



San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT)

Strategic Planning Retreat Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Duane Morris, LLP

One Market Plaza, Suite 2200, San Francisco

Members Present:

Steering Committee:

Julie Soo, Commission on the Status of Women / Co-Chair of SFCaHT

Nancy Goldberg, Jewish Family and Children's Services / Co-Chair of SFCaHT

Antonia Lavine, Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking

Department on the Status of Women Staff:

Dr. Emily Murase

Minouche Kandel

Grace Fisher

Collaborative Membership:

Robin Brasso, National Council of Jewish Women

Linda Janourova, Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking

Emma Mayerson, Alliance for Girls

Nazly Mohajer, Human Rights Commission

I. Introductions

Dr. Emily Murase welcomed members to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

II. Brainstorming Staffing/A New Home for SFOAHT

Dr. Murase outlined the history of SFOAHT. Although SFOAHT was originally staffed by the Human Rights Commission, the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) took over when the Commission no longer had the capacity to maintain it. However, as DOSW now staffs the Mayor's Task Force on Human Trafficking, it does not have the capacity to staff SFOAHT. Minouche Kandel added that the Mayor's Task Force and SFOAHT are focusing on similar issues, such as data collection and improving the response to child sex trafficking, however the Mayor's Task Force does not include education and outreach. This is an important avenue for SFOAHT. Nancy Goldberg noted that outreach is critical and is particularly necessary in other counties, such as Marin.

When asked what the DOSW's continuing role will be with SFOAHT, Ms. Kandel responded that the Department plans to participate, but will not be able to provide administrative support, such as creating mailings or maintaining the newsletter and website.

Antonia Lavine informed the group of a meeting between the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking and the UCSF Ministry. She reported that there is potential for a collaboration between UCSF and SFOAHT. UCSF would be interested in conducting research into the root causes of human trafficking and students might be able to provide technical support to SFOAHT as part of a leadership training or internship.

While the group was interested in this prospect, Julie Soo wanted to ensure that there would be continuity. Ms. Lavine responded that a part time position could address this concern. However, the difficulty is finding funding and a host agency for a position. The Human Rights Commission and the National Council of Jewish Women were suggested as potential organizations to house the position. Ms. Lavine was concerned that a non-government agency might be less objective and independent than the previous model of city staffers. Ms. Kandel proposed that SFOAHT could share a grant writer with DOSW. Another city department could petition the Mayor's office for funding for a part time position. Linda Janourova noted that the position would only need to be for 10 hours per week.

Julie Soo suggested reaching out to the Golden Gate School of Law. She proposed that they might be interested in supporting SFOAHT as they are doing important work around human trafficking. It could also tie in with the work of the immigration clinic there. Ms. Kandel was concerned that law students would not be interested in the technical and administrative support tasks necessary for staffing SFOAHT. Ms. Soo reported that this kind of work is done in other clinics and did not think it would be too burdensome.

Ms. Lavine would like for the city to be involved in the leadership of SFOAHT. She detailed that the bylaw of SFOAHT does allow for the steering committee to appoint a secretary to do the administrative work. This would be a volunteer position. The group supported this suggestion.

Dr. Murase proposed that in the longer term, SFCaHT could model itself after the Domestic Violence Consortium. However, the group was concerned that changing SFCaHT's structure would negatively affect the valuable partnerships it has established.

Dr. Murase noted that the budget for a city employee would be almost three times the cost for a community position, therefore moving the staff to a community organization could be preferable. Nazly Mohajer suggested SFCaHT reach out to the Board of Supervisors for a grant. Ms. Mohajer also recommended reaching out to foundations, such as the Freedom Fund. As human trafficking becomes a more prominent issue, more organizations are looking to fund initiatives like SFCaHT. Julie Soo noted that it might provide more stability if instead of creating a new position, the group was able to find a current employee who could carve out time to staff SFCaHT.

Dr. Murase raised the possibility of SFCaHT becoming a membership organization and incorporating as a 501c3. These changes would generate proceeds that could go to funding a part time position. While Lind Janourova was worried that this change would discourage current SFCaHT members from continuing the membership, Emma Mayerson assured the group that the Alliance for Girls operates on this model and membership does not suffer.

Nazly Mohajer informed the group that the Human Rights Commission currently has a position open that they hope to use for special projects. While any changes would need to be voted on by the Commission, this position could be a possibility for staffing SFCaHT.

The group acknowledged that these were good options for the longer term, but the issue is staffing SFCaHT in the interim. To address this need, the group agreed to recommend enlisting a volunteer from the National Council of Jewish Women to fill the secretary role described in SFCaHT's bylaws.

III. Prioritizing SFCaHT Activities

a. Newsletter

Volunteers recommended by Antonia Lavine and Minouche Kandel will take over the newsletter.

b. Website

As DOSW does not have the capacity to maintain the website, a new website will need to be built in a domain that is not owned by the city. Antonia Lavine noted that the administrative assistant at the National Coalition of Jewish Women will most likely be able to undertake this task. Julie Soo suggested contacting the person who built the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women's website. However, the cost might be prohibitive. The group set the goal of launching the new website in the fall. The current website will continue to operate in the interim.

c. Facebook

The group did not have time to discuss this item.

d. Teen Poster Contest

The DOSW will continue to conduct the Teen Poster Contest.

e. Modern Day Abolitionist Award

The Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking will lead the Modern Day Abolitionist Award.

f. Other public education/outreach activities

The group agreed that the public education and outreach efforts of SFCaHT are very important. Julie Soo noted that Sylvia Vasquez, from the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women, has a contact that would like to do a film on human trafficking in the Bay Area. Dr. Murase would like to see a photography exhibit or some other presentation in City Hall. Nancy Goldberg suggested involving the Arts Commission and other counties, such as Alameda and Marin. These activities and ideas will be under the purview of SFCaHT and brought to the next general meeting.

g. Regular Meetings

The next steering committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, from 10:00 - 11:30am at the DOSW, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 240, San Francisco.

h. Other

Julie Soo recommended reaching out to the UC system and involving other local schools, including the Haas Business School and Goldman School of Public Policy.

IV. Wrap-Up

Dr. Murase informed the group of the free legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence on March 1 at Hastings Law School and the kick-off event for Women's History Month on March 4.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.