



National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States Summary of Meeting September 8–9, 2021

Day 1: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 | 2–6 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 ninth meeting on September 8, 2021. The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) provided technical support to Committee members and public participants through Zoom. Committee Chair Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa, Senior Deputy District Attorney of Multnomah County, Oregon, opened the meeting, held a roll call, and established a quorum.

Committee Members

Present Virtually

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
Governor Doug Ducey (Substitute: Kristen Sorenson), Arizona
Jordan Greenbaum, M.D., International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children
Judge Robert Lung, 18th 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, New Mexico, Children's Court Division
Staca Shehan, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa, Jr., Senior Deputy District Attorney of Multnomah County, Oregon (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

Joel Filmore, Ph.D.

Stacey Katz, Psy.D., WestCoast Children's Clinic

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

Surina Amin, HHS/ACF Children's Bureau (CB) Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)

Jerrianne Anthony, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Ana Cody, HHS/ACF Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Katherine Chon, Director, HHS/ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), Committee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Lauren Devine, HHS/ACF OTIP

Lauren Fischman, HHS/ACF CB OCAN

Debra Johnson, HHS/ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs

Vera Kiefer, HHS/ACF OTIP

Khaila Montgomery, HHS/ACF OTIP

Juanita Perry, HUD

Jane Segebrecht, HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Elaine Stedt, Director, HHS/ACF CB OCAN

Emily Warren, HUD

Sherlynn Wu, HHS/ACF OTIP

Public Participants

Phyllis Bell, Office of Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson

Johanna Bishop, Public Attendee

Margaret Blankemeyer, NHTTAC

Isabella Bohn, Public Attendee

Ashley Garrett, NHTTAC

Madeline Hehir, New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Jodie Langs, WestCoast Children's Clinic

Elizabeth Pardue Sullivan, Public Attendee

Thea Walsh, Love146

Opening Remarks

Committee Chair J.R. Ujifusa welcomed everyone to the ninth public meeting.

Committee Business

Mr. Ujifusa reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The first item on the agenda was a presentation to the representatives from federal agencies on 34 recommendations that were provided in the Committee's initial report. This was then followed by a presentation by OTIP staff on the state responses to the State Self-Assessment Survey. Then, the Committee held a working session, during which Members determined responses to states' requests for extensions on the State Self-Assessment Survey, reviewed responses, and began drafting its next report.

Federal Recommendations Presentation

Katherine Chon welcomed the federal representatives joining from HHS, including the Administration for Children and Families (Children's Bureau, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and the Office on Trafficking in Persons), and the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration, as well as from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Chon provided context for this presentation within the agenda of the public meeting. Next, Ms. Chon briefly introduced the Committee's interim report, highlighting the 34 recommendations to federal agencies on their efforts to help strengthen the nation's response to child and youth sex trafficking. Ms. Chon stated that the federal recommendations are included in the Committee's report and, therefore, the responses from the federal government will be included in the Committee's subsequent report to Congress in January 2022. Ms. Chon then gave the floor to Mr. Ujifusa to present the federal recommendations in further detail.

Mr. Ujifusa provided an overview of the National Advisory Committee, its establishment and purpose, statutory requirements, and intention behind the federal recommendations. Mr. Ujifusa then reviewed the 34 federal recommendations, reminding the representatives from federal agencies that the Committee is requesting formal responses by October 29, 2021, and that OTIP and the Committee will follow up with steps for a formal response in the coming days. Lauren Devine with OTIP confirmed that they shared a PDF of all the federal recommendations with the representatives. In addition, a follow-up email with the next steps, the report in its entirety, and the PowerPoint presentation will be shared via email.

During the review of the federal recommendations, Erin Williamson clarified that the federal recommendations identifying a need for an informational memorandum about responding to child trafficking issued by HHS CB came from feedback that Committee Members heard from states. Ms. Williamson indicated that states expressed they have not received clear guidance issued to date and felt they needed further clarity and guidance. Ms. Williamson provided the example that some states were told that they needed to open all cases of suspected trafficking, regardless of who the perpetrator is, whereas other states were being told they only need to open cases in which the potential perpetrator is a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver. Ms. Williamson reiterated the need for clarity and detail in the memos coming from federal entities to meet the Committee's recommendations.

