

TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org

Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Tyler, TX June 7, 2016

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's coalition builds do just that, by gathering law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to close loopholes to traffickers, who exploit victims and legitimate businesses for criminal gain. The primary goal of a TAT coalition build is to establish an effective and sustainable working relationship between the trucking industry and law enforcement statewide, in order to combat the crime of human trafficking. This is done through our short-term and long-term goals. Much of the short-term impact is seen immediately following the meeting, evidenced through the results of the survey and shown below under "same-day impact". The long-term impact is the result of follow up done one month, three months and six months after the meeting. TAT firmly believes that these meetings have far-reaching impact, not only in building strong coalitions between trucking and law enforcement agencies across the United States, but in ultimately saving lives.

Short-term goals:

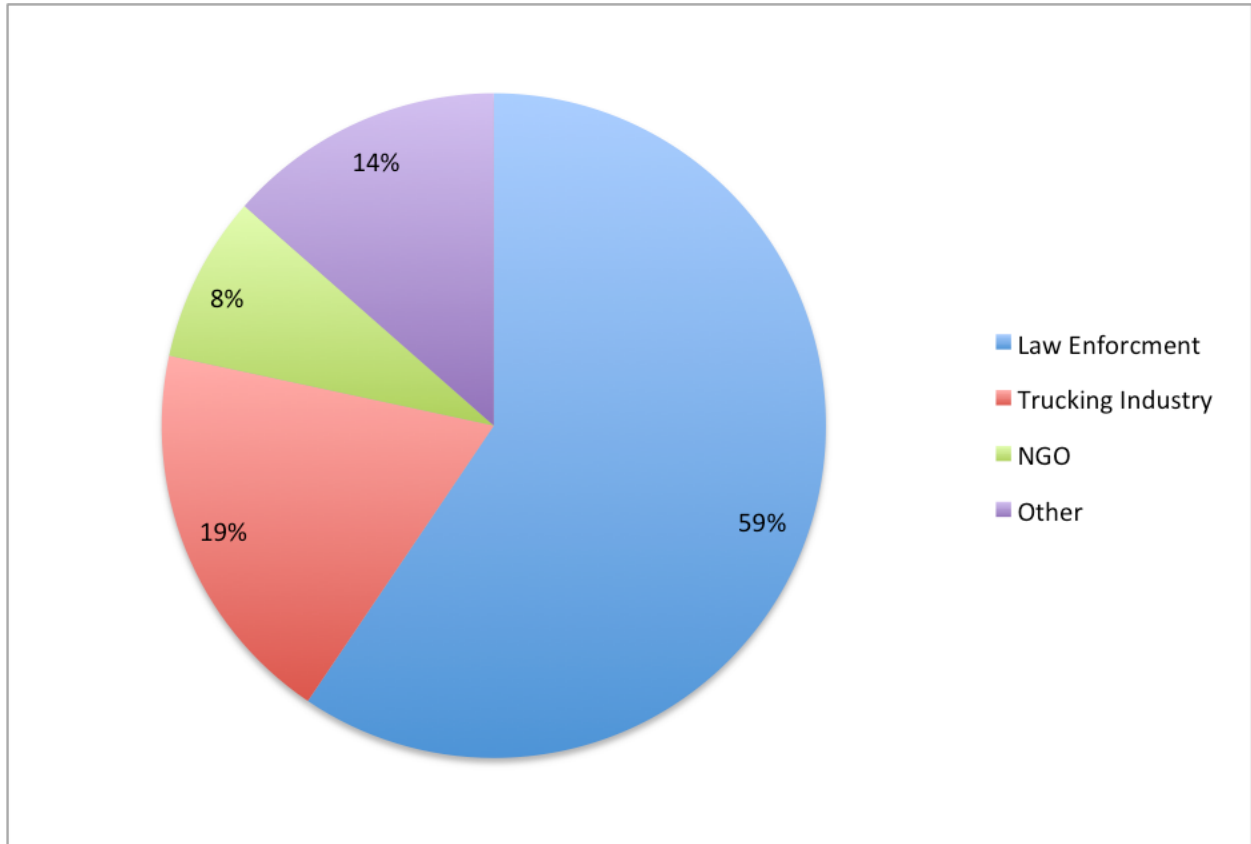
1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.
2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop owners and general managers to their local law enforcement officers in order to establish a local contact protocol through the contact list.
4. Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.
6. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
7. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from "prostitute" to victim.

