



Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force:
Fiscal Year 2017 Report of Annual Activities

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Office of the Attorney General

Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force: Fiscal Year 2017 Report of Annual Activities

Senate Bill 1 (85th Legislative Session) has tasked the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force (Task Force) with producing an annual report of Task Force activities. The report shall include information on collaborations with federal, state, and local partners, a statistical summary of human trafficking activities in the state, and recommendations to enhance efforts to prevent human trafficking. As such, this report has been developed to fulfil these requirements.

Task Force Background

House Bill 4009 (81st Texas Legislature) created the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force (Task Force), and designated the Attorney General as the presiding officer. The Task Force now contains over 50 member agencies, including state agencies, local law enforcement entities, district attorneys, and non-profits. Task Force members work collaboratively to address anti-trafficking challenges across the state. The Task Force is required under Texas Government Code §402.035 to collect data, provide training, and produce legislative recommendations that will enhance Texas' anti-trafficking efforts. The Task Force is also required to submit a report to the Legislature on December 1st of every even-numbered year.

Since 2010, the Task Force has made seventy recommendations to the legislature to address human trafficking. Those recommendations have included ways to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders. Of these seventy recommendations, sixty-five have become law.

Previous Task Force Deliverables

Since its creation, the Task Force has published several reports, manuals, and trainings. To date, four biennial reports to the Legislature have been published.

- [The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report \(2016\)](#)
- [The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report \(2014\)](#)
- [The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report \(2012\)](#)
- [The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report \(2011\)](#)

Pursuant to House Bill 1930 (82nd Legislative Session), the Task Force has completed a report on the extent to which human trafficking is associated with the operation of sexually oriented businesses, and the workplace or public health concerns that are created by the association of human trafficking and the operation of sexually oriented businesses.

- [The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report \(2013\)](#) Also known as, *Report to the Texas Legislature Sexually Oriented Businesses and Human Trafficking: Associations, Challenges, and Approaches*

The Task Force has also published two training manuals for professionals likely to interact with potential trafficking victims.

- [Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals](#) (July 2014)
- [Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Criminal Justice Professionals](#) (September 2013)

The Task Force has assisted in the development of two web-based trainings: one for education professionals, and one for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) staff. The trainings were developed pursuant to House Bill 1272 (83rd Legislative Session).

- [Texas Rise to the Challenge: An Introduction to Human Trafficking for Education Professionals](#) was published on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website in October 2014.
- Training for DFPS was rolled out to DFPS staff on September 2, 2014.

Initiatives and Collaborations

By definition, the Task Force is a collaborative effort. Local, state, federal, and nongovernmental partners work on a myriad of challenges to help address human trafficking in Texas. The most visible collaborative efforts are the recommendations developed and published in previous reports to the Texas Legislature in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016. The subsequent legislative changes have been significant in Texas' fight against human trafficking. However, many other initiatives and lesser-known collaborations take place regularly across the state and are integral to Texas' continued response to human trafficking. Many such efforts are outlined below. Unless otherwise noted, the efforts are for Fiscal Year 2017.

Children At Risk

- Children At Risk established Project AWESOME (Attorneys Working to End Sexually Exploitative Massage Establishments) a partnership between the Harris County Attorney's Office, Children At Risk, and private law firms to shut down illegal massage parlors which are fronts for prostitution and trafficking using nuisance and abatement lawsuits predicated on the establishment's failure to be licensed.
- Children At Risk has lead over 50 human trafficking trainings to parents, professionals, educators, attorneys, and policy makers.
- Reducing the demand for commercial sex remains a priority for Children At Risk. Through its CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) program, Children At Risk intervened in over 10,000 attempted internet sex purchases either through using deterrent texts or by live, on-phone counseling via cyber-patrols. This organization also reached over 500,000 potential buyers through Google AdWords or by direct social media outreach to identified buyers and demographically similar profiles.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX)

- CACTX worked with the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Unit and six local children's advocacy centers (CACs) to plan local CAC responses for child sex trafficking cases, which includes CACs facilitating the investigation of child sex trafficking cases between law enforcement, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and prosecution, as well as participating in coordination of emergency and aftercare trauma-informed services.
- In Fiscal Year 2017, Texas CACs served nearly 48,000 children statewide, with 237 of those children being identified as victims of child sex trafficking.
- CACTX also trained local (CAC) clinicians to apply the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) model in cases involving the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Participants learned how to use CSEC-specific applications and focused on the challenges clinicians typically face when working with this population and strategies to address those challenges, including:
 - Client and caregiver engagement difficulties;
 - Runaway risk and behavior;
 - Maladaptive coping strategies, including substance use problems; and
 - Using TF-CBT in different settings with CSEC clients.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

