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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 2024 Annual Report to Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senate President Designate Ben Albritton, House Speaker Paul Renner, and House Speaker Designate Danny Perez. The Annual Report provides an update on the Council's ongoing work over the past year.

The Council, created by the Florida Legislature to build on existing state and local partnerships combating human trafficking, has diligently worked to fulfill the mission of coordinating Florida's response to fight all forms of human trafficking and support victims. This year was marked by several key accomplishments and continued progress in vital areas needed to fight trafficking and help survivors. The Council, in response to HB 7063 (2024), supported the launch of Florida's dedicated human trafficking victim and survivor help and services hotline, 855-FLA-SAFE. The Council also directed the award of technology funding grants to Florida law enforcement agencies for use in supporting human trafficking investigations. The Council further assisted with the development of regulations for oversight of adult safe houses. Regarding training and awareness, the Council's efforts resulted in increased participation in the 100 Percent Club, and the annual Human Trafficking Summit showcased Florida's continued work to protect victims, prevent trafficking, and prosecute traffickers.

As Attorney General, I am encouraged and proud of Florida's determined service as a national leader in fighting against human trafficking. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Moody
Attorney General

OVERVIEW



2024 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 Bill Gladson, *5th 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 enacted 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

Consistent with section 16.617, Florida Statutes (2024), by October 31 each year, the Council submits a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives summarizing the recent accomplishments of the Council. The report also includes 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 website: myfloridalegal.com/human-trafficking/council

COMMITTEES

The Council consists of four working Committees, which 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 Deputy Commissioner Shane Pollard, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Designee

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 in response to such priorities.

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.

SUMMIT

Every year, the Council hosts a statewide summit with an institution of higher learning in Florida. With nationally renowned crime fighter John Walsh as the 2023 keynote speaker, the Human Trafficking Summit provided training, awareness, and resources to advance the mission of making Florida a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking.

The 2024 Human Trafficking Summit was held virtually for the fifth year in a row. The Summit launched on October 1, 2024, and will continue to be available for six months. Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Sheriff Grady Judd as the keynote speaker for the Summit. Sheriff Judd has served as Polk County's sheriff for nearly 20 years, leading several successful sting operations to take down human trafficking rings and rescue victims. In 2023, Sheriff Judd participated in a roundtable discussion with Attorney General Moody and other Florida leaders about the fight against human trafficking. In March 2024, Sheriff Judd carried out *Operation March Sadness 2024*. The eight-day, multi-agency undercover human trafficking investigation in Polk County led to the arrests of 228 people and identified 13 victims. Sheriff Judd continues to be a committed partner in the fight to end human trafficking.



The Summit featured an opening address from Attorney General Moody and a welcome message from Florida State University President Richard McCullough. Community leaders and stakeholders delivered educational content covering a variety of recent updates and developments in the areas of legal, service delivery, and education and awareness.

An awards ceremony hosted by Attorney General Moody, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Shevaun Harris, and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Eric Hall honored award recipients at the 2024 Human Trafficking Summit.

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

- Survivor Advocate of the Year — Olivia Littleton;
- Community Advocate of the Year — Lynne Barletta;
- Prosecutor of the Year — Frank Williams;
- Law Enforcement Official of the Year — Master Detective Ryan Daniels;
- DCF Human Trafficking Investigator of the Year — Julia Jackson; and
- DJJ Human Trafficking Advocate of the Year — Monica Gray.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SERVICES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

General Overview

The September 2023 meeting was conducted by the Department of Children and Families Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Community Services, Patricia Medlock, on behalf of Secretary Harris. Attendees were briefed on the recent Children and Families Summit in Orlando and the opening of a new safe house in the Southern Region, raising the state's bed capacity to 37. Updates included the Interim Report on Adult Safe Houses, the creation of the Office of Community Services, the development of an electronic Human Trafficking Screening Tool, the expansion of the Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) program, and the upcoming launch of AHCA's modernized Clearinghouse. Collaboration with all 67 local health departments was also discussed.

Secretary Harris began the January 2024 meeting by highlighting Human Trafficking Awareness Month and presenting state event highlights. She introduced a new toolkit for parents to help them recognize and prevent human trafficking. Assistant Secretary for the Office of Community Services, Jessica Tharpe, reviewed ongoing anti-trafficking initiatives, including SB 1690, the final report on adult safe houses, collaborations with Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), and the CHANCE program's expansion. Dr. Kimberly McGrath discussed CHANCE's expansion, while Patricia Medlock outlined 2024 goals, including advancing work with safe houses, safe foster homes, APD training, and enhancing survivor support through the Behavioral Health Services Network.