Long-term goals:

1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.
5. Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.
6. Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.

Same-day impact:

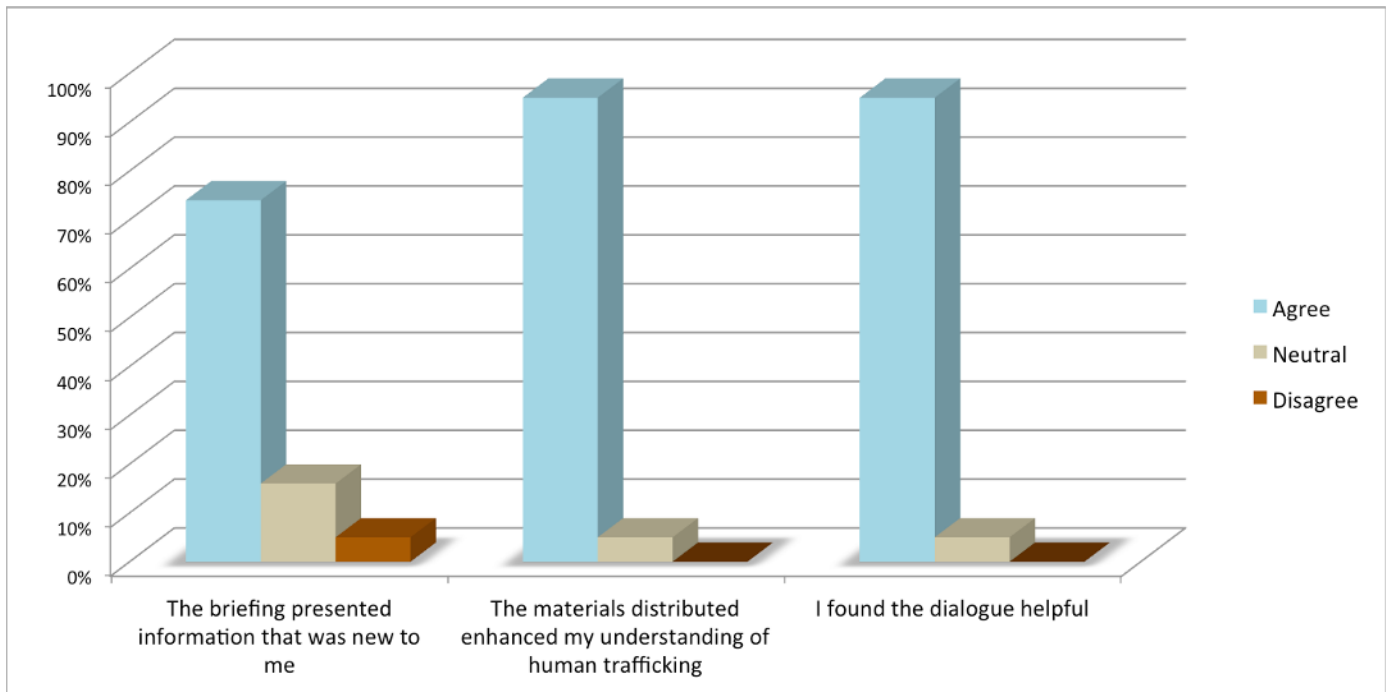
Goal #1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.



TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Trucking Association and the Office of the Texas Attorney General. There were truck stop general managers from six cities and towns, one trucking company, four sheriff's offices, eight police departments, the Department of Public Safety (Highway Patrol) and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center represented at the meeting. While not all attendees completed the survey, the following results are based off the survey results gathered. Out of 37 participants, 19 filled out the survey.

Almost half (48%) of respondents said they were able to connect with pertinent members of the trucking industry and over half (79%) said they were able to connect with pertinent law enforcement in the room.