- Texas CASA worked with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to notify local programs about regional trainings on human trafficking.
- Numerous local CASA program staff attended the NCMEC human trafficking training in their region.
- Texas CASA offered training and education workshops about human trafficking at the annual Texas CASA Conference.
- Texas CASA and many local CASA program staff attended specialized training on human trafficking, such as at the National CASA Conference and the Texas Network of Youth Services Youth Safety Summit.
- Texas CASA training staff began the process of developing new elements of core CASA pre-service training pertaining to human trafficking.
- Select local CASA programs have developed expertise on human trafficking and are working with the Office of the Governor on local initiatives.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

- For Fiscal Year 2017, DSHS Title V staff attended multiple task force and community meetings throughout the state, where they shared relevant information on the prevention, identification and response to child sex trafficking as well as resources on services for human trafficking survivors.
- In addition, DSHS staff presented information on human trafficking to approximately 700 individuals including health professionals, community groups, school nurses, medical and nursing students, foster youth, child care workers, and juvenile justice center parents and grandparents in Region 1, Lubbock and Potter Counties.
- DSHS participated in a panel presentation for the Texas Tech University student organization, *Students Ending Slavery*, following a film screening at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

- In Region 6/5S, Matagorda and Wharton Counties, staff presented the “Basics of Human Trafficking” and shared “Red Flags” to professionals, staff, and parents for six School Health Advisory Councils.
- Four area coalitions were trained on the “Basics of Human Trafficking” in Region 6/5S Brazoria and Matagorda Counties.
- DSHS staff provided extensive outreach on domestic minor sex trafficking in Region 7, Burnet, Blanco, Coryell, Lampasas, Llano, and Bell Counties via interagency meetings, health fairs, formal presentations, and informal discussions. Information specifically provided to the Boys and Girls Clubs, teachers, school nurses, school administration, law enforcement, county judges, first responders (fire/EMS), medical professionals (clinics and hospitals), mental health professionals, hotels/motels, child protective workers, social workers, case managers, library staff, pharmacy staff, and other community members.
- In Lubbock, DSHS staff conducted Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P) Outreach Events, trained over 75 volunteers and distributed soap labeled with the NHTRC number and red flags to 66 hotels, conducted SOAP outreach event with Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Science Center student organizations with distribution to 12 hotels in the Lubbock area, and conducted training for 50 members of the Lubbock Hotel/Motel Association.
- DSHS staff also chaired monthly meetings of the *Human Rescue Coalition* in Lubbock. Meetings are attended by 15 to 30 members who listen to various speakers about topics related to local police investigations, sex trafficking research studies, prevention programs, and victim services.
- DSHS staff conducted Human Rescue Coalition campus awareness meeting in Lubbock with representatives from four colleges/universities and developed and distributed the publication, “Red Flag Apps,” in the Lubbock community to warn adults about applications that children are using and the potential to lead them into a trafficking situation.
- At the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center, DSHS staff taught “#Not a Number” sex trafficking prevention curriculum to 44 juvenile residents.
- DSHS staff also coordinated the “#Not a Number” facilitator training in Lubbock for 12 individuals from the Children’s Home, One Voice, DSHS, Voice of Hope, Texas Tech School of Medicine.

Harris County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO)

- The HCSO mission is to focus on the recovery of juvenile and adult sex trafficking victims and the successful prosecution of the trafficker.
- The HCSO has dedicated personnel assigned to this effort with working relationships with the FBI Human Trafficking Squad and the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance Task Force (HTRA). HTRA is partnered with the FBI, the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Houston Police Department, and the HCSO.
- The HCSO also works with Non-Government Organizations (NGO) such as The Landing, Free the Captives, YMCA, and other NGO for assistance in helping the victim recover and leave the life of prostitution.
- The Harris County Sheriff’s Office has been active in investigating and educating the public about Human Trafficking. The HTRA has rescued victims in proactive police investigations such as street operations, tips from NGOs and patrol call outs.
- The HCSO has a full-time deputy assigned to Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance Task Force.
- The HTRA Task Force and the HCSO Vice Unit has conducted numerous hotel operations that are always focused toward victim rescue and prosecution of the trafficker.

- In the focus on Demand Reduction, the HCSO Vice Unit has participated in the National Johns Suppression Initiative (NJSI) along with 30 other law enforcement agencies around the country in 15 states. The HCSO continues to lead in number of arrests during these operations.
- In the effort and focus on Demand Reduction, the HCSO Vice Unit's arrest totals are 415 male buyers versus 41 female prostitutes as of September 2017.