Secretary Harris opened the April 2024 meeting by acknowledging Child Abuse Prevention Month and emphasizing the need for interagency collaboration to combat child abuse and trafficking. Meeting announcements included the opening of the first Tier 1 safe house in the Central Region, which serves up to six children, and the ongoing development of the Adult Safe House Certification Rule, set for Fall 2024.

Two major presentations were featured:

1. Bridging Resources and Information Gaps in Human Trafficking (BRIGHT) Project: Dr. Joan Reid, Dr. Shelly Wagers, and Kailey Pate Carter from the University of South Florida introduced the BRIGHT Project, an online resource network to help survivors and service providers find safe, vetted services and generate data reports to improve service delivery.

2. Trauma-Informed Response Model: Christine Fredrick, Dawn Sakes, and Dr. Vicki Basra presented a collaborative model for supporting trafficking survivors, involving peer mentors, clinicians, and case managers. They discussed their agencies' work across 21 counties, highlighting the need for enhanced peer engagement and ongoing supportive services.

The July 2024 meeting, chaired by Deputy Assistant Secretary Patricia Medlock, reviewed annual updates and set goals for the upcoming fiscal year. Highlights included the announcement of the 2024 Florida Children and Families Summit and the co-sponsorship of the Florida Human Trafficking Summit. The meeting also noted an increase in safe harbor homes from eight to nine, boosting the bed capacity to 47, and the launch of the Florida hotline, 855-FLA-SAFE, to improve human trafficking tip sharing with local law enforcement, provided by William Mickler with FDLE.

Agency-Specific Updates

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



Department of Children and Families

This year, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) made significant organizational changes by creating the Office of Community Services. This new office consolidates programs dedicated to populations requiring specialized services, including the Adult Protective Services program, the Office on Homelessness, the Office of Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking Prevention Unit, and Hope Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity. This new structure enhances coordination, resource allocation, and response efficiency.

Due to the nature of the issues these programs address, cross-sectional populations are common. By integrating human trafficking prevention efforts with other programs such as Adult Protective Services and the Office of Domestic Violence, the Office leverages cross-disciplinary knowledge and strategies to provide comprehensive care to populations requiring intersectional services. The Office also facilitates curated data collection and analysis across its various programs, enabling DCF to identify trends, measure outcomes, and refine approaches based on evidence and best practices.

In 2024, DCF expanded placement options for trafficking victims and held three in-person training sessions for staff at residential homes. By July 2024, there were 182 at-risk homes in Florida with 1,767 beds for vulnerable children. Safe houses increased to nine, with a capacity of 47 beds, and a new Tier 1 safe house in the Central Region accommodates six children. Another safe house in the Suncoast Region will add 12 beds by the end of 2024.

Two safe houses are developing transitional housing for Commercially Sexually Exploited (CSE) youth over 18, supporting their transition to independent living while receiving ongoing therapeutic support. The CHANCE program, supported by \$1,500,000 in legislative

funding, will expand to new areas over the next three years.

DCF also introduced an electronic Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) to improve data collection and outcome analysis. The tool, developed in coordination with the University of South Florida, will be integrated into the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System and will be available by late Fall.

A toolkit for parents and caregivers was launched to help identify and prevent trafficking. Additionally, DCF is working with Adult Protective Services to include trafficking investigations for vulnerable adults and developing a screening instrument for potential trafficking cases.

The Human Trafficking Prevention Unit has begun collaborating with Independent Living services to support former foster youth, focusing on increasing eligibility awareness and bridging support gaps. New positions under the Department, including regional coordinators, a training position, a data specialist, and a policy specialist, will strengthen response efforts.

Human trafficking awareness and training on special topics continued, with over 270 hours completed by staff in fiscal year 2023-24, in collaboration with various state agencies, to enhance victim identification and support.



Agency for Health Care Administration

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) supports the DCF's efforts to help the victims of human trafficking by offering Florida Medicaid's comprehensive behavioral health coverage. 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. 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 assessments 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 in the individual's recovery 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 available 24-hours, seven days a week to individuals under 21 years old, including victims of human trafficking. The 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 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.

