



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2021 – 9:00 am to 10:10 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Liz Alston, Rich Austria, Nina Belli, Jessica Benke, Teresa Cowing, Mary Dirksen, Amber Harchuk, Shannon Karsten, Desireé Lepsey, Hon. Valeri Love, Florence Mackey, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Mel Parker, Tom Perez, Shannon Sivell, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, Letetia Wilson

Absent: Molly McDade-Hood, Chad Opitz, Richard Sheldon, JR Ujifusa

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome

Amanda welcomed the group; especially Mel Parker, for her first meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes – previous meeting

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

Updates

- *Medical* – Dr. Adewusi is now the Medical Director at CARES Northwest, notable in part, that she is the first BIPOC Director. CARES will have a new Executive Director at the end of May as well.
- *Demand* – The EPIK project has begun a collaboration with law enforcement (LE) in Clackamas County, with the support of Safety Compass. The purpose is to be a bridge to buyers from the point of arrest to long-term follow up, intent upon redirecting them away from buying.
- *Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)* has moved to centralize screening of trafficking victims. All screeners are now located in Portland, taking calls around the clock for the entire state. Ongoing training is underway to keep staff current. ODHS recently held a training panel featuring leaders in the anti-trafficking field for DHS staff that was well received. This is something that will be repeated with other speakers involved.
- *Courts* – concerns were raised about the need for more extensive training for prosecutors and judges so that there is a clear and appropriate understanding of how to proceed when federal sex trafficking laws are violated. Judge Love suggested training at the juvenile judge’s conference would be easier to do. She will discuss this with judges on the broader planning committee to see what may be done.
- *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)* would like to provide grant funds for LE efforts in the area of trucking. They can also assist with providing access to drivers and passengers for the purpose of enforcement.
- *Advocacy* – Safety Compass and Clackamas Women’s Services are working to add an advocate position for county-specific work. This will provide support particularly designed for Latinx survivors.
- *Residential* – Anisa’s Place is full, with a waiting list that could fill a second house of the same capacity. Oak Creek has doubled their contract with A Village for One to provide individual and group therapy. They are working closely with the new Metro Bond for Homeless Youth, so that exploited youth are considered for funding.



- *DOJ*–
 - Criminal Justice Division is in the interview process for the new analyst position, who will sit on the AC.
 - Labor Trafficking Subcommittee – the recent meeting was very well attended. They are working on strategic planning and first steps.
 - Data/Research Subcommittee is in the process of standardizing language and how data will be used.

National Advisory Committee Survey Response

The survey response is underway as Task Force Coordinators are working on it across the state. The AC will be given opportunities to provide input as the task unfolds. The response will be brought before the AC before submission.

Legislative Updates

There are only two bills remaining of concern. Senate Bills (SB) 515 and 535. SB 515 would require businesses with an Oregon Liquor License to be mandatory reporters of trafficking. SB 535 is a bill that would require hotels to train and classify staff that would be mandatory reporters of trafficking.

Train the Trainer Workshops

Registration is open for these trainings designed for Task Force Coordinators, but also has space for partners in this work. There are seven sessions of online training. The curriculum will be turned over to the trainees at the end of the course so that they may put it to use.

Applications

The AC approved membership applications for Joyclyn Bell, a lived experience expert.

ACTIONS:

- Judge Love will discuss the need for judicial training with contacts
- Amanda will follow up on ODOT Grant opportunity with LE on the AC absent from meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Scheduled Meetings: August 6, November 5