Mosaic Family Services

- Since the beginning of its Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking program in 2001, Mosaic has served over 500 trafficked persons. The agency provides comprehensive case management, which includes crisis intervention, safety planning, client advocacy with law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and social services, interpretation/translation, transportation, emotional support and accompaniment on appointments. The agency also has a shelter for female clients, legal services, and counseling. Mosaic has had grants from the Office for Victims of Crime/Department of Justice, since 2003.
- In 2005 the agency was a founding member of the North Texas Anti-Trafficking Team, headed by the Office of the United States Attorney, Northern District of Texas, consisting of law enforcement personnel and service providers, and is the main point of contact for cases of human trafficking. The agency serves foreign-born and domestic, adults and minors, male and female survivors of sex and labor trafficking. Mosaic works with federal and local law enforcement agencies to ensure services to these trafficked persons.
- The agency has seen a continued increase in the number of clients served; this steady growth in referrals began in Fiscal Year 2015, and was followed by significant increases in 2016 and then in 2017. Over 100 trafficked persons were served in Fiscal Year 2017; slightly over half of these were survivors of labor trafficking, and the others survivors of sex trafficking. About half were referred by law enforcement and about half were either self-referrals or from members of the community.
- In addition to Mosaic's work to serve survivors, the agency has a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to do outreach, training, and public education. Thousands of people were made aware of the reality of human trafficking through this program in Fiscal Year 2017.
- The agency also founded the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, a group of interested providers, including social service agencies, medical workers, religious groups, educators, and other members of the community, which meets monthly.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

- During the 2017 calendar year, NCMEC Texas trained 517 child welfare professionals through our Spotlight on Exploitation and 351 law enforcement professionals through our Technology Related Crimes Against Children Conferences. More information on human sex trafficking prevention trainings can be found at <https://www.ncmectx.org/trainings/>.
- NCMEC continues to present overviews at conferences throughout the state which provides NCMEC resources to child welfare and law enforcement professionals.

Office of Attorney General (OAG)

- The Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section of the Office of the Attorney General (HTTOC) began Fiscal Year 2017 with the initiation of a criminal probe into Backpage.com, the single largest purveyor of adult sex ads in the nation. Backpage.com has been linked to hundreds of cases of human trafficking of both adults and children and makes more than 90% of its revenues through advertisements perpetuating the sale of people. In October 2016, the HTTOC Section, in cooperation with OAG law enforcement and in partnership with California's Office of

the Attorney General, raided the Dallas headquarters of Backpage.com. Law enforcement served a documentary and digital search warrant on the company and assisted in the arrest of Carl Ferrer, Backpage.com's Chief Executive Officer. The criminal investigation into the company continues.

- During Fiscal Year 2017, HTTOC attorneys were involved in numerous other criminal cases involving human trafficking that resulted in the felony conviction of three separate traffickers in three cities across Texas as well as felony pleas in two additional cases. The year yielded additional indictments where charges remain pending.
- HTTOC team members continued to provide assistance and consultation to prosecutors, investigators and fellow state and local agencies as requested on trafficking related cases and inquiries. They have also continued to assist researchers across the country and to provide mentoring for future leaders in the trafficking movement.
- HTTOC team members provided human trafficking training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, probation departments, and members of the public across Texas. In addition to training more than 5,000 people in person across Texas, the HTTOC section has completed work on a documentary training tool on human trafficking that is designed to equip all 315,000 state employees, as well as the general public, with an understanding of both sex and labor trafficking, the red flags for recognizing trafficking, and a protocol for reporting. The training video, "Be the One in the Fight against Human Trafficking," will premiere and become available statewide beginning January 2018.
- In the fall of 2016, the University of Texas' Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault published research indicating that at any given time Texas has upwards of 200,000 labor trafficking victims. This startling statistic reinforced the need for the state to begin to substantively address labor trafficking. Beginning in early 2017, HTTOC partnered with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to train TWC front-line staff on the issue of labor trafficking. TWC centers provide critical job services as well as a way to connect workers with advocates designed to protect their civil and human rights within the workplace. In addition, the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the McCain Institute chose to begin their Initiative to Combat Modern Slavery in Texas and in partnership with HTTOC. The Initiative focuses on generating investigations and prosecutions into labor trafficking in agriculture. HTTOC will be providing training for law enforcement and prosecution in both the Rio Grande Valley and the Southern Plains regions of the state as part of the initiative.
- In addition to the trainings mentioned above, HTTOC continued its partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), a nationwide 501(c)3 dedicated to educating, equipping, and mobilizing the trucking industry in the fight against trafficking. HTTOC, TAT, and the Texas Trucking Association hosted two coalition builds in San Antonio and El Paso, bringing together law enforcement and trucking for joint training and relationship building around the issue of human trafficking in their local communities. The previous builds were held in Houston, Tyler, and Lubbock.
- Finally, working hand in hand with the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, HTTOC team members helped generate and then provide resource testimony and background information for the Task Force's legislative recommendations for the 85th Texas Legislature. The legislation included the creation of a Civil Investigative Demand, mandatory training for professional drivers, and enhanced penalties for those promoting prostitution among other things. For a complete look at the Statewide Task Force Recommendations please see page 16 of this report.