This year, the Agency also played an integral part in supporting the addition of Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling as disqualifying offenses in Chapter 435, Florida Statutes, with the passing of HB 975. The inclusion of these types of crimes ensures that employees or applicants who have these criminal offenses in their background are not able to work with or have access to Florida's most vulnerable populations.



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 utilization of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST), a screening instrument developed and used in coordination with DCF. The HTST was updated in 2020 and undergoes continual improvement. DJJ is dedicated to further human trafficking-related data collection for future evaluation of the HTST and to better understand the prevalence of trafficked youth within the delinquency system and throughout Florida.

DJJ continues to strengthen partnerships with other criminal justice and social service agencies to ensure that youth who contact the juvenile justice system are provided with high-quality effective services delivered by world-class professionals dedicated to building a stronger, safer Florida. DJJ will continue to pursue comprehensive system improvement and deploy proven practices that solidify our place as the leading system in the nation.



Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) takes a public health approach to address human trafficking. Given the diverse populations the Department serves, great potential exists for encountering victims of human trafficking through state and local services and programs.

2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan

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, trafficking coalitions, and service providers. The Department's Trafficking Prevention Coordinator works with local county health departments and community service providers to improve referral processes and build community capacity to address trafficking locally.

Some of the activities that county health departments have added to agency plans or Community Health Improvement Plans include:

- Providing human trafficking and drug abuse awareness trainings with local law enforcement for the hospitality industry;
- Partnering with local subject matter experts, persons with lived experience, and human trafficking service providers to offer in-person training on how to recognize human trafficking in the community; and
- Offering job-specific human trafficking training to county health department staff.

Mini-Grants

The Violence and Injury Prevention Section offered time-limited mini-grants to all 67 County Health Departments (CHDs) to obtain local-level information related to current sexual violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking related efforts. Health departments were provided funding for sexual violence prevention and human trafficking intervention or prevention-related activities including support for Human Trafficking Awareness to Action Month.

Twenty-three counties participated in anti-trafficking activities including hosting conferences, attending professional certification training, or purchasing educational materials for use in community-based prevention initiatives.

As a special project, the Seminole County Health Department integrated human trafficking education into a youth development program, distributed human trafficking prevention messaging, conducted Youth Empowerment program lessons with pretests and posttests, and provided a special session for parents and caregivers.

The Washington County Health Department supported ongoing efforts to conduct education and intervention to combat human trafficking in state park settings by adapting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training skills.

DOH Human Trafficking Prevention Workgroup

The Department's Human Trafficking Prevention 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.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Criminal Justice Committee is charged with exploring methods of enhancing law enforcement tools, resources, and training. This Committee is chaired by Florida Department of Law Enforcement Deputy Commissioner Shane Pollard and includes the following members: Attorney General Ashley Moody, Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister, and State Attorney of the 5th Judicial Circuit Bill Gladson.

Consistent with its mission, the Committee administered a human trafficking operations and investigations survey of law enforcement agencies throughout the state to provide insight related to human trafficking investigations. The Committee presented the results of the survey to the Council at the meeting on January 29, 2024. The survey was sent to 293 police departments and 67 sheriffs' offices. Of the respondents, the majority reported coordination with other law enforcement agencies and sufficient prosecutorial support in human trafficking operations. Challenges reported include staffing, budgeting, funding, technology, equipment, and maintaining contact with victims. Survey participants reported upcoming funding priorities include staffing, training, awareness, technology, and equipment.

The Committee made recommendations for the law enforcement technology grant process,

which supports Florida law enforcement’s utilization of technology tools for human trafficking investigations. While criminals frequently use technology to facilitate trafficking, various forms of technology also play a vital role in aiding law enforcement investigations, identifying how trafficking networks operate, enhancing prosecutions, raising awareness, and providing services to victims. The recommendations were incorporated in the human trafficking law enforcement technology grant application process, which the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, as the direct support organization to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, used to issue grants. Grants were awarded to Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office and Kissimmee Police Department. The Council anticipates that two additional grant awards will soon be awarded.

In furtherance of its mission, the Committee continues to work to support Florida law enforcement agencies in their efforts to disrupt criminal networks associated with human trafficking and bring the perpetrators to justice.

LEGISLATIVE AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative and Special Initiatives 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 been a committed partner in the effort to combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable Floridians in our state. During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed HB 7063, HB 305, HB 1545, HB 1131, HB 1235, and SB 1224 to continue Florida’s efforts against human trafficking.

During the 2024 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. The 2024-2025 budget includes more than \$19 million in funding for services to victims of human trafficking or sexual exploitation. The funding provides for services, awareness and education, counseling, case management, support to secure stable housing and employment. The funding includes:

- Enhanced Services for Human Trafficking Victims (Base Budget) \$3,000,000;
- Expanding Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) to other counties (Base Budget) \$700,000;
- Human Trafficking Emergency Bed Expansion (Recurring) \$4,993,200;
- Human Trafficking Operational Response Expansion (\$927,861 Recurring; \$50,895 Nonrecurring) \$978,756;
- One More Child Anti-Sex Trafficking (Nonrecurring) \$825,000;
- FLITE Center – Anti-Human Trafficking Program (Nonrecurring) \$600,000;
- Camillus House Human Trafficking Recovery Program (Nonrecurring) \$350,000;
- Place of Hope-Child Welfare Services (Nonrecurring) \$1,000,000;
- Bridging Freedom (Base Budget) \$700,000;
- More Too Life: Services for Sex Trafficking Victims (Nonrecurring) \$565,646;
- Nancy J. Cotterman Center Advocacy Program (Nonrecurring) \$501,500;

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- Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Victims Programs and Services (Nonrecurring) \$750,000;
- The No More Foundation – Human Trafficking Capacity Expansion in Tampa Bay (Nonrecurring) \$1,226,453;
- United Way Pasco – Transitional Housing for Survivors of Human Trafficking (Nonrecurring) \$765,716;
- Investigation and Prosecution of HT Crimes (Base Budget) \$634,805;
- Digital Forensic Center of Excellence (Nonrecurring) \$2,000,000; and
- Resources for Human Trafficking Workload in Division of Hotels and Restaurants (Implements Ch. 2019-152, Laws of Florida) (Base Budget) \$272,565.

This year, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee continued to focus 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 victim advocates;
- 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;
- Require a staff self-care component for all programs funded or certified by the State of Florida;
- Work with the Florida Bar to promote and expand the existing pro bono attorney network to address human trafficking;
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to determine how to require any entity receiving state dollars for the treatment or placement of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims to indicate program evaluation through a state university; and
- Work with the Legislature and appropriate state agencies to determine how employees of specific state agencies and their contractors can receive training to recognize signs of sexual exploitation victimization.

Throughout the year, the Legislative and Special Initiative Committee heard from individuals across the state on ways Florida can continue to combat human trafficking. Specifically, the Committee heard from Richard Ring, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the F3 Foundation, a nonprofit organization created by F3 Intelligence – a private investigation firm that uses unique and modern capabilities to conduct investigations. Through the F3 Foundation, Richard Ring and his team are dedicated to reopening missing children's cold cases and reuniting families. The F3 Foundation summarized the work they are doing and some of their success stories rescuing missing children.

The Committee also met with Detective Lee Bieber from the Plantation Police Department.

Detective Bieber discussed his experience handling cases both in labor trafficking and adult and minor sex trafficking. Although challenges with investigating cases exist, given personnel, proper training, and equipment, the Department has made great strides.

Lastly, the Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee welcomed the founder and Chief Executive Officer of HeartDance Foundation, Inc., Dotti Groover-Skipper, who is a former member of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. Dotti Groover-Skipper discussed her extensive experience in combatting human trafficking and the many organizations with which she has been involved to end this heinous crime.

The Legislative and Special Initiatives Committee stands ready to continue working alongside Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The Committee is eager to find new, creative, and innovative ways 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, Florida Commissioner of Education 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 report human trafficking effectively. In January 2024, Tampa General Hospital became the first hospital and Florida State University became the first university to join the 100 Percent Club. Since the program launched in January 2022, a total of 50 businesses and organizations have completed the training and received certificates of membership. To date, the 100 Percent Club has trained over 10,000 individuals since its inception.

The Committee is also focused on promoting awareness of the Florida Human Trafficking Reporting Line, 1-855-FLA-SAFE. The Committee reviewed recent updates in human trafficking public awareness signage required by statute in Florida. With the enactment of HB 7063 (2024), each human trafficking public awareness sign required by statute will clearly list 1-855-FLA-SAFE for reporting suspected human trafficking and requesting services. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Department of Transportation (FDOT) have been working to update such awareness signs in accordance with the recent legislation. These signs are displayed in numerous locations, including rest areas, primary airports, welcome centers, emergency rooms, adult entertainment establishments, massage establishments, crisis stabilization units, residential treatment facilities, health departments, and public lodging establishments. The state reporting number has also been included in the Healthy Schools section of the Florida Department of Education website, the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute's human trafficking training programs, and the 2024 Human Trafficking Summit, among others.

