

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



[www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org](http://www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org)

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Yuma, CO November 3, 2016**

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT hosted its first ever community-wide coalition build, which included a wide swath of community leaders and stakeholders, to educate Yuma County about the realities of human trafficking and provide them with critical resources. The primary goal of a TAT coalition build is to establish an effective and sustainable working relationship between different industry stakeholders and law enforcement 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 community members and law enforcement but, ultimately, in saving lives.

**Short-term goals:**

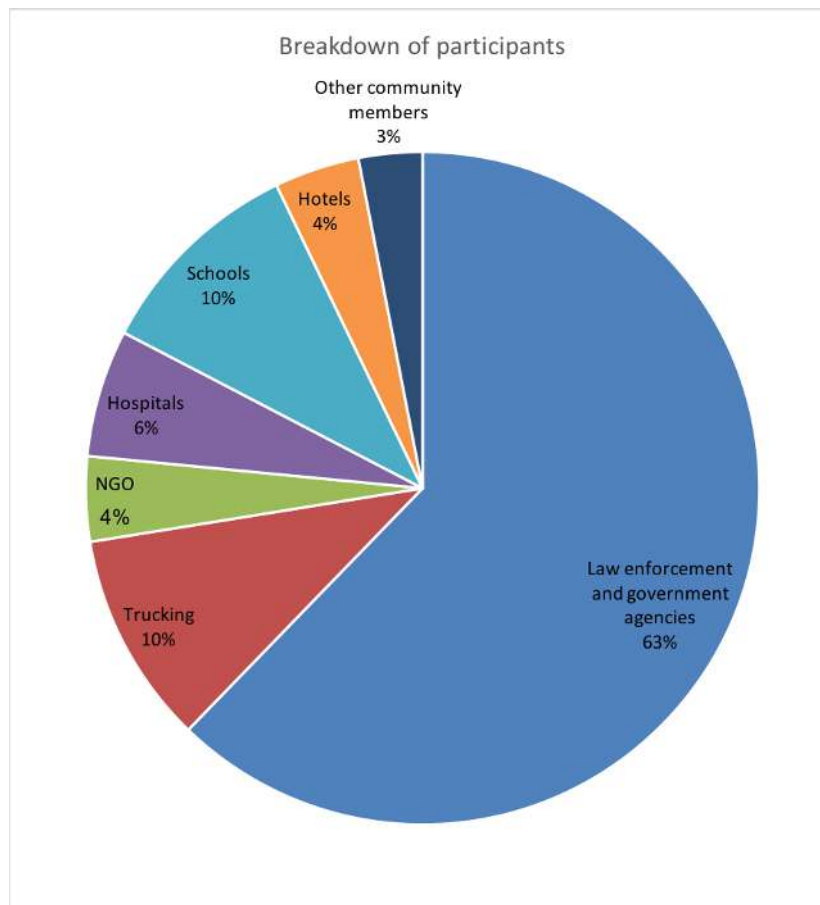
1. Gather leaders from a variety of law enforcement departments across the county in the same room with representatives from local trucking companies, truck stops, hotels, hospitals, schools, case workers and others who might intersect with a victim of human trafficking.
2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for working with law enforcement and utilizing industry specific training materials.
3. Introduce community stakeholders to their local law enforcement 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. Motivate other industries to train employees and become points of distribution for human trafficking materials.
7. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
8. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality from “prostitute” to victim.

**Long-term goals:**

1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and trucking industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local leaders with statewide resources.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.

