

TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org



Golden, CO
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TAT Coalition Builds: Mission

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's Coalition Builds (CB) do just that, by gathering law enforcement and key industry professionals 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 industry and law enforcement, in order to combat the crime of human trafficking. Much of the short-term impact is seen immediately following the meetings, evidenced through the results of the survey and shown below. The long-term impact is the result of follow up done two months after the meeting. These meetings have far-reaching impact, not only in building strong coalitions between industry members and law enforcement agencies across the United States, but in ultimately saving lives.

Bus & Casino Coalition Build: Background

As state laws only permit casinos in certain geographic areas, gaming towns are scattered throughout the United States, and many bus companies specialize in transporting casino patrons to those towns. Recognizing this, TAT's bus industry training and outreach program, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL), is working to close loopholes to traffickers at the intersection between buses and casinos. This Coalition Build, held in Golden, Colorado, was BOTL's first ever briefing that specifically brought together law enforcement with casinos and the bus companies that serve them. To accomplish this, BOTL partnered with the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the Colorado Gaming Association to host this pilot of an initiative that will be replicated in other locations in North America.



Short-term goals:

1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Gaming and the Department of Transportation, in the same room with representatives from bus companies, casinos and transit operators.
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 bus and casino industries to work together to combat it.
3. Motivate bus companies, casinos and law enforcement to implement TAT/BOTL training.
4. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
5. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality from “prostitute” to victim.

Long-term goals:

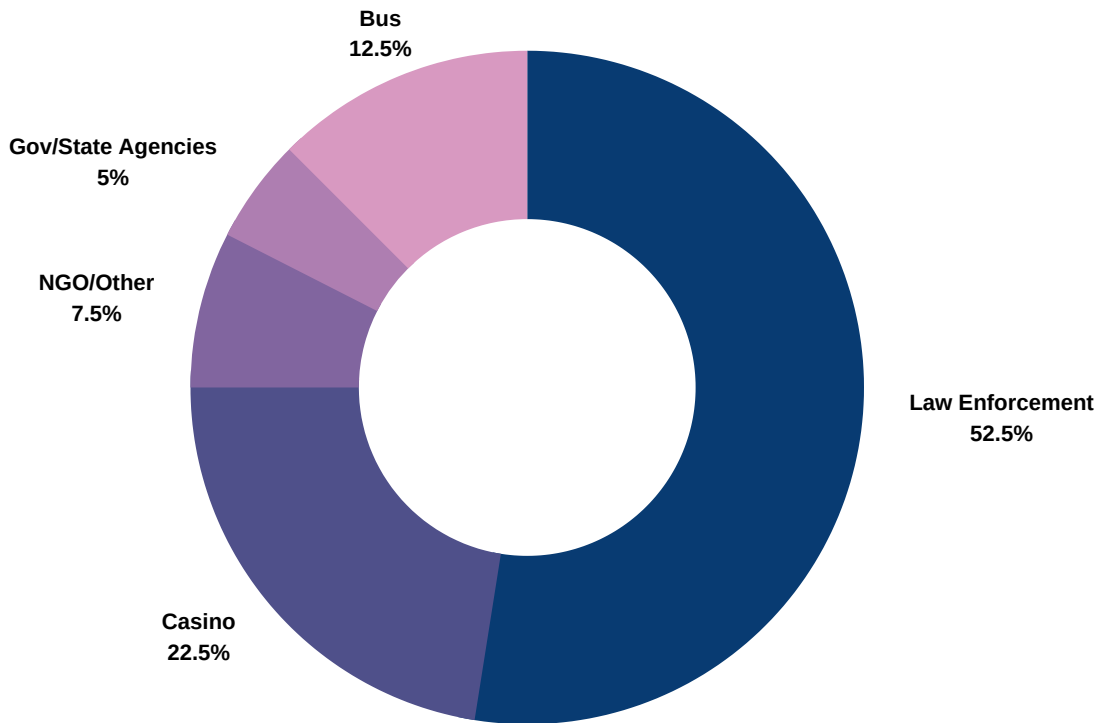
1. Utilize TAT and BOTL materials in ongoing trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or provincial anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.





Goal #1

Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments in the same room with representatives from bus companies, casinos and transit operators.



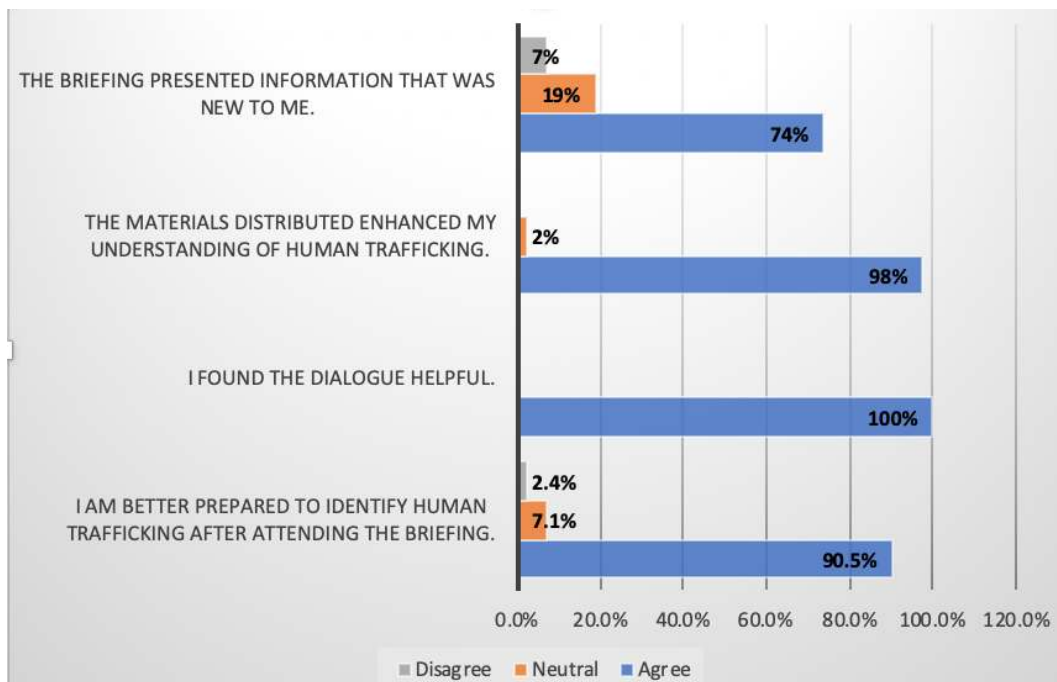
There were 85 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based off the survey gathered, which 49% of the participants completed.





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 bus and casino industries to work together to combat it.



88.1% 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.

100% of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.



Goal #3

Motivate bus companies, casinos and law enforcement to implement TAT/BOTL training.

- Monarch Casino Blackhawk, Lodge/Gilpin Casino, Bronco Billy's Casino, Saratoga Casino and Century Casino all requested additional materials to take back and train their security teams and other staff.
- Ace Express and Arrow Stage Lines, bus companies that have already been BOTL-training their drivers and other staff, reiterated their commitment to the cause and expressed interest in supplementing their current training with materials that highlight the unique casino-specific factors.
- The Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division and Pueblo District Attorney's Office have invited TAT to facilitate an in-person training for their supervisors, victim advocates, attorneys and investigators in 2020.
- Representatives from eleven law enforcement departments requested copies of TAT's law enforcement training video to share with their colleagues.
- The Colorado Division of Gaming has committed to sharing BOTL's training materials and victim-centered posters with casinos.





Goal # 4 & 5

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 from “prostitute” to victim.

Here is what respondents said about the presentation by a TAT field trainer:

“One of the most powerful testimonies that I have ever heard.”

“I am very appreciative of Annika's presentation. I couldn't imagine going through what she went through. I am glad Annika survived and can share her story.”

“WOW! Great job. I am happy she will be able to help people understand how complex the issue of human trafficking is.”

“Very powerful!!!!”

“Very moving and put this topic into perspective.”

“Annika is a very courageous individual. Really appreciated her sharing her experience.”

“Very moving! Thank you for sharing and helping us understand a different perspective.”

“Appreciated Annika's open presentation regarding her experience. I had no idea of the magnitude.”

“I think her testimony is so important to making this a concrete issue for people at the event. It can be easy to see trafficking as abstract and elsewhere so Annika speaking to us was very impactful.”

100% of respondents agreed that hearing the survivor speak was powerful.



Here are just a few things that attendees had to say about the training:

"The time just flew by; it was very interesting. This training opened my eyes."

"Very good presenters/all very knowledgeable."

"Great real life CO-specific examples."

"Will talk to GM about more training with security staff. Maybe a video for casino security."

"Would love to have TAT come to Black Hawk quarterly to do training."

"Would like to have some training done for my security staff to be more aware and knowledgeable in what to be looking for."

"This training was very informative. I think it's wise to include the public and educate them."

"Thank you to everyone for their effort and time to make this happen."

100%
of respondents said they would recommend a briefing like this to others in their field.



Final Summary:

This pilot Bus & Casino Coalition Build successfully brought together law enforcement with several Colorado-based casinos and the bus companies that provide service to the gaming town of Black Hawk where many of Colorado's casinos are located.

As a pilot, TAT's overarching goal was to test how the Coalition Build model of public and private sector engagement and coordination could be replicated with a different set of industry actors. The high level of participation, glowing survey results, commitment to taking action and enthusiasm for more training are all indicators that this event was impactful and effective.

- Casino representatives expressed an interest in training their staff and an openness to working with law enforcement to ensure that traffickers are not taking advantage of their operations and that victims are not being exploited on their property;
- The bus companies reaffirmed their commitment to BOTL-training and reporting suspicions;
- Law enforcement participants took the TAT law enforcement training video for use with their teams and some departments have requested additional in-person training; and
- State agency participants shared ideas about how they can assist in sharing TAT/BOTL training materials and victim-centered posters with casinos throughout Colorado.

TAT will continue to follow up with participants and track progress as it develops additional training resources specially designed for casinos and the bus companies that serve them. Nevertheless, this short-term impact reiterates to TAT that it is imperative for us to replicate this model in other gaming towns throughout North America. It is clear that participants left the Coalition Build with an enhanced understanding of human trafficking and the role they can play in helping to combat it. They also left the Coalition Build feeling empowered and equipped to sharing the TAT message with their networks, thereby creating a ripple effect that will reach far more than the 85 people in the room that day.

As always, TAT is grateful to its partners! Special thanks goes to the Colorado Office of the Attorney General, the Colorado Gaming Association, the Colorado Division of Gaming, Monarch Casino Blackhawk, the Denver Police Department, the Jefferson County Courthouse, and the FBI: Denver Division.

**THANK YOU TO OUR PRIMARY SPONSOR, N2GIVES, FOR
MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!**

