

## HTAB Minutes from 9/9/2021

The meeting was held via WebEx due to continuing issues with COVID. A public location with notice was provided to view the live meeting in order to comply with the KOMA.

### HTAB members in attendance:

- Jennifer Montgomery, Chair
- Michelle McCormick
- Tiffanie Askew
- Kent Bauman
- Lucy Bloom
- Hannah Britton
- Hope Cooper
- Cathy Eaton
- Tom Fatkin
- Rebekah Gaston
- Amy Hanley
- Jennifer Hansen
- Ed Howell
- James Johnson
- Debbie Kennedy
- Laurel Klein Searles
- Ed Klumpp
- Deb Klutz
- Heidi Olson
- Adam Piland
- Elizabeth Pishny
- Travis Rakestraw
- Jeff Richards
- Diana Schunn
- Sharon Sullivan
- Kris Wade
- Derrick Wilczek

**HTAB Members Absent:** Marc Bennett, Karen Countryman-Roswurm, Rep. Eric Smith, Sen. Marci Francisco, Dax Lewis, Dan Oblinger, Alice Osburn, Kirk Thompson, Rachel Sisson, Stacy Tidwell

**Staff:** HTAB counsel, Sarah Shipman

The meeting was called to order at 1:32pm and the Chair, Jennifer Montgomery, welcomed the group and made introductions.

### Approval of June 2021 minutes:

A motion was made by Sharon Sullivan to accept the June minutes as read and seconded by Lucy Bloom.

The minutes were approved as read and the motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

### Committee reports:

Victim Services Committee: Michelle McCormick, Director of Victim Services (OAG) provided a brief summary of the Committee's work since June and noted a motion from the Committee meeting recommending that HTAB approve submitting the Kansas response to the National Advisory Council's State Self-Assessment.

Law Enforcement Committee: Jennifer Montgomery reported that the Committee had met and discussed feedback on the Victim Services Committee DRAFT Recommendations for a Comprehensive Plan for Services. Juvenile Law Enforcement Protocol pocket cards are printed and ready for distribution

statewide. A workgroup within the committee was formed to follow up on previous HTAB discussions on massage regulation and IMB issues. The KS AGO partnered with Truckers Against Trafficking for a law enforcement training event in McPherson on August 12. Thanks to those from HTAB who served on the law enforcement panel.

Public Awareness, Prevention and Education Committee: Jennifer Montgomery noted that the committee had re-convened after a hiatus and discussed trafficking education for frontline workers, mandatory reporters, DCF contractors and vulnerable workers in industries where labor trafficking is found. An effort to collaborate with Rotary on educating businesses across the state on the new mandatory reporting requirements of the National Human Trafficking Hotline was also discussed.

#### **Agency reports:**

Wichita Children's Home reported that they currently have 7 trafficked youth in the Garver House.

Justice Project KC reported that their focus has been dealing with the impact of COVID on victims in their care.

Homestead reported that they opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> home in Salina in the spring and there has been good support from the community.

KBI: Since January, they have received 37 Polaris tips, 3 calls for the immediate response team and have received 23 JIAC assessments. They were also a part of joint operations with KHP, Wichita PD and Homeland Security in June and another Topeka area multi-agency operation in July. They are currently working a multi-state RICO case involving labor trafficking.

Wichita Police Department: Capt. Rakestraw shared the following statistics from Operation Archangel in July: WPD recovered one victim, diverted four potential victims from the criminal justice system and connected them with services, arrested 11 individuals for purchasing sexual relations, arrested one person for aggravated human trafficking, arrested two individuals for promoting the sale of sexual relations and one for selling sexual relations.

Overland Park Police Department: OPPD has been focusing on demand reduction. There has been disruption however additional follow up is needed on the victim services side.

KDOC: KDOC staff provided an update on their automated HT screen tool (juvenile intake) and noted some complications with data reporting. Also, mentioned two prevention grants with additional information available on their website.

Veronica's Voice has had a steady stream of 3-5 residents and are looking at expansion in the near future for their residential program and social enterprise. They have also had a few referrals to their buyer education program and plan to coordinate the annual search for those who are missing in the KC area – September 20-October 2.

#### **NAC State Self-Assessment Survey**

Jennifer Montgomery reported that the response to the NAC State Self-Assessment has been completed by the small group working on this project. She specifically thanked Michelle McCormick, Kent Bauman and Rebekah Gaston for the long hours taken to get the response completed. Sharon Sullivan moved to

send the response on to NAC for inclusion in their national report. Jennifer Hansen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**HTAB Discussion on the Draft of Recommendations from the Victim Services Committee for a Comprehensive Plan for Address Human Trafficking of Children, Youth and Adults**

The Board began its initial discussion of the list of recommendations from the Victim Services Committee. Discussion of Section 1 was completed with additional information requested on the Equality Model. Members of the Board representing victim services, law enforcement, prosecutors and the judicial branch discussed how the model would potentially impact their work. Other topics discussed included training and staffing focused on trafficking issues within state government agencies and executive branch. Discussion of this draft document is ongoing and will resume at the December HTAB meeting. The Board agreed to wait until after the December meeting to call the Ad/Hoc Legislative Committee together to discuss potential recommendations for the 2022 legislative session.

**New Business:** The Chair asked for volunteers for the Data Collection Committee.

**Announcements:** Derrick Wilczek shared information about the upcoming Midwest Vice Conference for law enforcement to be held in Tulsa November 30, December 1 & 2. Rebekah Gaston shared a link to information from the Kansas Housing Resource Council with the Board. Jennifer Montgomery reminded the Board of her upcoming leave of absence October 8 through mid-December for an international peace fellowship. Michelle McCormick will be the contact during that time for HTAB matters.

**2021 Meeting Dates:** December 9

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm