

HTAB Minutes from 6/15/21

HTAB members in attendance:

- Jennifer Montgomery, Chair
- Michelle McCormick
- Kent Bauman
- Lucy Bloom
- Hannah Britton
- Hope Cooper
- Rebekah Gaston
- Ed Howell
- James Johnson
- Debbie Kennedy
- Deb Klutz
- Dan Oblinger
- Alice Osburn
- Adam Piland
- Elizabeth Pishny
- Travis Rakestraw
- Sharon Sullivan
- Kirk Thompson
- Derrick Wilczek

HTAB Members Absent: Tiffanie Askew, Marc Bennett, Cathy Eaton, Karen Countryman-Roswurm, Amy Hanley, Rep. Eric Smith, Sen. Marci Francisco, Dax Lewis, Marc Bennett, Laurel Klein Searles, Ed Klumpp, Heidi Olson, Jeff Richards, Diana Schunn, Rachel Sisson, Stacy Tidwell, Kris Wade

Staff: OAG intern Garrin Rose, OAG intern Parker Roth

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm and the Chair, Jennifer Montgomery, welcomed the group, mentioned KBI COVID protocols and made introductions.

Approval of March 2021 minutes:

Ed Howell noted that he was left off of the attendance list for the March meeting. A motion was made by Sharon Sullivan to accept the March minutes with that correction made and seconded by Ed Howell.

The minutes were approved as read and the motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Committee reports:

Victim Services Committee: Michelle McCormick, Director of Victim Services (OAG) provided a brief summary of the Committee's preliminary work on the recommendations for a comprehensive plan for services for victims. She also noted that the recommendations include the National Advisory Council (NAC) recommendations in bold in the draft and said members of the HTAB have met on completing the NAC state self-assessment survey.

Law Enforcement Committee: Jennifer Montgomery reported that the Committee had met the week prior and plans to update and re-print the pocket cards for law enforcement and will mail them out and have available at the September HTAB meeting. She also mentioned upcoming trainings and work being done by the attorney general's office on additional human trafficking modules for the KLETC training website.

*Jennifer noted recent interest in re-convening the Public Awareness, Prevention and Education Committee. Please contact Jennifer Montgomery if you would like to serve. Jennifer reminded attendees that individuals do not need to be an HTAB appointee to serve on a committee.

Agency reports:

KBI: Since January, they have received 20 Polaris tips and 2 calls for the immediate response team. They have also been working with KHP, Wichita PD and Homeland Security on plans for joint operations over the summer. Some of their efforts target demand reduction and the recovery of runaway at-risk youth.

DCF: DCF has been working with the attorney general's office staff on the NAC self-assessment project and the draft recommendations for a comprehensive plan. Their focus has been on being a family and child well-being agency and taking a public health approach to trafficking rather than a crisis approach. Additionally, they have been looking at how their agency can best respond to human trafficking victims.

Wichita Police Department: WPD has been very active on human trafficking issues including providing training for female officers as decoys for trafficking operations. The recently arrested 19 buyers in their anti-demand efforts and are partnering with KBI, KHP and HSI for larger operations planned for this summer. They continue to look at other models for effective punishment and deterrence for sex buyers.

Overland Park Police Department: OPPD has been focusing on demand reduction also and on collaborations across the state line in the KC Metro area. Training has also been a focus.

KHP: Noted a lot of holiday traffic and participation in larger statewide efforts.

KDOC: KDOC staff provided an update on their automated HT screen tool (juvenile intake) and noted some complications with data reporting.

Veronica's Voice: VV has partnered with Peter Qualliotine on an anti-demand program. They have trained 3 facilitators. The program has been recognized nationally and is not based on shaming buyers. VV has been training law enforcement and other groups.

NAC State Self-Assessment Survey

An overview of the NAC was provided to HTAB members. The Council was appointed by Congress to make recommendations to states on anti-trafficking efforts. The NAC released 127 recommendations and has asked states to self-assess based on the recommendations. HTAB members Kent Bauman, Rebekah Gaston, Jennifer Montgomery and Michelle McCormick are doing the initial review and will be working on our state response. Members of the group working on the project will be reaching out to other members of the HTAB for assistance in providing an accurate picture of what we are doing across the state.

Olathe Police Department presentation on IMB program

Olathe PD Deputy Chief Jack Fahrnow and two investigators gave a history of their work with Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs) in the area which resulted in the creation of a task force and implementation of changes to their policies and protocols. They conducted outreach to massage businesses in their community and worked with local officials to strengthen their local massage regulation ordinance. Key points of their approach include: a yearly accreditation for massage businesses, full criminal background checks, issuance of identification cards for massage therapists, owners and managers and physical

requirements for massage businesses operating in their jurisdiction to include uncovered, street facing windows and posting of human trafficking awareness materials on site. Their agency partners with legitimate massage businesses in the area via a MOU which includes a denouncement of human trafficking by the business and reporting of potential illicit activities and any termination of employees for illicit activities. Olathe PD investigators shared experiences and statistics from compliance checks. As a result of all of these changes, they have seen evidence via social media that bad actors are steering clear of Olathe due to awareness of stricter, more pro-active approach. Two continuing challenges for the agency include gaining the trust of victims and tracking transient Asian nationals in the community.

Initial Discussion Draft of Recommendations from the Victim Services Committee for a Comprehensive Plan for Address Human Trafficking of Children, Youth and Adults

Michelle handed out copies of the preliminary draft document to members of the HTAB and provided a high-level overview of the Victim Services Committee's work. Jennifer noted that the draft document is meant to be a starting point for a more robust and multidisciplinary conversation about how to address the challenges and complex needs of victims of human trafficking in Kansas. This initial list of items and recommendation is aspirational and meant to be discussed and considered as part of a possible 1-3-5-year framework. The goal of this discussion is to consider carefully and thoroughly these multi-faceted issues and allow for ample input and feedback from all members of the HTAB to find areas of consensus for potential follow up.

Discussion points were noted by the chair and she asked all HTAB members to review the working draft and send any feedback to her individually (to comply with KOMA requirements) for inclusion in future Committee and HTAB discussion.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements: Debbie Kennedy told the group that the Wichita Children's Home has received two OVC grants for housing. Michelle McCormick mentioned that the Safe At Home program has moved from the Secretary of State's Office to the Victim Services Division of the Attorney General's Office. Lucy Bloom said that Veronica's Voice has a position currently open and updated the group on various projects and collaborations they are involved with. Allen Smith from Salina shared information about his work with Polaris on reaching out to black churches on anti-trafficking awareness.

2021 Meeting Dates: September 9, December 9

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm