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## South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking

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Executive Summary

In 2018, the members of the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking continued to increase the local capacity to serve and identify survivors of trafficking. The Coalition trained hundreds of individuals through capacity-building events, including the well-attended symposium “Supporting Survivors through a Culturally Humble Lens” for a multidisciplinary group of professionals in the anti-trafficking field. Professionals, community members, and survivors also received training on topics like introduction to human trafficking, legal services, advocacy, and prevention.

The Coalition continued to facilitate the Bay Area regional workgroup, No Traffick Ahead, collaborating with organizations and agencies throughout the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.

2018 Impact

219 survivors received victim services from Coalition VSPs

Of 219, 116 were sexually exploited children or at risk of exploitation

120 survivors received legal services from Coalition LSPs

65 anti-trafficking capacity-building events convened

39 member agencies participated in the Coalition
Annual Report Purpose

The annual report is intended to provide Coalition members and community partners with an overview of the anti-trafficking efforts the Coalition has been involved with in the past year. This report highlights trends, gaps, notable accomplishments, areas of engagement, and areas where the Coalition is building capacity to identify and serve survivors of trafficking. Data provided in this report are submitted by active Coalition member agencies only and do not include all providers in the County. In order to show collective impact, agencies may combine data, but caveats are noted. Agencies submitting data are respectively credited. Citations of data should appropriately credit respective agencies.

2018 Coalition Membership

See complete list in Acknowledgements.
2018 TRAININGS & EVENTS

In 2018, the Coalition and our member agencies hosted or participated in at least 65 capacity-building events including human trafficking trainings, focus groups, panels, presentations, train-the-trainer workshops, and clinics. Most events were conducted in English, but at least six were conducted in Spanish and Spanish interpretation was available at additional events.

On January 19th, 2018, about 50 people attended our Human Trafficking Symposium in San Jose’s Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium, featuring the following cultural humility workshops: Strengthening Mutual Understanding with Clients and Colleagues; The Role of History of Racial Inequity; Diversity Within the Asian Pacific Islander Community: Snapshots of the Filipino, South Asian, Vietnamese and Chinese Diasporas; Helping LGBTQ Victims/Survivors of Trauma: A Culturally Sensitive Approach; Creating Meaningful Connections: Seeing Beyond the Labels.
2018 Audiences

2,460 attendees

2018 Coalition events were attended by at least 2,460 attendees (includes duplication) from various backgrounds, including:

- Community Members
- Employment Lawyers
- Faith Communities
- Filipino Students & Workers
- Foster Resource Families
- Girl Scout Families
- Government Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Service Providers
- Members of the Press
- Members of the Private Sector
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Prevention/Outreach Organizations
- San Jose Human Services Commission
- Social Workers
- Students
- Transit Workers
- Victim Service Providers and Advocates
- Visitors to the Mexican Consulate

Topics Covered

101

Intro to Trafficking

Overviews of Human Trafficking, Labor Trafficking, or Sex Trafficking
Trafficking for Parents and Guardians
Public Awareness Campaigns
Demand-Focused Strategies
Identifying and Screening
Local Picture Trends

Legal Issues / Services for Survivors

T visas
Minors and T Visas
USCIS Policy Changes
Workers’ and Victims’ Rights
Human Trafficking Strategies
Workplace Rights of Survivors
Labor Trafficking at Silvery Towers
Human Trafficking & Civil Remedies

Capacity Building

Building & Maintaining Partnerships
Working with Indigenous Populations
Local Response to Commercial Sex and Sex Trafficking
Trafficking Strategies in Chinese Communities
Cultural Proficiency Training

Human Trafficking for Employment Attorneys
Central American Youth and Labor Trafficking
"Talking to you makes me feel safe, heard, and believed."

20-year-old Lauren moved to California to escape human trafficking. She was fighting addiction from the drugs her trafficker made her take and was anxious from the violence and trauma. Now far away from her trafficker, she still didn't feel safe. She wanted to report him to law enforcement, but feared they wouldn't believe her or that the trafficker would retaliate.

Lauren’s father helped her connect with Community Solutions’ Human Trafficking program. Since receiving services, Lauren says, "I was a mess! I feel I have become a better person and I found more happiness within myself." She continues, "Before I was in denial and acted like I did not care, but I was sad and I did not cope well." Now, she says, "I know there are better people out there." She tells her advocate, "You’ve helped me to cope with things in a positive way so now my anxiety and depression is down. ... Talking to you makes me feel safe, heard, and believed, ... like it wasn’t my fault and it was okay to feel angry." Lauren says she has learned to channel her emotions into something positive things, like accomplishing her goals.

"You believed in me and that is key because I never felt that anyone believed in me."

This story is adapted from Community Solutions’ #ThankfulThursday Series. The survivor’s name and photo has been changed to protect confidentiality.
The Coalition Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are committed to providing in-person response to human trafficking survivors identified by law enforcement, governmental organizations, and service providers. In recent years, the majority of clients served by the VSPs have been domestic minor female victims of sex trafficking. However, since the Coalition’s inception, VSPs have supported survivors of all ages and genders originating from five continents.

During calendar year 2018, AACI, Community Solutions, and YWCA Silicon Valley provided crisis intervention services and comprehensive services to 219 human trafficking survivors. 63% of these survivors were from the US, 16% from Latin America, 4% from Europe, 4% from Asia and Pacific Islands, and 1% from Africa. Of those same survivors, 100 were CSEC. At least 76 survivors were foreign-born and 155 domestic, including CSEC and at risk-CSEC. The following tables provide demographics for the 2019 survivors. For more detail, see Appendix A.
During calendar year 2018, Community Solutions and the YWCA of Silicon Valley served a combined total of 137 trafficking survivors or youth at risk of trafficking under the age of 25. **Thirty-nine** were Transition Aged Youth (TAY), which are youth between 18 and 24 years, and **98** were under the age of 18. Community Solutions served 89 clients and the YWCA served 48 clients. Of these survivors, **116** were commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) or at-risk of CSEC, and **21** were survivors of domestic sex trafficking.

**Child and Youth Survivors Receiving Services by Coalition VSPs in 2018 by Age Group and Ethnicity**

**CSEC & TAY Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims**

- Over 60 years: 25 (1.2%)
- 41-60 years: 57 (10.1%)
- 26-40 years: 61 (23.0%)
- 16-25 years: 102 (41.1%)

**Child and Youth Survivors by Age Group and Type of Trafficking**

- Domestic Sex Trafficking: 32 minor, 11 TAY
- CSEC: 21 minor, 11 TAY
- At-Risk CSEC: 7 minor, 66 TAY
YWCA Silicon Valley housed over eight adult clients through their Rapid Rehousing program. One YWCA CSEC client is participating in the DFCS Intern and Earn program. They host an ongoing group for teen girls between the ages of 11-17 to discuss topics such as empowerment, healthy relationships, safety, and self-esteem. It also allows time to be creative and have fun, while learning skills to become leaders and positive role models with others their age.

AACI served 36% labor trafficked survivors, 36% domestic servants, and 28% sex trafficked adult survivors. Some of the challenges AACI saw were housing for survivors, capacity to manage clients with severe mental health disorders, and survivors from massage parlors being unable to afford the educational programs to become a licensed massage therapist (which is a barrier to finding legal work).

Community Solutions saw an increase in the number of referrals for victim services, and provided services to a total of 147 survivors - roughly 70% are domestic-born survivors of sex trafficking and the remaining 30% are foreign-born victims of labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and intersectional intimate partner abuse and human trafficking. To address the intersectionality of human trafficking with intimate partner abuse and sexual assault, Community Solutions in partnership with the Coalition Victim Service Provider Subcommittee created the Victim Needs Screening Tool. This tool assesses whether an individual has experienced intimate partner abuse, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. Through this screening tool, individuals can be connected to all services according to their need. (Learn more about the tool in Appendix B).

Love Never Fails (LNF) provided housing and services for 16 survivors and 8 accompanying children and educated thousands of students and community members on human trafficking. LNF also launched a workforce development program called IT Biz that provides technology and entrepreneurship training to equip survivors and other under-served community. 80% of the graduates attained sustainable employment in the Bay Area. The Valedictorian was a graduate of the housing program and now works as a Cisco Systems Network Engineer, has her own apartment, and she and her young child are thriving.

2018 Highlights from Coalition Victim Service Providers
NO TRAFFICK AHEAD (NTA) The Coalition continues to facilitate the regional workgroup, No Traffick Ahead.

The group was originally formed with the intention of ensuring regional consistency in its approach to the 2016 Super Bowl, which was hosted in Santa Clara, but included a variety of events in San Francisco.

In May 2018, NTA changed formats by focusing on a particular theme for each meeting to prompt discussion across counties. The 2018 themes were “The Response to Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings” and “Impacting the Demand for Sex Trafficking.” Local experts in the field presented their successes, challenges, and recommendations on these topics, which were summarized and supplemented in brief summary reports.

