for human trafficking victims/survivors.

As Attorney General, I am proud that Florida continues to serve as a national leader in human trafficking response. The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking recognizes the continued support and collaboration of our state Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis. Together, we are making Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking.

Sincerely,

Ashley Moody  
Attorney General

## OVERVIEW



### 2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Attorney General Ashley Moody, *Chair*  
Secretary Shevaun Harris, *Florida Department of Children and Families, Vice Chair*  
Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo, *Florida Department of Health*  
Secretary Jason Weida, *Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*  
Commissioner Mark Glass, *Florida Department of Law Enforcement*  
Secretary Eric Hall, *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*  
Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr., *Florida Department of Education*  
Senator Ileana Garcia  
Representative Toby Overdorf  
Sheriff Chad Chronister, *Hillsborough County*  
State Attorney Amira Fox, *20th Judicial Circuit*  
Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez  
Jeanette Rubio  
Terry Coonan, *Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights*  
Jennifer Collins

### MISSION

The mission of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking is to enhance the development and coordination of state and local law enforcement and social services responses to fight all forms of human trafficking and to support victims.

### FLORIDA STATUTE 16.617

The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking was created through legislation passed and signed into law in 2014. The 15-member Council, chaired by the Attorney General, builds on existing state and local partnerships working to combat human trafficking. Members include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, legislators, as well as experts in the fields of health, education, and social services. The Council meets at least four times a year.

### ANNUAL REPORT

Per statute, by October 31st of each year, the Council shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives summarizing the accomplishments of the Council during the preceding fiscal year and making recommendations for a comprehensive, strategic approach to combat human trafficking.

## **COUNCIL DUTIES**

- Develop recommendations for comprehensive programs and services for victims of human trafficking to include recommendations for certification criteria for safe houses and safe foster homes;
- Assess the frequency and extent to which social media platforms are used to assist, facilitate, or support human trafficking within Florida; establish a process to detect such use on a consistent basis; and make recommendations on how to stop, reduce, or prevent social media platforms from being used for such purposes;
- Make recommendations for apprehending and prosecuting traffickers and enhancing coordination of responses;
- Annually hold a statewide policy summit in conjunction with an institution of higher learning in Florida;
- Work with the Department of Children and Families to create and maintain an inventory of human trafficking programs and services in each county, including, but not limited to, awareness programs and victim assistance services, which can be used to determine how to maximize existing resources and address unmet needs and emerging trends; and
- Develop policy recommendations that advance the duties of the Council and further the efforts to combat human trafficking in our state.

## **WEBPAGE FOR THE COUNCIL**

Information about the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking can be found on the Attorney General's official website: [myfloridalegal.com/human-trafficking/council](https://myfloridalegal.com/human-trafficking/council)

## **COMMITTEES**

The Council formed four working Committees to address the following: (i) victim/survivor safety and recovery; (ii) law enforcement tools; (iii) legislative priorities; and (iv) awareness. Committee responsibilities are broken down as follows:

### **Services and Resources Committee**

*Chaired by Secretary Shevaun Harris, Florida Department of Children and Families*  
This Committee examines enhancement of victim/survivor safety and recovery.

### **Criminal Justice Committee**

*Chaired by Sheriff Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff*  
This Committee explores methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training.

### **Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee**

*Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez*  
This Committee addresses legislative priorities and special initiatives.

### **Education and Awareness Committee**

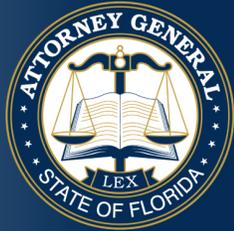
*Chaired by Jennifer Collins*  
This Committee explores projects to spread awareness and educate the public about human trafficking and how to report it.

