

Minutes of SHAC/Ounce of Prevention for DLSISD, Pewitt, Hughes Springs, and Chapel Hill
1-9-24 12 noon 909 Linda Dr. Daingerfield, TX 75638

Link to watch the meeting: The meeting starts at 13 mins and 40 seconds:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EDC7tITaA4Sf1GBBWISqW3gomAmSMjYV5RnGtRVOFGoduAFFakit2YX3E7E9HXPE.3kDaMoG7VU0RMWy5>

Passcode: wX@@g+U9

Attendance: 19 Agencies, 27 School 1 FB= 47 Total

DSHS- Dreka Strickland- Major issue. See pamphlets attached. Parents need to watch their children's social media and phones. Spend time with your children to highlight dangers.

Thorn- Digital Defenders of Children- Demi Moore and Ashton Cutcher- Builds Technology to defend children.
<https://www.thorn.org/about-our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-of-children/>

DHS students asked to present on Trafficking.

Student 1: To know how to prevent human trafficking first you have to know what human traffickers are looking for. While technically there is no defining characteristics of a human trafficking victim, traffickers often look for victims with noticeable vulnerabilities such as lack of social support networks, low self-esteem, or financial or housing insecurity.

Traffickers also often go for teens or kids because of their age, development capacity, legal dependency on adults who abuse, rejection by family or community, and a history of trauma or abuse. They are young and less equipped to make informed decisions when presented with a situation that may lead to trafficking.

Student 2:

What is trafficking? Trafficking is defined as a crime that involves compelling an individual to provide labor or services or to engage in commercial sex acts. These victims may be forced to perform sex acts for "clients" of the traffickers, be forced to do unpaid labor or even be sold to have their organs harvested. Out of the United States alone between 20,000 and 50,000 people are kidnapped and trafficked out of the United States. But globally it is over a million.

Although the majority of these victims are from foreign countries, it is still a fact that most of them are brought here to the United States. 51% of victims are women and teen girls between the ages of 15 and 17, 21% were men, 20% of the victims are girls under the age of 12, and 8% are boys under the age of 12.

It is commonly believed that human trafficking happens to girls in their 20s. But the reason I bring this up is because it can happen to anyone. 43% percent of traffickers who have been apprehended admit to knowing at least one or more of their victims before they trafficked them. This only goes to show how good they are at manipulating people. There are a few of them who are so good at what they do that they can convince their victims that they are not victims at all and that they have full control over their choices. Some even are able to trick them into thinking that they are medical professionals and that they require surgery when they finally convince them to do surgery. They remove human organs from victims without their consent, and usually these organs are crucial to the victim's survival, which may result in the victim's death. The individuals who had the intention of committing these crimes had practiced the four stages of manipulation: they target their victims, gain their trust and built a bond with them, manipulate them into believing they were doing no wrong, and then exploit them in many ways that I listed previously.

Lone Star Legal Aid: Melody Bassett, Paralegal in the Tyler Office 903-595-4781, Ex 1630 110 N. College Ave., Suite 302. We are the 3rd largest provider of free legal aid in the United States. Our services are based on income. We serve 76 counties, 72 in East Texas and the Gulf Coast Regions and 4 in Southwest Arkansas.

We have 14 Office. Our headquarters are in Houston, Texas with 13 branch offices in: Beaumont; Belton; Clute; Conroe; Galveston; Longview; Nacogdoches; Paris; Richmond; Texarkana; Tyler; and Waco. Within our structure we have specialized units- Rise to Recovery-Opioid Crisis; Military Veteran Unit; Public Benefits; Landlords/Tenants; Consumer Law; Foreclosure(s); Environmental Justice; Disaster Recovery; Tax Relief; Fair Housing; Family Law-Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault-Human Trafficking; Crime Victims Rights and more.

We provide Civil Services-no criminal services provided!

Some of our services are:

Child Custody & Visitation
 Divorce & Property Division
 Employment Issues
 Discrimination Claims
 Public Benefits-food stamps, disability benefits, medical care
 Debt & Bankruptcy
 Housing & Eviction
 Power of Attorneys & Wills
 Contractual Disputes
 Expunctions & Nondisclosures

Announcements:

Lakes Regional Mental Health First Aid Flyer- Adult and Student MHFA See attached flyers.

January 11 is wear Blue for Sex Trafficking Awareness and all of Jan. is Trafficking Month.

1-13-24 MLK program Daingerfield Annex at 6 PM (Cancelled)

1-15-24 MLK Parade Daingerfield City Park 10 am. (Cancelled)

1-24-24 9-12 Upshur County Health Fair- Upshur County Community Expo

1-25-24 8-2 Homeless Resource Day at Longview Exhibit building from 8-2 Robert Walburton-Wellness Pointe Longview

Feb. is Heart and Dental Health Month

2-2-24 National Wear Red Day or Go Red For Women Awareness of Heart Disease

Feb. 5-9th DLSISD Winter Break

Next Meeting: Tues. Feb 13, 2024 PATH- Patricia Reedy, School Safety, Workforce Solutions, Dental Health, Champions for Children