

## HTAB Minutes from 3/11/21

(Meeting conducted virtually via WebEx due to COVID-19)

### HTAB members in attendance:

- Jennifer Montgomery, Chair
- Michelle McCormick
- Tiffanie Askew
- Kent Bauman
- Lucy Bloom
- Hannah Britton
- Hope Cooper
- Karen Countryman-Roswurm
- Cathy Eaton
- Rebekah Gaston
- Hon. Amy Hanley
- Ed Howell
- Debbie Kennedy
- Laurel Klein Searles
- Ed Klumpp
- Deb Klutz
- Heidi Olsen
- Alice Osburn
- Adam Piland
- Travis Rakestraw
- Jeff Richards
- Diana Schunn
- Sharon Sullivan
- Kirk Thompson
- Kris Wade
- Derrick Wilczek

**HTAB Members Absent:** Rep. Eric Smith, Sen. Marci Francisco, Dax Lewis, Dan Oblinger, Marc Bennett,

**Staff:** AAG Sarah Shipman (HTAB counsel), OAG intern Sara Caylor, OAG intern Parker Roth

**Guests:** Barry Feaker, Ed Boersma (OUR), Mike Jensen, AAG Melissa Johnson, Lauren Benjamin (NCMEC), Kirsta Melton, Heidi Lynch, Erin Watterson, Capt. Hogelin (KHP), Tina Peck, Dave Hutchings, Heather Angelinetta, Kim Reese (USAO), Mike Kagay

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm and the Chair, Jennifer Montgomery, shared with the group the specific information about Kansas Open Meeting Act and Kansas Emergency Preparedness Act compliance, as the Board is operating under the state emergency declaration.

### Approval of December 2020 minutes:

A motion was made by Dianna Schunn and seconded by Jeff Richards.

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

### Committee reports:

Law Enforcement Committee (Jennifer Montgomery): Committee will be reproducing the pocket cards with new juvenile protocols for distribution. In addition, the group met virtually March 4 to discuss a framework for statewide coordinated efforts in HT law enforcement investigation and operations. Jennifer recognized Sgt. Dan Oblinger and Det. Derrick Wilczek for leading these discussions. The effort will be led by the KBI and the attorney general's office in coordination with KHP and other key local agencies.

Victim Services Committee: Michelle McCormick, Director of Victim Services (OAG) provided a summary of the committee meetings. The VSC broke into 2 work groups (adult and youth) to draft comprehensive plans with a focus on creating recommendations to HTAB, both short-term and long-term (1 year, 3 years, and 5 years) about how to support, create, or expand services for victims in the state. The work groups have met bi-weekly since January 2021. The workgroups are chaired by HTAB board members Sharon Sullivan and Lucy Bloom. The groups will be coming back together as one soon and anticipate having a draft report to the HTAB by the June meeting.

Ad/Hoc Legislative Committee: The Law Enforcement Committee and Ad/Hoc Legislative Committee convened jointly in February to fulfill the motion regarding the massage industry bill. The group met and after lengthy discussion voted to not support the massage regulation bill and instead are focusing on local efforts. The bill was introduced, but has not had a hearing. We will continue to monitor. The mandatory posting law (SB 56) has been passed by the Senate and will have a hearing in the House the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. SB 59 to change terminology to “sex act” was heard on Senate but has not seen further action. Will be monitored. Judicial Council report recommendations re: affirmative defense, expungement, vacatur. However due to the format of the recommendations (not in legislative language). OAG continues to work with the Revisor’s on the bill. Jennifer can send the bill draft to the Committee for review.

\*Jennifer noted recent interest in re-convening the Public Awareness, Prevention and Education Committee. Please contact Jennifer Montgomery if you would like to serve. Jennifer reminded attendees that individuals do not need to be an HTAB appointee to serve on a committee.

#### **Agency reports:**

DCF: Rebekah Gaston reported that Stacy Tidwell (Youth programs) has been connecting with the National Compendium of State-run Trafficking programs, NCMEC child recovery team (liaison Lauren Benjamin present for the meeting), and other national groups to improve processes. Lauren Benjamin from NCMEC can be contacted at [lnbenjamin@ncmec.org](mailto:lnbenjamin@ncmec.org) or #703-562-7632.

Dept. of Labor: Laurel K. Searles reported that Acting Sec. Amber Schultz is new leadership. Engaged in unemployment crisis, but Laurel will be spearheading HT efforts.

KDOC: Jim Johnson and Hope Cooper reported that the automated HT screen tool (juvenile intake) is operational and is being tested in 2 judicial districts. If no issues, will be rolled out statewide.

#### **Presentations:**

- 1) **Tina Peck, APRN, FNP-BC, SANE-A/P, Founder, Hope Medical Forensic Services**, a new clinical practice in Wichita for patients 12+ who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking. [www.hopemedicalks.com](http://www.hopemedicalks.com)

Worked for Via Christi for 23 years, specializing in forensic nursing for 13 years. Left the hospital to focus on medical care for victims of crime. Her clinic, now open in Wichita, is a free standing clinic that will serve patients age 12 and up who have been victimized (DV, SA, HT, or elder abuse). The focus will be on better health outcomes for victims/survivors by offering follow up medical care. This will allow survivors to receive trauma-informed follow up medical care, which was often a gap. For example, the medical visits are not limited by time and so can be completed at the speed that works for the survivor.

Additionally, they offer a more private setting for survivors who may not use a large hospital. The services are currently provided by appointment only and receive referrals from any agency. At this time acute SA exams are on hold until some clarifications occur in state law.

- 2) **Kirsta Melton, Founder and CEO of *Institute to Combat Trafficking (ICT)*.** ICT exists to seek justice for victims of trafficking and ensure accountability for traffickers. ICT provides human trafficking training, investigation and prosecution assistance as well as community-specific, anti-trafficking assessment and solutions. <https://justicestartsnow.org/> 210.818.7396 (direct), [kirsta.melton@justicestartsnow.org](mailto:kirsta.melton@justicestartsnow.org)

Previously the HT/Child sex crimes prosecutor at the Texas AG office (prosecutor for 21 years) and experienced in building these cases. She helped to create trainings as well as lead Texas legislative efforts on HT. She is now working as a consultant for LE, prosecutors, agencies addressing policies in relation to HT. Kirsta addressed the challenges in HT response: system gaps, designing an effective system while attempting to operate within it, limited resources to meet victim/survivor needs, and internal politics. Kirsta asserts that traffickers thrive in the gaps of our system. Closing the gaps by ensuring consistent identification of victims, focus on long term instead of just removal for victims, be open to changing perspectives, build evidence-based cases (look for alternate narrator from the beginning—co-defendants that can be flipped, using buyers to provide testimony against trafficker). The key to progress is acknowledging the different perspectives and then build upon areas of commonality. Build in a balanced way across all components (prevention, investigation/prosecution, victim services, legislative), build in data collection, focus on closing gaps and enforcing existing law. Effective collaboration requires assessing what is working and not working and coming to an agreement on what needs to change, develop a plan on agreed agenda, iterate and evaluate (try new things, small scale change/pilot programs, multiple projects at the same time to see what works).

- 3) **Parker Roth, M.A., HT Intern, Kansas Attorney General's Office.** Parker will share information on labor trafficking and the supply chain which was the focus of her recent dissertation at St. Mary's University, London, U.K. email: [Parker.Roth@ag.ks.gov](mailto:Parker.Roth@ag.ks.gov)

Parker's experience in the UK included helping companies to map their supply chain to identify the vulnerabilities of the people who work in that supply chain. Labor trafficking is mostly happening at the lower ends (raw production, manufacturing) of the supply chain. Those most likely to be exploited include: hourly workers, informal contracts, immigrants, and people without much power. The exploiters may be the corporation: the pressure to cut costs falls to individuals down the line, often without the leaders of the corporations knowing this is occurring. Labor trafficking has been identified by US Dept of State as: agriculture, hospitality, manufacturing, construction industries, which could be applicable in KS. There are not a lot of statistics on labor trafficking in KS because we have not started looking at it yet, in order to collect the data. Law changes are happening in the US and internationally that will ultimately affect us. This includes: Supply chain transparency laws (California, UK, Australia, and France). These laws hold the corporations responsible for being transparent about their effort to mitigate exploitation in their supply chains. Resources are available to understand this issue further.

**New Business:** No new business

**Announcements**

- In previous notes, the next meeting was listed as July 15<sup>th</sup>, but is actually June 15<sup>th</sup>. We may still be using virtual/video-conference for the June meeting but hope for an in person meeting.
- Sharon Sullivan: The HT Rotary club is sponsoring a free, virtual, education event on April 10 from 9-12pm. Ashley Bryant with 3Strands global will be keynote speaker. Email Sharon at: [Sharon.sullivan@washburn.edu](mailto:Sharon.sullivan@washburn.edu) for more info.

**2021 Meeting Dates:** June 15, September 9, December 9

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 3:22pm