



Thursday, March 23, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum **Staff**
- III. Public Comment (15 minutes maximum, 3 minutes per speaker)
- IV. Review and Approval of Meeting Recap – January 26, 2023
- V. Proposed Resolution Draft Update **DeBora Cromartie-Mincey,
Hillsborough County Chief Assistant
County Attorney**
- VI. Proposed By-Law Draft **DeBora Cromartie-Mincey**
- VII. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a. Legislative and Judicial **Charles Klug, Chair**
 - b. Steering Committee **Charles Klug, Chair**
(Written Recap to be approved at the next Committee meeting)
- VIII. Open Forum
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business **Staff**
 - a. Meeting Resources (HTV, Subcommittees)
- XI. Adjourn

Meeting Dates:

COHT Steering Committee- Thursday, April 27, 2023 – 1 p.m. / GR & SS offices 24th Floor
COHT Legislative & Judicial Subcommittee Thursday, 2023 – 2:30 p.m. / GR & SS offices 24th Floor
COHT Meeting: June 15, 2023 - 1 p.m. / 24th Floor Conference Rooms A & B



SM

**Hillsborough
County** Florida

Accommodation Statement

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Hillsborough County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation for this document should email the [Hillsborough County ADA Officer](#) or call (813) 276-8401; TTY: 7-1-1.

The January 26, 2023, Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking (COHT) meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Charles Klug at 1 p.m.

Quorum Call: Staff determined a quorum was present with the following noted:

Members Present - In-Person: Commissioner Cameron Cepeda, Chief Lee Bercaw, Capt. Chris Mills, Sgt. Justin Lee, School Board Member Perez, Charles Klug, Public Defender (“P.D.”) Holt, Tee Solomon, Jennifer Glaister, Beverly Mogelnicki, Mayra Espinosa, Deborah Laskowski

Members Present – Virtually: Iris Corey-Dunnaway

Members Absent: Detective Sgt. Kevin Durkin, Major Chris Rule, Courtney Derry, Chief Judge Ficarrota (Gina Justice present virtually to participate, but not vote), Santiago Corrada

Mr. Klug thanked everyone for being present as it was the first time in two years a quorum was achieved and mentioned a change to the number of members required for quorum may be looked at during a discussion of the by-laws.

Others Present In-Person: Elizabeth Cardenas, MPA, Esq., Government Relations & Strategic Services (“GR&SS”) Staff

Others Present Virtually: COHT GR&SS Administrator Lisa Montelione, Kailey Pate Carter, M.A., Project Manager USF BRIGHT project, Dr. Shelly Wages, Associate Professor, Criminology & USF St. Petersburg Chair & Gene Early, Director - Human Services, Hillsborough County

Election of Officers: Interim Chair Klug thanked former Commissioner Overman for her dedication to the COHT and for her work leading the Commission.

Staff member Elizabeth Cardenas conducted the election, recognizing that nominations were received by staff via email from member Jennifer Glaister. As Ms. Glaister is in the room Ms. Cardenas asked Ms. Glaister if she would like to make her nominations in person.

- **Ms. Glaister nominated Mr. Klug for the position of Chair. P.D. Holt seconded the nomination of Mr. Klug. Ms. Cardenas asked for additional nominations; there were none.**

A voice vote was held, with Mr. Klug unanimously supported by the members.

- **Ms. Glaister nominated P. D. Holt for the position of Vice Chair. Ms. Cardenas asked for additional nominations; there were none.**

A voice vote was held, with P. D. Holt unanimously supported by the members.

Mr. Klug stated that he felt there were several things that the COHT could accomplish, but they’ve struggled with implementation. He recognized that there are funding limitations, but going forward, he would like to see some goals met. Reviewing the Resolution, establishing By-Laws, changing quorum, because having a large committee (20) quorum is 11 and with members used to the Covid times of being virtual, there now needs to be in person meetings, with in person quorum.

Public Comment: None was received via email, and none presented themselves in the room.

Introduction of new members: Ms. Montelione announced the new members:

Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda (Board of County Commissioners)
Ms. Mayra Espinosa (The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay)
Ms. Claudette Graves (Religious Institutions)
Ms. Tee Soloman (Commission on the Status of Women)

Ms. Tee Soloman was called upon to share information from the Commission on the Status of Women. She stated the COSW previously had a subcommittee on Human Trafficking and recently attended a Human Trafficking seminar at Allen Temple where Assistant United States Attorney Lisa M. Thelwell, was in attendance. Without disclosing the nominees, she also announced that the COSW completed the process for the Woman of the year award. She looks forward to bringing the information from these meetings back to the COSW.

Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Mr. Klug in keeping January being Human Trafficking Awareness month he advised that his employer, Port Tampa Bay has mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness training in January. He stated there is a misconception that if you talk about human trafficking, you have a problem. It is not that there is a problem in our community, but communication to the public is essential to awareness to keep human trafficking at bay in our community. For example the Port hands out materials to their truck drivers to make them aware of the signs that someone has been trafficked.

