



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2012-06K

Instructing State Agencies to Coordinate Services and Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking

WHEREAS, every year an estimated 1,078 Ohio children are victims of human trafficking, and another 3,016 Ohio children are at-risk of being victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, 13 years old is the most common age in Ohio for children to become victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, one of the priorities of my Administration is putting a stop to human trafficking, this will require a coordinated effort among my Administration, law enforcement, and the Ohio General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, an equally important goal of my Administration is to ensure that the victims of human trafficking receive the services and treatment they need to recover from the effects of their victimization; and

WHEREAS, the availability of integrated physical and behavioral treatments are essential for a full and sustainable recovery from the injuries inflicted on victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, although Ohio already provides services and treatment that are critical for the recovery of human trafficking victims, through Medicaid and other state-supported programs, one of the greatest barriers to ensuring that recovery is identifying the victims and linking them with the necessary services and treatment.

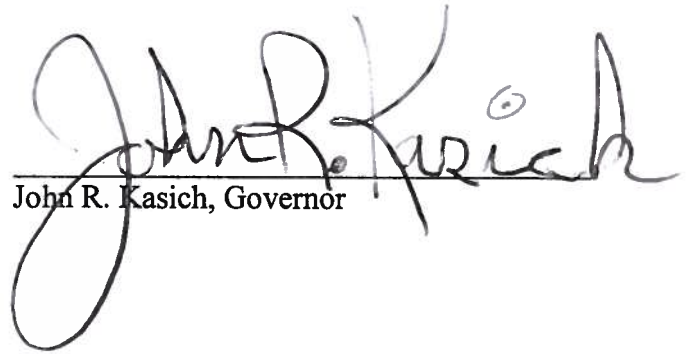
NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force is hereby created to coordinate statewide efforts to identify and rescue victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives. In carrying out these activities, the Task Force shall focus on identifying, rescuing and providing services to human-trafficking victims with particular attention to those who are under 18 years old.

2. The Task Force shall be comprised of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, Ohio Director of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Board of Cosmetology, and Ohio Department of Public Safety.
3. The Task Force shall coordinate with law enforcement, including the Ohio Attorney General, to assist in the identification of victims and to connect victims to necessary services and treatment.
4. Within 90 days from the day this Executive Order is signed, the Task Force shall:
 - a. Recommend, in consultation with law enforcement, strategies to use in the identification of victims of human trafficking and to decrease the demand for human trafficking;
 - b. Evaluate the capacity of existing health and human service programs to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims of human trafficking, including services that are culturally competent and effective in the treatment of trauma-related symptoms;
 - c. Identify and recommend how to fill gaps in existing services and treatment for victims of human trafficking;
 - d. Recommend an ongoing structure to ensure coordination in the identification and provision of services to victims of human trafficking;
 - e. Evaluate all current laws and administrative rules to find any barriers to identifying victims of human trafficking and linking them with necessary services and treatments, and to recommend changes to the laws, if needed;
 - f. Evaluate all current Ohio laws to identify the barriers to investigating and prosecuting all members of a human trafficking organization and its customers, and to recommend changes to the laws, if needed;
 - g. Identify, prioritize, and apply for federal grant funding to support Ohio's efforts against human trafficking;
 - h. Engage external stakeholders and the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission in developing these recommendations; and
 - i. Each recommendation shall include the following: 1) A statement of the problem, 2) Performance Goal(s), and 3) Performance Outcome(s). The Task Force shall present a narrative with the specific recommendations to the Governor.

I signed this Executive Order on March 29, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.




John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State