



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2020 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Elizabeth Alston, Rich Austria, Jessica Benke, Teresa Cowing, Mary Dirksen, Amber Harchuk, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Chad Opitz, Alex Palm, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, JR Ujifusa, Letetia Wilson

Absent: Nina Belli, Hon. Valeri Love, Molly McDade-Hood

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome and Updates

The group introduced themselves and shared some updates from their areas of work.

- The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Youth and Children in the United States will soon release their recommendations to the states for combatting trafficking. They will submit a request to congress for funding. Later this year, they will send out a survey for state Attorneys General to complete regarding the work done in each state to be reflected in a national report.
- Department of Human Service work has shown an uptick in sex trafficking reflective of social isolation with minors at home on electronic devices more, due to COVID-19 restrictions. They are at work training their staff, and soon, parents about responding to this problem.
- The Village for One Therapeutic Housing Program, Anisa's Place, is opening September first with 15 staff people. They will have six residential spots for survivors of sex trafficking, ages 12 to 17.
- The Epik Project is working to raise awareness and funds through a 1,000-mile bike ride from Washington to Montana, promoted over social media. The project will benefit indigenous women survivors, who suffer an especially high rate of sexual violence and murder.

New Members/Participants

- *Jessica Benke* is the newest AC member. Her lived experience expertise brings her to this role.
- *Letetia Wilson* is the Trafficking Intervention Specialist recently hired by DOJ to work alongside Amanda. Letetia, who has 18 years advocate experience, will work very closely with the county task forces.
- *Guest Anna Rockhill* is a Portland State University Senior Research Associate, working to assist DOJ to track information for the federal trafficking intervention grant they have received.

Strategic Plan

DOJ has created a strategic plan for trafficking response and intervention, for 2020-2024. The Oregon Attorney General has encouraged communities to formalize their community partnerships through the creation of anti-trafficking task forces. The purpose of the program is to build a comprehensive approach to human trafficking in Oregon. The goal is to develop a comprehensive statewide response to human trafficking that encourages cooperation and coordination across state and local agencies. The plan reflects the program values of being victim centered, trauma informed, and multi-disciplinary.



Task Force Stages

DOJ has developed a plan outlining county Task Force Stages of development: foundation, stabilization and sustainability. This will provide guidance for prioritizing efforts as the counties move forward in this work.

DOJ Trainings

DOJ is developing a curriculum: Trafficking Vignettes, for a 2021 training of Task Force Coordinators. Survivors will share their stories in written form, which will help communities build empathy and understand better how kids are brought into trafficking. The curriculum is funded in part by the Children's Justice Act.

Letetia and Amanda have been working on a training series, called the Table Top, to help build a statewide response model. They have completed one training and have two more counties lined up to take it.

Minutes – previous meeting

The AC approved minutes from the February meeting.

Membership

Desireé Lepsey's application as an additional survivor representative on the AC was approved by the group. The group discussed the need for additional representation from various categories. Amanda invited input for any recommendations.

Subcommittees

The Data Subcommittee is creating a strategic plan for data collection. They are working to identify the goals and mission of the group. The AC is invited to notify Amanda if they are interested in participating.

The group discussed the need for a Labor Trafficking Subcommittee. They agreed that it should remain connected to this group as there is much overlap. Amanda anticipates the formation of the new subcommittee in 2021.

Task Force Application

The Mid-Columbia Human Trafficking Task Force application was approved by the AC. This group serves the five counties of Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, Gillam and Wheeler.

Next Steps

- The annual Trafficking Awareness Event will be held differently in 2021, rather than in-person. Amanda invited participants to send her ideas for handling it remotely.
- Ideas for future work included developing a podcast and creating a speaker series to introduce the AC to the public.

ACTIONS:

- Cassie will send the electronic copy of the Anisa's Place fliers to Sherree and Amanda.
- Members will send input for the January Awareness event to Amanda.
- Volunteers for the Data Subcommittee will reach out to Amanda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next Meeting: November 13