**SURVEY**

In 2022, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 615. This legislation created a new duty for the Council – to assess the frequency to which social media platforms are used to assist, facilitate, or support human trafficking within Florida. To meet this statutory objective, the Council conducted a statewide study with Florida law enforcement agencies on documented instances since 2019 in which social media was used to facilitate human trafficking, trafficking operations, or control victims. The survey went out to 80 law enforcement agencies, going to all 67 sheriffs’ offices and police departments in major Florida cities. Results determined 146 of the 271 reported instances of social media platform use in human trafficking were attributable to Meta platforms—more than half of the reported instances. As a result, Attorney General Moody sent a letter calling Meta Platforms Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg to appear before the Council to discuss what Meta is doing to prevent its platforms from being used to assist, facilitate, or support human trafficking.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTED COUNT	
SM Application	Number of Reported Instances
Facebook	72
Instagram	65
Snapchat	19
Skip the Games	14
megapersonals	10
Cash App	7
MeetMe	6
TextNow	6
TikTok	6
Grinder	5
Rubmaps	5
WhatsApp	5
DISCORD	3
FB Messenger	4
KIK	3
Sex Ad	3
Tagged	3
TINDER	3
adult searsch	2
BACKPAGE	2
BLK Dating app	2
List Crawlers	2
ONLYFANS	2
POF	2
Icloud	1
ADLIST24.COM	1
Chaturbate	1
CITYXGUIDE.COM	1
Craigslist	1
EROS	1
erotic monkey	1
escortalligator	1
ESCORTBABYLON.COM	1
Google	1
LIFE360	1
PAYPAL	1
Scout	1
Seeking	1
Tagg	1
Text	1
Uber	1
Unknown	1
VENMO	1
yalelodge	1

**The Office of the Attorney General contacted 80 agencies (including all 67 sheriffs’ offices and PDs of major FL cities) to provide data on social media platforms being used to facilitate human trafficking during the agencies’ HT investigations.**



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## SUMMIT

The Council is required to hold an annual statewide policy summit in conjunction with an institution of higher learning in Florida. The 2023 Human Trafficking Summit was held virtually for the fourth year in a row. The Summit launched on October 3, 2023, and will continue to be available for six months.



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced John Walsh as the keynote speaker for the virtual 2023 Annual Human Trafficking Summit. As a nationally renowned crime fighter, victim advocate, and host of the former hit television show *America's Most Wanted*, Walsh spent decades seeking missing children and justice for crime victims. Walsh's extensive career in television has helped law enforcement recover missing children. John and his wife, Revé Walsh, helped found the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 1984. NCMEC runs a toll-free hotline and, since being founded, has fielded more than 5 million calls nationwide. The nonprofit organization is also responsible for circulating billions of photos of missing children and assisting law enforcement in the recovery of more than 400,000 missing children.

The Summit included an opening address from Attorney General Moody and more than 11 hours of educational content from leaders in the fight to end human trafficking.

An awards ceremony presented by Attorney General Ashley Moody, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Shevaun Harris, and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Eric Hall also honored award recipients for the 2023 Human Trafficking Summit.

The following awards were presented to this year's award recipients:

- Survivor Advocate of the Year — Kim Figueroa;
- Community Advocate of the Year — Mitzi Henley;
- Prosecutor of the Year — Rita Peters;
- Law Enforcement Official of the Year — Detective Bernadette Maher;
- DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year — Laizbet Arado; and
- DJJ Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year — Aislinn Roxanne "Roxie" Brookshire.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### SERVICES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

#### General Overview of Activities This Year

The Services and Resources Committee is charged with enhancing victim/survivor safety and recovery. The Committee is chaired by Florida Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris and includes the following members: Secretary Jason Weida (Florida Agency for Health Care Administration), Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo (Florida Department of Health), and Secretary Eric Hall (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice).

The November 2022 meeting was focused on the discussion about services for adult survivors of human trafficking. Representatives from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) provided updates to the policy, practice, and training processes that were under review to ensure a more efficient process for background screening of trafficking survivors seeking employment. The review of the system for conducting background screening also aims to minimize re-traumatization of trafficking survivors. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) presented information about a new federal law, the Debt Bondage Relief Act (DBRA), that helps trafficking survivors repair their financial health in situations when it was damaged by trafficking exploitation. The last item discussed was the need for better standards of care and oversight of safe houses for adult survivors.

