



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Office on Trafficking in Persons

## **National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States Summary of Meeting January 6, 2022**

### **Day 1: Thursday, January 6, 2022 | 3–6 p.m. (Eastern)**

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) convened virtually for its eleventh meeting on January 6, 2022. The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) provided technical support to Committee members and public participants through Zoom. The Committee Chair, Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa, Senior Deputy District Attorney of Multnomah County, OR, opened the meeting, held a roll call, and established a quorum.

### **Committee Members**

#### **Present**

Justice Bobbe Bridge (Ret.), Center for Children & Youth Justice  
Marissa Castellanos, Catholic Charities of Louisville  
Kimberly Chang, M.D., M.P.H., Asian Health Services  
Captain Pi Downsbrough (Ret.), Massachusetts State Police  
Jordan Greenbaum, M.D., International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children  
Stacey Katz, Psy.D., WestCoast Children's Clinic  
Judge Robert Lung, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Arapahoe County and Douglas County Justice Centers, Colorado  
Christine Raino, Esq., Shared Hope International  
Judge John J. Romero, Jr. (Ret.), Second Judicial District Court, Albuquerque, NM, Children's Court Division  
Staca Shehan, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa, Jr., Senior Deputy District Attorney of Multnomah County, OR (Committee Chair)  
Yasmin Vafa, Rights4Girls  
John Vanek, San Jose Police Department (Ret.)  
Erin Williamson, L.C.S.W., M.P.A., Love146

**Not Present**

Rebecca Bender, Rebecca Bender Initiative  
Governor Doug Ducey (Substitute: Maria Fuentes), Arizona  
Joel Filmore, Ph.D.  
Camille Naaktgeboren, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Kathy Sauve, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota-Brainerd

**Other Attendees**

The list below is based on registration. Other participants may have participated virtually but did not register and are not listed below.

**Federal Participants**

Katherine Chon, Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), Committee Designated Federal Officer  
Lauren Devine, OTIP  
Kimberly Casey, OTIP  
Vera Soto, OTIP

**Public Participants**

Samantha Alexander, International Institute of St. Louis  
Chris Ash, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking  
Margaret Blankemeyer, NHTTAC  
Jean Bruggeman, Freedom Network USA  
Jacqueline Cheek, Public Attendee  
Kelly Dwyer, Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Samantha Floyd, Advocating Opportunity  
Ashley Garrett, NHTTAC  
Christina Presenti, International Association of Forensic Nurses  
Traci Zema, Cone Health

**Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair J.R. Ujifusa welcomed everyone to the eleventh and final public meeting as a statutorily mandated federal advisory committee.

**Committee Business**

Mr. Ujifusa reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The first item on the agenda was the public comment period, followed by a Committee Working Session during which an update would be provided on the extension of the Committee. Following the Committee Working Session, members would vote on the January 2022 report, Preliminary State Self-Assessment Overview, and discuss the communications plan for the rollout of the report.

## Public Comments

Ashley Garrett with NHTTAC read the public comments into the public record. The public comments can be viewed [online](#).

## Committee Working Session

### *Committee Extension*

Katherine Chon shared that the Committee will sunset by statute on January 18, 2022 and thanked the Committee for their energy, passion, expertise, and hard work. When the current Committee sunsets, all Committee business will stop until the charter for the new discretionary Committee is signed. Once the charter is signed, the Committee will be able to continue its work with federal agencies and states. Ms. Chon recognized that the Committee's work was impacted by the pandemic and constraints that were put on various state engagements. The signing of the new charter will mark the beginning of the 24-month period for which the discretionary Committee has been approved. At that time, conversations around membership and vacancies will be revisited; Ms. Chon explained that they will be evaluating potential membership inquiries to reflect a diverse subject matter expertise and geographic distribution. Ms. Chon then opened the floor to questions from the Committee.

The Committee asked if there is an estimated date when the charter would be signed. Ms. Chon clarified that there is not but assured the Committee that OTIP is in regular contact with relevant offices and hopes to have an answer soon.

Mr. Ujifusa acknowledged that members initially signed on for a five-year commitment under the statutorily mandated National Advisory Committee. Mr. Ujifusa asked the Committee to consider if they would like to continue for the next 2 years. Ms. Chon emphasized that membership to the Committee has always been voluntary in nature and requested that if life circumstances have changed, and members do not wish to continue, that members communicate that to OTIP so they can take that into consideration when revisiting membership and vacancies. Ms. Chon added that because the discretionary Committee is still considered a federal advisory committee, they will be publicly posting the membership opportunity.

The Committee asked if there would be a change to the size of the Committee. Ms. Chon responded that there is a proposed size of the Committee in the charter, but because the charter has not been signed, she cannot confirm. Ms. Chon shared that the size of the Committee is determined by a ceiling rather than a minimum and stated that quorum will be determined by the total number of sitting members.

