

HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION – Victim Services Subcommittee

February 19, 2016

Red River room, Capitol building, Bismarck

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned 11:39 AM

Attendees: Rep. Jessica Haak, Paula Condol, Janelle Moos, Melanie Heitkamp, Bishop Narum, Senator Dever. Not present: Christina Sambor.

Assessment Tool - Paula reported on the finding regarding the different tools throughout the state. The goal is to have it available to everyone throughout the state. The idea is to have a screening tool and if the items were checked trained personal would be informed. Seven questions were put together for the assessment that anybody could ask or answer. Christina Sambor (FUSE ND) will add the necessary requirements from the century code to the form. Three major areas, runaway, victim of sexual abuse, in the presence of an adult in an unusual circumstance on the assessment tool. A concern was voiced that it depends on how it would use, some victims would not be checked and therefore left out of receiving help, they're not in school, they're being trafficked during the day. The idea would be that if you check any box it would be reported to the navigator to investigate further. Any agency that is required to use a more in depth screening tool would have to use this also for grant purposes, rather this would be when there is no other screener available. On the back a list would provided of who the referral would go to for a more in depth screener, if necessary.

The next discussion around the assessment tool is who would do training on it, who would use it, where does it go next. Paula will talk to someone at DHS.

Tasks - Melanie will run the screener past a new hire that was a victim.

Defining the navigators - different staff that are available - Janelle will work with Melanie on completing

Melanie & Christina will check on the adult screening tool. This tool was used this many times, this many referrals to provide continuity

Groups to target with the assessment tool on the training - Shelters, foster parents, direct service providers, child welfare training, law enforcement academy, to name a few.

A short discussion about people doing magazine sales - how do we they get permits? Copy of a piece of paper - what is it what should we be educating to look for and identifying victims. Senator Dever will look into the permitting process.

Online Certification of human trafficking that provides a standardized training - get the information in the schools through the training and in service training - work with navigators on how to package the information and get it out to the counselors around

the state especially in the middle school population

Senator Dever provided mental Health Insight. A lot is going on with the Interim committee regarding mental health as he serves on several behavioral health committees. We need a statewide initiative that lets the people of North Dakota know that people matter, telling them we're going to deal with behavioral health issues bringing together schools, business communities, and faith-based community. This upcoming legislature we have an opportunity to deal with the issue creatively as we dealing with budgetary considerations. Solutions discussed might be reimbursement rather than doctor visit, a peer or mentor would be a solution. New organization Face It Together it's purpose is to fill the gaps regarding behavioral health, it's about having someone to talk to and mentor. It opened in Sioux Falls about 7 years ago and it was successful. It will operate on donations not state funds. Licensed addition counselors can't bill Medicaid and Medicare in North Dakota, the students who have the criteria can't get jobs because they can't bill.

Melanie reported on the grid regarding where the dollars are going regarding human trafficking. The CAWS grant and then the human trafficking grant from the state of North Dakota. It would be helpful to produce a map of the state of North Dakota that helps place what services are, and color-coding would be the most beneficial. Answering questions about where is case management coming from, where are shelters. Areas that might be lacking could be the southwest area. State money gives flexibility to allow local control and helps with travel money for the existing service providers. Melanie will continue to work with Christine to develop an easy to read map, Janelle will work with a coworker Beth and the software to help put the materials together, and it could be put on the back of the assessment tool.

Public Awareness

Janelle brought together materials from several campaigns. The Blue Campaign has posters hung in the Minneapolis airport and the materials could start showing up in the public health nurse facilities throughout the state. Christina has met with a rep from there and would like to formalize working with the public health nurses to help ensure victims are reached, as they could come in for STI tests. A few brochures are being circulated through the God's Child Project across North Dakota. The DOT has posters put up across the state in rest stops; they put the national hotline on them and the local shelters on the posters without notifying local shelters; however, the DOT is not working in conjunction with the Blue Campaign. The Highway Patrol is using another image and a hotline number that is national and it's easily concealable for victims. Once we begin working with the Blue Campaign formally and create the state hotline, we can approach the DOT to unify the message to promote consistency in the hotline numbers and provide consistent message. We will keep looking for others who might be providing materials or putting up information regarding referrals and help.

FUSE contacted Telos who does a lot of work for non-profits. Telos will do phone calling research and focus groups to help grasp what is the general public awareness and human trafficking information. The phone calls will begin on Monday. This will be an

opportunity to tailor the message around human trafficking for the general public.

Janelle also presented a matrix of the ND Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission, FUSE, and the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force (NDHTTF) that is federally funded. The group went over each organization and what their goals are, how they cross-pollinate at times, and how we can prevent tripping over each other.

FUSE is seeding board members and working on becoming a nonprofit. Jessica will work with BCI on the graph for the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission and piecing out who is on what subcommittees. Also, looking more in depth of what each organization does and the goals and how they overlap.

It was suggested that FUSE have a more formal partnership with the faith-based community. Kat Communications is interested in doing pro bono work for human trafficking. Separating the difference between victims services and fostering public interest/volunteering through FUSE.

Janelle will visit with BCI Deputy Director Lonnie Grabowska about the statewide radio and the status of where it is.

Bishop Narum - Reached out to the Episcopal Church, UCC and the Catholic conference, and there's not a lot directly happening. There was a video piece created roughly 10-15 years ago that was not a non-denominational piece, the goal is to think of young people in the state and how they are vulnerable. A number of leaders have statements in the value of life and are looking for ways to engage. The team could develop a message that could be used in faith-based modes of communication to reach more people. New Song Church took this on a while ago and it would be good to know if they're still active and if this is still a part of their mission. Bishop will follow up with both the God's Child Project and the New Song Church.

Direct Services regarding child welfare - it would be good to have someone on the commission and specifically on this subcommittee. These kids are going to move quickly into foster care and when you talk about shelters, and decisions of what happens with kids once they're taken to give insight into that topic. Foster care workers decide what happens to the victim, and this is an important piece in victim services. Paula has a meeting with DHS and will discuss this issue and Janelle will mention this need to the Chair of the committee as well.

Standard practices, whether is it through administrative rules or is it a policy change, should be considered. This is to prevent a group coming in and trafficking the very victims that they say they are helping. Jessica will reach out to NCSL & CSG to see how other states maintain and enforce a set of standards to ensure that best care is provided for victims and that no group is wrongly taking victims or children; this is especially necessary for children.

Minutes prepared by: Representative Jessica Haak