Motion - Review and Approval of Meeting Recaps - P. D. Holt motioned to accept the Recaps of the March 31, 2022 & June 23, 2022; seconded by Member Glaister. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Recap Updates:

- **Education and Outreach Report:** Ms. Montelione gave the report announcing that due to the lapse in membership of Ms. Connie Rose, the subcommittee does not have a chair. Ms. Montelione spoke with Ms. Rose to review her report for this meeting. There were a few major issues to be addressed by the full COHT.
 - The Hillsborough Heros ("HH") - due to the contract for training ending in October 2021 the program is not active. The HH webpage still appears on the County's website. In the past year, one inquiry was received (from Hillsborough County's transit agency). Ms. Rose suggested the HH program link be removed from the website since there is no program at the current time.
 - Hillsborough County Procurement Director Scott Stromer has appeared at numerous meetings to discuss the potential of an RFP or RFQ for training and for marketing. Unfortunately, no progress has been made by the subcommittee on bringing parameters before the full COHT.
 - New member, Mayra Espinosa, began by introducing herself. She is the Family Nurse Practitioner with the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. She is their Nurse Ambassador and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Part of her role is outreach and education on sexual assault and human trafficking. The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay designed a webinar, which is being held virtually on January 31 at 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public. They will be discussing how to identify signs and actions to take. A registration link can be found on their website.

Motion: P. D. Holt motioned to remove the HH webpage, application, and link from the Hillsborough County website pursuant to the discussion. Member Glaister seconded the motion. A voice vote was held and passed unanimously.

P.D. Holt also suggested a discussion on the RFP, but perhaps not during this meeting.

- **Legislative & Judicial Report – Charles Klug, Chair - L & J Subcommittee**

- Discussion took place on how other organizations deploy education and training to identify victims and traffickers. School Board Member Perez reported on how the schools address training with their counselors; P. D.'s office talked about how they train their public defenders and other court system employees, along with how others address training within their agencies. Discussion was held on how to effectively fund training programs.
- Discussion was held regarding courts and having a specialty court and was it necessary to help decrease recidivism and provide access to services. There was reporting on how other jurisdictions handle victims' courts. Chief Judge Ficarrotta expressed his interest in giving the "Juvenile Options Court" pilot program time to gain footing and establish outcomes before exploring establishing a pilot for an adult court for human trafficking.

During the subcommittee meeting, (then) Commissioner Overman mentioned a lot of people don't want to identify themselves as victims which makes it more challenging and that there are no uniform tools. She also inquired if anyone knew of any funding sources from the courts or non-profits to finance a specialty court and related case managers.

- Lt. Chad Cave gave a presentation on HCSO's efforts to combat Human Trafficking on behalf of Sheriff Chad Chronister, Chief Deputy Donna Luszczynski, and Major Chris Rule, a member of this committee thanking the COHT for giving him an opportunity to speak.

Member Glaister asked if the strip clubs were identified and how the relationship was forged with the perpetrators. Lt. Cave, could not share specifics, but that the traffickers assisted the ladies (adults) with getting jobs there.

Chair Klug, inquired if they have similar investigations into farm workers, or others who may be working as indentured servants. And if they did if they were from specific regions. Lt. Cave did not have information on that category of investigations ongoing.

Chief Bercaw mentioned most investigations are tip based. In response to what is the number are they coming from, he said it is confusing because there are several tip lines in our area. He suggested that the COHT could work on pushing the Tip line message out to the public.

- **Services and Resources Report** - Ms. Montelione gave the report announcing that Ms. Penhale, the Subcommittee's Chair pursued a job opportunity out of state.
 - The scheduled discussion requested by Commissioner Overman was delayed until the subcommittee could receive a presentation on the HCSO's planned "Step-Down Unit" Member Kempke gave a brief overview of her knowledge of the unit mentioning there may be partnership potential with USF's BRIGHT Project.

Guest Presentations:

- Director Early gave a presentation on the Step-Down Unit acknowledging the Sheriff's Department and many other partners. It is an innovative and cost-effective program assisting individuals with substance abuse and behavioral health issues who are transitioning from the jail back into the community who are HC Health Care Plan members. COVID-19, supply chain issues, hurricanes, funding challenges and other factors delayed the start of the program. Director Early gave a detailed presentation (attached) on the unit's elements.
- Kailey Pate Carter, M.A. and Dr. Shelly Wages thanked the COHT for all they have done for this pilot program. Their presentation (attached) outlined their pilot project, whose elements are to identify gaps and gather data via confidential surveys given to human trafficking survivors seeking services from local agencies and non-profits. The TIP Lab started with a needs assessment, ultimately the data will provide an idea of what is happening, down to the zip code level. Starting in Hillsborough, the project will grow into a statewide effort. TIP Lab is partner, United Against Human Trafficking ("United" is a non-profit), advised uniquely, a lot of competition exists in the Tampa Bay region. A reason they are supportive of the project conducted by the university to produce objective data. With "United" the model can be built out across the country, possibly even expanding its use to domestic violence. They are working towards an information portal for those working with victims, enabling referrals to the correct agency for their needs in the moment. Ms. Carter asked organizations wanting to apply contact her. Agency participation is not limited to those in the human trafficking work, but also food banks, for example, because there is a continuum of care that would surround the individuals being served.

Ms. Montelione reminded the COHT, that largely because of it and the work of former Commissioner Overman, the BRIGHT Project/TIP Lab is receiving \$150,000 from Commissioner Overman's "Flag" item in the 2022/23 budget. Dr. Wages That was what Ms. Carter and Dr. Wagers meant when thanking the COHT for at the top of the presentation.

New Business: Ms. Montelione

Calendar: members are to consult their calendars, advising her if meeting dates presented on the 2023 schedule present a problem. She suggested changing the day of the week or time of the meeting. Chair Klug reminded everyone that the COHT had not had a quorum in about 1 ½ yrs.

Motion: A motion was made and passed to accept the 2023 Calendar as presented.

- **Subcommittees:** Ms. Montelione discussed reconstituting subcommittees. Presently only one of three has a chair, Chair Klug, who now also serves as the COHT Chair. She suggested that the subcommittees be merged into one subcommittee. Previously subcommittee chairs, with the exception of Mr. Klug were not appointed members of the COHT. While the committees have been doing a tremendous amount of work, have not been able to bring any motions for action to the floor. A "steering committee" was suggested to consolidate the committees, analyze the work previously done, set goals, benchmarks, etc.

Discussion occurred regarding the make-up of the "steering" subcommittee, where it would meet and how many members would be needed for quorum (generally 50% +1). The COHT assigned attorney Ms. DeBora Cromartie-Mincey discussed the parameters.

Vice Chair Holt suggested 7 – 11 people be on the Steering Committee.

Chair Klug suggested 10 because obtaining quorum is difficult with a large number, only 6 would be needed for quorum. He wanted to clarify that the other subcommittees would not meet, except for Legislative & Judicial because the State Legislature will be going into session.

Motion: Vice Chair Holt moved to create a Steering Committee, seconded by Ms. Glaister. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Vice Chair Holt moved to place Education and Outreach and Services and Resources Subcommittees on hold until further action by the board. Chief Bercaw seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chair Klug asked for volunteers for the Steering Committee. Discussion took place regarding the make-up of the Steering Committee.

Motion: Vice Chair Holt moved that members of the Subcommittee could be members or designees, passed unanimously.

Steering Committee volunteers:

Interim Chief Lee Bercaw – Tampa Police Department
Courtney Derry – State Attorney’s Office
Sgt. Kevin Durkin – Tampa International Airport
Mayra Espinosa, R.N. – Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
Chief Judge Ficarrotta
Public Defender Julianne Holt
Charles Klug, J. D.
Deborah Laskowski – Human Trafficking Community Advocate
Sgt. Chris Mills – Temple Terrace Police Department
School Board Member, Karen Perez, Ph.D – Hillsborough County School District
Lt. Cave for Major Chris Rule - HCSO
Tee Solomon – Commission on the Status of Women

Note: The list above includes members Ms. Montelione contacted who were not present at this meeting to ascertain their willingness to serve.

Meeting Adjourned by Chair Klug at 2:21 p.m.

The January 28, 2023 meeting of the Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWQRx--NyXE>



Human Trafficking Section

Lieutenant Chad Cave

Tip

In October 2022, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Section received a tip which advised a young woman was being forced to perform commercial sex acts to pay off a \$60,000 "debt" after being smuggled into the United States from Cuba.

A second tip from the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified two possible suspects (a husband and wife) and stated they had confiscated identification documents from multiple women smuggled into the United States from Cuba.



Investigation

HCSO Human Trafficking Detectives began conducting surveillance on the two apartments and observed the husband and wife listed in the tip, as well as multiple unidentified Hispanic females. Over two days of surveillance, various young Hispanic women were observed being transported from the apartments and dropped off/picked up from strip clubs within the Tampa area. Additionally, ads were located on an adult escort website advertising commercial sex services for several of the females staying at the apartments.



Post Arrest

- Both apartments locked down for search warrants.
- Two SUV's were searched and impounded.
- During the execution of the search warrants, confiscated identification documents, ledgers, condoms, cash, and a stolen firearm were located.
- Ten cell phones were confiscated for forensic analysis.
- Through interviews with the victims, we learned all eight had been made to work in strip clubs to repay their debt, and four had engaged in commercial sex to earn money.



Challenges

- All eight victims had entered the United States via the southern border in various states.
- All eight victims and both suspects spoke primarily Spanish.
- All cell phone communication was in Spanish.
- Where can the victims go now?
 - They are from Cuba, with few resources, no jobs, no identification, no transportation, and no housing.



Resources

The following agencies/entities were a part of this investigation:

- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- HCSO Child Protection Services
- Tampa Police Department
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- Tampa International Airport PD
- Seminole PD (Hardrock Casino)
- Miami-Dade Police Department
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Customs and Border Protection
- Mall Security
- Selah Freedom
- The United Way of Pasco
- Hillsborough County Code Enforcement
- Florida Department of Financial Services
- NICB
- Florida Attorney General's Office



BRIGHT Project Update

Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking
January 24, 2023

TiP

Trafficking
in Persons -
Risk to
Resilience Lab



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

#ONEUSF



What is BRIGHT?

Bridging Resource and Information Gaps in Human Trafficking (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)



Vetted network of care



Service referral and connections to service in real time



Free to service providers, referral agencies, and for self referrals



Identification of resource and service gaps



Reports for network members to use with funders and sponsors

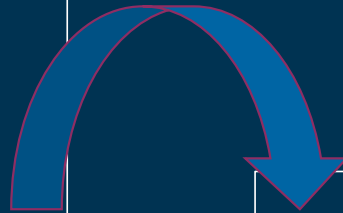
What is BRIGHT?



Pilot of BRIGHT Project - Phase I

Identified top resource referrals:

- Support network
- Housing
- Daily needs
- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Legal services



Pilot Organizations:

- Created Women
- Selah Freedom
- Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
- Justice Restoration Center
- United Abolitionists

Pilot of BRIGHT Project - Phases II, III and IV

Phase II

Jan 2023 –
March 2023

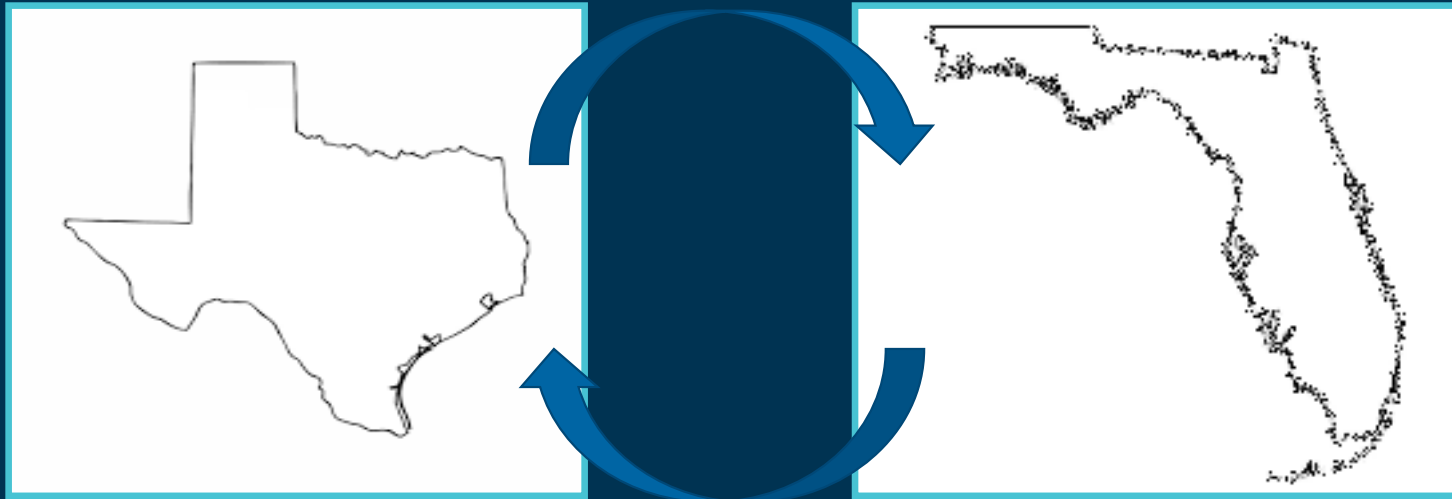
Phase III

April 2023 –
June 2023

Phase IV

July 2023 -
September 2023

USF TiP Lab & United Against Human Trafficking





Thank You

More information:

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Kailey Pate Carter, M.A. BRIGHT Project Manager,
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USF Trafficking in Persons Lab www.tiplab.cbcs.usf.edu

United Against Human Trafficking www.uaht.org

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Hillsborough Commission on Human Trafficking (“Commission”). This Commission was established, and the members were appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in 2019. In 2020, the BOCC approved extending the membership to encompass additional professional positions and other expertise.

Section 2.

