Human Trafficking Advisory Board Meeting
MINUTES
January 19, 2018
1:30 P.M.
Florentine Room, Jayhawk Tower, Topeka


Chair Colloton started the HTAB meeting at 1:35 p.m. Introductions were made of members and guests.

Minutes of Oct. 27, 2017 approved. Angie Jones moved approval; Sharon Sullivan seconded the approval motion. Passed without objection.

Activity Reports:

LE: Sheriff Annual Conference—OAG provided a 4 hour training; Vice Detectives Annual meeting—heavily oriented training from experts on anti-demand and attended by LE from across the state.

Data Committee: This committee has been resurrected. 2017 data from EMCU and Polaris was provided. Lt. Rakestraw, Dr. Sullivan and the KBI Division Director of Information Services, Leslie Moore, will serve on this committee.

Victim Services Committee: Discussed the contents of the last two Victim Services Committee meetings including 1) the need for staff secure facilities for HT youth regionally; 2) the ongoing concern that victims are being arrested at times; and, 3) the need for the buyers to be held accountable. Also discussed recent and upcoming trainings.

Public Awareness Committee: No report.

Anti-Demand Committee: Future legislative issues will be brought to you in April.

Secretary Keck: The Mental Health Task Force is centered on children in crisis—behavioral health wants to do what is done in the community response to adult cases and this is not available now for children. KDADS is working with DCF and DOC to develop placement for children in crisis.
Colloton: SB 218 is legislation creating an HT protective order. It is scheduled for hearing in the House on Tuesday Morning, 10:30. It follows the civil procedure for domestic violence and stalking protective orders but also will allow the AG or DA to seek the order.

Carol Nistler: Section C of SB 218. Protective orders run through the civil side. They must come with the address of the perpetrator. How will an HT victim know the address? Service is going to be critical. Serving those cases is difficult. Rep. Smith noted that even without service the order will alert law enforcement that a protective order is pending and may cause the LEO to undertake further questioning if the person is stopped for other reasons. Ed Klumpp noted the importance of allow the guardian/legal custodian to seek a protective order. Ed Klumpp made a Motion for HTAB to make written endorsement of SB218 with an amendment to add the Guardian/Custodian. Seconded by Kris Wade. Motion passed.

Dr. Hanson is replacing Dr. Frazier as the director of SANE/SART at Children’s Mercy Hospital and is being appointed to replace Dr. Frazier on HTAB.

A second piece of legislation is coming forward, not from the AG office, related to massage therapists. We are one of three states that do not have some form of state licensing for massage therapy. The Massage Therapy Association will be introducing this bill. OAG reviewed the bill and suggested adding a consumer protection violation and that now is in the bill. Ed Klumpp noted that there may be some push back from local governments that already have licensing regulations. There may be an exception added to the bill for cities that already have licensing.

Debbie Kennedy: An overview of various services provided to HT victims at the Wichita Children’s Home was discussed. WCH is honored to have the Staff Secure Unit for HT victims. When juvenile victims get there, they are pretty beat up. Substance abuse counselors, LMSW’s in bldg., are helping them with environmentally triggered issues and this is important. Trauma-informed services are provided. An opportunity to choose their favorite meal on their second day often leads to a discussion of why that became special to them. WCH has hired a nurse practitioner—so the juveniles can get medical help on site. WCH has $1.5 mil earmarked to do a homeless shelter. Two tiers: one being an intentional placement for longer stay. WHC is working to get the property gifted. Other tier—building a homeless shelter—WCH is working to get it gifted. WCH has the support of DA Marc Bennett, OAG support, and has had visitors from Overland Park, Tulsa AG office, etc. WCH is helping these juvenile victims and is being noticed. Mentorship is also happening.

Juvenile Services: Jeff Cowger reported that Juvenile Services has just finished up a screening tool—working with DCF. It gives an indication that the child may possibly be an HT victim. The child will still need a full-blown assessment and JS is working the process out with DCF. It could be that more flexibility is needed rather than law enforcement having to always call DCF for an assessment. Klumpp—there are times we don’t need an assessment, ie, caught people in the act. Can we change that flow where there is no question for law enforcement because it is clear that they are a victim?

ADA Don Hymer: ADA Hymer explained that there is a common scenario, after juvenile justice reform legislation (SB367), because the prosecutor cannot have children kept in a locked detention facility. Three years ago the juvenile would have probably spent a night or two in detention as a runaway. KCDAA is trying to reinsert a 96 hour stay in a juvenile detention facility. What happens now is that the juvenile must be put in a PPC home, or a foster home. Now HT victims will be out the door later that night. Also, until 2019, JD can be used in secure care—but there are only 6 beds in Newton for the
entire state of Kansas. What about those not identified at the outset and instead are taken in for some other violation? Within 2 or 3 hours, those juveniles will be back into a completely unsecured environment. How is a juvenile going to have a place to stay? ADA Hymer suggests that the state should reinstitute the ability to lock up children to prevent self-harm. If we have a place to put them, they can be safe. He recommends placing them in detention for a day or two. Option 2: secure care facility. Challenge: one of the issues is that DCF is not 24-7 and even when contacted are sometimes not available. ADA Hymer noted that almost no one reports boys as runaways. Colloton discussed the contract issues—what would work. DCF wants to reinstitute rapid response contact by law enforcement but Dorthy Halley noted that the problem is broader than that because of placement issues. Dorthy emphasized that what we need are staff-secure facilities with quality, trauma-informed services for HT victims; not detention or secure care. Dorthy also expressed concern that putting CINC children, such as HT victims who do not have run-away status, in a locked facility might violate federal requirements.

Barry Feaker report: the Topeka Rescue Mission has worked with the homeless for 32 years. It established Restore Hope in Topeka for HT victims. Traffickers have incredible sophisticated systems in place. Mr. Feaker said that Restore Hope does their best work at the grass roots level and makes people aware of these victims. What Can We Do? There are complications in the system—many being captive in our own community. The objective of his group is uniting all 50 states to declare war on HT. He proposes to do this city by city; state by state. His group is asking for a very aggressive and quick proclamation Feb 1st: The Governor said he will support the idea. Again we will show the country who we really are. This initiative is not replacing what others are doing, but supporting it and sharing the information.

It was noted that there are already some excellent local coalitions in Kansas communities; but some communities do not have any coalition.

DOL Deputy Secretary Brad Burke report: DOL is making progress in labor trafficking cases—not at a spot to discuss details at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM