

## Hagel, Kirk A.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:09 PM  
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**Subject:** Meeting notes  
**Attachments:** 20220328 - Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group Meeting Notes.docx; 20220328 - Invitee-Attendee List 2022 Province of Manitoba ND Roundtable.docx

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All,

Good afternoon! I hope this email finds you doing well and staying warm in this snowy weather.

First of all, thank you again to all of you who participated in the March 28 event. It was gratifying to see how many people Attached hereto, please find notes from our discussion on March 28. I apologize for the delay – I wanted to give the folks who spoke during the meeting the opportunity to review their inputs before I sent them around.

I've attached hereto a document of notes taken by several different contributors during the event. I would ask that recipients not publish, post on social media, or share the notes outside of your organizations, so that your colleagues in the group will feel comfortable in speaking frankly with us during our meetings.

I've also attached the most up-to-date listing I have of participants in the working group. Not all of those who are on this list participated in the meeting – since sending the original email, I've received many notifications of people who've

changed jobs, retired, etc. Please also note that some of the info on particular individuals may be incorrect, as I tried to infer which organizations you were with based either on your email addresses or on a google search.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Bryan

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## Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group

March 28, 2022

### I. Introductions

### II. Goals for Reinvigorated Contact Group

#### A. Identify the Scope of the Problem

1. One common issue is a lack of information on the scope of the problem.
2. Some organizations have gathered information on the problem, but there is a common sense that nobody has a full appreciation of the problem.
3. What is known is that this problem disproportionately impacts Indigenous groups in both Canada and the United States.
4. The issue has both an internal impact in Manitoba and the United States, but is also an international one, due to traffickers who move victims across the border.

#### B. Identify the perpetrators

1. Organized criminal organizations
2. Individuals who lure boyfriends/girlfriends away from their homes, and who then traffic them to cities or other places either to abuse the victims themselves, or to put them into prostitution (or both).
  - a. Includes loved ones and even family members.

#### C. **Joy Smith**, Founder of Joy Smith Foundation (JSF)

1. Happens every day in First Nations communities.
2. During the pandemic, saw a marked increase in the number of people who were luring victims either over the internet or through boyfriend relationships.
3. JSF has worked on just under 7,000 cases to date.
  - a. Identifying the scope of the problem is difficult because law enforcement only counts convictions. This is however likely only the tip of the iceberg. It is important to remember that when survivors go through a shelter, they are often hesitant to speak, having endured a horrendous experience.
  - b. The crime is very, very prevalent – is not always a numbers game.
  - c. Victims fear talking with law enforcement. Law enforcement and the courts need to be trained to deal with these victims.
4. A few years ago, the RCMP attempted to ascertain the number of victims and estimated the number at approximate 254, basing that number on convictions. That determination predated changes in the human trafficking laws passed by Joy Smith.
5. The Women's Foundation conducted its own assessment and came up with a much higher estimate in the 1,000s of cases.

#### D. **Maggie Sigur** – Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

1. HSI has determined that over 50 percent of victims of human trafficking identified in HIS investigations are citizens. HSI conducts outreach to hospitals and other service providers to try to determine the scope of the problem and to educate health professionals on signs to look for in potential human trafficking victims.
- E. **Emily Schwartz** – North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force (NDHTTF)
1. NDHTTF collects data from service providers and law enforcement.
  2. NDHTTF tracks residency as a data point and found that 80 percent of identified survivors in North Dakota are North Dakota residents.
- F. **Rebecca Cook** (Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations)
1. Just took over the file for MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples. Previously worked in Manitoba Families Exploitation Unit.
  2. It is a challenge to try to get hard data for the MMIWG assessment. People on the ground in those communities can identify families of victims.
  3. Historically, cases may not have been reported due to a lack of a relationship with law enforcement.
  4. The pimp in many cases is also methamphetamine. It is a driving force in some communities.
- G. **Angela Levasseur** - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO)
1. It is important to have hard numbers, etc., for fundraising, etc.
  2. However, what is being done to address root causes?
    - a. Oversexualization of First Nations women and girls.
    - b. Racism
    - c. What do we plan to do to address these root causes?
- H. **Amy Boyd** (Youthworks)
1. Agree the methamphetamine business is the pimp. She works with teens to address methamphetamine and fentanyl addiction.
  2. Would also like to see U.S.-based Native American groups included in the group. *(Please send the contact info for anyone you would like to see included and will be happy to do so – BK)*
- I. **Angela Daly** (YWCA)
1. It is important to identify ways to track perpetrators. Fargo and Morehead North Dakota share information among human services agencies regarding makes and models of cars and identifying information on pimps and traffickers.
- J. **Karen Serwonka** (Manitoba Health Department, Population and Public Health Branch; MH/PPH)
1. Sharing information raises privacy concerns regarding sharing of health information.
  2. For children, there is a duty to report suspected abuse/maltreatment to child welfare agencies. However, for adults, may require different discussions and/or other considerations.

