



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2023 – 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Liz Alston, Rich Austria, Nina Belli, Jay Benke, Angie Denning, Mary Dirksen, Esther (Nelson) Garrett, Kaitlyn Hardy, Judge Valerie Love, Florence Mackey, Robin Miller, Chad Opitz, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, Letetia Wilson

Absent: Joyclyn Bell, Teresa Cowing, Jim Goodwin, Chelsea Holcomb, Molly McDade-Hood, Richard Sheldon, JR Ujifusa, Brittany Zitzelberger

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome - Amanda opened the meeting by introducing newest member, Angie Denning, of Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)

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

Updates

CARES NW – Dr. Bimpe Adewusi has been invited to speak, along with a colleague at talk on Staten Island and to conduct a workshop at the United Nations.

Anisa's Place (A Village for One) has hired two new therapists. They have a potential residential opening and hope to move into their new office this month. They have recently broken ground on their second house, on the same property. They expect it to open early in the new year. Their goal is to divide residents by age.

EPIC – Clark County high school students have launched an ally engagement campaign, "My Friends are Not for Sale." EPIC won a grant to pilot it in eight high schools next year. They hope to expand into Oregon and are looking for connections to make this happen.

NW Survivor Alliance

- Bekah Charleston debated at Lewis and Clark College on the subject of decriminalization, with a positive response from students.
- A non-profit agency has reached out to partner with the alliance. They provide resources so victims, survivors and advocates can attend court, assist in rescue operations, attend visits, and more. The group will visit in June to build support and meet potential volunteers. Jay Benke invited the AC to reach out by email for more information.
- NWSA received a small grant for three years of the Life Story Project.
- Robin was invited to attend The Resilience Fund roll out by the Polaris Project. This endeavor proposes a stipend to marginalized trafficking survivors by direct deposit to help them get established.

Safety Compass is preparing to open 24-7 access to their trafficking survivor reception center. The pilot phase (June through December) will accept referrals through the existing task force law enforcement (LE) and emergency room nurse partners only. After that they will increase access for additional partners. It is a low to medium barrier environment for survivors of any gender, ages 18-25, at a confidential location. They offer basic hospitality services while placement is found.



Since October, Safety Compass has provided 67 trainings for 3,331 individuals. Since 2018, they have served 1,220 survivors and provided more than 30,000 support contacts for survivors.

Department of Transportation (DOT) has delivered the training, Understanding and Addressing Trafficking to ODOT staff and found the Life Story videos to be very impactful.

Department of Human Services (DHS) is working with the federal Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) to bring some additional training to DHS and other agencies on T-Visa, U-Visa, and other immigration and protection options. The dates are not scheduled but they hope to offer it up to other agencies to partner with as well.

They are going to implement a memorandum of understanding with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and a potential addition to SB 106 regarding the ability to share information with them as the designated federal clearinghouse for missing and exploited children.

Department of Justice (DOJ) plans to recruit a Labor Trafficking Specialist this summer from the Office for Victims of Crime grant. They have earmarked some funds for Human Trafficking County Task Force coordination. There will be a two-year competitive grant, expected to start in October. Letetia Wilson will reach out to the AC for assistance with grant application review.

They plan an LE training in Bend in September.

Standard Sex Trafficking Response Protocol

DOJ is working on standardized curriculum. The next training will be on indicators of trafficking. This will be specific to minor victims so that all counties first contact personnel will be prepared with appropriate response. They recommend offering medical care, continuum of care and basic resource information.

Prevention Discussion

There is significant conversation at legislature around preventing trafficking, with an emphasis on schools. Normally this is not in the area of responsibility for DOJ. They typically send such concerns to Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF). But because of continuing requests for guidance on information, the AC decided to partner with SATF on developing recommended responses to inquiries.

ACTIONS:

- Amanda will reach out to SATF to discuss setting up a subcommittee on prevention.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

Next meeting: August 4, 2023