Office of the Governor (OOG)

- Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) awarded its first set of grants to develop and expand promising practices in investigation and prosecution of child sex trafficking cases and in serving victims. Highlights include:
 - Statewide Programs to Build Resiliency in Vulnerable Youth:
 - Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs to provide human trafficking prevention and awareness for at-risk girls ages 8-18 through clubs across the state;
 - Texas CASA program to expand and enhance advocacy statewide for children in long-term foster care, including those at risk for child sex trafficking.
 - Drop-In Programs: Community-based drop-in centers for child sex trafficking victims that provide physical safety, services, opportunities to build healthy relationships, and case management. Youth will be able to access these centers on their own as well as be referred to these by law enforcement, probation officers, advocates and others.
 - Bexar County Juvenile Services (San Antonio)
 - New Friends New Life (Dallas)
 - Promise House (Dallas)
 - SAFE Alliance (Austin)
 - Central Texas Youth Services (Belton)
 - Specialized Placements: The expansion of Freedom Place's residential treatment center capacity from 20 to 28 client residents and the enhancement of the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® program.
 - Specialized foster care homes with trauma-informed wraparound services and supports.
 - Arrow Child & Family Ministries (Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth)
 - El Paso Center for Children (El Paso)
 - SAFE Alliance (Austin)
 - Advocacy Programs: Advocates for survivors that provide immediate intervention and ongoing advocacy, case management, and the emotional support and healthy relationships that survivors need.
 - BCFS HHS (Waco and San Antonio)
 - Lubbock Rape Crisis Center (Lubbock)
 - Traffick911 (North Texas)
 - SAFE Alliance (Austin)
 - Enhancing Prosecution: Dedicated trafficking prosecutors in the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. Training for law enforcement throughout the state through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.
- In April 2017, the CSTT hosted a four-day workshop designed by CSTT and the National Criminal Justice Training Center to develop collaborative approaches to recovering child sex trafficking victims and providing them the services needed to heal and thrive. Six multi-disciplinary teams from trafficking hotspots around the state – Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Waco – developed action plans to provide a continuum of care for victims in their regions.
- The CSTT has worked closely with partners in the Houston area, North Texas, and Central Texas to develop regional continua of care and continues to support and prepare other regions for this work. Efforts are prioritized based on both need (numbers of victims and potential victims) and readiness (existing collaboration and efforts).

- To address the gap in victim identification, the CSTT and its evaluators at the Council of State Governments Justice Center researched several screening tools and selected the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) as the best suited instrument to meet the urgent needs of Texas. TJJJ and DFPS have agreed to implement the CSE-IT, and it will also be utilized by relevant OOG grantees or partner agencies in regional continua of care.
- The OOG provided a grant to the University of Texas at Austin (UT) for a human trafficking mapping project. Initial benchmarks of prevalence and economic impact were released in December 2016 and a second phase of research is being funded to further study the issue of child sex trafficking near Houston, Lubbock, and the Rio Grande Valley. Initial estimates report that nearly 79,000 minors and youth are victims of sex trafficking in Texas with a cost to the state of approximately \$6.6 billion, and nearly \$600 million is exploited from over 234,000 victims of labor trafficking in Texas.
- The CSTT funded a new Director of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation at DFPS to help improve the statewide response of the child welfare system to child sex trafficking.

Refugee Services of Texas

- The Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program provides comprehensive case management services to all victims of human trafficking in Travis, Williamson, Hays, and Bell counties. The program has provided 24/7 response and served as the central point of contact for trafficking victims in Austin and surrounding counties since 2005. The program is funded by the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime and the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.
- The 806 Anti-trafficking Collaborative of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains is funded by the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. This program is a new initiative and will commence January 2018. The project provides case management services to all victims of human trafficking in Moore, Potter, Randall, Hale, Lamb, Hockley, Lubbock, Lynn, and Garza counties.
- Case management services are also provided to foreign national victims of trafficking in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The services are available to adults and minors.

Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission)

- The Children's Commission is focused primarily on providing information to judges and attorneys responsible for child welfare cases to raise awareness of human trafficking as it impacts children involved with the child welfare system.
- The Children's Commission Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book is updated annually and includes recent legislation passed regarding human trafficking. A one-page checklist on human trafficking is an additional resource for judges in the Bench Book.
- Children's Commission staff attend local, state, and national trainings and meetings, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Judicial Institute and the Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition, to stay informed about successful strategies to combat trafficking and develop expertise to relay information to judges and attorneys as needed.
- In addition to serving on the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, the Children's Commission also works with the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team to develop strategies to improve judicial handling of child welfare cases where children are at high risk of becoming trafficking victims.