The Committee determined that it would continue efforts to streamline the background screening process. The Committee also decided it would distribute information about DBRA to community partners across the state. Lastly, the Committee stated it would create a workgroup to research nationwide best practices for working with providers of residential programs that assist adult survivors with the goal of submitting findings and recommendations to the Committee.

Secretary Harris kicked off the January 2023 meeting by welcoming the new secretary at AHCA, Jason Weida, and providing highlights of events happening around the state in recognition of January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The meeting focused on the challenges that youth who were the victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) face upon completing their residential programs. Safe homes have highly structured programming, so transitioning back to a more traditional setting comes with challenges. When survivors successfully complete safe home programming, they will usually have spent 9 to 12 months surrounded by professional staff with multiple therapy sessions each week, have set academic schedules, have no or limited access to social media, and have medical appointments scheduled with transportation provided. Two service providers presented what their organizations are doing to assist youth transitioning and aging out of safe home

residential programs. Committee members discussed the need to continue the expansion of community support services to youth graduating from safe homes across the state, especially in the rural counties. Additionally, it was discussed that specialized safe therapeutic foster homes seem to be the best step-down option for CSEC youth staying in the dependency system.

The April 2023 meeting was chaired by Patricia Medlock, DCF's Director of Business Alignment and Special Programs, on behalf of Secretary Harris. In addition to the Committee members, the meeting was also attended by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Director Taylor Hatch and community partners working in the field providing services to people living with developmental disabilities. The focus topic of this Committee meeting was the need to bring anti-trafficking efforts to those with disabilities as well as the provider network. The speakers provided information on the unique factors that make disabled people vulnerable to exploitation, current available data on rates of trafficking victimization for this population, and information about available nationwide initiatives highlighting the issue and offering resources.

During the second part of the meeting, Director Medlock shared Secretary Harris' message for Child Abuse Prevention month regarding our commitment to end child abuse. Director Medlock also discussed bills regarding adult safe house certification and expanding trafficking prevention education for children in care. Tomas Lares from United Abolitionists, Inc. provided the Committee with a report on the activities of the Adult Safe House workgroup that formed in November 2022 and the progress made conducting national research.

The June 2023 meeting was dedicated to analyzing the progress that the partner agencies have made working on previously identified action items. The goal of improving and expediting background screening and the expungement process for trafficking survivors was recognized as a multiagency effort that will require a comprehensive review of all current background screening policies.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities and DCF reported working together to develop trainings for employees working with families receiving APD services. The Florida Department of Children and Families was also in the process of reviewing the suggestion of adding the human trafficking maltreatment to adult protective investigation.

The second Committee session was held on the same day to provide updates on the work of the Adult Safe House workgroup. The Florida Department of Children and Families shared an overview of the passing of Senate Bill 1690 and the requirements within that bill. The Committee members were provided with two presentations from existing providers working with adult survivors of human trafficking. The Office of Licensing for DCF shared their strategy on preparing for the development of the certification standards.

## Agency-Specific Updates

Each of the agencies represented on the Committee submitted a summary of their efforts to address the Committee's goals.



### *Florida Department of Children and Families*

In 2023, DCF maintained its commitment to continue to improve the response in identifying and serving populations affected by human trafficking through numerous enhancement projects while maintaining existing services.

The Florida Department of Children and Families continues to hold regular training sessions for staff employed at residential homes for youth at-risk for human trafficking. Four in-person train-the-trainer sessions were held in November and December of 2022 and two sessions are scheduled for Fall 2023. As of July 31, 2023, there were 163 homes throughout Florida with a total capacity of 1,564 beds for children at-risk for sex trafficking. During state FY 2022-23, five providers of available safe houses existed with six homes, with capacity for 33 beds. One safe house is increasing their capacity by six beds by Spring 2024. One of the existing safe houses continues to work on developing a transitional housing program that will be opening in the Suncoast region and serve dependent victims of CSEC over the age of 18. While some programs in the state provide residential transitional housing for adult females, this will be the first home where survivors transition to adult independent living within the same provider of therapeutic services. As of July 10, 2023, there were eight safe therapeutic foster homes within the Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively Impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) Program and 14 safe foster homes maintained by Devereux Florida. The Florida Department of Children and Families is partnering with Citrus to expand the CHANCE program with the additional \$1,500,000 funding designated by the Florida Legislature. This funding will be used to expand safe foster homes as well as the CHANCE outreach program to other parts of the state.

In the past fiscal year, DCF launched a one-hour human trafficking training for foster parents, another important prevention measure that benefits Florida's children and families. 447 individual trainings were completed in state FY 2022-23 by current and prospective foster parents and child welfare workers.

All human trafficking awareness and special topics trainings continued in state FY 2022-23 with 67 trainings (over 200 combined hours) delivered to DCF staff, professionals in law enforcement, hospitality and healthcare industries, or community partners. In the past fiscal year, DCF's human trafficking specialists presented at two national conferences, four statewide conferences, and four regional level conferences.

The Florida Department of Children and Families maintains significant focus on integration with the Office of Domestic Violence including: work to identify an already validated screening tool for adults that could be used in the certified centers and within the provider network to screen victims and survivors of domestic violence for human trafficking;

collaboration to develop a technology solution for the certification of adult safe houses and centers; and collaboration to develop shared training opportunities.

The Florida Department of Children and Families engaged in significant work to increase services and placement options across the state over the past year. While these services are not all exclusive to survivors of human trafficking, all are trauma-informed and may be appropriate, based on family dynamics. The Florida Department of Children and Families has collaborated with sister agencies such as the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Education, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Florida Attorney General's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and others, on areas of training, improving identification of victims, identification of at-risk youth and adults, and other priorities identified in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).



## *Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*

Having endured severe trauma and physical abuse, human trafficking victims have complex needs. Behavioral health treatment can help victims recover from their experienced trauma by reducing their symptoms and promoting their recovery. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) supports DCF's efforts to help the victims of human trafficking by offering Florida Medicaid's comprehensive behavioral health coverage. Eligible beneficiaries can receive services across a continuum of care from home and community-based providers to residential and inpatient settings. Florida Medicaid's behavioral health services, beginning with intake and assessment, are designed to identify at-risk individuals and provide treatment across all levels of severity.

Florida Medicaid, as the largest health insurer in the state, provides an array of behavioral health services to all ages that include the following:

- Behavioral health assessments;
- Behavioral health individual, family, and group therapy;
- Community support interventions such as psychosocial rehabilitation and clubhouse services;
- Behavioral health-related medical services;
- Inpatient hospitalizations; and
- Therapeutic group care homes.

Targeted case management is a specialty service that provides detailed assessment to identify an individual's service needs followed by an individualized care plan to coordinate service access for each recipient. Every effort is made to assist the individual to recover in the least restrictive environment possible. Services are available in homes, including group and foster care settings, and schools.

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) are available by credentialed therapeutic group home providers. QRTPs provide a trauma-informed model of care in a safe residential setting designed to address the needs, including clinical needs, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances. This trauma-informed care is always available, day or night, to individuals under 21 years old, including victims of human trafficking. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration works continually with DCF to align an array of evidence-based benefits to Medicaid-funded services available to all Medicaid members.

Additional behavioral health services are available through Florida Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) plans. These services are available as expanded benefits and in lieu of services and include:

- Behavioral health intensive outpatient treatment;
- Outpatient substance abuse detoxification;
- Housing assistance;
- Crisis stabilization units;
- Community-based wraparound services;
- Mental health partial hospitalization; and
- Mobile response interventions.