Goal #2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.



100% of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.

100% of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.

93% of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.

93% of respondents said they would recommend attending a briefing like this to others in their field.

Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:

“Very good information! Well organized and clearly presented.”

“Very informative.”

“Good job!”

“This program I attended in Tyler was more geared to creative thinking and addressing different avenues of approach to help not only shine a light on the problem, but how to combat it as well.”

Goals #3 & #4: Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build. Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.

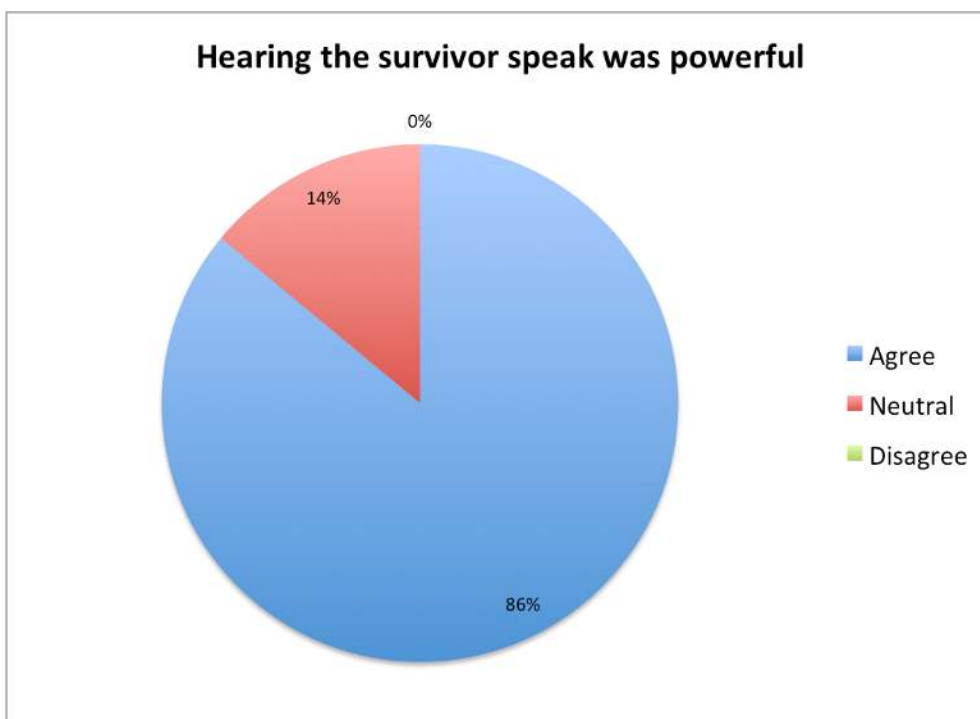
All trucking companies and truck stops/travel plazas that participated in the Tyler coalition build are currently training their drivers and employees. The training allowed trucking participants to consider other nuances around the crime of human trafficking and ways they could potentially assist more victims. During the discussion, the truck stop general managers asked questions such as:

“Is there any liability for a general manager if he/she makes a call and it doesn’t turn out to be a trafficking case”?

Another general manager asked if, as a local community, they could work together to raise more money for victim services and mentioned having a future meeting in the community for that purpose.

Goal #5 & #6: Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from “prostitute” to victim.

While a cultural shift in how prostituted people are viewed is not easily quantified, it is a critical piece of these meetings. From the HT 101 training to the presentation from a survivor's perspective to the law enforcement training, all aspects of the day are geared towards promoting a victim-centered approach and the belief that every person has a part to play in ensuring that more lives are saved.



Here is what respondents had to say about Beth Jacobs' presentation, TAT field trainer and survivor-leader:

"Keep it up! They need to hear your story."

"Beth was great! She was very informative and had a great perspective."

"It was a good story and a great success. I would have liked more information on her trafficker."

Long-term impact and assessment:

The following results are based on follow up conducted one month after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in three months and six months and the report will be periodically updated.

Goal #1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.