- The Children’s Commission participates in the nationwide Capacity Building Center for Courts PL 113-183 Constituency Group to learn about best and current practices to prevent and respond to trafficking of children and youth in foster care.

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)

- TAASA planned integrated and complimentary trainings incorporating trauma-informed investigative interviews and human trafficking investigations with law enforcement specialists for Multi-Disciplinary Teams and coalitions.
- TAASA coordinated with Seton Health Care network to develop comprehensive trauma informed human trafficking training and response protocols to identify and assist victims of human trafficking in a health care setting.
- In Abilene and the surrounding region, TAASA guided implementation of a human trafficking coalition and established protocols and MOUs.
- At the National Sexual Assault Conference, TAASA presented workshop entitled Transnational Criminal Enterprise: Victims & Perpetrators of Gang Facilitated Human Trafficking.
- TAASA participated in immigrant working group with Texas Council on Family Violence, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, and the Texas Advocacy Project.
- TAASA coordinated with several entities for panel discussions related to human trafficking, including the Austin Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Refugee Services of Texas, Lifeworks, Center for Child Protection, Asian Family Support Services Association, Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- TAASA coordinated with regional coalitions to assess needs and provide resources with Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division grant funding and led effort in emergency kit assembly and distribution.
- With Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, TAASA helped provide training and technical support for shelter and legal staff for trauma informed trainings and services.
- TAASA provided training to Homeland Security investigators and agents on trauma-informed investigations to gather information and evidence to prosecute their cases.

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)

- The TABC’s Special Investigations Unit (SIU) specifically focuses on allegations of human trafficking and other organized criminal activities occurring with a nexus to the alcoholic beverage industry.
- TABC proactively conducts complaint-based covert operations throughout the state to identify and recover victims who may be being trafficked at businesses which fall under the regulatory authority of TABC. These operations often include a host of other federal, state and local law enforcement entities. Also, TABC partners with nongovernmental organizations who are often part of the operation to provide on the spot assistance to potential victims and assist with interviewing them.
- TABC supports, coordinates, and provides training to other law enforcement agencies through various training opportunities with the Texas Violent Gang Task Force, Office of the Attorney General and the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- Throughout 2017 the TABC SIU team opened eighteen investigations of human trafficking at various bars throughout the state, many of which are joint investigations with other Law Enforcement Agencies. These investigations also included allegations of narcotics trafficking and/or prostitution. Of the eighteen complaints, three have resulted in cancellations of three bars

with violations including narcotics sales, prostitution, and drink solicitation. Several female employees from these bars were found to be undocumented foreign nationals and were interviewed by a nongovernmental organization to determine if they were victims of human trafficking. None made an outcry; however, the investigation(s) continue.

- TABC conducted several operations to disrupt human trafficking inside of licensed locations during three consecutive weekends leading up to the NFL Super bowl being held in Houston. TABC SIU Agents led these operations and partnered with the TABC Enforcement Division, Houston Police Department – Vice Unit, Homeland Security, FBI, and DPS. A total of ten locations with allegations of human trafficking were investigated during these operations which resulted in a total of six arrests: three arrests for Prostitution, two for Delivery of Controlled Substance and one for Unlawful Carrying a Weapon. During these pre-Super bowl operations, TABC also assisted other law enforcement agencies with operations at local hotels, some of which had permits to sell alcohol. During these operations, an additional eighteen arrests were made: ten for Prostitution, two for Unlawful Carrying a Weapon, one for Promotion of Prostitution, one for Solicitation of a Minor, one for Public Intoxication, and four were taken into custody by Homeland Security for immigration violations. As a result of these operations, TABC interviewed sixty potential victims of human trafficking and distributed human trafficking palm cards to all interviewees [none of the suspected victims made an outcry].
- TABC is a member of the Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking and assisted in the development and distribution of palm cards with information on how to report human trafficking. During inspections of licensed locations and as part of undercover operations, TABC issues palm cards to all suspected victims of human trafficking during the interview regardless of criminal charges or pending arrest.

Texas Council of Family Violence

- Due to the lack of specific programming serving human trafficking survivors in Texas, domestic violence programs receive referrals to serve these survivors or are already seeing them due to polyvictimization. Texas Council on Family Violence, the state domestic violence coalition, is preparing resources and training to domestic violence program staff throughout the state on how to identify and serve survivors of labor and sex trafficking. This includes intensive case management, collaboration with community partners, legal and law enforcement involvement, identification, and trauma-focused service and shelter provision.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

- DFPS obtained a grant from the Office of the Governor this year which funds efforts to develop opportunities to identify, recover, and respond to victims of familial sex trafficking as well as any youth in conservatorship who experienced victimization.
- Over the course of the next eighteen months DFPS will be:
 - Adopting and training on an agency-wide screening tool, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT).
 - Providing Human Trafficking 101 training for all front line DFPS staff statewide, as well as developing and rolling out a Human Trafficking Champion Training curriculum.
 - Attending task forces across the state to develop local relationships and see firsthand the great work being done across the state.