No Traffick Ahead had multiple collaborative projects in 2018, some a continuation from the Super Bowl. The workgroup is developing a hotel training toolkit to dovetail with the implementation of AB 2034, a state requirement for hotels and motels to display an informational human trafficking poster, and SB 970, which requires the hotels and motels to provide 20 minutes of human trafficking training to certain employees. NTA members have developed and are now implementing a method to share points of contact for anti-trafficking work across counties. On May 26, 2018, No Traffick Ahead organized a Spanish-language media empowerment retreat in Santa Cruz for human trafficking survivors from five Bay Area counties. Advocates supported survivors as they learned tips and tools from experienced media professionals on how to craft their own message and share this with reporters.
Rachel says to her advocate, 

“I know that you are there to help me through it.”

15-year-old Rachel was referred to Community Solutions by Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). She is a survivor of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and, at the time, was having difficulty with anger, unhealthy relationships, family issues, and setting healthy boundaries. When advocates first met Rachel, she was extremely shy and had a difficult time making eye contact. However, after a few sessions, they were able to build rapport and Rachel began to feel more comfortable talking about her issues. She engaged well with peer counseling and enjoyed having a safe space in which to talk about her emotions and how to cope with them. Discussing what a healthy relationship looks like and how to work through anger issues has helped Rachel understand the effort she needs to put into making healthy choices. She has become very expressive about her challenges and is not afraid to ask. She is working on her anger issues despite difficulties and uses self-care activities such as coloring mandalas. Rachel is continuing to learn, using healthier ways to deal with anger and is developing healthier relationships with her family. She values that her advocate is always there to listen to her when she’s going through problems and is never judging but gives solutions. “I learned to be comfortable in being able to talk about my problems,” she says, “and I know that you are here to help me through it. [I value] being able to have that safe space to talk about things that matter to me and not feeling embarrassed for asking.”

This story is adapted from Community Solutions’ #ThankfulThursday Series. The survivor’s name and photo has been changed to protect confidentiality.
LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDER UPDATES

Legal Services Provided in 2018
The following data is provided by Asian Law Alliance, Bay Area Legal Aid, Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY), Step Forward Foundation, and Justice At Last. Due to client confidentiality, the data set may include a small number of duplicated clients who received legal services from multiple agencies in 2018.

In 2018, reporting agencies provided legal services in 203 human trafficking cases, which may include a small number of client duplications due to attorney-client privilege. Over half of these cases (69) began in a previous year and were still ongoing at the end of 2018, 38 were new cases, 11 were granted immigration relief, and one client did not meet the eligibility criteria for immigration relief under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but qualified for wage violations.

Clients were most frequently referred to legal services by another non-governmental organization (48 times), 15 clients were referred by law enforcement, 13 by a legal service provider, and two from the National Human Trafficking Hotline. At least 67 clients initially received immigration legal services making immigration services the most common initial service provided in the context of legal services.* Social services was the second most common initial service provided with 45 clients, followed by family law with seven clients, public benefits with three, education and housing with two each, and workers’ rights with one. Six clients received multiple initial services.

At least 39 clients received secondary services including: safety planning (14), public benefits consultations (11), referrals (six), employment rights (four), immigration (three), family law (two), consumer rights (one), and CDI/ASL interpretation (one). Twenty-seven had immigration certification provided by an agency. Of those, seven were certified by the State Attorney General, six by the Department of Labor, six by federal law enforcement, four by local district attorneys, four by local law enforcement.

*This relates to clients receiving legal services who have not yet been connected to a direct service provider. It does not include clients who have been referred to a legal service provider from a direct service provider where they would have already received social service support.
While Coalition members provided legal services to a diverse group of human trafficking survivors, some trends did emerge in 2018. A majority of clients (164) self-identified as female opposed to only 39 clients who identified as male. At least one of the female clients identified as transgender.

About half of clients for whom the age is known were over the age of 25 years, and half were 25 or younger. There were 106 adults, 41 Transition Aged Youth (TAY) aged 18 to 25, and 53 were minors.
Country of Origin

Of the 93 clients who were known to originate from outside the United States, 35 came from Mexico, 17 from the Philippines, 14 from Spain, and 30 from various other countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Three of these were known to be Permanent Residents, and 77 had other non-citizen statuses.

