



Human Trafficking Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2019

1:30 PM

**Jayhawk Tower, Florentine Room,
700 Jackson Street, Topeka**

Attending:

Members: Diana Schunn, Debbie Kennedy, Dale Mattern, Derrick Wilczek, Dan Oblinger, Frank Papish (Kirk Thompson), Kent Bauman, Jeff Richards, Karen Countryman-Roswurm, Carol Nistler, Kris Wade, Rebekah Gaston, Laurel Klein Searles, Sharon Sullivan, Jennifer Hansen, Marci Francisco, Dorthy Stucky Halley, Jennifer Montgomery,

Guests: Marina Houser, Jim Johnson, Dianne Seibel, Melissa Cooke, Heidi Lynch, Vicky Luttrell, Tyra Miles, Lynnea Kaufman, AJ Zarnowiec, Hannah Farmer, Kristen Todd, Lucy Bloom

Opening: Co-chair Jennifer Montgomery opened the meeting at 1:30, with a welcome and introductions.

Minutes were reviewed. There was a motion to approve by Jeff Richards; second by Sharon Sullivan. Motion approved.

Transition: Jennifer noted that she and Dorthy Stucky Halley will be co-chairing HTAB moving forward. There was a discussion related to current committee structure, with a request for input from HTAB members regarding future committee structure and topics for discussion.

Committee Reports:

Victim Services—Dorthy Stucky Halley reported the Victim Services Committee met this morning (April 12), and listened to a presentation on working with boys as victims of sex trafficking, and began discussion re: policy changes after listening to what victims reported—there will be a report about this later today.

Public Awareness—Jennifer Montgomery reported there are three upcoming trainings scheduled for the hospitality industry with an expert from ECPAT-USA, located in Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. She asked members to share the details within their communities, if they are close to one of these locations. Flyers were distributed. The dates are April 29 (Kansas City and Topeka) and April 30 (Wichita). Jennifer also reported that she has been very busy with training requests statewide.

Anti-Demand—Jennifer Montgomery reported that this committee did not meet since the last HTAB meeting, but there was publicity regarding the Demand an End project.

Law Enforcement—Jennifer reported this committee has not met since the last HTAB meeting. This committee will need a chairperson, and the OAG will be working toward that.

Data—this committee has not met since the last HTAB meeting. There was no one present who had been serving on that committee.

History and Purpose of the HTAB—With so many new members joining HTAB at this time, Dorthy Stucky Halley gave a report covering the initial years of HTAB: how it got started and foundational accomplishments.

U.S. Attorney’s Office Update on Human Trafficking Issues—U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas Stephen McAllister provided an update on his office’s efforts regarding human trafficking. He reported that each of their Kansas offices has a human trafficking designated prosecutor: Kim Flannigan in Kansas City; Chris Kenney in Topeka; and Jason Hart in Wichita. Andrea Hernandez is the victim-witness coordinator for the Kansas City and Topeka offices; Kim Reese is the victim-witness coordinator for Wichita, as well as coordinator for many of their conferences and trainings. U.S. Attorney McAllister discussed some of the challenges his team faces in prosecuting these cases. Coercion is often hard to prove in adult cases, and labor trafficking can be even trickier to prove. The use of the dark web makes communications much harder to track. McAllister also noted that his agency is willing to support and help with federal grants for victim-related assistance.

Healthcare Response to Trafficking—Dr. Jennifer Hansen, Children’s Mercy Hospital reported that the medical field expects the use of relevant data to determine best practice, but it is very difficult to rely on solid data at this time. Currently, a lot of the information is anecdotal. There is a wide variance from what the common trainings on human trafficking are sharing as the “red flags”, and what they are seeing in the victims they are identifying in their medical settings. Rather than noticing all the common red flags, the risk factors they see mirror the risk factors for child abuse.

Dr. Hansen reports there are only six child abuse pediatricians working in the state. Many pediatricians and other doctors do not have the information to be able to identify sex trafficking; and if they did get any training, it is likely they are not going to see the red flags they were trained on, as those don’t tend to show up in the medical settings. They have been tracking human trafficking in their setting for three years and identified almost 100 children (2015-2018). Screenings have identified prevalence of the following:

- Having been pregnant as a teenager
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Confirmation that they have traded sex for something they wanted
- Multiple sex partners
- Substance Abuse
- Mental health issues

- History of child sexual abuse
- Prior police involvement

It was noted that these are health issues, and noticed in healthcare settings. Many of these items might not be the things most commonly noted in a criminal justice or advocacy/victim service setting. With human trafficking being such an underground operation, each setting might have different “red flags” to pay attention to. Medical features vs. psycho-social features are likely to be noted in medical settings rather than tattoos, etc. The Children’s Hospital, Atlanta, has developed a new evidence-based tool that is promising. One of the main points for medical staff will be “You can’t tell by looking.”

Improving Systems’ Response to HT Survivors—Dr. Sharon Sullivan, Washburn University, and Dorthy Stucky Halley shared information regarding insights from Dorthy’s interviews of human trafficking survivors and shared how HTAB can use this information to keep the victim’s voice in our work. Members were provided with a document describing what different survivors found as helpful, and what they found as harmful in their interactions with victim advocates, child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, family law practitioners, religious leaders, parole and probation officers, judges, teachers, school administrators, therapists, medical staff, dentists, residential facilities, employers, media, immigration specialists, disability specialists, housing authorities, jails, and the division of motor vehicles. Sharon and Dorthy noted that while all survivors were interviewed in Kansas, their experiences were not limited to interactions with professionals in Kansas.

The purpose of Dorthy and Sharon’s project was to bring the voice of the victim and survivor into the conversations happening in communities and states interested in developing effective response to human trafficking. They envision the document’s use when community coalitions are being formed, so each discipline coming to the table has a more robust awareness of how their discipline has been most helpful, as well as in what ways those in their role have created challenges/burdens for victims “in the life” or those attempting to leave the life of trafficking behind them. For each challenge that survivors mentioned, policy recommendations are noted in the third column. It could very well be that additional policy recommendations than those noted in this document should be explored for each community, and by HTAB.

Review of Items for Next HTAB Meeting: Jennifer noted that we hope to have a healthy discussion on some policy items different members want to propose for HTAB consideration. We know different disciplines might share different views, so we want as many present as possible for our next meeting. Additionally, Hannah Britton, if available, will be presenting on the KU research conference that happened recently.

Upcoming Trainings: Frank Papish reported that the Office of the Kansas Attorney General and the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI) of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) is conducting a tuition-free, one and one-half day training in Topeka for prosecutors and investigators on Human Trafficking on May 1 and May 2 at KBI Forensic Science Laboratory. The training program will be limited to prosecutors and investigators.

Frank Papish also reported that there is an Interdiction “Train the Trainers” taking place June 25-28, and Sharon Sullivan reported there is a staged reading related to human trafficking, to benefit the Center for Safety and Empowerment on April 20th at the Wheelbarrow in NOTO, Topeka.

Next Meeting Date: To be determined.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:05 p.m.