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Albany County Human Trafficking/CSEC Critical Team  
Memorandum of Understanding

Mission Statement: The Albany County Safe Harbour Critical Team (Critical Team) is a collaboration of government agencies working together with service organizations and community stakeholders to 1) develop and implement a comprehensive approach for identifying and providing services to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking or who may be at risk of becoming victims and 2) to work collaboratively to identify, investigate, apprehend and prosecute perpetrators engaged in child trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to erode the respective policies and procedures of each participating agency.

The Critical Team, as initially formed, consists of the following entities with other agencies to be included as warranted: Albany County Department for Children Youth and Families; Albany County Attorney's Office; Albany County Department of Probation; Albany County Department of Social Services; Albany Police Department; Albany County Sheriff's Office; Bethlehem Police Department; Colonie Police Department; Albany County Crime Victims Sexual Violence Center; St. Anne Institute; Albany Medical Center; St. Peter's Health Partners; and Albany County Regional Immigration Assistance Center.

Each member agrees to support the overall mission of the Critical Team. In order to facilitate the goals of the Mission Statement, the member agencies agree to the following commitment:

Department for Children, Youth and Families will:

- Act as the primary facilitator of Critical Team meetings;
- Provide management level support for membership and meeting attendance;
- Act as a liaison between victims and law enforcement, service providers and other Critical Team members when needed and requested to do so; and
- Identify training needs related to human trafficking/CSEC throughout Albany County and organize training initiatives as identified and requested by the Critical Team.

Albany County Attorney's Office will:

- Support of the work of county agencies and the Critical Team in carrying out its mission, including offering guidance on matters pertaining to at risk and trafficked youth and, as appropriate, support initiatives leading to the successful identification, investigation, prosecution and conviction of human trafficking cases in Albany County; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.

Local Law Enforcement Agencies will:

- Identify training needs related to human trafficking/CSEC crimes within the police and law enforcement communities;
- Provide guidance to county agencies, service providers and outreach programs in identifying and offering services to at risk youth who may be vulnerable to human trafficking/CSEC crimes;
- Support procedures for the referral of child victims to child welfare services and programs supporting youth and non-offending family members; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.

Albany County Department of Probation will:

- Provide victims with information about their rights and options so that they can make informed choices; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.

Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center will:

- Provide crime victim services to identified and potential human trafficking/CSEC victims;
- Provide victims with information about their rights and options so they can make informed choices;
- Facilitate the communication of victims' needs during investigation and prosecution;
- Assist with requests for development and coordination of training; and
- Conduct public awareness-raising activities and disseminate information regarding human trafficking/CSEC.

St. Annes Institute will:

- Provide comprehensive services to child victims of human trafficking/CSEC and at risk youth;
- Provide victims with information about their rights and options so they can make informed choices;
- Assist with requests for development and coordination of training programs;
- Conduct public awareness raising activities and the disseminate information regarding human trafficking/CSEC; and
- Provide attorney support for membership and meeting attendance.

Albany County Department of Social Services will:

- Provide victims with information about their rights and options so they may make informed choices;
- Work with the Department for Children, Youth and Families and the Critical Team to meet the needs of human trafficking/CSEC victims; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.

Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Health Partners will:

- Share information, knowledge and best practices when dealing with victims of human trafficking/CSEC;
- Provide victims with information about available services and program options so they can make informed choices; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.

Albany County Regional Immigration Assistance Center will:

- Offer information and guidance regarding the special needs and challenges of immigrants who may be victims of human trafficking/CSEC; and
- Provide support for membership and meeting attendance.