Residency

A majority of clients who provided residency information lived in Santa Clara County (108) with at least 67 living in San Jose. Twenty-two lived in San Francisco, 30 lived in Alameda County, 30 were in other California counties, and five lived out of state. The trafficking frequently occurred in a different city or county than the client’s provided residence. Forty-seven were exploited in Santa Clara County, 21 in Alameda County, 15 in San Mateo County, 11 in San Francisco, ten in Sacramento, 27 in another California county, ten in another state, and one in the Philippines.
Santa Clara University’s Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center along with other South Bay Coalition member agencies responded to several requests for services for victims identified in law enforcement actions, including a labor trafficking case with approximately 90 past and present human trafficking victims. Some of the first trafficking survivors who became clients of the Law Center over ten years ago were granted U.S. citizenship in 2018. They have become integral members of Santa Clara County community, and are working to assist others who have found themselves in situations of exploitation. The Law Center has participated in numerous community outreach and education events on human trafficking and workplace crimes.

Asian Law Alliance (ALA) is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of clients requiring assistance with immigration related matters, and anticipate serving more clients with human trafficking matters in the near future.

Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) provided wraparound legal services to trafficking survivors from multiple large enforcement actions in the region, as well as survivors referred by partner agencies or identified by BayLegal. For the third year in a row, BayLegal also served as panelists at the training for new statewide Victim/Witness advocates, educating new victim services providers about the legal services needs of trafficking survivors.

Justice At Last served 70 trafficked persons in 2018, and the average age of their clients was mid-20’s and early-30’s. Prior to 2018, the majority of persons served were female victims of sex trafficking. However, since 2018, they saw an increase in labor trafficking as well as male victims. Their clients were trafficked in brothels, restaurants, construction, domestic work, online and outdoor solicitation. Justice At Last also trained 647 attorneys, survivor-thrivers and service providers through 22 activities.
Important Bay Area Legal Cases of 2018

To learn more about each case and additional cases that may be helpful to attorneys serving human trafficking clients, see Appendix C: Resources on Important Legal Cases.

Silvery Towers Labor Trafficking Case
In 2018, a federal grand jury indicted Hayward contractor Job Torres Hernandez, charging him with forced labor and harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage or private financial gain. (U.S. v. Defendant Job Torres Hernandez, Case Number 2016R00539). The case continued into 2019, as Torres Hernandez was convicted in March 2019 and sentenced in June 2019. Separately, thanks to Department of Labor investigation, in 2018 the 22 workers involved were paid $250,000 in back wages.

Mango Gardens
Workers in the Mango Garden restaurant chain in San Jose, Fremont, and San Mateo had to live in housing provided by the owner. As many as 15 people lived in a 2-bedroom apartment with mattresses on the ground. The workers were denied medical treatment and were not paid overtime or tips. There were threats to workers and their families, including threats of deportation and one worker was told he would be forced to jump off the Golden Gate Bridge. The traffickers were convicted of wage theft, tax, and insurance fraud and ordered to pay $1,153,013 in criminal restitution to the victims ($1,006,455 in wages, $60,694 in insurance premium fraud, and $59,864 in sales tax fraud).
ASYLUM
There has been an increase in human trafficking clients with unrelated asylum claims.

FILING FEES
While there is technically a fee waiver process for visa applications, it has become more difficult to secure an approval. The Department of Homeland Security has also indicated that it will begin charging more to file a visa application and may begin to charge for asylum applications in the future, though this has not yet come to fruition. If this trend continues, the agencies working with low-income clients will be most impacted, and will likely need additional funding sources to cover filing fees.

IMMIGRATION PROCESS
The processing of immigration applications is slowing down, and attorneys are seeing greater scrutiny of applicants. It is now a four-to-five-year wait for deferred action pending a U visa with over one hundred forty thousand principal applications pending at the writing of this Report and only ten thousand U visas awarded annually. T visas are being processed in about two years at the writing of this Report.

RETALIATION THREATS
Retaliation and threats of retaliation against workers are continuing to rise. In certain communities, exploitative employers are utilizing community members to intimidate workers into dropping the case by threatening harm to family members still living in the worker’s country of origin.

DEPORTATION THREATS
The Office of the Labor Commissioner is continuing to process retaliation cases involving threats of deportation significantly faster than in 2017, taking only about 30 days in order to deter immigration-related retaliation.
San Jose Police Department  
Human Trafficking Task Force (SJPD HTTF)

SJPD HTTF conducted several human trafficking investigations and operations in 2018. In total 30 human trafficking survivors were identified, and 12 traffickers were arrested. The SJPD HTTF conducted 12 online cyber operations, which primarily focused on demand reduction. Through those operations, 307 “johns” or sex buyers were contacted and counseled on the dangers and impact of demand on human trafficking.

The SJPD HTTF, in conjunction with the Santa Clara County L.E.I.H.T. Task Force, participated in the 2018 Operation Reclaim & Rebuild, a state-wide collaborative operation. In total, 5 survivors were assisted from San Jose during the operation.