- Develop memorialized relationships across the state to engage with the Coordinated Care Models rolling out statewide, spearheaded by the Office of the Governor and implemented in regional response.
- Working to map the existing statewide services and identify opportunities to leverage the existing infrastructure to grow continuums of care for survivors of human trafficking.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

- Classes are continuously provided to all DPS troopers to receive Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) training to help identify children who may be victims of crime, especially trafficking.
- The Department provided twelve IPC classes and two IPC Train the Trainer classes statewide during the 12-month reporting period.
- Advanced human trafficking training has been provided to all CID agents, which includes at least one agent at every duty station across the state.
- DPS provides proactive assistance to victims of trafficking through the efforts of Victim Services Counselors who are regionally located throughout the state. Among the many services these counselors provide are: advocacy, information on victims' rights and the criminal justice system, crisis intervention, aid in filing for Crime Victims' Compensation and therapy. In addition, counselors provide crisis support and referrals to at-risk and runaway children and their caregiver(s) with the aim to reduce their risk of victimization.
- DPS Victim Services Program and Criminal Investigation Division (CID) personnel participated in several regional workgroups and meetings to support the Office of the Governor's-Child Sex Trafficking Team implement its vision for establishing regional multi-disciplinary teams and a robust continuum of care for child sex trafficking victims.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

- TJJD's major activities have been collaborating with the Office of the Governor on the CSE-IT tool implementation.
- TJJD continues to work with youth identified as victims in state-programs, including a survivor group at the girls' facility.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

- In Fiscal Year 2017, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid provided comprehensive legal services to victims of sex and labor trafficking throughout its service area. TRLA attorneys and staff participated in anti-trafficking coalitions and working groups in different regions in the state, and conducted trafficking identification and remedies trainings in, among other locations, Webb County and the RioGrande Valley. TRLA also began a partnership with the Buffett McCain Institute Initiative to Combat Modern Slavery focused on labor trafficking of agricultural workers in South and Northwest Texas.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

- Since January 2010, TWC has been a member of the state's Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. Much of the Task Force's focus has been on human trafficking awareness training for individuals likely to come into contact with trafficking victims (law enforcement, medical professionals, prosecutors, school districts, teachers, community and faith based organizations, etc.) and passing tougher laws to prosecute human traffickers, especially sex traffickers.
- In TWC's commitment to support the mission of the Task Force, TWC, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General's HTOC Unit, has initiated human trafficking awareness training for staff at the state's Local Workforce Development Boards in areas that serve a significant

number of Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers (MSFW). To date, four trainings have been held and well-received by the local workforce staff, including the MSFW outreach workers who are learning how to identify potential victims of human trafficking. In September, the agency's State Monitor Advocate was the guest speaker at the Lubbock Regional Human Trafficking Task Force meeting and the Workforce Solutions South Plains CEO Martin Aguirre presented on services to Human Trafficking victims. In October, TWC's State Monitor Advocate spoke at the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force meeting in Edinburg, and Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande CEO Frank Almaraz summarized the services workforce boards provide to human trafficking victims. Additionally, TWC will feature a workshop entitled "Human Trafficking: Texas Workforce System Helping Victims," featuring a guest speaker from the Office of Attorney General's Human Trafficking Unit at its upcoming [2017 Annual Texas Workforce Conference](#).

- During the 85th Legislative Session, SB128 was passed, which requires TWC by rule to require each Career School or College, under TWC's purview, offering commercial driver's license training program to include education and training on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is required to do the same for public junior colleges offering such programs.
- TWC also provides Local Workforce Development Boards with regular reminders about how to help identify and prevent human trafficking.

United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT)

- UAHT trained, certified, and implemented "Not a #Number," Love146's youth prevention curriculum.
- UAHT launched "We All Have Rights," a bilingual education and outreach program in English & Spanish to inform community members about employment rights, wage theft, civil rights, and safety planning. The goal of this program is to increase awareness of worker's rights to prevent human trafficking.
- As a community unifier, UAHT continues to serve as the lead agency of the Houston Rescue & Restore Coalition (HRRC), which is made up of over 30 members from around the Houston area. HRRC's mission is to bring organizations and individuals together to strategically organize anti-human trafficking efforts. The coalition has existed since 2005 and a committee structure was formed in 2016.
 - The HRRC was integrally involved in preparing the community for the potential of human trafficking during the occurrence of Super Bowl LI. Twenty-two awareness and community engagement events were held by HRRC members and partner organizations during National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month. These efforts were dual-purpose: spread awareness and prepare the city for the upcoming Super Bowl.
 - As the lead agency of the coalition, UAHT collaborated with the Mayor's Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking to prepare a unified message about the crime of human trafficking, including a media guide and press kit to advise members of both groups and the press about the city's approach to human trafficking. One significant achievement was the creation of a Media Guide that communicated to members and the press what current anti-trafficking efforts, statistics, and resources exist in the City of Houston.
 - The HRRC also launched two initiatives in the Fall of 2016: Business Outreach and Hospitality Outreach. The community outreach programs are similar in organization and structure: coalition members and volunteers receive an education presentation on human trafficking from UAHT and then a brief training to go out into the Houston community and speak to businesses and hospitality professionals about human trafficking. The main goal

