

TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org

Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: El Paso, TX February 23, 2017

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.

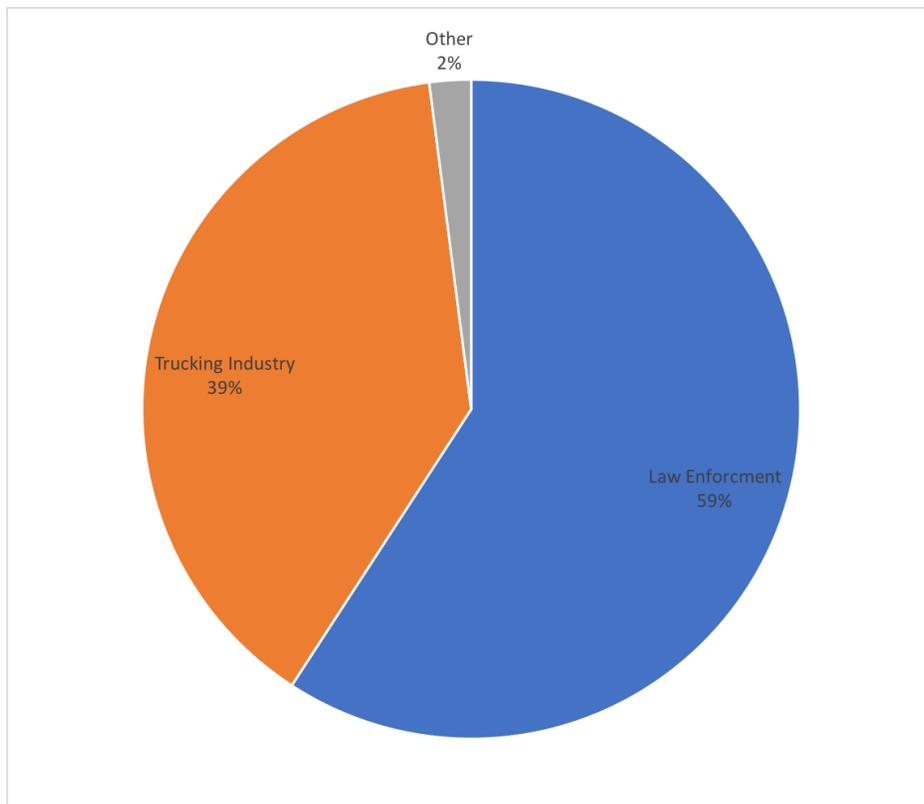
Long-term goals:

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.