Erin Williamson noted that as potential new members are considered for the Committee, considerations about the disproportionate nature of human trafficking impacting individuals of color and the LGBTQ+ community should be considered. The Committee should be representing the communities that are being impacted to the best of its ability.

Mr. Ujifusa asked if under the new charter the Committee would be able to expand the subject of the Committee to include labor trafficking of minors. Ms. Chon confirmed that there is more flexibility with the new charter, which was drafted to be responsive to the experience of the Committee over the past five years and feedback provided by states.

### *January 2022 Report*

Lauren Devine shared an updated draft of the Committee's report, Preliminary State Self-Assessment Overview, with feedback from the Committee incorporated and members' titles updated.

Ms. Williamson proposed to change the title of the Executive Summary to Cross-Section Overview to reflect the content more accurately and ensure that the reader understands that they need to review the entirety of the report to learn about state responses. The Committee agreed.

Ms. Devine encouraged the members to provide updates for their biographies, if necessary, before noon on January 7, 2022 so the report can be processed through copyediting and design. Ms. Devine shared that there was an error in the initial draft of the report (the same introductory paragraph was in two sections of the report) but noted that the content has now been updated. After the report is approved by the Committee, it will be made 508 compliant and posted online in accordance with the Committee's sunset date on January 18, 2022.

The Committee approved the report moving forward.

#### *Communications Rollout Plan*

Mr. Ujifusa reminded the Committee that at the last public meeting members decided that the communications plan would be smaller. The following will be included: a letter from the Committee to Congress, a letter from the Committee to states, child welfare agencies and other partners, the publication of the report on OTIP's website, a news and information item on OTIP's website, and a link in OTIP's upcoming newsletter highlighting the report. Mr. Ujifusa asked if there was anything else that should be added.

Ms. Williamson requested for language to be included in the letter to address that further analysis may be conducted through work by the discretionary committee in the future in order to acknowledge states that did not yet respond to the State Self-Assessment Survey. Ms. Devine confirmed that this will be addressed in the letters from the Committee.

Mr. Ujifusa asked that the letter to partners be sent to the National Governors Association. Christine Raino also added the National Association of Attorneys General to the list.

Ms. Raino asked if there was any social media that could be amplified by members and their organizations. Ms. Raino said that social media may be a way to reach states, highlighting that there is still an opportunity to participate. Ms. Chon stated that OTIP can post some social media messages, and then members can cross-post. The Committee can also post on the Committee's LinkedIn. OTIP can request to post on Twitter and Facebook through ACF but will have to confirm if that is a possibility.

Ms. Chon shared with the Committee that a briefing call can be coordinated after the charter is signed, and there are various options for public and state engagement. Ms. Chon encouraged the Committee to collect any questions and comments received in the interim and send them to OTIP so the Committee can review them when the work of the discretionary committee starts. Ms. Chon encouraged members to reach out if there are any additional elements they want to see added to the communications plan.

#### *Closing*

Mr. Ujifusa asked if there were any further comments or questions from members before closing.

Ms. Williamson thanked OTIP for all of its hard work on the Committee and the support provided in publishing the reports. Dr. Jordan Greenbaum thanked Mr. Ujifusa and Ms. Chon for their work leading

the Committee, especially in meetings. Dr. Stacey Katz echoed the sentiments from Ms. Williamson and Dr. Greenbaum and thanked the subcommittee chairs for their leadership and coordination.

Ms. Chon thanked the Committee for its tremendous service to the work at federal agencies but particularly for their support to states. Ms. Chon added that she has fond memories of those times when the Committee was able to meet in person and all of the conversations and discussions that happened throughout the time together. Ms. Chon said that the Committee did a comprehensive job of coordinating different perspectives to help advance prevention work across the nation when it comes to addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth. Ms. Chon thanked the Committee for the honor of serving alongside them and OTIP staff for their tremendous work, NHTTAC for logistic support, and for the input and engagement of the public. Ms. Chon stated that she looks forward to the next phase of the work that will continue through the discretionary Committee and to more robust engagement with state agencies.

Mr. Ujifusa echoed thanks and added that the Committee is appreciative of states. The Committee made a big ask of states in a time where they were already stretched thin and were facing challenges they have never dealt with before; the Committee recognized that there are people who spent many hours trying to respond to the State Self-Assessment the best they could in order to represent their states and reflect efforts. Mr. Ujifusa thanked all Committee members for their expertise and dedication to the work, highlighting how the Committee found common ground and a way to respect the opinions of others and come together as a team to think beyond personal views to benefit the bigger picture.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. (Eastern).