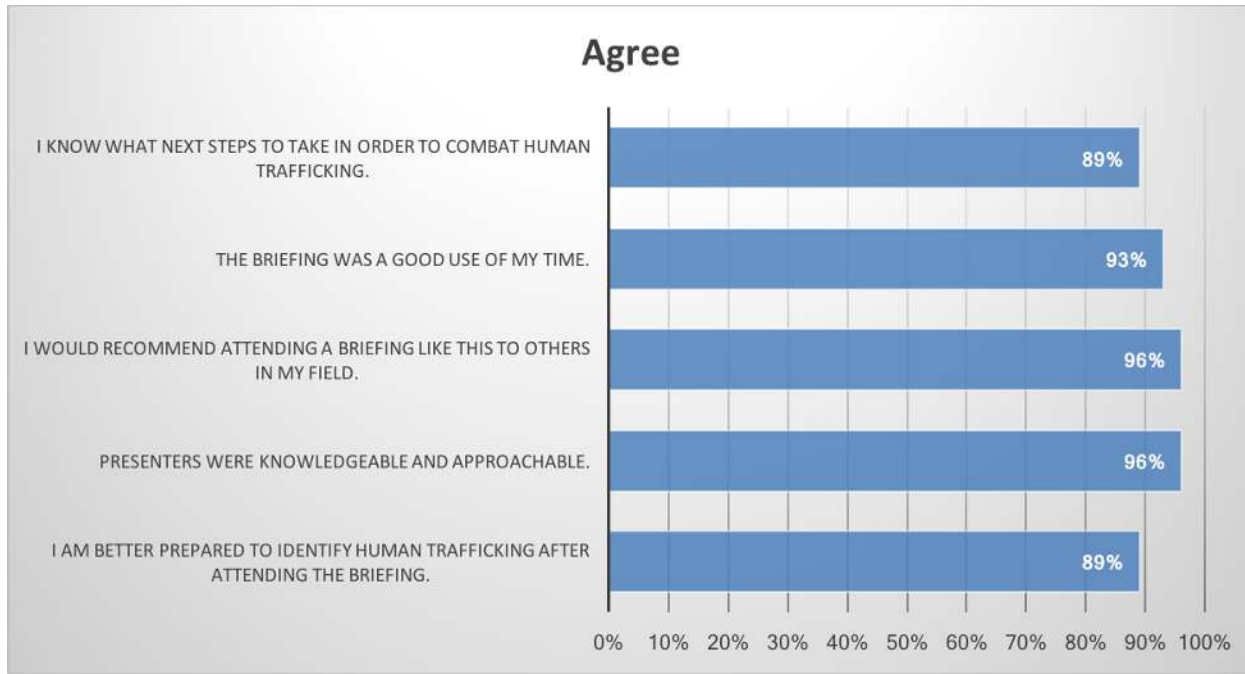
## Same-day impact:

***Goal #1. Gather leaders from a variety of law enforcement departments across the county in the same room with representatives from local trucking companies, truck stops, hotels, hospitals, schools, case workers and others who might intersect with a victim of human trafficking.***



The Yuma County Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with TAT, was able to successfully draw the target audience to the meeting. There were five police departments, four sheriff's offices, Colorado Department of Corrections, Colorado State Patrol, as well as a handful of other government agencies represented at the meeting. There were representatives from five truck stops, two hospitals, four schools and one hotel. Major statewide agencies addressing human trafficking were also involved, including the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking and the Colorado Organization for Victims Assistance. While not all attendees completed the survey, the following results are based off the survey results gathered in which 69% participated.

**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.**



**Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:**

*“Thank you so much for your efforts as a whole and your interest in our rural communities. I look forward to working with you again. ”*

*“Very informational and presented very well. This was an excellent use of my time, and I learned lots! ”*

*“Great! To the point, clear and educational!”*

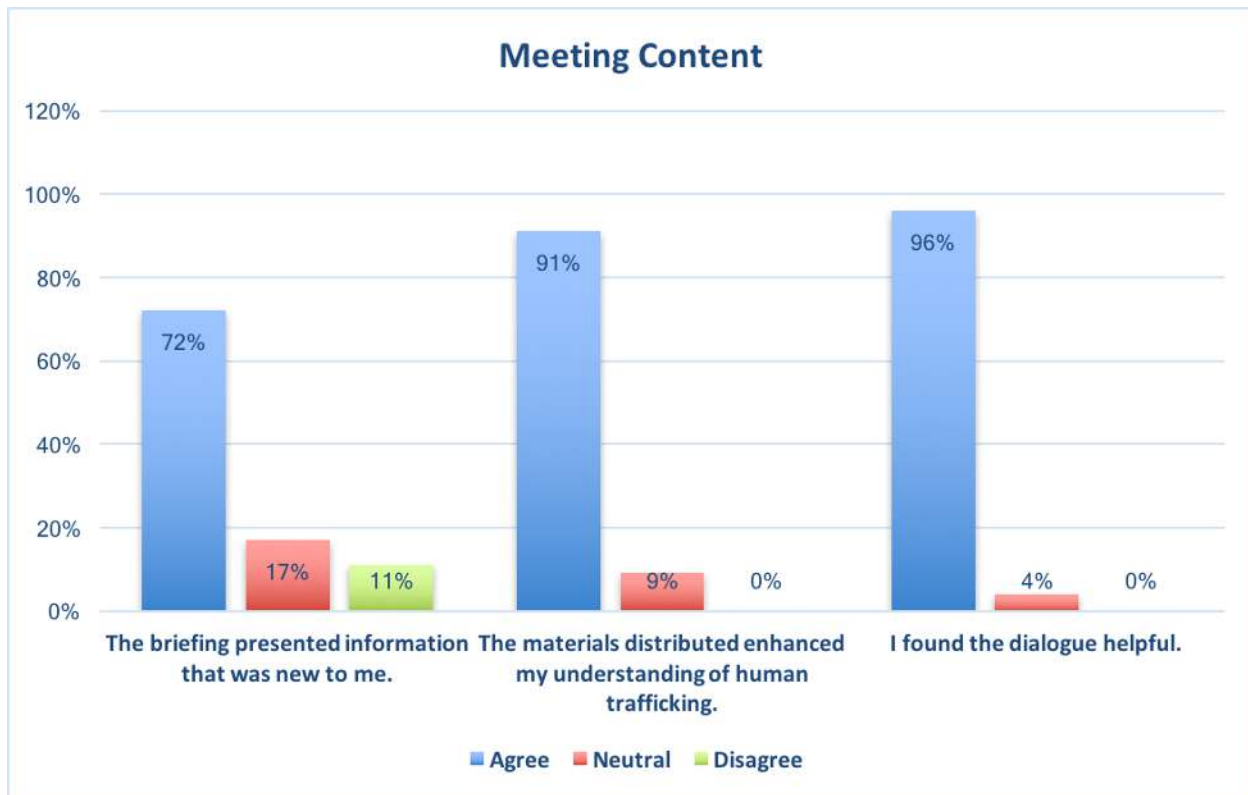
*“Esther has to be one the most well-spoken, knowledgeable presenters I have heard in a long time.”*

*“Clear, specific, helpful for next steps, and good tools to reach out.”*

*“Great program. Thanks for providing information on training materials available for my facility.”*

*“Wonderful location, well organized, but little to no down time.”*

*“Very good questions and answers-thank you!”*



**Goals #4 & #5: 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 truck stops/travel plaza companies that participated in the Yuma coalition build are currently corporate partners with TAT. However, a regional manager in attendance has posted decals and posters at all the stores in the region. He also said:

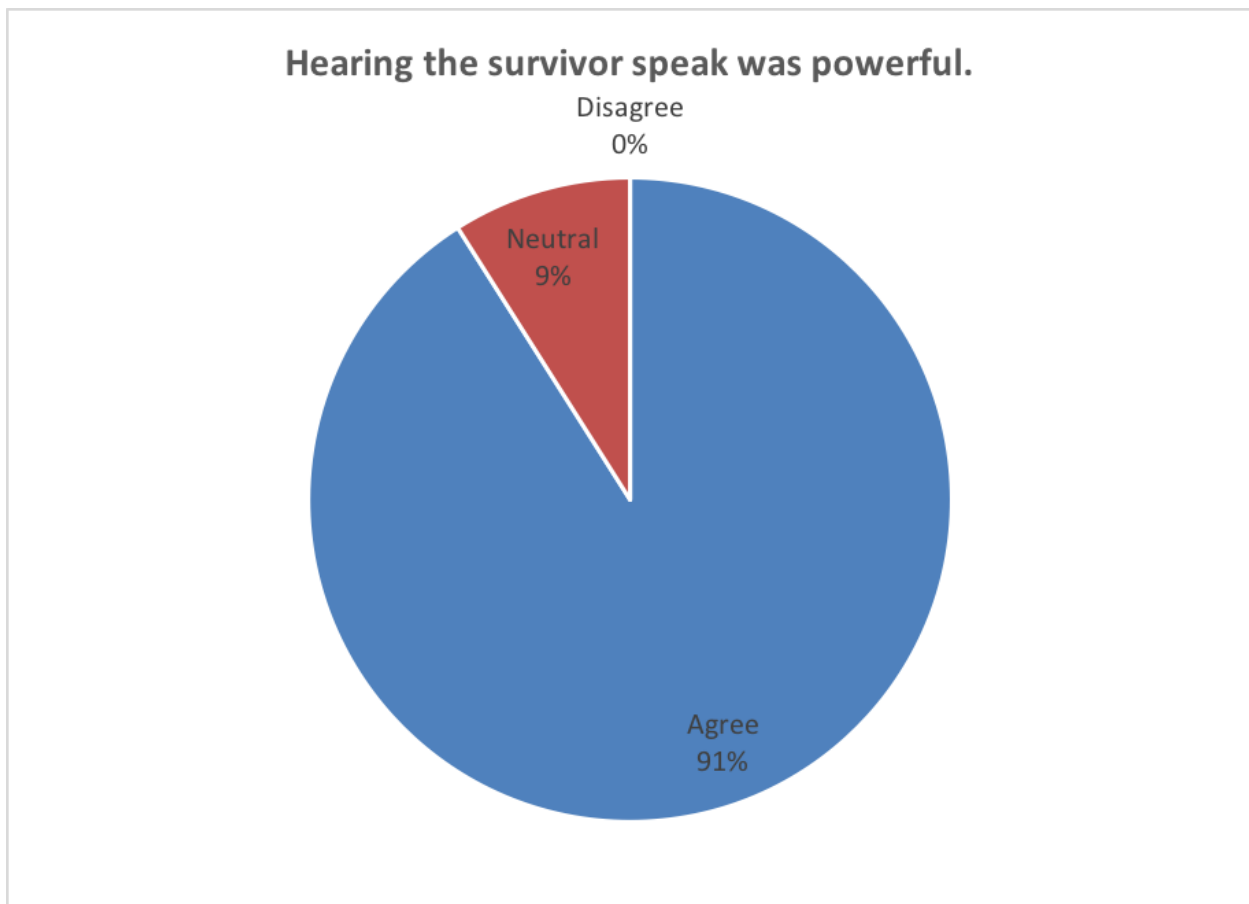
*“What a great meeting you put together last week. It was informative and helped me to better understand the full extent of what could potentially be happening on our properties at PFJ. What we may have considered a nuisance on our property could truly be someone being trafficked and potentially rescued.”*