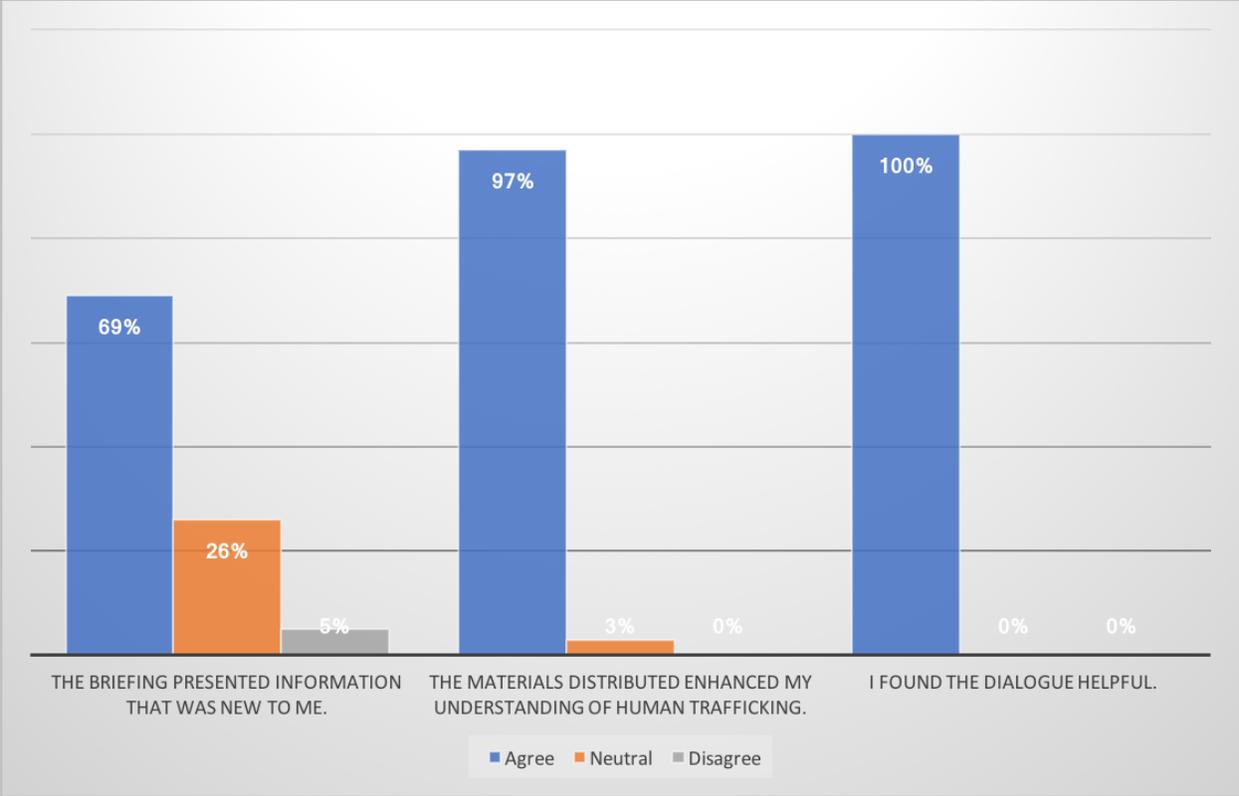
TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and the Texas Trucking Association. There were 16 general managers from truck stops, three trucking companies, El Paso Police Department, El Paso Sheriff's Office, El Paso County Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Transportation/FMCSA, Texas Department of Public Safety-Criminal Investigations and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Units, Department of Homeland Security, and the Rio Grande Council of Governments. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 80% of participants completed.



87% of respondents said they were able to connect with pertinent members of the trucking industry.

92% 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.



95% 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.

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

97% of respondents said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing.

Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:

“The members of TAT are passionate and that passion spreads like wildfire. This is an issue we CANNOT be passive about. Thank you!”

“Well done. The networking opportunity was significant. Thank you for the invitation. I liked the use of DPS presenting to the truck companies when they request safety presentations. I have started this education opportunity for here as of this meeting today. Thank you!”

“I'm new to human trafficking and feel a lot more knowledgeable about the subject. Thank you and well done.”

“Excellent training! Great materials, dynamic speakers. Thank you”

“I am a retired El Paso police officer and currently working with the El Paso county attorney's office. This is the first time I have heard and become aware of Truckers Against Trafficking. That is amazing. Thank you for the valuable training.”

“The allotted time for this training was perfect. It's hard to get away, but making this during lunch and for 3-4 hours is good.”

“Open dialogue helps us understand the side of law enforcement officers and prosecutors. In general, very very helpful.”

“Looking forward to providing this information to my colleagues.”

“Open dialogue helps us understand the side of law enforcement officers and prosecutors. In general, very very helpful.”

Goal #3 Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.

- McKesson Medical Surgical (a division of McKesson Corp.) will be joining TAT as a partner and training their private fleet nationwide. They anticipate training 900+ private fleet employees.
- Outwest Express is training all drivers during orientation, training at weekly safety meetings and adding TAT stickers to both sides of their tractors. They have also hyperlinked the TAT-Trained badge to their website in order to direct others to TAT.
- Mesilla Valley Transportation already trains its drivers; however, as a result of attending the coalition build, they have also shared TAT training materials with the trucking schools they work with.

Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.

- Bowlin Travel Centers will be doing a one-hour presentation and training on human trafficking at their company-wide annual meeting. They plan on training all staff, stocking all 10 stores across New Mexico and Arizona with TAT materials and registering their company as TAT-Trained.

Goals #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. In El Paso, Beth Jacobs was not present to share her story. However, attendees watched TAT's law enforcement training video in which Beth Jacobs tells her story.



Here is what respondents had to say about Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer and survivor-leader, story as told through the law enforcement training video:

"Heartbreaking, but demonstrates the range of emotions and trauma a victim experiences."

"I enjoyed the real story and testimony."

"I have seen many presentations, and it's always heartbreaking to hear the story of human trafficking victims first hand. As unpleasant as they are, they are necessary to remind us of the evil that exists and that our job is essential."

"Very touching. It is always good to hear from someone that experienced this first hand."

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.

- A Pilot Flying J (PFJ) manager that attended the coalition build has invited the the Office of the Attorney General to come present on TAT and train 18-22 managers and members from PFJ corporate at one of their quarterly meetings.
- In her survey, the Captain of DPS-Criminal Investigations Unit said that when trucking companies request DPS present at safety meetings, they will utilize TAT materials to educate companies about TAT.
- Department of Public Safety-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division will be using TAT's law enforcement video to train 30 officers in El Paso as well as sharing the information with other CVE Districts, reaching up to 150 officers. Troopers will also have wallet cards to pass out during interdiction stops or inspections.
- All law enforcement in attendance viewed TAT's new law enforcement training video.

Goal #2: Chart increase in calls/tips into the national hotline.

- A district manager who attended the coalition build has reported two calls made to the National Hotline since the meeting.

Goal #5: Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.

- As a result of TAT's coalition builds conducted throughout the state of Texas in 2016, including Houston, Lubbock, Tyler, San Antonio and El Paso, numerous law enforcement agencies have begun using TAT materials to train their officers, thus adopting a portion of the Iowa MVE model.
- Since learning about TAT through the coalition builds, many law enforcement agencies across Texas have begun using TAT materials to communicate with members of the trucking industry in their jurisdictions and train them about human trafficking. These efforts have led to other portions of the Iowa MVE model being adopted and are evidenced below:
 - Talking to CDL instructors about utilizing TAT training as part of the training course.
 - Visiting truck stops and gas stations in their jurisdiction with TAT materials, educating them about human trafficking and asking them to utilize TAT training materials.
 - Training CVE units with TAT materials.
 - Visiting trucking companies and making them aware of TAT's program.

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

- Mandating TAT training is included in pending legislation of the Texas Trucking Association.

Assessment:

The meeting in El Paso was small but impactful. The attendees, both trucking and law enforcement, were very engaged in the topic and quick to step up and do their part. All three trucking companies that were in attendance are now training their drivers, registering as TAT trained and talking to others in the industry about TAT. The response from the truck stops was unanimously positive, and many are taking significant steps to make this information more prominent and available to their employees and at their locations. As a result of this meeting, TAT gained another enthusiastic regional truck stop chain, operating 10 stores in New Mexico and Arizona. The Department of Public Safety was a critical part of this meeting, bringing both passion and training as panelists, as well committing to train troopers in region 4 with TAT materials, share TAT's law enforcement training video with other CVE districts across the state and stock scale houses in region 4 with TAT materials, reaching more in the trucking industry.

Follow-Up Goals:

1. More law enforcement departments and agencies utilizing TAT's law enforcement training video to train officers.
2. Other DPS CVE units to contact TAT and start stocking scale houses across Texas.
3. Continued training for law enforcement departments and members of the trucking industry by the Office of the Attorney General's human trafficking task force, as well as TAT training materials being used to train officers where gaps in training exist.