Kimberly Chang flagged that any recommendation referencing Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers should be reviewed and responded to by the Bureau of Primary Healthcare and HRSA, citing recommendation 9.2 specifically.

Ms. Chon then opened the floor to federal partners for questions and welcomed the Committee to respond to any question on the recommendations they worked on in their subcommittees.

Juanita Perry with HUD requested additional framing and context on why emergency shelter was referenced in the recommendations rather than transitional and permanent housing. Jordan Greenbaum and Ms. Williamson clarified that the spirit behind the recommendations was to be comprehensive and inclusive of all types of housing.

Ms. Chon added that if there is work that federal entities are doing to meet needs or address other aspects of the recommendations, to include details of those actions or policies in their response to the Committee. The recommendations are meant to be comprehensive and holistic in terms of meeting the needs of survivors and those at risk of trafficking. Ms. Chon urged federal partners to include specifically any programmatic guidance or policy information that may be relevant to the topic.

Judge Robert Lung added that survivors of trafficking should be offered a variety of housing options depending on where they are in terms of their recovery journey. For example, some survivors are primarily concerned with immediate shelter and are not ready to consider long-term housing options, while others are at a place where they can consider more permanent options. The Committee's recommendations are intended to serve the spectrum of survivors' needs, and all should be taken into consideration in response to the recommendations.

Marissa Castellanos identified the initial narrative in each section of the report as another key point of reference for state and federal entities, as the intent of the narrative is to provide additional context to the recommendations in that section.

Elaine Stedt with CB OCAN confirmed that she would visit the recommendations with CB leadership and looked forward to further communication.

Ms. Chon stated that if any questions come up after the presentation or meeting, where federal agencies would like to connect with the appropriate subcommittee about recommendations, OTIP would be happy to make that connection. Ms. Chon thanked them for their engagement and participation and promised to follow up with additional documents and directions.

State Self-Assessment Survey Response Overview

Lauren Devine with OTIP confirmed that the Committee received complete responses from 12 states, 18 extension requests, partial responses from two states, and one state opted out of the survey due to capacity challenges. Ms. Devine noted that 18 states have neither responded nor formally requested an extension; she intends to reach out to states with a designated point of contact after the public meeting to request an update. Ms. Devine clarified that some of the states that did not respond also did not have an assigned point of contact, which is likely why they have not responded or are potentially experiencing challenges in completing the survey.

Ms. Devine then provided an overview of the state responses received. The data presented captured information submitted by ten states. Two of the states submitted their responses in a hard copy form. From the ten states, 39% of recommendations were categorized as not applicable (N/A), 21% as Tier 1, and 40% as Tier 2.

Vera Kiefer with OTIP shared an Excel worksheet where all the state self-assessment survey responses is maintained. Ms. Kiefer explained that a locked version of the document would be shared with the

Committee Members to prevent data from being accidentally erased. Ms. Kiefer walked through the organization and design of the document, including the color-coding system, the meaning of the various fields, and the function of pivot tables. Ms. Kiefer demonstrated how to filter and organize the data for the Members review of data.

Committee Working Session

Following the review of the states' responses, the Committee moved into a working session to discuss the extension of the Committee's work, review extension requests from states, and determine the final report's content and structure.

Committee Extension

Ms. Chon explained that the Committee is pursuing two parallel tracks to extend the Committee's work. The first track is the extension request from the Committee submitted to Congress for consideration. Mr. Ujifusa penned a letter that OTIP sent to the appropriate Congressional representatives requesting to extend the Committee beyond its initial sunset date in January 2022. The letter outlines the timeframe of the statutory requirements and demonstrates the action taken thus far to fulfill. The letter also outlines the barriers faced by the Committee in fulfilling that work and demonstrates clearly that additional time is needed. Congress has until January 18, 2022, to enact any legislative changes to extend the authorization of the Committee.

Ms. Chon identified the parallel process to extend the Committee is through a discretionary committee established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This discretionary committee would mean that while Congress no longer statutorily requires the Committee, it could continue its work at the discretion of the Secretary. Ms. Chon indicated that the package for extension is under review by the HHS Secretary and departmental leadership to determine approval of the continuation of the Committee's work.

Ms. Chon clarified that even if the Committee was extended by statute or by Departmental discretion, the Committee would still need to provide a report on the state self-assessment survey responses before the final sunset date of the Committee. Should there be an extension for work either by Congress or through the discretionary committee path, the Committee could then submit a more detailed final report prior to the proposed sunset in January 2024. Ms. Chon stated that the Committee's funding would depend on the manner of extension and availability of appropriations but recognized the importance of the Committee's work.

Ms. Chon made clear that as a federal agency OTIP cannot guide any member of the public on communication with Congressional representatives, but the Members are considered members of the public and may speak to their representatives on this matter should they so choose.

Membership Vacancies

Ms. Chon stated that there is one governor member and a few representative member vacancies that are still going through an internal process to be filled. OTIP hopes that there will be additional membership to the Committee soon to help with capacity, the need for subject matter expertise, and geographic representation.

State Self-Assessment Survey Extension Requests

The Committee reviewed all extension requests and approved those made for September and October. The Committee determined that states that did not specify an extension date and those states that have not yet responded or requested an extension will have until October 29, 2021 to submit their responses. The Committee agreed that while states were granted the extensions mentioned above, they encourage states to submit responses as early as possible. The Committee requested that these points be provided to states in a letter that (1) confirms their extension request was granted and (2) encourages states to submit responses as soon as possible.

Report Structure and Requirements

Before determining the structure of the interim report, Ms. Castellanos requested that the Committee review the statutory requirements. Ms. Devine shared the statutory requirements of the report, which requires a “description of what each State has done to implement the recommendations of the Committee” (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183, 128 Stat. 1934. (2014)).

Ms. Devine shared the general report structure from the last public meeting. Ms. Castellanos suggested acknowledging the work that states have done beyond implementing the recommendations in the report, such as the preliminary work of assigning a state point of contact for the state self-assessment survey, self-assessing their existing infrastructure, etc.

The Committee agreed that the interim report should be designed so that the data received from states are easy to collect, analyze and write a final, comprehensive report. A smaller group of Committee members agreed to meet to discuss the content and structure of the report and share their determinations with the Committee on the second day of the public meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. (Eastern).

Day 2: Thursday, September 9, 2021 | 2–6 p.m. (Eastern)

The Committee convened for the second day on September 9, 2021. The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) provided technical support to Committee members and public participants through Zoom. Committee Chair Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa opened the meeting, held a roll call, and established a quorum.

Committee Members

Present Virtually

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

Governor Doug Ducey (Substitute: Kristen Sorenson), Arizona

Jordan Greenbaum, M.D., International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

Judge Robert Lung, 18th Judicial District, Arapahoe County and Douglas County Justice Centers, Colorado

Christine Raino, Esq., Shared Hope International

Staca Shehan, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Glen (J.R.) Ujifusa, Jr., Senior Deputy District Attorney of Multnomah County, Oregon
(Committee Chair)

John Vanek, San Jose Police Department (Ret.)

Erin Williamson, L.C.S.W., M.P.A., Love146

Not Present

Rebecca Bender, Rebecca Bender Initiative

Joel Filmore, Ph.D.