Florida Medicaid plays a critical role in providing a continuum of behavioral health care to support victims of human trafficking through interagency collaboration. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and SMMC health plans continue to work with DCF and the managing entities to integrate and coordinate care for these vulnerable members.



### *Florida Department of Health*

#### **2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) continues to prioritize human trafficking prevention by leveraging cross-sector partnerships through statewide strategic planning efforts. Through the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), partners are working together to build infrastructure, increase capacity, and provide awareness, education, and tools to community members.

Under the 2022-2026 SHIP Injury Safety and Violence Prevention Priority Area, two objectives correspond directly to trafficking activities: development of trafficking related objectives in Community Health Improvement Plans and building connections between local departments of health and trafficking coalitions and service providers. The Florida Department of Health's Trafficking Coordinator works with Florida State University's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and the local human trafficking task forces and coalitions to facilitate connections with local county health departments to improve referral processes and build community capacity to address trafficking locally.

### **Multi-disciplinary Collaborative**

The Florida Department of Health is working with DCF, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, and the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center in a special multi-disciplinary collaborative hosted by Futures Without Violence to explore the intersection between domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking. This effort will result in updated guidance for the screening and referral of clients who may be victims of violence. The Violence and Injury Prevention Section provides ongoing training and technical assistance to county health departments. This includes training county health department staff that provide direct client services on how to screen and refer clients who disclose they are survivors of trafficking.

### **DOH Human Trafficking Workgroup**

The Florida Department of Health's Human Trafficking Workgroup meets monthly to build workforce capacity to address trafficking in clinical and community settings. Members of the workgroup include county health department and state health office staff. The workgroup hosts internal and external partners to present special topics and share innovative practice. Workgroup projects include Osceola County Health Department partnering with the local sheriff's office to provide the Human Trafficking and Drug Abuse Awareness Conference for the local hospitality industry and Palm Beach County Health Department using Q-Flow Messaging in county health department clinics to display national human trafficking messaging and hotline number information.



## *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has continually made strides in the statewide efforts to prevent human trafficking and to intervene with youth who have potentially experienced trafficking.

One of the core components of DJJ's human trafficking intervention is the usage of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST), a screening instrument developed in collaboration with DCF and used in conjunction with DCF. During the state FY 2022-23, DJJ administered 13,007 full HTSTs to 7,058 individual youth. Of the full HTSTs administered, 69 percent were administered to male youth and 31 percent were administered to female youth.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is dedicated to collecting data for future evaluation of the screening tool as recommended by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. DJJ is also committed to improving its understanding of the scope of trafficking in Florida and the prevalence of trafficked youth within the delinquency system.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Criminal Justice Committee is charged with exploring methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training. This Committee is chaired by Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister and includes the following members: Attorney General Ashley Moody, State Attorney of the 20th Circuit Amira Fox, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass.

The Criminal Justice Committee hosted several meetings during the reporting period. Remaining focused on topics related to the area of criminal justice, the Committee took up a range of agenda items, including Turn Your Life Around Court (TYLA), law enforcement technology grant guidelines for the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, and development of a statewide survey for law enforcement agencies.

Turn Your Life Around Court (TYLA) operates within the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, encompassing DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. TYLA serves as a therapeutic treatment court and involves governmental and non-governmental entities to identify potential victims of human trafficking within the criminal justice system and provide individualized services in the space of trauma therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, and other recovery services. Overseen by the courts and a trained case manager, victims who actively participate in TYLA may have their charges dismissed.

The Criminal Justice Committee provides guidance to the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, which is the direct support organization to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The organization will provide financial support for technologies to be used by law enforcement agencies for human trafficking investigations within Florida. The Committee reviewed human trafficking law enforcement technology grant guidelines and, subject to concurrence from the Council, will provide the guidelines to the organization. In the year ahead, the Committee anticipates the organization will disseminate funds for each grant..

