

Emerging Workforce (Youth) Taskforce

Thursday, April 5th, 2018, 1:00 pm

Workforce Development, Inc.

Rochester, Minnesota

MINUTES

Quorum was present and meeting was called to order.

Introductions were completed. Wayne Stenberg offered to report out to the full board.

This meeting was a combined meeting with the Emerging Workforce Taskforce and the Diversity and Inclusion/Women and Minorities taskforce, along with the Previously Incarcerated Taskforce.

This meeting was focused on a guest speaker from Mission 21. Eric Shoars, President of the Board of Directors for Mission 21, shared a presentation with us titled "Millennials." Eric also shared information on the organization Mission 21, which serves young women who have experienced trafficking. He also shared information and statistics on trafficking in Southeast Minnesota.

Millennial presentation highlights:

- Millennials are well-connected, yet out of touch (online/social media)
- Discussed challenges and barriers, as well as different motivating factors for this population, as well as effective communication strategies.
- Individuals are risk-averse, the analog world is meaningless, and most are "impatient."

Trafficking presentation highlights:

- **Mission 21** is an anti-trafficking service provider committed to the complete restoration of child victims of sex trafficking. Since 2010, Mission 21 has been working tirelessly to provide services to children being bought and sold in the commercial sex trade in Rochester, MN and statewide.
- Many believe the sex trafficking of girls is something that happens only in other countries. Or, they believe that if it does happen in our state, it only involves girls smuggled in from those faraway countries. However, the prostitution of American girls is happening right here, right now, in Minnesota.
- Some facts from the Minnesota Women's Foundation
- The FBI has identified the Twin Cities as one of 13 U.S. cities with a high incidence rate of child prostitution.
- By very conservative measures, a November 2010 study found that each month in Minnesota at least 213 girls are sold for sex an average of five times per day through the Internet and escort services. This number does not include hotel, street or gang activity.
- A November 2010 study found that on any given weekend night in Minnesota, 45 girls under age 18 are sold for sex through the internet classified websites and escort services.
- In 2010, investigators from three states determined that Minneapolis was the home base of a large domestic prostitution (sex trafficking) ring comprised of three generations of one Minnesota family that was prostituting (trafficking) mostly young girls across the United States.
- About 50% of adult women interviewed as part of a 2010 study focused on North Minneapolis stated that they first traded sex when they were under the age of 18, with the average age at 13.
- In just one 72-hour sting over the summer, an FBI-led operation rescued 105 children and netted 152 pimps in 76 cities nationwide, including four alleged pimps in the Twin Cities.
- More information at www.mission21.org

Next meeting of the Emerging Workforce Taskforce: June 7, 2018, 1:00 pm