**Goal #6: Motivate other industries to train employees and become points of distribution for human trafficking materials.**

- The counselors with Wray School District have talked with their executive director and have a trained staff member in each building watching for the red-flag indicators and communicating with their social service providers who were also in attendance at the coalition build.
- The counselor with Yuma School District is taking steps to get the iEmpathize curriculum into their schools. They are also hosting a health fair and would like to have a booth on human trafficking. Additionally, they are planning to hold an assembly around internet safety and have asked iEmpathize to come speak at that assembly.

**Goal #7: 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:

*"I felt having the survivor speak was extremely important."*

*"She needed more time but was definitely a highlight."*

*"Professional and powerful presentation. A big thank you for sharing such a personal time of your life."*

*"It was very beneficial as a whole. I appreciated the willingness to share her story. I appreciate the perspective, and the impact that she shared will truly make a difference."*

*"Thank you for your courage and expertise."*

*"I greatly appreciate her honesty and perspective. Hearing the thoughts and victim's perceptions of those of us that want to help was enlightening."*

*"Very powerful and amazing! Thank you for being brave and providing such a gift to all you work with."*

*"Hopeful and inspiring!"*

*"She seems like a very courageous and strong survivor. I hope she continues to talk to groups (schools maybe) to make more people aware and prevent potential victims."*

*"I don't feel there was a lot of detail regarding her getting or 'staying' in the life."*

**Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted six months after the meeting.

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

- The police chief of St. Francis has visited truck stops in the area with TAT materials and has requested more materials in order to train the other officer in his department. He said:

*"The training was a real eye opener, and very informative."*

- An officer with the Colorado Department of Corrections has been able to share the information he learned at the meeting with co-workers, as well as other community-based partners.
- Yuma County Sheriff's Office is planning to visit Idalia School District in order to share the information about human trafficking and the iEmpathize program.
- The Nelson Inn is planning to have the Yuma County Sheriff's Office come in and train all employees and managers about human trafficking.

- The Director of Nursing for the Yuma Hospital has requested a human trafficking training for all hospital and staff that will be done by the human trafficking coordinator for the Colorado DPS - Criminal Investigations Unit.
- Yuma County Sheriff's Office plans to share TAT's law enforcement training video with all police department, sheriff's offices and district attorney's within seven counties.
- Yuma County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate is working with a local church to provide supplies for potential victims, as well as basic services, like rides to shelters, toiletries and extra clothes.
- Yuma County Sheriff's Office plans to be added to the NHTH protocol.

**Assessment:**

The Yuma coalition build was the first community-wide coalition build that TAT has ever done. Due to the hard work and conviction of the Yuma County Sheriff's office, it was a success. They gathered community leaders from hospitals, hotels, schools, truck stops and local businesses, as well as local law enforcement from seven surrounding counties. The training done on November 3 was just the first step in raising awareness about the issue. Now, six months later, the Yuma County Sheriff's office is leading the charge in equipping its community stakeholders with more in-depth and industry-specific training. They have taken an exemplary, proactive, local response to this problem and should be commended. Through these efforts, Yuma county will be well prepared to recognize and respond to potential victims who come through or are in their community.

**Follow-Up Goals:**

1. All law enforcement within the seven surrounding counties to utilize TAT's training video.
2. All planned human trafficking trainings to be conducted.