The Commission shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the BOCC on all matters relating to human trafficking in the County. The Commission may advise the BOCC regarding revisions to the governing Resolution, recommend sponsorship opportunities and other coordinated efforts, and advise the BOCC on any other proposals necessary to create awareness of the existence of human trafficking in Hillsborough County. The BOCC retains the ultimate authority to decide on and govern any executed efforts on the matter of human trafficking.

The purpose of the Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking is to:

- A. Promote public awareness of the existence of human trafficking within Hillsborough County.
- B. Establish, through relationship building within the community, educational programming opportunities for the public and key industries to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and learn to report suspected human trafficking.
- C. Advocate strategies to aid rescued victims of human trafficking.
- D. Support local and statewide efforts to identify opportunities for positive impact and improved outcomes for victims and service providers through data collection, sharing, and analysis.
- E. Fulfill the public awareness purpose of the Commission, by recommending to the BOCC sponsorship opportunities and other coordinated efforts and advise the BOCC on any other proposals necessary to create awareness of the existence of human trafficking in Hillsborough County.
- F. Develop a network of individuals and institutions within key sectors of our community that will provide education to their employees and the public to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to report it.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERS, TERMS, RESIGNATIONS**

Section 1.

The membership of the Commission shall be comprised of 19 members who shall be appointed and/or confirmed by the BOCC.

- A. A member of the Board of County Commissioners
- B. A representative of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office (HSCO), as designated by the HCSO
- C. A representative of the Tampa Police Department (TPD), as designated by the TPD

- D. A representative of the Temple Terrace Police Department, as designated by the Department
- E. A representative of the Plant City Police Department, as designated by the Department
- F. A representative of the Hillsborough County School District (SDHC), as designated by SDHC
- G. A representative of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, as designated by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
- H. A representative of Port Tampa Bay, as designated by Port Tampa Bay
- I. A representative of the Office of the State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (SA), as designated by the SA
- J. A representative of the Hillsborough County Public Defender for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (PD), as designated by the PD
- K. A representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, as designated by Chief Judge
- L. A representative of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, as designated by the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women

There shall be seven other individuals, each representing at least one of the following segments of our community:

- M. Community/Victim Services, as designated by Redefining Refuge
- N. Tourism Industry, as designated by Visit Tampa Bay
- O. Hotel Industry, as designated by the Hillsborough County Hotel & Motel Association
- P. Hospital/Medical Profession, as designated by the Crisis Center Of Tampa Bay
- Q. Religious Institutions, as designated by a Religious Institution located in Hillsborough County
- R. Human Trafficking Community Advocate, as designated by a human trafficking service provider.
- S. Lived Experience Expert, as designated by Created Women, Inc., and Victims 2 Survivors

Section 2.

An alternate member shall be selected by each membership category listed above. Alternate members may establish a quorum, participate in meetings, and vote on matters before the Commission when acting on behalf of the primary member. The BOCC shall be responsible for appointing and/or confirming all agency/government body alternate member designations.

Section 3.

Initial terms of the members of the Commission shall be staggered so that the terms of the members from categories M-S shall be one (1) year, and all others shall be two (2) years. After the initial staggered terms, member terms shall be for two (2) years. The length of the term of an alternate member shall be the same as the length of the term of the alternate's primary member.

Section 4.

Any member who finds it necessary to resign from the Commission should do so in writing to the Chair and the County Staff Liaison ("Staff"), who shall then inform the appropriate parties, including the other members of the Commission, of the resignation. Notification, in writing, shall

be sent at the same time to the appointing Organization. Member vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original designation/appointment.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Commission shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as it may designate. The Commission will determine the frequency and duration of its meetings based upon the time requirements necessary to accomplish its mission and accommodate requests from the Board. All meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, the Resolution of the Commission, and these Bylaws.

Except for emergencies, members of the Commission must announce an anticipated absence 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting staff. Staff will notify the Chair, who will determine feasibility of conducting business. In consultation with the Chair, staff may cancel any scheduled meeting if a quorum cannot be established at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Section 2.

Notice of the time and place of all regular, special, and subcommittee meetings and meeting minutes will be communicated to each member of the Commission, not less than seven (7) days prior to such meeting. "Communicated" shall mean by electronic means or email. The agenda and any other relevant information shall be communicated to the members by staff within seven (7) days of receipt of approval by the Chair of same.

Section 3.

The Commission may, by a majority vote (more than half of the votes cast) of the entire membership of the Commission, adopt rules of procedure or bylaws for the transaction of business, including but not limited to provisions related to officers, terms for officers, quorum, and meetings; provided, however, any such rules or bylaws shall comply with laws of the state, local ordinances and other laws, and this Resolution. Should no rules be adopted the Commission shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 4.

