



Human Trafficking Advisory Board Minutes of April 21, 2017 Meeting Board Approved

Members Present: Jason Hart (for Christine Kenney), Travis Rakestraw, Jim Johnson, Vicki McArthur, Brent Hogelin, Ed Howell, Jeff Richards, Kirk Thompson, Angie Jones, Rep. Eric Smith, Jeff Cowger, Debbie Kennedy, Kathy Armstrong, Brad Burke, Derrick Wilczek, Kris Wade, Carole Nistler, Allison Farres (for Karen Countryman Roswurm), Terra Frazier

Guests Present: Carly McPeak, Kendra Baker, Lucy Bloom, Dawn Rouse, Mark Masterson, Natalie Chalmers

Meeting Opened: Chair Colloton opened the meeting at 1:30, and initiated introductions. Colloton reported that the Public Awareness and Prevention Committee met last month and was working on school protocol for teachers and staff relating to awareness and reporting. Additional committee reports were deferred until later in the meeting.

SB40/179: Natalie Chalmers gave an overview of SB 40/179 HT Legislation. It was noted there were many who reviewed/provided expertise to improve the legislation, and that improved the end product.

ICJ Report: Jeff Cowger explained that in the past, within the first 24 hours, essentially anyone could come pick up the out-of-state child and his office wouldn't be made aware, necessarily. They have changed the standard so safety can be assessed. Reports that since then, a hold has been placed on three children. 1 child was placed @ WCH and stabilized prior to being returned to home state.

LE Protocol: Kathy Armstrong reported that last July 1 changes were made so PRC is now notified by law enforcement when a Rapid Response Team is needed. She reports that there were 187 cases reported by law enforcement since last July 1. The question was asked how many times an RRT was dispatched after such a call. It was noted that in Wichita, a different procedure is followed, and LE contacts RRT directly. It was noted that both St. Francis and Kaw Valley reported at the Victim Services Subcommittee that they received 0 requests for a RRT response from the hotline. Vicky McArthur confirmed that St. Francis has not received one callout from the hotline since July 1, 2016. There were questions whether law enforcement is simply following the old procedure still, and contacting RRT on their own, however Angie Jones noted she had a case where the hotline was notified an RRT was needed, and there was no response four hours later. Concern was expressed that this protocol is not working effectively. Kendra Baker, DCF hotline supervisor, stated that if a law enforcement officer has difficulty calling in, they can call the RRT directly.

Victim Services Sub-Committee Report: The meeting notes from the last VSC Subcommittee were distributed, and the recommendations for the AG and HTAB were noted.

Law Enforcement Committee Report: Travis Rakestraw reported that discussions concerned the fact that children picked up by law enforcement are ending up in jail/detention centers. The law enforcement committee advises that enough staff secure facilities are needed to make transport feasible for law enforcement and the stay needs to be long enough to ensure stabilization. In addition to appropriate secure care with trauma therapy, the need for a mentor was discussed. Both a mental health counselor and a mentor are needed to follow the child when she/he is placed back in the community.

HT Victims in Juvenile Detention Centers: Mark Masterson gave a report on the difficulties inherent in housing children who are victims of HT in detention.

Vicky McArthur discussed the difficulties HT kids have in attaching to someone, and how important it is to maintain the helping relationships that do get developed, no matter where they are housed. Many get in detention from multiple runs, and that sets them up for little/no trauma-informed services. She discussed a program they currently have due to a grant that allows a therapist to remain in contact with the child regardless of placement and how it is reducing the number of disruptions in placement.

Debbie Kennedy shared that the WCH has started a therapeutic milieu approach. She confirmed that the Staff Secure Facility needs to be longer than the 3 days to really be effective with these victims. Keeping them longer would allow experienced staff to develop an understanding of their needs. It would also provide some stability that would be helpful regarding staffing the unit.

The recommendations from the different subcommittees were considered. There was discussion about the need to do things differently than the current approach, as it is not meeting the needs of the children, and could be increasing their risk. It also is resulting in law enforcement in some regions being reluctant to charge HT, when they have no housing options for the children. Jim Johnson reported hearing this concern from Juvenile Intake in both northeastern and western Kansas.

Dawn Rouse shared some of the challenges that Federal law imposes regarding working with this population.

After discussing the need to increase capacity and develop regional staff secure facilities, various resolutions were considered, and the following resolution was passed (13 in favor; 0 opposed):

To request from Attorney General Schmidt that funding be made available for human trafficking child victims to be able to stay in staff secure facilities, preferably regional facilities, when it is determined as the least restrictive environment for that child's safety and well-being.

It was noted that while this resolution is an important step in protecting children in the CINC system, much more work needs to be done regarding those children already in detention. It was suggested the HTAB work on a state plan in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.