



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2019 – 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Tilikum Conference Room, Portland Legal Office**

In Attendance: Elizabeth Alston, Rich Austria, Rebecca Bender, Dana Vidoni Carelle, Mary Dirksen, Kristen Farnworth, Amber Harchuk, Hon. Valeri Love, Molly McDade-Hood, Esther Nelson, Chad Opitz, Alex Palm, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott, Joel Shapiro, Shannon Sivell, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, JR Ujifusa

Absent: Joyce Armstead, Nina Belli, Teresa Cowing

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome and Introductions

The Advisory Committee (AC) welcomed new attendee, Kristen Farnworth, who is replacing Megan Hassen as the Oregon Judicial Department representative to the AC.

Amanda cited the primary goal of the meeting is to establish plans for 2019, in adherence with the mission statement and bylaws of the group. To date there are 11 Task Forces formed across the State of Oregon, looking for guidance and direction from this group. The AC objective is to build a response and trainings for them.

Minutes – previous meeting

The AC approved the minutes from the November 16th meeting, with one edit.

Updates

- Dana, Cassie, Nina, Esther and Helen O’Brien, (of Department of Justice) met as a subcommittee to discuss trafficking victim services across the state. A key topic of conversation was the access to Task Forces in rural counties.
- Legislative Updates – Joel
 - House bill 2828 – the Hearsay Exception is being reintroduced
 - Slight revisions are being made to the Trafficking in Persons Statute
 - Senate Bill 596, Senator Taylor is proposing that trafficking victims can’t be charged with prostitution for the crime they report
 - SB597 – allows the use of initials or pseudonyms for victims when a crime is indicted
 - SB 280 – provides greater regulations on the strip club industry by defining “live entertainer” and clarifying that they must be hired as employees and not as contractors.
 - A recruiting bill is being crafted to address those who target and coerce minors or adults into prostitution through deceptive means
 - SB 680, is being sponsored by Senator Knopp, and proposes that buyers of minors for sex will be required to become registered sex offenders
- Demand Update – Tom, Molly and Chad

The EPIK Project just finished working with a group out of New York to study post-Back Page marketing there and in Los Angeles. Tom will send information to Amanda for distribution to the



group. An EPIK staff person be at the next meeting to present the information studied.

Oregon provided law enforcement officers from three jurisdictions to assist in efforts surrounding the Super Bowl in Atlanta. There were 169 arrests during an 11-day investigation into human trafficking throughout metro Atlanta leading up to the event, including suspected traffickers and those who attempting sex acts with minors. Nine juvenile trafficking victims were rescued, including a 14-year-old.

Chad worked to help sponsor the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children conference in Beaverton this month. It was the first conference in Oregon, and considered successful. Rich, Amanda, Esther, Cassie and Liz all presented trainings.

Subcommittees – Amanda

In 2019, the AC will place an emphasis on establishing and moving forward with several subcommittees. The groups will have authority to appoint others with expertise in the areas concerned to their membership.

Recently Amanda, Kristen and Megan Hassen have met to discuss the creation of a bench card. The National Council of Juvenile Judges has one that an Oregon version could be modeled after. They will look into this.

Law enforcement subcommittee - Rich is considering the offer to chair the group. Molly, Chad, JR, and Rich volunteered to be on subcommittee. The first meeting may be held in April. The meetings could occur at the Spinnaker Pointe building in Salem. Subject matter includes the following:

- Education, awareness and communication on a system-wide basis
- Improved organization
- Conflict checks
- Prevention of duplicated efforts, which can complicate prosecution
- Awareness – an annual law enforcement/prosecution gathering for training
- Training for Corrections deputies
- Communication – a listserv, possibly coordinated through Criminal Justice Division of Department of Justice
- Portland Police Bureau training films as statewide trainings
- Possibility of sharing the training films with judges
- Human trafficking threat assessment
- Position paper for best practice
- In conjunction with Homeland Security efforts, the Officer Fusion Center would be an excellent resource for this work

Victim Services Subcommittee will be chaired by Dana. Members will include Liz or another DHS appointee, Esther, Cassie, Nina, Margaret, Alex, Amber and perhaps Rebecca. Subject matter includes but is not limited to:

- Staffing cases
 - Include District Attorneys and charging officers, which would have to be post-conviction
 - Create a standard for staffing practice
 - Necessity of a Memorandum of Understanding when staffing cases due to confidential nature
 - Include DHS caseworkers



- Differentiation of response for minors, ages 18 to 25 and those older than 25 is needed; including a more robust adult referral plan
- Mental health challenges
- Payment mechanisms, including Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)
- Continuum of Care model – demonstrate to governmental leaders the needs to help establish funding and support
- Housing – because of the great need for housing for minors in state custody, extending far beyond trafficked children and youth, the group will first need to demonstrate the financial need to legislature. In order to do so, and for other reasons, Liz will chair a data research work group.
- Data Research Work Group – The group will draw from national data to define needs for trafficked youth. Liz and Molly will work toward this end and report back to the Victim Services Subcommittee. They will work to bring in other experts.
- Awareness and prevention will be addressed in this group.
 - The AC is encouraged to send listserv information to Amanda VanTil at DOJ.
 - A Summit for task force coordinators is planned for May 15th at the Portland DOJ building.
 - Prevention curriculum is being formulated through the Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF). To avoid duplication of efforts, Amber will act as a liaison between this group and that one.

Demand response will be linked to the prevention conversation.

- Incorporate this subject into the various subcommittee works, in an effort to bring cultural accountability.
- Identify young men at higher risk of becoming buyers and formulate a plan of response to help prevent this
- Research and data could be helpful in this area as well
- Tom will work with Amber toward bringing the demand conversation to SATF.

Policy – Rather than immediately forming a policy subcommittee, the group will consider areas of policy as necessary and form workgroups.

Co-Chair

Rebecca Bender has resigned her position as Co-Chair, due to time constraints. The AC voted to make Liz Alston the Co-Chair alongside Amanda.

ACTIONS:

- Each of the two subcommittees will meet prior to the April 5th AC meeting and present a status update there.
- Amanda or Sherree will send out Amanda VanTil's contact information for listserv purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Upcoming meetings:

April 5 – 9:00 to 11:30

July 12 – 9:00 to 11:30

October 11 – 9:00 to 11:30