



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2025 – 9:00 am to 9:57 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Liz Alston, Lesley Anderson, Nina Belli, Jay Benke, Angie Denning, Esther Garrett, Kaitlyn Hardy, Kristin Hubble, Ashley Johnson, Katina Larsen, Florence Mackey, Alhena Herrera Martin, Robin Miller, Heidi Moon, Sage Neilson, Amanda Swanson, Letetia Wilson, Brittany Zitzelberger

Absent: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Rich Austria, Joyclyn Bell, Mary Dirksen, Hon. Valeri Love, Tom Perez, Ashlee Purdy, Eliza Rodriguez, Margaret Scott, Rich Sheldon, Shannon Sivell, JR Ujifusa

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome - Amanda opened the meeting with group introductions.

Minutes – The Advisory Committee (AC) members present approved minutes from May 2, 2025.

Updates

~ **Safety Compass** is working with the surrounding counties on some contingency plans for trafficking response in a worst-case scenario of funding cuts, to help minimize effects on victims. This includes the use of technology to route communication through them for a more effective response.

~ **Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** plans an initiation date of February 1, 2026, with their modified statutes including labor trafficking (LT) being part of the child abuse response. There is a committee making specific recommendations to adjust Child Welfare as related to HT. They are rolling out a new training in November that is based on case studies. They are also developing support materials, including information for siblings to prevent them from becoming trafficking victims.

~ **Oregon Youth Authority** has a new Director, Michael Tessean, from Colorado. There has been an update on the Uniform Nationwide Interstate Tracking database that now requires all states to fill in information about HT.

~ **Prevention Now**, working with **J-Bar-J**, has just completed a project gathering data from Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties, concerning the most vulnerable demographics. One thing they encountered was the lack of good nutrition as a significant risk factor for trafficking. They will share the final study when complete.

~ The **Labor Trafficking Task Force** has discussed the significant need for service provider support for victims attempting to leave labor trafficking (LT). They have identified key factors, including building trust, identifying systemic gaps, and raising awareness. They are faced with barriers of LT not being reported, dismissal of prosecution, minimal resources and lack of coordination of resources. They are drafting guidelines to build support and coordination. Oregon Department of Justice is working with Oregon State Police and other state agencies to map service providers. They have recently completed a six-part webinar series on LT, with 158 attendees overall, including ODHS, social workers, and medical providers. They are currently working on a train-the-trainer series for the Understanding and Addressing Labor Trafficking curriculum.

~ The **Data Subcommittee** is getting closer to developing and sharing data collected across the state.

~ The **Trafficking Response Intervention Program** has been working on their report for Senate Bill 745, which requires a screening tool. It is due at the end of 2025. They will share with the group when complete. There is a Roadmaps training in Portland next week, to support service providers. It will be conducted around the state. This training has gathered national interest.



Restructuring and Refocus

The group discussed the feasibility of combining with the Labor Trafficking Task Force. This would limit meetings, and as resources are scaling back this is one way to meet both needs. Much of the work is done by subcommittees and this would continue to be the practice. The group generally agreed this is a good idea. Amanda invited private input for any concerns about this idea. If there are no concerns, ODOJ will work on updating bylaws and create a suggested distribution of membership and participation on subcommittees. The bylaws will be ready by November 7. They hope to combine both groups by January.

January Event

The group discussed the direction of the human trafficking awareness event in January. They decided to move away from the awards focus, due to so many agencies experiencing funding and resource diminishment. The group brainstormed ideas of how to best support the work at this time. Robin, Liz, Amanda and Esther will form a work group to plan the event.

ACTION STEPS:

- **Alhena** will forward slides from the recent LT training to the group.
- **Amanda and Alhena** will create an updated bylaws document to combine the two groups if no concerns are raised and bring it to the next meeting.
- **Amanda** will email the group when the January event plans are in place.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.

Next meeting: November 7, 2025