A physical majority of the total voting members of the entire Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, including the passage of a motion, at any regularly scheduled/special meeting of the Commission. A physical majority of the voting Commission members participating in any subcommittee meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any subcommittee of the Commission.

Section 5.

If a quorum of the Commission is physically present at a meeting where formal Commission action will be taken, an absent member may participate in the meeting by telephone conference or other electronic means. A member's electronic participation shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

Section 6.

Only the appointed and confirmed primary or alternate members shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Commission or at its subcommittee meetings.

Section 7.

The Commission shall appoint subcommittees, comprised of an uneven number of voting members with a minimum of five (5), as deemed appropriate and necessary. The Commission may also appoint non-member participants and/or liaisons, who may participate in subcommittee meetings, but may not vote. Only the appointed and confirmed primary or alternate members shall be entitled to hold an officer position on any subcommittee created by the Commission.

**ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS**

Section 1.

Each year, the Commission shall elect from its membership a chair and vice chair and such other officers as it deems necessary.

Section 2.

The terms of office for all officers shall be one year beginning at the Commission meeting where elected to serve and terminating at a regular Commission meeting a year later, or until their successors are elected at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Section 3.

Any officer may be re-elected for the same office. The Chair's position cannot be held by any individual for more than four consecutive years.

Section 4.

A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Commission at any regular meeting.

Section 5.

**Duties:
CHAIR**

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and conduct all meetings of the Commission. The Chairperson shall provide to the BOCC an annual workplan/report of the

Commission highlighting its key successes and future goals.

VICE-CHAIR

In the absence of the Chairman or in the event of his or her inability to act, the Vice-Chairman shall exercise all powers and duties of the Chairman.

INTERIM CHAIR

In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair at any regularly scheduled meeting, the Committee members present shall elect one of their members to function during such meeting as the Interim Chair.

**ARTICLE V
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1.

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority (more than half of the votes cast) of the voting membership present and voting at any regular meeting of the Commission after notice of such proposals for an amendment has been given to all members, as provided in these bylaws.

Section 2.

Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to all members of the Committee not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which such amendments are to be considered.

Initially approved by the Commission: _____, 2023

Amendments approved:

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CONSOLIDATING AND REPEALING RESOLUTIONS R19-141 AND R20-041, AS PERTAINING TO THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING; PROVIDING FOR A REDUCTION IN MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE SELECTION OF ALTERNATES; PROVIDING FOR VOTING BY AND TERMS OF ALTERNATES; PROVIDING FOR OTHER HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Upon motion by Commissioner _____ and seconded by Commissioner _____ the following resolution was adopted by a vote of _____ to _____ with Commissioner(s) _____ voting "No," Commissioner(s) _____ being absent.

WHEREAS, human trafficking, often referred to as modern day slavery, exploits vulnerable people for forced labor, domestic servitude, or commercial sex operations by use of force, fraud, or coercion; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime occurring throughout the United States. Its prevalence in our State and community places the State of Florida third in the nation and the Tampa Bay Region as the second area within Florida for such activity; and **and is prevalent in our State and community; and**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is an evasive criminal activity conducted through secrecy and deception, affecting all sectors of our community, and victims can be found in plain sight if we learn to identify the signs, take the time to look, and report what we see; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative and community-wide effort is necessary to reach those most vulnerable to or who are victims of human trafficking, hence the need for a Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, on December 4, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) established a Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking (Commission) to address these needs in Hillsborough County and moved to enact a Resolution creating this body; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R19-141, sets forth members on the Commission who represent, by profession or service, a segment of our community that is crucial to forming a County-wide network that will effectively promote awareness and education regarding human trafficking to key institutions and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC directed the amendment of Resolution R19-141 to extend the membership of the Commission to encompass additional professional and other expertise, including the Temple Terrace and Plant City Police Departments, a representative from the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, and a Lived Experience Expert; and

WHEREAS, judicial representation from the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit and representation from the Hillsborough County Public Defender Thirteenth Judicial Circuit are further positions recognized as being necessary for the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R20-041, which amended R19-141, provides for an increase in membership on the Commission and for staggered terms for these additional members; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires for the BOCC to further amend their governing Resolution to provide for a reduction in members on the Commission – removing one representative from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office; and the selection of alternate members, which will help alleviate quorum issues and enable the Commission to more consistently serve its purpose and meet its goals; and

WHEREAS, these alternate members may participate/vote in meetings when their primary members are unable to participate, have terms that shall be the same length of time as the alternate’s primary member; shall be filled by appointment of the BOCC or designated by agency/government bodies in the same manner as their primary members; and shall be confirmed by the BOCC, pursuant to BOCC Policy Section 01.30.00.00; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC finds that the consolidation/repeal of Resolutions R20-041 and R19-141 to allow for a reduction in membership, selection of alternate members, and a few other housekeeping changes are necessary and would be in the best interest of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT A REGULAR MEETING ASSEMBLED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2023:

Section 1. Creation and Membership of Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking.

