



January 2, 2020

Summit County Law Enforcement Line for Human Trafficking:

The Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SCCAHT) and The Summit County Sheriff's Office are collaborating to build a dedicated law enforcement line that will run 24/7 in order to respond more effectively to human trafficking in Summit County.

Over the last several years local law enforcement in Summit County has done a great job responding to human trafficking calls from healthcare systems, victim service agencies, and the public, without a formal human trafficking task force in place. Without a streamlined approach, local providers were confused on who to call based on local jurisdiction (where the crime took place) and when to call federal or local police.

SCCAHT agencies and members continued to voice the need for one local number to call when an immediate response is needed from law enforcement. This number does not take place of the National Human trafficking Hotline, which is a wonderful resource we encourage the public to use. This number was created to strengthen our law enforcement response, in order to respond **immediately, when a report needs to be made to local law enforcement, and to assist direct service providers in their reporting.** This number also does not take the place of our 24/7 victim service hotlines that offer immediate on scene response to victims 24/7.

The SCCAHT and members will continue efforts to create a Human Trafficking Task Force and see this as an important first step in working together, smoothing out response protocols, and training local dispatchers and officers on providing a trauma-informed response to victims as well as linking them with local services. This line will also assist in our data collection process in order to demonstrate the scope of the problem in Summit County.

This line is live and ready to use as of January 2, 2020. As we start this new project, feedback will be important in order to make improvements over the next several months. We will discuss successes and challenges at our committee meetings throughout the year.

We are grateful to the Summit County Sheriff's Office for taking the lead on this project and look forward to continued collaboration on serving victims of human trafficking in Summit County!

Sincerely,

SCCAHT Leadership

Summit County Sheriff's Office

CONTACTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

If you need immediate on scene response or would like to make a report 24/7: Summit County Sheriff's Office: 330-252-2614