



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### *Office of the Commissioner*

October 1, 2016

Margaret Ross Schultze  
COMMISSIONER

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable S. Chris Jones  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Margaret Ross Schultze

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Ross Schultze", written over the printed name.

**SUBJECT:** Legislative report – Youth for Tomorrow

I am pleased to submit the annual report for Youth for Tomorrow. It was prepared pursuant to Item 348 (I) of the 2016 Appropriation Act. Please contact me should you have any questions.

MRS: kc

Attachment

## **Report on Youth for Tomorrow October 1, 2016**

### **Report Mandate**

Item 348 (I) of the 2016 Appropriation Act appropriates \$100,000 in State Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 to the organization Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide “comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescent youth of the Commonwealth of Virginia who have been sexually exploited, including victims of sex trafficking.” The appropriations language instructs the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to include in the contract with YFT specific goods and services that will be delivered to adolescents and youth of the Commonwealth as a result of this appropriation. The appropriations language also requires YFT to submit an annual report which is due to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 1 of each year.

### **Background**

Youth for Tomorrow is committed to servicing female victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). According to Shared Hope International, DMST is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders. It is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The age of the victim is the critical issue, there is no requirement to prove force, fraud, or coercion was used to secure the victim’s actions. The law recognizes the effect of psychological manipulation by the trafficker, as well as the effect of threats of harm which traffickers/pimps use to maintain control over their young victims. DMST includes but is not limited to the commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution, pornography, and/or stripping.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, run by Polaris Project, Virginia ranks sixth in the nation for calls regarding potential cases of human trafficking. According to the NHTRC’s Virginia State Report for 2015, the NHTRC received a total of 624 substantive phone calls, 22 emails, and 33 online tip reports from Virginia. This constitutes the 8<sup>th</sup> highest call volume of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. in 2015. The top caller types were community members (23.1%), victims of human trafficking (16.8%), and non-government organization representatives (14.6%). The primary reason for contacting the NHTRC included reporting a trafficking tip (61.4%), access service referrals (28.3%), request crisis assistance (9.0%), and request general information (1.4%). Through these hotline calls, a total of 145 unique cases (incidents) of potential human trafficking were reported to the hotline, with approximately 18.4% of the cases involving minors who were victims of sex trafficking. Females represented (94.2%) of the victims.

### **YFT Services Overview**

Since 2008, YFT has served more than 90 DMST victims. During this grant period, July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, YFT served six DMST victims from Virginia in its Girls on a Journey (GOAJ) Program. One was placed from Henrico County; one by Alexandria City; one from Stafford County, and three from Fairfax County. The average length of stay (LOS) was seven months; the longest LOS was 12 months and the shortest was less than one month. The average

age at intake was 17 years of age; the oldest was 18 and the youngest was 16 years of age. During this period, all but two girls made adequate progress, meeting more than 85% of their Individual Service Goals (ISP). One girl ran away 10 days into care and another was hospitalized. Four girls have successfully been discharged from the program, having met all of their progress goals and successfully reuniting with family. The previous years, 13 DMST victims were served, totaling 19 girls since funding began in August 2013. Lastly, 13 additional girls were served in the GOAJ program from the state of Virginia, but funded by other means, totaling 24 victims in the past 24 months.

In addition to being provided services specific to the need of DMST victims, three of the girls were enrolled in YFT's standard program, while two girls were enrolled in the Mommy and Me program as a parenting teens. All six girls were referred to the program as DMST victims by law enforcement agencies for their respective jurisdictions (i.e., Fairfax, Loudon and Stafford Counties). In some cases, even after an agency identified the resident as a DMST victim at the time of enrollment, some girls are assessed by YFT clinical staff using the Intervene DMST assessment tool and all of the girls were assessed for trauma, using the Trauma Inventory.

### **Project Service Objectives & Outputs**

***Objective 1:** Youth for Tomorrow clinical staff will provide individual counseling to minor victims of sex trafficking which address their victimization and enable them to develop coping skills which relate to the mental health aspects of their victimization (i.e., trust, attachment issues, self-image, self-esteem, trauma-bond, anxiety, etc.), preventing long term mental health impacts.*

YFT clinical staff provided 361 individual counseling sessions to six girls. In addition, seven family sessions were provided during this reporting period. Some girls have family that are more involved than others, and family sessions do not occur at the same frequency as individual sessions.

***Objective 2:** Youth for Tomorrow clinical staff will provide group counseling related to victimization. Clinical staff will also identify other group therapy needs such as substance, chemical education, etc.*

YFT provided 43 group counseling sessions to seven girls during this reporting period. Group counseling included GOAJ, chemical education, 12-Step and anger management groups.

***Objective 3:** Youth for Tomorrow will provide residential services to minor victims of sex trafficking, ensuring 24-hour, supervision process group related to cooperation and social skills development; life skills education and recreation.*

YFT residential staff provided 117 hours of recreational activities and leisure activities during this reporting period.

***Objective 4:** Youth for Tomorrow will enroll minor victim of sex trafficking into the residential school, providing special education services when required and secondary level course work in-line with Virginia Department of Education Standards.*

YFT educational staff provided 1,430 hours of educational instruction during the period of project funding.

*Objective 5: Youth for Tomorrow will ensure that minor victims meet regularly with their family, parents or legal guardians. Victims will be allowed phone calls and visitation as well as home visit off campus. Family will participate in family counseling.*

YFT case managers coordinated 21 home visits and 35 on-campus visits. Two of the victims had family living in the immediate area.

*Objective 6: An individual service plan will be completed within 30 days of admissions, which outlines the minor victims service needs as related to her primary reason for placement (sex trafficking); clinical, education and life skills assessments; and transition plan.*

YFT case managers developed ISPs for each of the six residents. ISPs can be found in the residents' files.

*Objective 7: Minor victims will participate in weekly life skills instruction based on the ARISE Life Management Skills curriculum. These skills will ensure victims are able to eventually live independently.*

YFT residential staff provided 42 hours of life skills activities during this reporting period.

*Objective 8: Youth for Tomorrow case management staff will identify long-term partnerships with local services providers who offer medical and mental health services to residents, when needed.*

YFT has a memorandum of agreement with Greater Prince William Community Health Center to provide medical services to clients.

*Objective 9: Youth for Tomorrow nursing staff will provide first aid, medication management, coordinate medical service or refer residents to community agencies for medical services. Victims placed at YFT require medical services related, but not limited to pediatrics, gynecology, dental, and eye care.*

YFT nursing staff coordinated 12 doctor's visits during this reporting period.

### **Service Outcomes**

Youth for Tomorrow's GOAJ program has served 38 adolescent girls in the last 24 months, including the 11 girls directly benefiting from VDSS funding since August 2013. Of those 38, 35 stayed in the GOAJ program for more than 60 days and were included in the outcomes below:

- 92% met more than 85% of their individual treatment plan goals;  
Fourteen are currently receiving some type of after care services from YFT including, counseling, educational supports, and living supports;
- Six girls obtained their high school diplomas; and,  
92% have successfully transitioned into the community (i.e., reside at home, maintained employment, and/or enrolled in school).

### **Conclusion**

Youth for Tomorrow reports that they are the only facility in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region that offers safe and secure housing, along with counseling, education, and medical and dental care for victims

of sexual crimes against minors. Youth for Tomorrow is licensed to provide care to residents 18 years of age and up to 21 years of age who receive services from the local departments of social services or other public agencies.

- The \$100,000 grant appropriation through VDSS has served six teenage female victims from Virginia consisting of 39 months of services during this grant period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Youth for Tomorrow has matched dollar for dollar the funding provided by VDSS through the General Assembly appropriation to serve these victims. For example, the 24/7 average cost per child for these comprehensive services is \$9,047/ month. These professional services include:
  - State-supervised residential services
  - Therapeutic services provided by licensed clinicians
  - Professional nursing care
  - Transportation for required medical/dental treatment
  - Case management services
  - Accredited secondary education services on campus (i.e. secure environment)
  
- The 39 months of aggregate services provided these girls comes to \$249,993 of which VDSS grant reimbursement is \$100,000 (40%) with YFT providing the remainder of \$149,993 (60%) under the current grant. State funding is important in supplementing the cost of financially serving this victimized population. Additional funding ensures more victims trying to recover from this type of violence will receive the safe, secure, therapeutic, medical and case management services they require.