

HTAB Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2022

Meeting was held via WebEx due to inclement weather. A public viewing location was provided in compliance with the KOMA.

HTAB members present:

Jennifer Montgomery	Kent Bauman
Michelle McCormick	Marc Bennett
Tiffanie Askew	Hannah Britton
Tom Fatkin	Rebekah Gaston
Jennifer Hansen	Sarah Hachmeister
Ed Howell	Debbie Kennedy
Ed Klumpp	Deb Kluttz
Elizabeth Pishny	Jeff Richards
Kellie Mark	Sharon Sullivan
Kirk Thompson	Kris Wade
Derrick Wilczek	Jim Johnson

HTAB members absent:

Lucy Bloom	Cathy Eaton
Hope Cooper	Karen Countryman-Roswurm
Marci Francisco	Amy Hanley
Laurel Klein Searles	
Dax Lewis	Dan Oblinger
Heidi Olson	Alice Osburn
Adam Piland	Travis Rakestraw
Eric Smith	Stacy Tidwell
Diana Schunn	

Members of the public attending:

Addison Park	Angie Boles
Usha Reddi	Faron Barr
Whitney Syers	Brittainie Chapman
Heidi Lynch	Jennifer White
Tami Wagstaff	Tish Taylor
Melissa Cooke	

Staff: HTAB counsel, Sarah Shipman

The minutes from December 2021 were moved and approved.

Committee reports:

Victim Services Committee met on March 2 and welcomed a new member, heard agency updates and discussed Section 4 of the draft comprehensive plan recommendations. Specifically, an opportunity to

develop practices for system-based victim advocates coordination with law enforcement operations. The committee will be forming a workgroup to discuss this.

Data Collection Committee also met on March 2. The committee reviewed information regarding other states' practices of trafficking data collection. Currently, no states have total coordination of data but Nebraska is a good model to look at. The committee also heard from KBI data specialist Mitch Beemer regarding updating the KIBRS system. He requested the committee provide him with ideas of "attributes" or indicators of HT for their consideration in the reporting system. Dr. Corbett (KDHE) will also be reviewing the data from hospitals and report back to the group at the next meeting regarding the ICD codes used to track human trafficking.

Law Enforcement Committee Jennifer Montgomery gave the report and mentioned that the massage regulation bill was reintroduced with a committee hearing on March 15. The board reviewed previous discussion about the bill and heard from members of the law enforcement community about their ongoing concerns with the local pre-emption language in the bill as well as concerns about the enforcement gap and Sec. 11 omission of sex offenders. Rebekah Gaston moved that the HTAB ask the attorney general's office to provide neutral testimony on SB 531. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hansen and adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Public Awareness, Prevention and Education Committee met and discussed the introduction of a mandatory training bill that died in the Senate, the new ICT SOS app and the public awareness poster distribution project with Rotary clubs across Kansas.

Agency updates:

KBI – In 2021, they received 59 Polaris tips and 7 Immediate Response calls. So far in 2022, they have received 8 Polaris tips and 4 Immediate Response calls.

Sharon Sullivan – the Rotary CAAHT Club is sponsoring a Human Trafficking summit on April 28 from 9-11am via Zoom. The focus will be on financial aspects of trafficking.

Deb Kluttz – The Homestead will be holding its annual volunteer training which is free on April 1 & 2 and will focus on the intersection of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. The Homestead location in Salina has been in operation for one year.

DCF – mentioned the importance of upstream and prevention issues and highlighted their relationship with the NCMEC regional staff.

Debbie Kennedy – there are currently 4 girls in the Garver house.

Derrick Wilczek – OPPD is currently working on cases and mentioned partnerships such as training with the KVHTTF and others. Plans for other demand reduction operations this year.

Tom Fatkin – EMCU is looking at policy issues and training issues and working with ICT SOS to add more training for recruits. Natalie Damon is now the human trafficking detective at EMCU.

Jim Johnson – KDOC has had several ICC situations which speaks to the increased awareness of this issue.

Kelli Mark – Mentioned new Secretary Janet Stanek at KDHE.

Brittainie Chapman – the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office will be training deputies next week on anti human trafficking efforts.

Angie Boles – mentioned that Project 2 Restore residential program is open in Topeka and currently has capacity for three women.

Jennifer White – ICT SOS mentioned upcoming trainings in Hutchinson, KU Med residents and osteopathic center.

Kris Wade – said The Justice Project has been working with federal Department of Corrections and the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Trafficking on outreach activities.

Discussion of DRAFT Comprehensive Plan: The HTAB discussed Section 4 of the DRAFT Comprehensive Plan from the Victim Services Committee. In the Training section it was noted by law enforcement that the vague language requiring “ongoing” training on trafficking for law enforcement was problematic. There was a request for more information about the origin of the recommendation for a Human Trafficking certification for law schools. In the Policies and Procedures, section several members representing law enforcement and prosecution had concerns about the suggestion for establishing “privileged communications” indicating that it is a very complicated area and needs further review and discussion. A lengthy discussion occurred including members from the victim services committee. Medically Assisted Treatment for victims was also discussed as a significant need.

New Business:

Michelle McCormick asked for volunteers for a work group within the Victim Services Committee that will explore the role and potential of system based advocates in support of law enforcement operations.

Announcements:

Jennifer Montgomery shared that NCMEC has several new law enforcement training videos on their website available for those with law enforcement credentials in addition to already scheduled trainings in Kansas for 2022 and existing online training for law enforcement on the KLETC training menu. She mentioned the possibility of a training organized by the attorney general’s office later this year for prosecutors and investigators. More information to come.

Adjourned at 3:39pm