
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES

21st National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Session on The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the U.S.

April 24, 2019 | Washington, DC

NAC Members in Attendance:

- Glen (JR) Ujifusa, Chair
- Judge John Romero

Federal Staff in Attendance:

- Katherine Chon, Designated Federal Officer
- Kate Cooper, HHS Office on Trafficking in Persons
- Rosie Gomez, HHS Children's Bureau

Background

Committee Chairperson Glen (JR) Ujifusa, Jr. and Member Judge John J. Romero, Jr. presented on the National Advisory Committees' Preliminary Recommendations to Strengthen the Nation's Response to the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States.

Copies of the recommendations were provided to the participants who provided verbal comments.

Comments

- **Human Trafficking on Tribal Lands**
 - A member of Navajo National commented that federal law enforcement (US Attorneys) will not pick up trafficking cases involving tribal populations and it seems Tribal populations have to provide a disproportionately high level of evidence to engage US attorneys on trafficking cases; Crimes happening on tribal lands seem to have a different set of standards.
 - It is important to understand linkage between human trafficking and missing & murdered indigenous women.
 - Under Screening and Identification, Training (2.a.ii.), the Committee recommends that states "include information on the unique vulnerabilities of boys, the LGBTQ community, Native populations, and other under-identified groups." A participant commented that rather than using the term "Native populations", this recommendation should specifically refer to "Tribal".
- **Best Practices**
 - It is imperative that the Committee consider evidence-based research when determining best practices. Though research is expensive, it is what we desperately

need to improve services and receive funding. We need more money for research and data.

- There are good first responder protocols for children unknown to foster care, but less intensive response to kids already in foster care. Systems take very good care of first-time victims but struggle when children return to their exploiters and need assistance more than once. There is a difference in response between different types of victims. Best practices should be developed in this area, which could be included in the section describing MDT's.
- We need best practices around victims becoming recruiters themselves and how to prevent peer-to-peer recruitment. We also need to address how we treat recruiters as criminals.
- We need research around placements, particularly if children and youth benefit from group facilities placement. One participant mentioned that placements shouldn't matter – placements do not necessarily create vulnerability. We need to look at whether or not a child believes that they have a future, self-esteem, and support. We need to build placed where kids will want to come back to vs. places to keep kids in.

- **Other Comments**

- Shared Hope's state research would be a good resource for this report.
- The [Capacity Center for States](#) has a group listserv on the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, which could provide an opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange of information.
- The [McCain Institute](#) made a call for partners in prevention education.
- Reference harm reduction models and approaches.