Law enforcement agencies throughout Florida engage in a variety of human trafficking enforcement operations that focus on the individualized needs and priorities within their respective jurisdictions. These agencies range in size and vary in terms of available resources. To improve its understanding of the types of operations occurring throughout the state, the Criminal Justice Committee will distribute an agency head survey to aggregate data and provide additional insight for the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The Legislative and Special Initiatives (LSI) Committee is charged with addressing legislative priorities and special initiatives to combat human trafficking in the state of Florida. The Committee is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and includes Senator Ileana Garcia, Representative Tobin “Toby” Overdorf, and Terry Coonan of Florida State University. The Florida Legislature has taken significant and meaningful action to combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable Floridians in our state. During the 2023 legislative session, the Legislature passed several bills to combat human trafficking, raise awareness on the signs and impacts of human trafficking, and hold human traffickers accountable.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 7064 which supports victims of human trafficking and strengthens penalties for human traffickers. Among other things, SB 7064 establishes a civil action for victims of human trafficking against traffickers. It also requires adult establishments to verify the identity and ages of all employees and establishes a third-degree felony for owners or operators of adult establishments that do not retain such records. It allows victims to recover damages and attorney's fees from adult entertainment establishments and it permits seized property from a human trafficker to be sold and proceeds to be paid as restitution to victims.

The Legislature also passed SB 1690 which expands human trafficking awareness programs and increases support for victims. Among other things, it shortens the time that a public lodging establishment has to correct training and awareness sign deficiencies from 90 days to 45 days and imposes daily fines for any subsequent violation. It also requires residential treatment centers for children to place signs on their premises to warn children about the dangers of human trafficking, to provide age-appropriate programming to educate them on the signs and dangers of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and to ensure security measures. Lastly, it requires the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding the regulation of adult safe houses, which provide housing and care specifically for survivors of human trafficking.

Also passed and enacted was SB 1210 which makes confidential and exempt from public records requirements any petition for human trafficking victim expunction and all pleadings and documents related to the petition.

Additionally, the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1465, which among other things, makes human traffickers eligible for mandatory minimum sentences when they possess or discharge a firearm during their crimes. SB 7064, SB 1690, SB 1210, and HB 1465 were signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature also allocated funding for state agencies and organizations that support victims of human trafficking. These items were approved by Governor DeSantis and continue to build on previous investments to support Florida's most vulnerable populations. The 2023-24 budget includes millions in funding for services to individuals who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation:

- \$3,000,000 for Human Trafficking Resources in DCF's Base Budget;
- \$1,525,000 for Expanding Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively Impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE);
- \$350,000 for Camillus House Human Trafficking Recovery Program;
- \$587,706 for Devereux – Services for Sexually Exploited Youth;
- \$286,200 for The Lifeboat Project;
- \$1,000,000 for Place of Hope – Child Welfare Services;
- \$550,000 for One More Child Anti-Sex Trafficking;
- \$700,000 for Bridging Freedom Program;
- \$1,032,535 for NO MORE Foundation, Inc.;
- \$250,000 for United Way Pasco Transitional Housing;
- \$438,000 for Nancy J. Cotterman Crisis Intervention Programs;
- \$1,000,000 for Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Victims Programs and Services;

- \$500,000 for Voices for Florida – Open Doors Outreach; and
- \$272,565 for Human Trafficking Resources in the Division of Hotels and Restaurants.

Throughout 2023, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee focused on ways to raise public awareness and reduce incidences of human trafficking statewide.

These goals were:

- Work with the Legislature to develop appropriate protections for human trafficking victims;
- Work with the Legislature to ensure continued funding for the ongoing evaluation of programs and tools in the State of Florida, to transform promising programmatic practices into evidence-based responses;
- Identify strategic partnership opportunities to develop and distribute a comprehensive awareness campaign that targets the public, victims, and those of at-risk victimization that would be utilized uniformly across state agencies;
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to determine licensing and structural guidelines for safe houses serving adult victims;
- Collaborate and partner with law enforcement agencies to fight human trafficking; and
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to continue to ensure employees of specific state agencies and their contractors can receive training to recognize signs of sexual exploitation victimization.

