



**HTAB Meeting
Minutes
December 9, 2019**

Attending Board Members:

Ed Howell, Laurel Klein Searles, Dax Lewis, Kent Bauman, Rebekah Gaston, Jeff Richards, Michelle McCormick, Diana Schunn, Dale Mattern, Deb Kluttz, Gianfranco Pezzino, Ed Klumpp, Sharon Sullivan, Hope Cooper (Randy Bowman), Hannah Britton, Kirk Thompson, Dorthy Stucky Halley, Jennifer Montgomery, Debbie Kennedy

Guests:

Holly Krebs, Sarah Shipman, Lindsie Ford, Vicky Luttrell, LaTavia Allen, Steve Meyer, Melissa Cooke, Allen D. Smith, Craig Paschang, Terry Hund, Rhonda Tripp, Gary Henault, Cathy Corbin, Alexa Tapia, Lucy Bloom, Frank Papish, Kelly Ralston, Heidi Lynch, Kevin Barone.

Introductions: Jennifer called the HTAB meeting to order at 1:30, asking all members of HTAB to introduce themselves; then all guests.

Jennifer explained that the purpose of this particular meeting is to make decisions regarding legislative initiatives prior to the legislative session.

Agency Updates: Laurel Klein Searles shared that KDOL is working with OAG on a new public awareness campaign focused on labor trafficking. Laurel requested that agencies share with KDOL any human trafficking awareness efforts planned for January. Jennifer added that the proclamation signing is tentatively set for the 24th. We will try to make it as accessible as possible, but there will be limited space. In addition with other awareness efforts, Dorthy suggested we consider recognizing the 10 year anniversary of the HTAB.

The Kansas Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) Training Team will be offering a 2-day training for law enforcement on January 23rd and 24th at the KBI Forensic Science Center auditorium from 8-5pm each day. To register, please go the KLETC website.

The OAG is partnering with one of our grantees, the Willow in Lawrence, to bring Rebecca Bender to the Lawrence Community. All are invited, on campus, Feb 5th. There will also be an evening event at the Cider Gallery in Lawrence:

The Ad/Hoc Legislative Committee provided 6 recommendations for HTAB consideration:

1. Staff secure facilities

While the lack of regional staff secure facilities has been challenging for both law enforcement agencies and the victims needing services due to only one location and only 4 beds available, the full demand for the services is impossible to know due to the stays being limited to the police protective custody time-frame in the past. This was not the intent of the original legislation, but rather, the way this services has been implemented in the past. It was noted that there has been a change in DCF policy that has changed the length of time victims can stay in the facility. Professionals reported during recent trainings in Wichita and Kansas City that the only operating staff secure facility is sometimes full, leaving no viable placement options for child victims of human trafficking.

Rebekah Gaston explained that DCF has increased rates of pay for staff secure placement, and has taken back the responsibility of making that determination. If there are agencies that want to start up providing several beds to 4 beds in a needed area, it is believed DCF can assist these agencies without making a specific request to the legislature regarding this. After discussion, it was noted that this is too important of an issue to remove this proposal from the recommendations list: rather, Sharon Sullivan motioned we defer action on this item at this time until DCF can gather additional information. Ed Klumpp seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Buying sexual relations: first time buying with adult victims: removing the misdemeanor language from current statute.

After much discussion, it was noted there is a need for agreement and support from Kansas prosecutors (KCDA) prior to making a recommendation to Legislature. The Board also asked the Law Enforcement Committee to work on a plan for enforcement for buyers. An alternative option was considered, resulting in the recommendation that buyers “shall” attend an educational program, with the law’s effective date of 2021. Michelle McCormick moved; Hope Cooper seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recommendations by Judicial Council on Affirmative Defense/Expungement/Vacatur.

Ed Klumpp explained that both SB 154 and 227 were examined by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council’s Criminal Law Committee did not recommend passing either bill as they were. Most of the work was done on 227, but their final report is not completed, so there was no final recommendation to consider. After hearing about the general content and discussion, Sen. Francisco made a motion that we send a message to the judicial council that we appreciate their efforts and we look forward to reviewing the final version of their report. In particular, we appreciate their efforts to ensure that the affirmative defense applies to adults as well as minors. Sharon Sullivan second. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Mandatory posting of NHTH.

Sharon Sullivan shared a request from the Topeka Shawnee County Human Trafficking Coalition and the HTAB Victim Services Committee on posters that prompted the consideration by the Ad/Hoc legislative committee. Laurel Klein Searles shared that KDOL would encourage the consideration of all businesses being required to post these posters. It was noted that could essentially be done by changing current law from “may” to “shall”. It was also noted that it is important to have posters in all travel stops, not

just businesses. Sharon moved, Michelle seconded mandatory posting in all businesses, healthcare providers, and travel stops in the state of Kansas. Motion passed. Sen. Francisco abstained. After the motion passed, it was noted that this will require some tweaking: you can have a business in your house: may need to be applied only to those businesses that have 10 or more employees.

5. Terminology in current law

Jennifer explained that the ad/hoc committee has recommended splitting the request for change in terminology in current law from the other proposals from Lucy Bloom regarding adoption of the Nordic or Equality Model. Lucy discussed the reasoning behind her suggestions. Sharon moved we change references in current law regarding human trafficking and prostitution from “sexual relations” to “sex act”. Ed Klumpp seconded. Motion was adopted unanimously with the addition of further study of the Nordic/Equality Model as well as other proposed models.

6. Massage Regulation bill

It was noted that this bill, or a close facsimile, has been introduced for the past 3+ years. Kansas is one of 3 states that do not currently regulate massage therapy. Jennifer noted that Kevin Barone is here, representing massage therapists; Holly Krebs made recommendations regarding other groups to be included in this regulation. Holly reported her profession is as a Rolfer; bodywork includes more than massage: reflexology etc. Holly reports that many states have not included these other bodyworks because they were written many years ago. She believes anyone touching an individual should be registered, and requests HTAB recommend that all bodyworks be included in legislation. It was noted by Kevin Barone, who represents the Kansas massage industry, that the educational requirements for massage therapists were quite different than these other groups, and is concerned that the support from massage therapists for the legislation would be gone if the other groups were added.

Sen. Francisco moved we support the bill currently being revised as recommended by the Ad/Hoc legislative committee. In addition, the Board recognized that other bodywork professions are also touch therapy and should be acknowledged and considered as a potential opening to human trafficking and should also be licensed. Michelle McCormick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Sharon moved, Ed Klumpp seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Next meeting date for March 16, 2020 at the same location.

Jennifer thanked the Board members and guests for their work and adjourned the meeting at 3:25pm.