1. The Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking is hereby created and established.
2. The membership of this Commission shall be comprised of 2019 members. In accordance with BOCC Policy Section 01.30.00.00, as regarding Board appointments and/or confirmations, the BOCC shall be responsible for appointing and/or confirming all agency/government body designations, as outlined below:
 - A. A member of the Board of County Commissioners
 - B. Two A representative of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office (HSCO), with one being an officer with the Child Protective Unit, both as designated by the HCSO

- C. A representative of the Tampa Police Department (TPD), as designated by the TPD
- D. A representative of the Temple Terrace Police Department, as designated by the Department
- E. A representative of the Plant City Police Department, as designated by the Department
- F. A representative of the Hillsborough County School District (SDHC), as designated by SDHC
- G. A representative of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, as designated by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
- H. A representative of Port Tampa Bay, as designated by Port Tampa Bay
- I. A representative of the Office of the State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (SA), as designated by the SA
- J. A representative of the Hillsborough County Public Defender for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (PD), as designated by the PD
- K. A representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, as designated by the Chief Judge or his designee
- L. A representative of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, as designated by the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women

There shall be seven other individuals, each representing at least one of the following segments of our community:

- M. Community/Victim Services, as designated by Redefining Refuge
- N. Tourism Industry, as designated by Visit Tampa Bay
- O. Hotel Industry, as designated by the Hillsborough County Hotel & Motel Association
- P. Hospital/Medical Profession, as designated by the Crisis Center Of Tampa Bay
- Q. Religious Institution, as designated by a Religious Institution with its primary location in Hillsborough County
- R. Human Trafficking Community Advocate, as designated by a human trafficking service provider
- S. Lived Experience Expert, as designated by Created Women, Inc. Healing Root, and Victims 2 Survivors.

- 3. An alternate member shall be selected by each membership category listed above. These members may establish a quorum and vote on/otherwise participate in matters before the Commission in the absence or disqualification of the alternate's primary member.
- 4. Members/alternate members shall be able to devote the time necessary to participate in the activities of the Commission.
- 5. The Boards and Councils Coordinator of the Hillsborough County Clerk's Office or their designee shall assist the BOCC with soliciting candidates to fill appointed and alternate member positions, if applicable, and/or assist the County Staff Representative or other County designee with coordinating independent agency/government body designations. The County Staff Representative or other County designee is responsible for ensuring that all candidates, including candidates for alternate members, meet eligibility requirements for membership and to appropriately notify candidates when it is determined that they do not qualify. The Boards and Councils Coordinator or their designee shall forward the list of all

prospective candidates, including candidates for alternate members to the BOCC for their review and appointment/confirmation.

6. Member/alternate member vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original designation/appointment. Members/alternate members shall be eligible for reappointment and serve at the pleasure of the designating body or person but may be removed at the discretion of the BOCC, with or without cause. Members/alternate members shall comply with all terms of BOCC Policy Section 01.30.00.00, the Citizen, Agency/Government Body, or Staff Appointment and/or Confirmation of Nomination Policy of the BOCC.
7. Members/alternate members shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties as members/alternate members of the Commission; except, however, parking and mileage expenses incurred pursuant to attendance at official meetings of the Commission are reimbursable in accordance with law and Hillsborough County policy.
8. Initial terms of the members of the Commission shall be staggered so that the terms of the members from categories M-S shall be one (1) year, and all others shall be two (2) years. After the initial staggered terms, member terms shall be for two (2) years. The length of the term of an alternate member shall be the same as the length of the term of the alternate's primary member.
9. The Commission may appoint non-member participants and/or liaisons, who may to participate in subcommittee meetings, but may not vote.

Section 2. Purpose and Work of the Commission.

10. The purpose of the Commission is to:
 - A. Promote public awareness of the existence of human trafficking within Hillsborough County
 - B. Establish, through relationship building within the community, educational programming opportunities for the public and key industries to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and learn to report suspected human trafficking
 - C. Advocate strategies, financially and otherwise, to aid rescued victims of human trafficking
 - D. Support local and statewide efforts to identify opportunities for positive impact and improved outcomes for victims and service providers through data collection, sharing, and analysis
11. To fulfill the public awareness purpose of the Commission, the Commission may recommend to the BOCC sponsorship opportunities and other coordinated efforts to fund media campaigns that may be executed and advise the BOCC on any other proposals necessary to create awareness of the existence of human trafficking in Hillsborough County.
12. Many health/medical professionals, teachers, counselors, clergy, attorneys, judges,

government employees, and members of the general public have direct contact with people vulnerable to or are victims of human trafficking. Accordingly, the Commission shall develop a network of individuals and institutions within key sectors of our community that will provide education to their employees and the public to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to report it. ~~As opportunities arise, the Commission may direct its work to assisting the victims of human trafficking.~~

13. This Commission shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the BOCC on all matters relating to human trafficking in the County ~~and on other issues specified by the BOCC.~~ The BOCC retains the ultimate authority to decide on and govern any executed efforts on the matter of human trafficking.

Section 3. Officers, Meetings, and Rules of Procedure or Bylaws.

14. Each year, the Commission shall elect from its membership a chair and vice chair and such other officers as it deems necessary.
15. The Commission shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as it may designate. The Commission will determine the frequency and duration of its meetings based upon the time requirements necessary to accomplish its mission and accommodate requests from the Board, including submitting and/or presenting an annual workplan/report of the Commission highlighting, among other things, its key successes and future goals. The Commission's ~~chairman~~ shall appoint subcommittees as deemed appropriate and necessary.
16. The Commission may, by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Commission, adopt rules of procedure or bylaws for the transaction of business, including but not limited to provisions related to officers, terms for officers, quorum, and meetings; provided, however, any such rules or bylaws shall comply with laws of the state, local ordinances and other laws, and this Resolution. Should no rules be adopted the Commission shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 4. Miscellaneous.

17. This Commission will receive staff support and assistance from County Administration for technical and clerical assistance, including preparation of minutes, meeting notices, custody of public records, meeting room scheduling and other clerical services. The County Attorney's Office shall supply legal support to the Commission.
18. The Commission is subject to Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, also known as the Sunshine Law. As such, all such meetings and proceedings shall be open to the public and a permanent record shall be made of the proceeding.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

**STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)**

I, CINDY STUART, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board at its regular meeting of _____, 2023, by a vote of _____ voting yes and _____ voting no, as the same appears in record in Minute Book _____ of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this _____ day of _____, 2023.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved By County Attorney
As To Form and Legal Sufficiency:

By: _____
Chief Assistant County Attorney



Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10am – 2:00 pm

“SALON TALK”

A Community Conversation on Human Trafficking

**St. Petersburg College's Allstate Center
3200 – 34th Street, South in St. Petersburg
Florida Room**

Free Event

Please Register at:

<https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/34742>



**No Cost
Lunch Provided**

Audience:

Victim Service Providers

Salon Owners

Barber Shop Owners

Business Professionals

Community

Students

Including:

Guest Speakers

Survivor Stories

Gain Knowledge and Awareness

For more information, contact Laura
Heisler at 727 341 4437

By Dan Sullivan – TB Times staff Published Feb. 18 | Updated Feb. 18

The Florida Department of Children and Families will take over child protective investigative duties from seven local sheriff's offices, including those in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties, according to a letter dated Friday.

The letter from Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris is directed to agency partners and cites an evolving child welfare system as necessitating the change.

"Over the coming months, the Department will be working with the Florida Legislature to formulate a plan that ensures as smooth of a transition as possible," Harris wrote. "This includes providing ample opportunities for (child protective investigators and supervisors) and support staff to transition to the Department to ensure a continuity of services."

While the department oversees child welfare matters statewide, state law delegates investigative duties to local sheriffs in seven counties, including Broward, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Seminole and Walton counties.

Each of the seven sheriff's offices maintains its own child protective division, staffed with civilian investigators, to probe cases of child abuse, neglect or abandonment. The Department of Children and Families contracted out social services to nonprofits.

It's been that way since the late 1990s. The idea at first was that the local sheriff model would eventually expand to the rest of Florida's counties. But more recent discussions have seen a prevailing belief that the state should handle child welfare investigations.

Thinking about impact windows for your home? Now is the time to act!

"What was the right thing and a good thing 25 years ago ... is not the best model for effective child welfare in the state of Florida in 2023," said Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. "It really is a state responsibility. It's not a local-level responsibility. It just makes good sense."

The sheriff noted that having one entity in charge of all child welfare investigations can help with the sharing of resources and personnel across Florida. If there is a shortage of investigators in one county, personnel can be moved there from another part of the state.

"I think it's a very positive thing," Gualtieri said.

A Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office spokesperson referred questions about the change to the Department of Children and Families. A spokesperson for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office provided a statement that said the office "will continue to monitor the legislation as it moves through the legislative process and stands ready to assist DCF in any way."

Harris' letter mentions a renewed focus on prevention-focused programs and the need to combine them with existing crisis-oriented systems. She also cited unspecified changes to state and federal laws as a factor in the move.

Critics have long questioned whether investigators in the seven counties are more prone to remove children from their parents in cases where they could remain home with additional monitoring and social services.

"The Department values its partnership with law enforcement and the relationship that has been formed over the years," Harris wrote. "We will continue to work hand-in-hand with our law enforcement partners to keep children and families safe."

- Times staff writer Christopher O'Donnell contributed to this report.
- Dan Sullivan - Courts Reporter