of the community outreach programs is to recruit businesses to partner in the fight against human trafficking. The HRRC aims to increase awareness among businesses & management, and post public awareness materials in the form of “Watch For Traffick” flyers in employee areas and restroom stalls. The HRRC Outreach Committee held 3 Business Outreaches, reaching forty-seven businesses in downtown and southwest Houston. The committee also held two Hospitality Outreaches, reaching 41 hotels and motels in the populous areas of downtown, Galleria, and NRG Stadium – all places that many Houstonians, visitors, and tourists regularly frequent. Through these initiatives, UAHT aims to increase public awareness within the Houston area, utilizing the vast network of the HRRC members.

Waco Police Department (WPD)

- The Waco Police Department was one of the original members of the Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition (HOTHTC) and members of the Department’s Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) serve on the HOTHTC’s Steering, and Prosecution and Protection sub-committees. WPD CACU members actively participate in the leadership of the HOTHTC and frequently present on its behalf and during its quarterly roundtable meetings.
- WPD CACU has given human trafficking presentations to several groups including: the Waco Children’s Advocacy Center Child S.A.F.E Conference, Victorious Life Church’s “Be a Voice” anti-trafficking group, members of Brazoria County law enforcement, and the 2017 Texas Citizen’s Police Academy Alumni Association Annual Conference.
- Members of the HOTHTC, including representatives from the WPD CAC have met multiple times with the neighboring Bell County Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Coalition.
- Members of the WPD CACU are involved in anti-trafficking trainings. Members attended a two-day training “The Serve Model” which is about a victim centered, trauma informed response to trafficking victims. Members of the WPD CACU along with partners in the HOTHTC are also currently developing a one-day human trafficking training for law enforcement and prosecutors.
- Members of the HOTHTC, including WPD, were selected to attend the Governor’s Child Sex Trafficking MDT workshop in Austin. Members also participated in a discussion panel for area hospital staff regarding recognizing and reporting child abuse and human trafficking.
- The WPD CACU made several arrests for Trafficking of Persons and related offenses including at least one arrest for Continuous Trafficking of Persons.

YMCA International Services

- In 2004, the United States Attorney of the Southern District of Texas formed the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA), a multi-disciplinary human trafficking task force with the goal of implementing collaborative approaches to combat all forms of human trafficking in the Southern District of Texas (SDTX). To continue and enhance the work of the HTRA, the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the YMCA International Services (YMCA) received the Fiscal Year 2016 Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) to Combat Human Trafficking award. The overall goals of the funding are: 1) to identify victims of all types in the Houston Metro Area (HMA); 2) to investigate and prosecute all forms of trafficking crimes at the federal, state, and local levels; and 3) to address the individualized needs of victims through the provision of a comprehensive array of quality services. The objectives to fulfill these goals are: 1) to strengthen, enhance, and sustain the HTRA collaborative; 2) utilize data to make sound decision on scope of human trafficking; 3) to increase identification of victims through the use of coordinated training and public awareness activities; 4) to conduct investigations of labor and sex cases on the federal, state, and local levels;

- 5) to conduct pro-active investigations of all types of trafficking on federal, state, and local levels;
- 6) to provide a comprehensive array of services to meet the individualized need of all victims of trafficking; and 7) to evaluate the project for effectiveness.
- Since the award, beyond active investigations, prosecutions, comprehensive victim services, trainings and outreach events, the highlights of the task force activities have been as follows:
 - Completed the build out of task force co-location space at the HPD Midwest.
 - Added the outlying counties, Montgomery and Fort Bend.
 - Added State Department personnel for labor trafficking cases.
 - Added the Houston Police Department Gang Officers.
 - Added Harris and Montgomery County School resource officers.
 - Conducted successful undercover operations during Super Bowl 51 event.
 - Participates in the development and implementation of the Houston Regional Child Sex Trafficking Continuum of Care, an initiative of the Office of the Governor.