- The Office of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking and Transnational/ Organized Crime Section for the Office of the Texas Attorney General was invited to the quarterly East Texas Council of Trucking Professionals to present and train on human trafficking and TAT.
 - 47 members of the trucking industry, including 23 carriers, were trained.
 - They have invited the Office of the Attorney General to come back in October for their next Chapter meeting and conduct a similar training, reaching more companies.
- Longview Police Department has asked for more materials in order to share them with their newly created CMVE department. They have shared TAT materials with their local human trafficking coalition. One detective from this police department said:

"I did not know that the Attorney General's Office was so involved in this issue, and it is great to know they are a resource."

- Palestine Police Department is planning to train 30 police officers with TAT wallet cards and TAT's Phase II Training DVD. Following the coalition build in Tyler, they have launched a media campaign with the local press in order to educate their community about the realities of human trafficking. They plan to visit all gas stations and truck stops in their jurisdiction to train them about TAT and human trafficking. The Lieutenant who attended the coalition build said:

“TAT is one of the programs that we are supporting and running with. You guys (TAT) have made it very easy and accessible with nice handouts and good information.”

Goal #6: Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.

- Compliance Director for Fowler Transportation Ltd., immediately following the coalition build, wrote to the Texas Trucking Association asking to get Texas to mandate TAT training to all new CDL holders. The same attendee plans to attend the Texas Department of Public Safety Interdiction for the Protection of Children training as a representative of the trucking industry. He said:

“I believe you are correct, the more industry partners with law enforcement, the better the results will be, and, in this arena, results equate to lives.”

- TAT has been approached by two legislative bodies in Texas to explore the possibility of getting TAT training mandated for all new CDL holders in the state of Texas.

Assessment:

The meeting in Tyler had a lively discussion in which both law enforcement and members of the trucking industry discussed the challenges they face surrounding human trafficking. One rural county sheriff’s office talked about a sex trafficking case involving a foreign national in which they struggled to find any available resources for the victim. Other law enforcement agencies shared victim services that they knew about in the area. Trucking industry members offered to assist law enforcement in finding funding and community resources in order to better serve victims. Following the meeting, TAT compiled a list of existing local resources through the help of the Department of Public Safety Victims Services and the NHTRC and sent it to all registered participants.

Follow-Up Goals:

1. More drivers trained and registered as a result of the East Texas Council of Trucking Professionals.
2. Mandated TAT training to all new CDL holders in Texas as a result of the efforts by the TXTA and other Texas legislators.
3. A second meeting to take place in which members of the trucking industry work with community leaders to address the lack of resources for victims.
4. Continued training of law enforcement agencies in East Texas.

Tyler Coalition Build At-a-Glance

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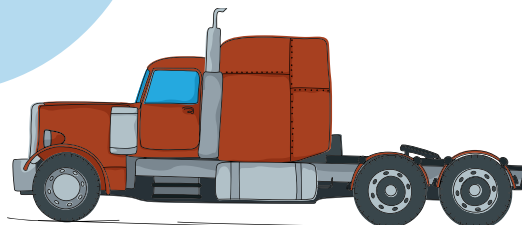
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"Keep it up, Beth! They need to hear your story." - Police Lieutenant

Longview Police Department has asked for more TAT materials in order to share them with their newly created CMVE department. The same police department shared TAT materials with their local human trafficking coalition.

"TAT is one of the programs we are supporting and running with. You guys (TAT) have made it very easy and accessible, with nice handouts and good information." - Police Lieutenant



Law Enforcement, Trucking and NGO Participants

- Anderson County Sheriff's Office
- Dallas County Sheriff's Office
- Department of State Health Services
- Fowler Transportation Ltd.
- Hutchins Police Department
- Kilgore Police Department
- Longview Police Department
- Lufkin Police Department
- Love's Travel Stop #216
- Love's Travel Stop #294
- Love's Travel Stop #288
- Love's Travel Stop #290
- Love's Travel Stop #283
- Office of the Attorney General of Texas
- Palestine Police Department
- Pilot Flying J #883
- Polaris Project
- Rockwall Police Department
- San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texarkana Police Department
- Tyler Highway Patrol
- Tyler Police Department
- Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office