### **III. Discussion of Agencies/Organizations Involved in Human Trafficking Issues**

- A. Available public reference materials from the various organizations
- B. Important to identify Means of contact: the ways we come into contact with persons who are trafficked (and their traffickers?):
  - 1. Law enforcement, death investigations, child welfare investigations, health and social services providers (outreach by NGO communities: homeless shelters, outreach programs to get women off the streets /out of the game); court-ordered, services and shelters for human trafficking.
  - 2. We know we are only scratching the surface in terms of gaining contact with the people who are trafficked.
  - 3. Ministries of Justice and Health (state and provincial e.g.)
  - 4. New directions we could explore?
- C. **Joy Smith (JSF)**
  - 1. We can gain important information from victims' families and friends,
  - 2. Identification of agencies involved in these issues; who work in this sphere, who should we be interacting with?
- D. **Angela Levasseur (MKO)**
  - 1. FN Chiefs of Police Association.
  - 2. Manitoba Moon Voices (incorporated under umbrella of NWAC).
  - 3. Aboriginal Community Campus at Higgins and Main encounters a number of individuals who are vulnerable and could be at risk.
  - 4. Adult education centers.
- E. **Joy Smith (JSF)**
  - 1. Manitoba Métis Nation is very active in this area. The Infinity Women groups is very active in this area.
  - 2. Vital to include victims (many prefer the term survivors) of human trafficking.
- F. **Karen Serwonka (MH/PPH)**
  - 1. If numbers become an issue, perhaps we need to be strategic and ensure our own internal networks are working well e.g. at any level of govt involved, they could be asked to co-ordinate their efforts internally, using existing committees or working groups across ministries and departments) to identify effective ways of communicating and coordinating efforts. e.g. provincial gender-based violence committee(s).
- G. **Other agencies for inclusion:**
  - 2. Canadian Centre for Child Protection – gaming
  - 3. MMIWG advisory committee
- H. **Rebecca Cook (Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations)**
  - 1. Other groups to be considered include:
    - a. Departments/Ministries of Justice in the states and provinces, as well as the federal agencies.
    - b. Canada Centre for Child Protection
    - c. MMIWG and Two-Sprit Individuals

#### **IV. Possible Goals for In-Person Event**

##### **A. Possible in-person event**

1. Idea for an in-person event came out of discussions with Manitoba officials and with members of the NGO community, including the Joy Smith Foundation and Ma Mawi Center.
2. The issues around this issue are very complex – could spend a week focusing on human trafficking alone.
3. Perhaps we need to focus on human trafficking as a dedicated session and the broader issues related to cross-border crime as ancillary, as so much other crime is associated with human trafficking.
4. Ways to increase cross border collaboration to combat cross-border trafficking.
5. Sharing of resourcing and other modes of co-operation we could encourage.
6. Are there other issues we need to raise?

##### **B. Sherry Gott (MKO)**

1. Is there some kind of MoU when repatriating victims of crime? Resources to provide them with a bus ticket back home; where do they go?
2. Some communities are so isolated that they are only accessible by air or by ice-road in the winter.
3. How do we provide treatment and support for survivors and help them to get home? What resources are available after they return home?
4. She has discussed these issues with Dr. Hill in the past.

##### **C. Joy Smith (JSF)**

1. The JSF has an agreement with Air Canada to transport victims home to Canada, but there needs to be police involvement for that agreement to be used. However, Air Canada doesn't go into remote communities, so we will need to have the involvement of smaller airline carriers to reach the more remote communities.
2. This could perhaps be an area in which this group could work, i.e. identifying ways to help people get home.

##### **D. Karen Serwonka (MH/PPH)**

1. Dianna Bussey (Salvation Army) and Chair of the Trafficked Persons Response Team in Winnipeg has experience in working with a variety of partners (levels of govt, service agencies, faith groups, airlines, etc.).

##### **E. Maggie Sigur (HIS)**

1. Will check to see if there is an MOU in place to support return of victims. NGOs have helped them with funding to get victims to travel in cases in which HSI is involved.

##### **F. Emily Schwartz (North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force)**

1. NDHTTF hosts a Human Trafficking Fund (a combo of federal, state and private donor funds) to support a variety of needs of survivors (medical, mental health, legal, basic needs, transportation, etc)

##### **G. Potential in small or closed communities:**

1. Have understood victims have sometimes faced challenges returning home to small or closed communities. Will survivors be accepted / welcomed home?

2. It could be important to reach out to provide information and build relationships with communities. These are victims, people transgressed against. To successfully be reintegrated back into their communities, they will need a warm reception/welcome from communities to make it home safely.
3. Even in instances where narcotics are the pimp, victims (woman, man, child) will require a lot of support.

H. **Sherry Gott (MKO)**

1. Venues in major cities for people to be housed until they have the strength to move home are also needed.

I. **Karen Serwonka (MH/PPH)**

1. Issues identified by other people today seem to point to bringing in partner organizations who address issues such as transitional housing and harm reduction.
2. As mentioned by other participants today, makes sense to also involve partners that address the root causes and make long-term investments in things that keep communities healthy and try to keep people out of human trafficking (or help them re-establish themselves afterwards) such as adult education and employment opportunities/services.

State Province of Manitoba/State of North Dakota Human Trafficking Roundtable

List of Invitees and Attendees

March 28, 2022, Winnipeg, Manitoba

#	Name	Position	Attended	No Response	E-mail
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3.	Frankie Snider		Youth Justice		<a href="mailto:Frankie.snider@gov.mb.ca">Frankie.snider@gov.mb.ca</a>
<b>Ministry of Families</b>					
4.	The Honourable Rochelle Squires	Minister of Families	Manitoba Ministry of Families Winnipeg, MB		minfs@leg.gov.mb.ca
5.	Jamie Carnegie		Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat		<a href="mailto:Jamie.carnegie@gov.mb.ca">Jamie.carnegie@gov.mb.ca</a>
6.	Cathy Cook, Supervisor, Street Reach	Manager of Sexual Exploitation Unit & Tracia's Trust	Manitoba Ministry of Families Winnipeg, MB		Cathy.cook@gov.mb.ca
7.	Rebecca Cook	Sexual Exploitation Prevention Specialist	Manitoba Ministry of Families Winnipeg, MB		Rebecca.Cook@gov.mb.ca
8.	Cheryl Laurie		Manitoba Status of Women		<a href="mailto:cheryl.laurie@gov.mb.ca">cheryl.laurie@gov.mb.ca</a>
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<b>Ministry of Health</b>					

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