

The State of Human Trafficking in Virginia

October 2019



DCJS

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

State Trafficking Response Coordinator

- Responsibilities include:
 - Creating a statewide response plan for local and state agencies;
 - Coordinating standards and guidelines for treatment programs for victims of sex trafficking;
 - Maintaining a list of treatment programs and specialized providers for affected agencies;
 - Development of a curriculum to be completed by persons convicted of solicitation of prostitution under subsection B of [§ 18.2-346](#); and
 - Promote strategies for the education, training, and awareness of sex trafficking and for the reduction of demand for commercial sex.
 - The Coordinator shall report annually on or before October 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly with a summary of activities and future recommendations.

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Professional Background

Angella Alvernaz

- B.A. in Elementary Education with a Computer Information Systems minor.
- Classroom teacher in Pasco County, Florida.
- Left teaching and was accepted into the Tampa Police Department.
- Began as a patrol officer --> Worked with Street Anti-Crime Unit focusing on prostitution --> Transferred to narcotics.
- Hired as the Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist at Prince William County Public Schools from 2015-2019.
- Earned a M.Ed. in Instructional Design & Technology with a graduate certificate in e-Learning.
- Hired as the State Trafficking Response Coordinator at DCJS in 2019.

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Current Activities and Planning

- Current Activities:
 - Meeting with relevant stakeholders throughout Virginia;
 - Identifying current strengths and weaknesses;
 - Prioritizing needs and projects.

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Current Activities and Planning

- Planning for 2019-20:
 - Collaborate with human trafficking task forces and workgroups throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia;
 - Identify existing resources that are working well and can be replicated throughout the Commonwealth;
 - Continue to meet with the Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Committee and work toward completing the remaining recommendations listed within the Five-Year Status Report: Laying the Foundation for Virginia’s Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking;
 - Identify the service areas that do not have adequate resources;
 - Develop and maintain a comprehensive list of treatment and specialized services available to victims and make this available to affected agencies;

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Current Activities and Planning

- Develop a central data reporting system for affected agencies and service providers;
- Provide technical assistance to programs and service providers, as needed;
- Collaborate with the Virginia State Crime Commission on their second year of studying sex trafficking in Virginia, as needed;
- Research effective models of “John’s Schools” to inform the development of a curriculum to be completed by persons convicted of solicitation for prostitution per state code;
- Conduct statewide trainings throughout the year for a variety of audiences;
- Monitor, analyze, and recommend changes to legislation.

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Contact Information

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