



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2020 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Nina Belli, Jessica Benke, Mary Dirksen, Shannon Karsten, Desireé Lepsey, Florence Mackey, Molly McDade-Hood, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Chad Opitz, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, JR Ujifusa, Letetia Wilson

Absent: Elizabeth Alston, Rich Austria, Teresa Cowing, Amber Harchuk, Hon. Valeri Love, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome

The group introduced themselves and welcome new members, Florence Mackey, of Federal Bureau of Investigation, Shannon Karsten, of Oregon Health Authority, and Desireé Lepsey, a Lived Experience Expert.

Minutes – previous meeting

The Advisory Committee (AC) approved minutes from the August meeting.

Updates

- Multnomah County has hired a new Trafficking Deputy District Attorney, Adrian Anderson. Like other counties in the state, the Ramos v. State of Oregon ruling has required some Trafficking cases to be retried, further traumatizing victims.
- COVID is significantly impacting victim service work for Safety Compass. Less youth are being identified, creating an estimated 25% reduction in referrals.
- Oregon Department of Transportation is looking to conduct survivor-led trainings. JR Ujifusa volunteered to assist from an investigator vantage point.
- Multnomah County has approved training for Law Enforcement (LE) Deputies (125) and Corrections Deputies (450).
- The group discussed the national trend toward de-criminalizing prostitution of minors, and how that may impact Oregon. Any legislative process must be well researched as it could have the unintended effect of hindering prosecution of buyers and traffickers and putting victims at a greater risk of harm.
- Dr. Adewusi is working to create trainings for medical staff, to help identify victims. The federal Cures Act has allowed patient notes to be visible to parents, which is problematic for victims in some instances.
- Village for One's residential home, Anisa's Place, is now open with five residents and room for one more.
- The Data Subcommittee is working on a best practice document, starting with definitions. Amanda invited the AC to let her know if they are interested in participation.
- The new Criminal Justice Trafficking Research Analyst position is in recruitment. The person hired will serve on the AC and on the Data Subcommittee.
- Ten grant agreements awards are being distributed for Task Force Coordinator positions.
- The Trafficking Vignettes Project is being created to provide training to communities through the Task Forces. The purpose is to inform the circumstances that lead to sex trafficking, and so



improve community response. DOJ is looking into funding of a similar project for labor trafficking.

National Report

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Youth and Children in the United States has released their recommendations to the states for combatting trafficking. The report includes an extensive survey for state Attorney General appointees to complete regarding the work done in each state. The AC is encouraged to share the report, located here: [Best Practices and Recommendations for States](#).

Ideas for 2021

The AC will not hold the Trafficking Awareness Event in January due to the pandemic. Department of Justice will work with County Task Forces to market their trainings. They will also release an updated report correcting public misinformation that has caused confusion about trafficking. The group discussed podcast trainings that could be easily distributed. Law Enforcement Subcommittee plans will be revisited at the February meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Amanda will send Safe Harbor information out to the group.
- JR will send contact information to Dr. Adewusi of a medical staff trainer from Colorado.
- Dr. Adewusi will send a link to the AC about medical trainings.
- Members will send input for moving forward to Amanda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Scheduled Meetings: February 5, 2021, May 7, August 6, November 5