



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 05, 2021 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Liz Alston, Rich Austria, Joyclyn Bell, Nina Belli, Jay Benke, Amber Harchuk, Shannon Karsten, Desireé Lepsey, Florence Mackey, Molly McDade-Hood, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Mel Parker, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott, Richard Sheldon, Shannon Sivell, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, Letetia Wilson

Absent: Teresa Cowing, Mary Dirksen, Hon. Valeri Love, Chad Opitz, JR Ujifusa

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome

Amanda welcomed the group.

Minutes – previous meeting

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

Updates

- *J-Bar-J* is part of a research review with RTI International. Information gathered will be distributed during Human Trafficking Awareness month. They will host an in-person and online event in January.
- *EPIK* - Epik has reached out to Avery Center in Colorado to look at the potential of risk to vulnerable people groups in Oregon if the state adopts a full decriminalization (decrim) position.
- DOJ/Criminal Justice - Rich Austria, JR Ujifusa and Kaitlyn Hardy met with law enforcement (LE) in Portland. They discussed the decrim problem. Kaitlyn will gather data to combat this issue.

Full Decriminalization of Prostitution Discussion

The group discussed ways to educate the public and those in positions of power about the dangers of full decrim to victims of trafficking. They determined that myth busting is their best immediate strategy to dispel misinformation. Other ideas include a YouTube video that can be shared on social media. It could be led by survivors and supported by other field experts. World Without Exploitation and Brew Advisors will be good resources.

There is an organized national effort in both directions on this issue. The AC are working to connect with regional and national leaders opposed to full decrim for the best advantage of educating the public.

Amanda will work with the AC to create a one-page (front and back) document dispelling misinformation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January. The AC will also create an hour long online public event at that time with the same purpose. The group discussed asking the Oregonian newspaper to write an article on the subject.



DOJ/CVSSD Updates

Labor Trafficking Subcommittee - The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee is now being overseen by Kimberly McCullough out of the Attorney General's office. The AC will have representation but will not be responsible for it. They are gathering information about labor trafficking survivors, services, and service providers. They plan to train partner agencies and are creating a document to establish needs.

Data Subcommittee - Amanda emailed a definitions document, with footnotes, to the AC and requested feedback.

Statewide Law Enforcement Task Force - JR is leading a statewide law enforcement task force. Among other LE, they are inviting all county task forces to send representatives. The group will conduct case review.

Research Project - A doctoral student from New York is conducting research on vicarious trauma and how it effects service providers working with trafficking victims long term. The end goal is to find ways to support providers and prevent burn out in the field. She is interested in interviewing service providers. Amanda will provide contact information to the group and encouraged providers on the AC to reach out to her.

January – Human Trafficking Awareness Month

DOJ will coordinate a town hall webinar centered on myth busting. In addition, they are doing some trainings on Crime Victim Compensation for trafficking survivors. Amanda asked the AC to send their Awareness events so that they can promote them.

Discussion on Safe Harbor Laws

The AC outlined imminent needs as related to Safe Harbor Laws.

- Stabilizing funding for basic needs
- Funding of housing, with options for low barrier, direct-entry, and long-term supporting housing for all youth in need of care
- Transition support for 18-24-year-olds
- Vicarious trauma burn-out for providers
- Stabilize staffing
- Beds for long term care
- Help for outlying counties without services available
- Crisis intervention
- Help for kids with trauma-induced fight responses that present safety concerns
- Male and transgender youth support
- Inconsistency in LE response due to changed laws
- Safe detox centers with medical staff and medications available
- Holistic, culturally responsive, survivor centered multi-disciplinary team response to work with the entire family
- Preventive work for families at risk; breaking generational cycles; preserving the family unit as much as possible
- Community-based outreach and engagement program to support families and youth
- Education, financial independence tools, food stability, transportation, family planning
- Runaways



- Consider tiering age groups for differing needs

ACTIONS: Amanda will send out the J-Bar-J /RTI research document to the group for distribution.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

2022 Scheduled meetings:

February 4

May 6

August 5

November 4