



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2021 – 9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Video Conference**

**In Attendance:** Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Rich Austria, Jessica Benke, Teresa Cowing, Amber Harchuk, Shannon Karsten, Desireé Lepsey, Hon. Valeri Love, Molly McDade-Hood, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Chad Opitz, Tom Perez, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, JR Ujifusa, Letetia Wilson

**Absent:** Elizabeth Alston, Nina Belli, Mary Dirksen, Florence Mackey

**Minutes:** Sherree Rodriguez

**Welcome**

Amanda welcome the group.

**Minutes – previous meeting**

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

**Updates**

- Clackamas, Marion and Washington Counties have sponsored various trainings in support of Task Forces and partner organizations that were all well-attended.
- Law Enforcement (LE) work at the Super Bowl has been successful. Molly McDade-Hood will be working with Arizona State University on March 4<sup>th</sup> instructing on information mining and the role of tattooing in corrections.
- State Updates
  - Department of Justice (DOJ) is piloting their first crisis response protocol in Klamath County and working with Lane County to get theirs in place.
  - Work with tribes continues.
  - The recruitment for an analyst position is under way. The person hired is expected to be at the May meeting.
  - The first Labor Trafficking Subcommittee meeting is in March.
  - Criminal Justice is coordinating with more District Attorneys (DA's) for prosecution.
- Demand – EPIK is increasingly being asked about the exploitation of boys. They are doing the work to better understand this ecosystem, and more boys are disclosing their stories.
- Legislative updates – There are a dozen bills related to trafficking, some quite concerning. DOJ is fully engaged in the process.
  - Senate Bill 274 would decriminalize prostitution for anyone underage. This has the effect of protecting traffickers and perpetuating this form of child abuse. It ties the hands of LE in protecting minors from traffickers.
  - House Bill (HB) 2146 has the intent to decriminalize minors but keeps all the tools and options for LE intact.
  - The hearsay exception to trafficking is being discussed; Senator Taylor is involved. Statements brought by victims would be admissible in court.
  - HB 3088 gets rid of ORS charges of buying prostitution to make it legal to buy or promote prostitution.



### **Applications**

The AC approved membership applications for Lt. Richard Sheldon of Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and Mel Parker of J Bar J Youth Services in Deschutes County.

The Klamath County Human Trafficking Task Force has been approved for certification.

### **Review Panels**

Throughout the month of January various AC members were interviewed in five panels, discussing their work in trafficking intervention in Oregon. They were well-received by participants.

### **Review National AC Recommendations**

In harmony with the national recommendations to combat human trafficking, the AC discussed priorities for 2021. Areas recommended include creating a response to boys in treatment, strategizing on ways to combat buyers, the glossary of standardized language, looking deeper into the trajectory of a trafficker, and case studies of traffickers.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Amanda and Letetia will review Task Force needs.
- Amanda will send out Safe Harbor and legislative information as well as a survey for 2021 strategies.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

*Scheduled Meetings: May 7, August 6, November 5*