Statistical Summary of Human Trafficking Activities in Texas

Capturing accurate data on human trafficking has been a continuing struggle for law enforcement agencies and other organizations for years. In the December 2016 report by the University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, *Human Trafficking by the Numbers: The Initial Benchmark of Prevalence and Economic Impact for Texas*, researchers provided a prevalence and economic estimation of human trafficking across the state. According to the report, in Texas it is estimated “there are approximately 79,000 minor and youth victims of sex trafficking” and “234,000 workers who are victims of labor trafficking.”¹ Minor and youth sex trafficking has an estimated economic impact to the state of nearly \$6.6 billion while labor trafficking victims are exploited at an annual cost of almost \$600 million.²

In 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) added human trafficking to its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In the following years, states began to collect the data and report it to the FBI. Law enforcement agencies in Texas report arrest data to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). That data is then collated and provided to the FBI on a calendar year basis for inclusion in the agencies annual *Crime in the United States* report. In Calendar Year 2014, those reports began to include human trafficking. For the purposes of the UCR, human trafficking is divided into two groups, “Human Trafficking / Commercial Sex Acts” and “Human Trafficking / Involuntary Servitude”. A strict count of human trafficking arrests in Texas would include only those arrests for crimes committed under Chapter 20A, Texas Penal Code (Trafficking of Persons). However, in accordance with FBI UCR guidelines, the DPS data also include similar or related offenses such as Online Solicitation of a Minor and certain Smuggling of Persons crimes in their definitions of human trafficking. While slightly more inclusive than a count of just human trafficking arrests, the data does provide a good measure of *known* human trafficking in Texas. The chart below shows the last three calendar years of human trafficking data in Texas as reported by DPS.

¹ Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Nale, N.L., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., Torres, M.I.M., Cook Heffron, L., Nehme, J. (2016). *Human Trafficking by the Numbers: The Initial Benchmark of Prevalence and Economic Impact for Texas*. Austin, TX: Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin, pg. 13.

² Ibid.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING / COMMERCIAL SEX ACTS	
2014	706
2015	531
2016	512

HUMAN TRAFFICKING / INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE	
2014	62
2015	26
2016	14

Recommendations to Enhance Efforts to Prevent Human Trafficking

During the 85th Texas Legislature several bills related to human trafficking were passed into law. House Bill 29, the omnibus human trafficking legislation, contained the twelve recommendations of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force as outlined by the Task Force’s 2016 Report to the Legislature. Those recommendations were the product of the collaborative efforts of state and local government agencies and nongovernmental partners from around the state. Prior to their publication in the report to the Legislature, each of the recommendations was unanimously approved by the Task Force membership in 2016.

House Bill 29 made several changes to the law which will help anti-trafficking efforts across the state.

1. It resolved conflicting language within the prostitution statute thereby providing prosecutors with clear language with which to address human trafficking-related crimes.
2. Individuals convicted of continuous trafficking of persons are now required to register as sex offenders for life.
3. Career schools and institutions of higher education which provide training for a Commercial Drivers’ License are now required to add information regarding human trafficking into their curriculum.
4. The Crime Victims’ Compensation Act was amended to include specialized care for child victims as a type of pecuniary loss. This change allows reimbursement for children who received specialized care in a specialized treatment facility that would not otherwise qualify as a child care facility prior to the passage of this legislation.
5. The Attorney General was given authority to issue Civil Investigative Demands in Civil Racketeering based on Trafficking of Persons cases and investigations.
6. The Secretary of State, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Office of Court Administration, and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement were added to the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force.
7. The sunset provision on the Task Force was removed, thus allowing the Task Force to continue operating beyond September 1, 2017.
8. Child sex trafficking cases were added to the list of offenses which are afforded preferential settings for hearings and trials.
9. Added language to Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child or Children, Indecency with a Child, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Sexual Assault, Sexual Performance by a Child, and Employment Harmful to Children statutes to protect child victims against sexual abuse regardless of whether the defendant knows the age of the child.
10. Enhanced the penalty of Promotion of Prostitution.

11. Enhanced the penalty for Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution.
12. Clarified language in the Health and Safety Code to explicitly state the requirement to keep certain medical information confidential under the Health and Safety Code does not relieve an individual's mandated duty to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Additional Task Force recommendations will be forthcoming in the next biennial report to the Legislature scheduled for publication in December 2018.

Conclusion

In Fiscal Year 2017, Task Force members collaborated across the state to enhance the state's response to trafficking. Not only were twelve legislative recommendations passed into law, but local, state, and federal agencies along with nongovernmental organizations partnered in cities across the state in an effort to make Texas inhospitable to traffickers and bring assistance to victims. Going forward, the Task Force will continue such collaborations. As a national leader in anti-trafficking efforts, Texas remains committed to preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting offenders. The work of the Task Force and its legislative partners evidences the dedication and seriousness with which Texas has approached and will continue to approach human trafficking.