The SJPD HTTF attended several trainings on human trafficking and child exploitation during 2018. Some of those trainings included the National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in Atlanta, Georgia, the North West Regional Internet Crimes Against Children in Seattle, Washington, and a course in Child Forensic Interview Training in San Jose, California. The SJPD HTTF in collaboration with victim service providers and legal service providers from the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking attended the CAST LA train the trainer course, which focused on building human trafficking presentations for various audiences.
Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Department and L.E.I.H.T. Task Force

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force (Law Enforcement to Investigate Human Trafficking) continued to investigate human exploitation crimes and connect survivors with resource providers in 2018. In addition to continuing training within the Taskforce, L.E.I.H.T. began training Patrol (who are often the first contact) on red flags, investigative techniques, victimology and changing their mindset when making contact with survivors.

In November 2018, a 25-year-old woman contacted the National Human Trafficking Hotline requesting law enforcement assist with her current situation. The victim was being continuously monitored by her exploiter and advised it was not safe for her to be contacted by law enforcement. The victim was physically abused and trafficked through five different states within a four-month time span. Law enforcement in various jurisdictions were able to track her, ultimately ending with the Santa Clara County L.E.I.H.T. Task Force locating and assisting the victim, while she was still in the custody of her exploiter at a hotel in San Jose. The victim was reunited with her out-of-state family, and she was connected to local resources and services. The 33-year-old suspect, was arrested on extensive human trafficking charges and is currently being held in custody awaiting trial.
In 2018, the Probation Department staff attended relevant local and national conferences to remain current with national trends. Additionally, these specialty staff provided trainings to a wide array of audiences, including presenting at the Partnership for Well Being Institute, Adult Female and Juvenile Offenders Conference, Santa Clara County Office of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Family Court, and Hawaii Probation Department. In collaboration with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, the Probation Department participated on the Celina Rodriguez Kaliente 1370 AM Radio show focusing on CSEC and demand reduction.
The following is adapted from the 2018 DFCS CSEC Report. The full report can be downloaded at SouthBayEndTrafficking.org/Resources.

The DFCS prevention programs offered in 2018 included the Youth Empowerment Summit (YES): My Kind of Confidence a one-day conference offered to all identified female youth in the spring and a painting party for youth to plan the 2019 YES in the Fall.

In 2018, the CSEC Transformation Team received 71 notifications from the Child Abuse and Neglect Center (CANC) by email or call/voicemail without a verbal consultation. There were 137 verbal or written consultations between the CSEC Transformation Team and the Social Worker/Partner who may have concerns related to a youth who is confirmed, suspected, or “at risk” for CSEC.

Continued on next page
Twenty-nine MDT meetings were recommended for identified youth who would benefit from the intervention of the Transformation Team, and 26 action plans were created with their strengths, hopes, and dreams, and concrete tasks assigned to the youth’s support team and the youth. It is important to highlight that several “at risk” youth declined services, which is an ongoing challenge with this population because they do not recognize their vulnerabilities and how their high-risk behaviors place them “at risk” for exploitation. The Transformation Team believes that these numbers do not capture that actual number of “at risk” and confirmed CSEC youth at DFCS and that staff training is imperative to continue educating staff in recognizing and contacting the Transformation Team with concerns.

The Commercially Sexually Exploited-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is a validated identification tool used to identify and help determine the risk of a child/youth for CSE. In 2018, it was administered to 59 youth, and 56 of these youths were designated as “possible concern” or “clear concern” of CSEC. Six were cisgender male, one was transgender, and 52 were cisgender female. Ethnically, 35 were Latino/Latina/Hispanic, 12 white, six African Ancestry, and five were Asian/Pacific Islander. Most youth were ages 15 to 17 years (43), two were under the age of 12 years, 13 were ages 12 to 14 years, and one was 18. 30 of the youths also worked with Community Solutions or the YWCA. Additionally, the Transformation Team’s social worker continues to be engaged with 13 identified youth who were identified in prior years.

In this reporting period, 70 DFCS staff and 81 community partners attended two CSEC 101 trainings presented by Rachel Thomas, a survivor/leader. Ms. Thomas presented a CSEC 102 training attended by 23 DFCS staff and 19 community partners. Nola Brantley Speaks presented two CSEC 102 trainings that included a survivor leader. These were collectively attended by 52 DFCS staff and 45 community partners.

In 2018, the County of Santa Clara hosted a Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) at West Valley College. A youth focus group named it “YES My Kind of Confidence.” 84 youth attended and were showered with swag, giveaways, positive energy, encouragement, fun and given a safe space to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, explore their self-esteem, share their talents, dance, and “be myself.”