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*
Dr. Philip Toal, *Aspire Health Partners, Vice Chair*
Savannah Parvu, *Survivor Leader/Speaker, Treasurer*
Allison Kinney, *HCA Healthcare, Secretary*
Toni Azinger, *Philanthropist*
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, *FordHarrison*
Jared Rosenstein, *Capital City Consulting*
Stephanie Smith, *TECO*
Retired Corporal Alan Wilkett

Executive Director

Erin Collins

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

Other highlights include:

- Drafted legislation to reauthorize the Direct Support Organization/Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, which was enacted and became effective July 1, 2024;
- Held five meetings of the Board of Directors;
- Trained over 14,000 individuals with its online human trafficking awareness course (over 40,000 to date) from various industries, such as hotel, motel, vacation rentals, trucking and logistics, property management, service providers, statewide associations, state/local government agencies, universities, and real estate;
- Supported and promoted the 100 Percent Club (human trafficking awareness challenge to businesses/organizations) with 50 companies having received their certificates of completion;
- Launched a grants program to support law enforcement in their efforts against human trafficking;
- In December 2023, received 27 responses to a Law Enforcement Grants Solicitation for agencies to identify proven technology solutions that fight human trafficking;

- Recommended awards to the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$90,000 and to the Kissimmee Police Department in the amount of \$5,725;
- In April 2024, received 25 responses to a second Law Enforcement Grants Solicitation for agencies to identify proven technology solutions, in an additional amount of \$100,000 in funding;
- Recommended awards to the Tampa Police Department in the amount of \$79,154 and to the Miami Beach Police Department in the amount of \$27,600;
- Provided 12 different awareness trainings for various organizations, including business associations, service providers, healthcare/medical personnel, and civic groups;
- Significantly expanded outreach and increased database of potential donors, community partners, and supporters;
- Fundraised \$593,734 in private contributions including a local and national foundation, event sponsorships, individual philanthropic gifts, and anonymous online donations;
- Hosted regional awareness events in Indian River County (November 2023), Tallahassee (January 2024), and annual fundraising gala *A Night of Hope and Healing* (May 2024);
- Developed and updated corporate and individual annual giving plans; and
- Attended and participated in over 20 partner/stakeholder trainings, webinars, and listening sessions. (The DSO’s Executive Director attended these sessions.)

In the upcoming year, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking will focus on the following initiatives:

- Provide up to \$250,000 in grant funding to support the technology needs of law enforcement in their proactive efforts against human trafficking;
- Hold successful regional fundraising events;
- Expand reach and build on annual signature event, *A Night of Hope and Healing*;
- Build relationships with businesses, associations, and organizations to encourage participation in the 100 Percent Club by completing the online training course; and
- Create strategic partnerships with other organizations that will financially support the Florida Alliance 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	Khari James Khari.James@usdoj.gov
Gateway to Fr33dom Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 3: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Nicole Ferranti nicole.ferranti@myflfamilies.com
Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition	Circuit 4: Clay, Duval, Nassau	Lieutenant Jordan Dowling Jordan.Dowling@jaxsheriff.org
Sumter-Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Sumter, Lake	Joelle Aboytes/Lieutenant James Dilimone joelle.aboytes@myflfamilies.com
Marion County Human Trafficking Task Force	County: Marion	Donna Guinn/Detective Crystal Blanton dguinn@ocalapd.org
Nature Coast 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@myflfamilies.com
North Central Florida Human Trafficking Task Force	Circuit 8: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Melanie Mitchell/Sergeant 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 KleinM@lake.k12.fl.us
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@myflfamilies.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 lisboac@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 Poiter JPoiter@sao17.state.fl.us
Broward Human Trafficking Task Force / FBI Human Trafficking Task Force	Regional: Broward and Miami-Dade	Sergeant Atina Johnson Ajohnson@laurerhill-fl.gov
Space Coast Human Trafficking Task Force	County: Brevard	Kym Kurey info@anewinternational
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee	Circuit 19: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie	Sarah Henry 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 for the 20th Judicial Circuit	Circuit 20: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Francine Donnorummo fdonnorummo@sao20.org

**STATEWIDE
COUNCIL ON**

**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**
FLORIDA