



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2023 – 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Rich Austria, Joyclyn Bell, Jay Benke, Eliza Carmen Rodriguez, Teresa Cowing, Mary Dirksen, Esther Garrett, Jim Goodwin, Kaitlyn Hardy, Kristen Harris, Chelsea Holcomb, Lina Lechlech, Judge Valerie Love, Robin Miller, Tom Perez, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, Letetia Wilson, Brittany Zitzelberger

Absent: Liz Alston, Nina Belli, Angie Denning, Florence Mackey, Molly McDade-Hood, Chad Opitz, Margaret Scott, Richard Sheldon

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome - Amanda opened the meeting by introducing newest members, Lina Lechlech, of Sexual Assault Task Force and Eliza Rodriguez, of the US Attorney's Office.

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

Updates

CARES NW – Dr. Bimpe Adewusi and a colleague will do a presentation at the [20th Annual International Human Trafficking and Justice Conference](#), about their case study experience.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requested funding for support of intervention for male identifying survivors which was not approved. Their plan is to do expansion with available Medicaid funding if possible. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) can provide support for OHA before next legislative session. Chelsea will notify Amanda when planning.

Safety Compass' new reception center has been open for about a month. They are working to incorporate partner work, which will help diversify referrals. They have a gala coming up on September 15th and will provide flyers to the AC.

Multnomah County – the sex buyers and diversion class is currently running as an in-person training and includes Multnomah and Clackamas County locations, but is open to all jurisdictions.

NW Survivor Network – recently heard from a Nevada-based “Jane School” instructor, whose program focuses on restorative justice, who shared her experience in locations without as many resources and the lower rate of arrest rate there, consequently. She hopes to develop a “for profit” training online.

Sexual Assault Task Force is launching work on campuses with a series dedicated to trafficking intervention there.

DOJ – has several trainings lined up:

- The pilot of the “Roadmaps” training is scheduled for Thursday, August 10th. It will be in person because of the sensitive content. Amanda asked members to let her know if they would like to attend.



- Understanding and Addressing Sex Trafficking in Our Community, held online in early October.
- The Trafficking Indicators training will begin in November.
- A Law Enforcement training will be held August 15-16 in Bend and another in Medford, October 11-12.
- They have been asked to train in Umatilla and also to partner with Truckers Against Trafficking in Pendleton.

Discussion – Familial Trafficking

The Advisory Committee discussed a response to familial trafficking when family members are either intentionally trafficking children or unwittingly abetting such trafficking. The problem exists among the unhoused, rural, and urban. It is often connected to drug abuse and seems to represent a high percentage of victims. Tracking is not well maintained to demonstrate clearer statistics. There are issues related to prosecution as trafficking vs child abuse because the circumstances are not always so clear without further training and asking the right questions.

January Awareness Month

The group discussed the January event that helps connect, provide support and encouragement to those working in trafficking intervention. They agreed to conduct an awards ceremony portion as well the networking portion. It will be held in person, with details to be determined.

AC Representation

The group is looking for representation in two categories: a rural survivor and Oregon Judicial Department representation. They also mentioned that it might be helpful to have someone from Trauma Informed Oregon on the committee.

ACTIONS:

- Amanda will connect with Liz Alston to research a better response to familial trafficking.
- Amanda will send out a flyer about the January Awareness Event.
- Amanda will reach out to AC members to connect with membership nominations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Next meeting: November 3, 2023