San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking

Meeting Notes
February 5, 2010, 11:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Sheriff’s Department Training Center, 120 14th Street, between South Van Ness and Folsom

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Survivor Restoration Project Presentation
Materials from this presentation are available for any who would like them. Delia Ginorio, Program Director of the Survivor Restoration Project, can be reached at delia-Ginorio@sbcglobal.net. She has invited SFCAHT to visit the Women’s Reentry Center or other non-confidential community programs.

III. Trafficking Awareness Month
      Over 100 people attended. Press coverage collected by Kristie Miller from SAGE has been documented on the SFCAHT website. The coverage has resulted in significant levels of interest among the community.

   b. February 9 Panel and Award Ceremony
      The Modern Day Abolitionist Award will go to the Jewish Coalition Against Human Trafficking’s nominees: Senator Leland Yee, Assemblymember Fiona Ma, Former Assemblymember Sally Lieber, and DA Kamala Harris. They have all been invited and several will be able to attend to receive the recognition.

   c. Media and Community Events
      The Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking hosted an event on Feb. 3 title: Why Human Trafficking is a Jewish Issue. It was held at the Jewish Family and Children’s Services site, and about 70 people attended. The San Francisco Women’s Political Committee will host a Panel: Legislative Direction of Human Trafficking, on Feb.5 at the State Building. Freedom House will have a benefit dinner on Feb.6 at the Dolores Park Church, and it has sold out. UNIFEM held a movie screening of Call + Response on Jan.30. There has also been some additional media coverage, such as magazine articles. We will continue to document these online, so please send Laura any coverage you come across.

IV. Directory of Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking
The District Attorney’s Office had 500 copies of the Directory printed, and the Department will distribute them to social service agencies that may come across survivors of human trafficking. Suggestions from members include: Women’s Reentry Center, Police Stations, Project Homeless Connect, Churches and synagogues, Victim Services at the DA, and agencies serving immigrant populations. If members have other suggestions for where to distribute the Directories to best reach services that might interact with trafficking survivors, contact Laura.
V. Community Involvement
The Press Event spawned a great deal of community interest in SFCAHT and the group discussed the best way to engage volunteers. As most member agencies have their own volunteer protocols, and there is not the capacity at the Department on the Status of Women to serve as volunteer coordinator or volunteer management, SFCAHT may at this time refer interested individuals to agencies. Laura will update the website to reflect that individuals wishing to get involved should use the Directory to find an agency that they would want to support and to contact that agency directly. We will also encourage individuals to get on our list for updates about events. For agencies wishing to join, we will defer them until the bylaws and a protocol for new member agencies has been established. We will build our list, and create a Facebook page to keep the energy of community members high, but will not engage volunteers directly for SFCAHT.

VI. Committee Updates
a. Governance
The Governance Committee drafted a set of bylaws for members to review and provide comments about before the next Governance Committee meeting on Feb.16, 2pm.

The group discussed the issue of needing to have clear bylaws prior to sponsoring or “signing on” to any additional events. Certain agencies are prohibited by their federal grants from lobbying, so the issue of promoting or endorsing legislation is particularly sensitive. Thus, the legislative work of SFCAHT should never involve “endorsing” unless a true consensus can be reached. Instead, the work should involve monitoring, information-gathering, and awareness-raising. Also, if individuals from member organizations are speaking about SFCAHT, they should only speak about their involvement in the Collaborative, and should not speak “for” SFCAHT unless specifically asked to BY SFCAHT.

b. Legislative Monitoring
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez will call a Legislative Monitoring Committee meeting on Feb. 11, 2pm. It will be a conference call and she will send out the info for the call to the group soon. This will be to discuss legislation the City and County (e.g., the Mayor) may want to promote or endorse.

c. Data Collection
The Committee is working on building a data collection tool by using other tools already in use internationally for tracking trafficking. The next meeting will be soon, and the Committee hopes to start data collection this spring.

VII. Future Meetings
Anu Menon of the Department on the Status of Women requested moving the standing meeting time from Fridays as she doesn’t work that day. The group decided to hold the date for the March 5 meeting and begin having meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month beginning in April (April 12). The District Attorney will likely host the March 5 meeting (if scheduling of the space allows), and we will try to devote 45 minutes of the agenda to a discussion of transitional housing needs of survivors of human trafficking.