During 2023, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee worked with several partners including survivors, organizations, government officials, and law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking.

The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee stands ready to continue working alongside General Moody and the Statewide Council to end this horrible scourge.

## **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Education and Awareness Committee is charged with exploring projects to spread awareness and educate the public about human trafficking and how to report it. The Education and Awareness Committee includes the following members: Chair Jennifer Collins, Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr., Terry Coonan, and Jeanette Rubio.

The Committee remains focused on the expansion of the 100 Percent Club. Created by Attorney General Ashley Moody in partnership with the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, the 100 Percent Club recognizes businesses and organizations for training employees on the signs of human trafficking and providing quick reference resources to effectively report human trafficking. Since the program's launch in January 2022, more than 33 businesses and organizations have completed the training and received certificates of membership. The Education and Awareness Committee is committed to finding ways to expand participation in the 100 Percent Club in both public and private sectors. One such effort includes the Committee's recent correspondence with Florida State University to make the training available to all students and staff.

The Committee is also focused on promoting awareness of the Florida Human Trafficking Reporting Line, 1-855-FLA-SAFE. On May 11, 2023, FDLE Assistant Commissioner Shane Pollard gave an update on the Florida reporting number at a meeting of task force and coalition representatives in Orlando, Florida. Task force and coalition representatives subsequently shared the reporting number at their local task force and coalition meetings across the state. The state reporting number has been included or referenced in the Healthy Schools section of the Florida Department of Education website, the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute's human trafficking trainings, and the 2023 Human Trafficking Summit. Education and Awareness Committee members continue to discuss and develop ideas for informing Floridians about the Florida Human Trafficking Reporting Line.

## FLORIDA ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING, INC.

The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking (incorporated as End Human Trafficking, Inc.) is a nonprofit organization created by the Florida Legislature in 2019 to provide assistance, funding, and support to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and to assist in the fulfillment of the Council's purposes.



### Board of Directors

Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff, *Becker, Chair*  
Retired Corporal Alan Wilkett, *Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Vice Chair*  
Savannah Parvu, *Survivor Leader/Speaker, Treasurer*  
Dr. Philip Toal, *Aspire Health Partners, Secretary*  
Toni Azinger, *Philanthropist*  
Allison Kinney, *HCA Healthcare*  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge Tracy Maurer, *Florida Department of Law Enforcement*  
Graci McGillicuddy, *Philanthropist*  
Matt Mohler, *Florida Power & Light Company*  
Maggie Overdorf, *Advocate*  
Tammie Rattray, *Ford Harrison*  
Jared Rosenstein, *Capital City Consulting*  
Stephanie Smith, *TECO*

### Executive Director

Erin Collins

Since its last annual report, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking held seven meetings of its Board of Directors, promoted its awareness and education course for industries, and hosted a fundraising gala.

Other highlights include:

- To date, over 28,000 individuals have completed the training course from various industries including hotel, motel, vacation rentals, trucking and logistics, property management, service providers, statewide associations, state/local government agencies, universities, and real estate;

- Hosted the training webinar *Everyone Has a Role: How You Can Increase Awareness About Human Trafficking and Protect Your Community* for Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January 2023;
- Provided awareness and educational presentations to 18 organizations;
- Received \$500,000 in grant funding from the Florida Legislature to update the organization's awareness and training course into twelve different native languages;
- Received \$75,000 in grant funding from two foundations;
- Promoted the 100 Percent Club to over 100 businesses and organizations;
- Developed, launched, and marketed two statewide awareness campaigns;
- Developed and received responses for a request for information for law enforcement about their current technological capabilities to combat human trafficking;
- Planned and hosted the fundraising event *A Night of Hope and Healing* in Palm Beach, Florida, raising nearly \$500,000;
- Raised an additional \$96,000 in private funding from individuals, businesses, and foundations; and
- Hosted a private screening for the film *Sound of Freedom*, followed by a panel discussion that Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody moderated. Special guests who attended the event included Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Melanie Griffin, Senator Ileana Garcia, Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Representative Toby Overdorf, Representative Vicki Lopez, Representative Felicia Robinson, and many Alliance partners and advocates.

