HTAB Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2022

HTAB members present:

Jennifer Montgomery
Michelle McCormick
Sarah Hachmeister
Ed Klumpp
Dax Lewis
Kellie Mark
Kirk Thompson
Derrick Wilczek

Adam Piland
Alice Osburn
Hannah Britton
Deb Kluttz
Sharon Sullivan
Kris Wade
Jim Johnson

HTAB members absent:

Tiffanie Askew
Tom Fatkin
Jennifer Hansen
Hope Cooper
Marci Francisco
Laurel Klein Searles
Heidi Olson
Eric Smith
Diana Schunn

Rebekah Gaston
Lucy Bloom
Karen Countryman-Roswurm
Amy Hanley
Elizabeth Pishny
Travis Rakestraw
Stacy Tidwell
Debbie Kennedy

Cathy Eaton
Kent Bauman
Dan Oblinger

Members of the public attending:

Taylor Jorgensen
Ruthann Fisher
Heidi Lynch

Angie Boles
Faron Barr

Staff: HTAB counsel, Sarah Shipman

The minutes from March 2022 were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Committee reports:

Victim Services Committee Michelle reported that the committee met for general agency updates and discussed Sections 5-7 of the DRAFT comprehensive plan document.

Data Collection Committee Michelle reported the committee met in May and reviewed other states’ HT data collection systems such as Nebraska and Oklahoma. The issue of different definitions, the need for data sharing agreements and the high cost of coordinated data systems were also discussed. The group agreed to draft a problem statement and possible solutions for further consideration.
Law Enforcement Committee: Jennifer Montgomery reported that the committee met in June and discussed Sec. 6 of the DRAFT recommendations document in addition to asset forfeiture and the IMB Toolkit the group has been working on. The Toolkit contains an overview of the issue, list of specific red flags for trafficking in IMBs and the attorney general’s office Victim Services Guide. Other items such as model municipal ordinances and model city programs can be accessed via referral to local law enforcement.

Public Awareness, Prevention and Education Committee: met and reviewed items under discussion from previous meetings including training for the hospitality industry and school personnel. The group also spent time discussing the issue of housing insecurity and how it intersects with trafficking.

Agency updates: Verbal agency reports were not given at this meeting due to heavy board business.

Discussion of DRAFT Comprehensive Plan: The HTAB discussed Section 5-7 of the DRAFT Comprehensive Plan from the Victim Services Committee. In the Training section it was noted by law enforcement that the vague language requiring “ongoing” training on trafficking for law enforcement was problematic. There was a request for more information about the origin of the recommendation for a Human Trafficking certification for law schools. In the Policies and Procedures, section several members representing law enforcement and prosecution had concerns about the suggestion for establishing “privileged communications” indicating that it is a very complicated area and needs further review and discussion. A lengthy discussion occurred including members from the victim services committee. Medically Assisted Treatment for victims was also discussed as a significant need.

New Business: There was no new business.

Announcements:

There will be an IPC training in Hays June 21/22 at the KLETC Training Center and a virtual training offered November 15/16. Registration on the KLETC website. The attorney general’s office will provide a training for Kansas prosecutors on human trafficking in Wichita on August 25.

Adjourned at 3:26pm