

Maryland Judicial Council -- Joint Workgroup on Human Trafficking

Purpose:

The workgroup is charged with developing and implementing plans to educate judges, magistrates, appropriate judiciary staff, and justice partners on issues related to human trafficking. In addition, the workgroup may identify other resources and best practices for helping victims of human trafficking who come into contact with the court system. The workgroup will review information about programs in Maryland, as well as in other states, and will make recommendations to the Judicial Council accordingly. The workgroup will work in coordination with the Judicial Council's committees on Education, Family Law, Juvenile Law, and Specialty Courts and Dockets. The chairs of each of the above-mentioned committees will identify at least two people from within their membership to serve on the workgroup and to communicate information back to their respective committees.

Chair: Hon. Barbara Waxman

Members:

- Hon. Tiffany Anderson, District Court Chief Judge's Committee
- Hon. Susan Hazlett, Education Committee
- Hon. Patricia Mitchell, Education Committee
- Hon. Fred Hecker, Domestic Law Committee
- Magistrate Richard J. Sandy, Domestic Law Committee
- Hon. Michael J. Stamm, Juvenile Law Committee
- Hon. Robert B. Kershaw, Juvenile Law Committee
- Hon. Mark S. Chandlee, Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee
- Hon. Broughton M. Earnest, Retired, Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee
- Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator, or her designee Rebecca Riemer, Associate Counsel, Internal Affairs Division
- Lou Gieszl, Assistant Administrator for Programs
- Tracy Watkins, Director, Foster Care Court Improvement

Staff: Abigail Hill, Esq.

Workplan/Timeline

Spring 2016 -- What is Happening in Maryland Already?

- Convene Workgroup
- Receive and review information about educational efforts already planned or completed within the Maryland Judiciary

- Receive briefing about the work of the State Task Force on Human Trafficking under the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Receive briefing about Turn Around, Inc. and, if applicable, other service providers to be identified by workgroup members

Summer 2016 -- What Are Promising Practices Nationally?

- Receive and review information from the National Human Trafficking Summit
- Receive briefing from staff at the Center for Court Innovation about promising efforts underway in other states

Fall/Winter 2016 -- Gap Analysis and Education

- Consider what initiatives to take, if any, based on how Maryland fares with respect to promising practices nationally
- Determine what additional educational initiatives are needed
- If warranted, host a kick-off event or summit to share information with a broader cross-section of judges, magistrates, court administrators, and program managers.
- Announce plans for ongoing Judicial education related to human trafficking

Meeting Schedule: TBD

Contact:

For more information call Lou Gieszl, Assistant Administrator for Programs, at 410-260-3547 or reach him via email at lou.gieszl@mdcourts.gov.