During the upcoming year, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is focused on the following initiatives:

- Consistent with guidelines from the Council's Law Enforcement Committee referenced above, providing grants to support the technology needs of law enforcement in their proactive efforts against human trafficking;
- Holding successful regional fundraising events;
- Expanding reach and build on annual signature event *A Night of Hope and Healing*;
- Building relationships with businesses, associations, and organizations to promote the 100 Percent Club and the completion of the online training course; and
- Creating strategic partnerships with other organizations that will financially support the organization's mission.

## Local Task Forces, Coalitions, and Commissions

Task Force, Coalition, Commission	Task Force Coverage	Chair/ Point of Contact
Circuit 1 Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 1: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Heather Lopez/Marcie Landreth C1HTTF@outlook.com
Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 2: Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Michelle Spaven Michelle.Spaven@usdoj.gov
Gateway to Fr33dom Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 3: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Nicole Ferranti nicole.ferranti@myffamilies.com
Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition	Circuit 4: Clay, Duval, Nassau	Christopher Massey/Jacob Vorpahl Christopher.massey@fdjj.gov Jacob.Vorpahl@jaxsheriff.org
Sumter-Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Sumter, Lake	Joelle Aboytes/Lt. James Dilimone joelle.aboytes@myffamilies.com
Marion County Human Trafficking Task Force	County: Marion	Donna Guinn/Detective Crystal Blanton dguinn@ocalapd.org
Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Citrus, Hernando, Sumter	Janine Kell jkell@MFCS.US.com
Free Network	Regional: Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas	Amy O'Rourke amy.freenetwork.us@gmail.com
Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking	County: Pasco	Liana Dean liana.dean@baycare.org
Freedom 7 Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 7: Flagler, Putnam, Saint Johns, Volusia	Christy Gillis christina.gillis@myffamilies.com
North Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 8: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Melanie Mitchell/Sgt. Chris King melanie.mitchell@pfsf.org
Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Orange, Osceola, Seminole	Katie O'Rourke/Mikala Klein katie.orourke@myfloridalegal.com mikala.klein@onemorechild.org
Tri-County Alliance on Human Trafficking	Regional: Orange, Osceola, Seminole	Tomas Lares tomas@stophumantrafficking.com
Circuit 10 Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 10: Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Amanda Wilson amanda.wilson@myffamilies.com
Miami-Dade County Human Trafficking Coalition	Circuit 11: Miami-Dade	Ivon Mesa Ivon.Mesa@miamidade.gov
South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe	Betsy Cruz balema@mdpd.com
The Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota	Major Nathaly Patterson Nathaly.Patterson@stpete.org
Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking	County: Hillsborough	Charles Klug MontelioneLJ@HCFLGov.net
Circuit 14 Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 14: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Lori Allen lori.allen@Gulfcoastcac.org
Palm Beach Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Sergeant Carlos Lisboa cmessamg@pbcgov.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches	Circuit 15: Palm Beach	Laura Cusack htcoalitionpb@gmail.com
Broward Human Trafficking Coalition	Circuit 17: Broward	Jumorrow Johnson JJohnson@sao17.state.fl.us
Broward Human Trafficking Task Force / FBI Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Broward and Miami-Dade	Sergeant Atina Johnson Ajohnson@lauderhill-fl.gov
Space Coast Human Trafficking Task Force	County: Brevard	Mikala Klein/Kym Kurey mikala.klein@onemorechild.org
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee	Circuit 19: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie	Roberta Katz sarahmarie.henry@catchthewaveofhope.org
Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Janet Ortenzo janet@swfl-humantrafficking.org
Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Francine Donnorummo fdonnorummo@sao20.org