Stacey Katz, Psy.D., WestCoast Children's Clinic

Camille Naaktgeboren, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Judge John J. Romero, Jr. (Ret.), Second Judicial District Court, Albuquerque, New Mexico,
Children's Court Division

Kathy Sauve, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota — Brainerd

Yasmin Vafa, Rights4Girls

Other Attendees

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Federal Participants

Katherine Chon, Director, HHS/ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), Committee
Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Lauren Devine, HHS/ACF OTIP

Sherlynn Wu, HHS/ACF OTIP

Public Participants

Margaret Blankemeyer, NHTTAC

Isabella Bohn, Public Attendee

Ashley Garrett, NHTTAC

Elizabeth Pardue Sullivan, Public Attendee

Armontae Young, Public Attendee

Opening Remarks

Committee Chair J.R. Ujifusa welcomed everyone to the second day of the ninth meeting.

Committee Business

Mr. Ujifusa reviewed the agenda for the second day of the meeting. The first item on the agenda was the public comment period with a facilitated discussion, followed by a debrief of what was discussed in the small workgroup for the structure of the report that took place at the end of the meeting on the first day.

Public Comments

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

Committee Discussion of Public Comments

One of the public comments from New York State expressed concern regarding the public availability of states' responses to the self-assessment survey, indicating that if states had known that the information would be made publicly available, their responses would be different. The Committee determined that due to this concern states' tiers would be made public to encourage transparency from states, and the comments would be provided in larger aggregate data sets without identifying information.

Another public comment mentioned the need for a list of victims to be consulted. Members of the Committee expressed unease about a public list due to safety concerns, consent from the survivors, the potential for a data breach, etc. Judge Lung reiterated the need for survivors' voices in states' responses, and Mr. Ujifusa flagged the victim witness divisions in law enforcement agencies and the district attorneys' offices, which are intended to bring victims' and survivors' voices into the fold and offer the opportunity to be involved in these processes.

Committee Working Session

State Efforts to Implement NAC Recommendations

Marissa Castellanos presented the proposed content and structure of the upcoming interim report due in January 2022, which was discussed by a small working group of Members the previous day. The Committee agreed that the report should include an overview of states' efforts to implement the recommendations focusing on data with brief summaries rather than an in-depth analysis. In addition, the report should include highlights with pop-out boxes and be structured in a way that will transition from an outline to the final report.

Ms. Castellanos then reviewed the proposed timeline for the Committee's work on the report in the coming weeks:

- Today (September 9) through October 29, Committee members will complete the narrative section of the report to include an introduction, overview/executive summary, section narratives, and a conclusion.
- October 29 is the deadline for state and federal responses to the self-assessments, followed by a period for OTIP to pull data from the self-assessments and populate the report sections (October 30–November 5).
- Then, from November 6 to 15, Committee members will make edits via assigned subcommittee sections.
- The final draft will be ready for OTIP to review and design by the December public meeting.

Ms. Castellanos explained that the introduction of the report would provide the purpose of the Committee and report, background on the work done by the Committee to present, reference the statute to clarify what is required of the report, and discuss states' efforts on implementing the recommendations.

The overview section or executive summary will include the definitions of tiers and an N/A response, a comparison of tiers across sections, comparative analysis of the 12 sections, a summary of areas of strength, a summary of areas for growth for states, and identified challenges (pull from N/A comment narratives and terminology—needs, gaps, challenges).

The self-assessment data from states will be organized by section and include data tables for each recommendation, a brief narrative for each section and subsection highlighting content and trends, a brief narrative section on Funding & Sustainability and Research & Data, along with a narrative for the federal responses.

The Committee Members volunteered to work on the various sections and planned to communicate over the coming weeks to ensure the work is completed before the end of October.

Upcoming Meetings

Katherine Chon reminded the Committee that the next full meeting is scheduled for December 9-10, 2021 and will be virtual unless the public health situation changes. Ms. Chon asked what kind of support the Committee would like over the coming months, if any. The Committee agreed that another full meeting between now and the December meeting is not necessary. The Committee agreed that they would meet as subcommittees in the first week of November to discuss responses for their sections. Ms. Chon confirmed that OTIP and Mr. Ujifusa would be in contact over the coming weeks and months, providing reminders on deadlines and calendar holds to help Members keep track of the timeline.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. (Eastern).