

Meeting Minutes – Human Trafficking Health Adv. Board

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present:

- Debi Cain
- Jay Kommareddi (Chair)
- Sheila Meshinski
- Rodica Richmond
- Brigette Robarge

Absent with Notice:

- Dr. James Blessman
- Stacy Doctoroff
- Dr. Subburaman Sivakumar

Scribe: Michael Bobbitt

Agenda

- I. Call to Order** • Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of March 11, 2021 Agenda as presented.**
 - Motion by Sheila Meshinski to approve the March 11, 2021 Agenda; second by Brigette Robarge. Agenda approved unanimously with no changes.
- IV. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2020**

- Motion by Debi Cain to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes; second by Sheila Meshinski. Minutes approved unanimously with no changes.

V. Updates from the Chair

- Jay Kommareddi attended the launch of the Michigan H.E.A.T. Coalition which was founded by Brigitte Robarge and other survivor leaders.

VI. Updates from Brigitte Robarge

- The Michigan Human Exploitation Advisory Team Coalition (H.E.A.T.) was created to bridge the gap between professionals and survivors in the human trafficking community. The Michigan H.E.A.T. Coalition assists professionals in the development of programs, policies, and legislation to better assist the human trafficking community. It is comprised solely of survivor leaders in Michigan, but will eventually branch out nationally. It is currently involved with combatting the policy to decriminalize prostitution between two consenting adults in Washtenaw County. The Michigan H.E.A.T. Coalition is working to raise awareness on the equality model and the dangers of decriminalizing / legalization of prostitution.

VII. Presentation on Ascension Mid-Michigan Human Trafficking Response Best Practices from Susan Tippett and Michelle Most from Ascension Genesys

- Susan Tippett and Michelle Most from Ascension Genesys Hospital spoke about the Ascension Mid-Michigan Human Trafficking Hospital Emergency Room Pilot Program that was funded by a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) grant. The program developed and implemented a regional standard hospital emergency room protocol to identify, assess, treat, and refer victims of Human Trafficking who came into emergency rooms. Red flags, control indicators and physical indicators were used to identify victims of Human Trafficking in hospital emergency rooms. Subject Matter Experts conducted trauma informed interviews with patients to assess if Human Trafficking was an issue.

VIII. Presentation on the Human Trafficking Toolkit for Domestic & Sexual Violence Agencies from Sarah Prout Rennie and Merkeb Yohannes from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

- The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) has been a collaborative partner with the University of Michigan Law School's Human Trafficking Clinic. Professor Elizabeth Campbell requested a toolkit be created that represents how MCEDSV programs and the human trafficking movement can work together to leverage their resources to recognize and support survivors of human trafficking. The toolkit supports intersectionality, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed practices that prioritize the reduction of harm.

IX. Overview of Division of Victim Services by Gail Krieger and Debi Cain

- Gail Krieger and Debi Cain provided an overview of the Division of Victim Services. There are four separate government appointed Boards and Commission which the Division of Victim Services oversees: Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, Crime Victims Services Commission, and the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking Commission. In 2020, the Division of Victim Services served 200,000 victims, and provided 400,000 nights of shelter. The Division of Victim Services funded 137 different community organizations, 10 federally recognized tribes, 82 prosecutor offices, 8 law enforcement agencies, 3 courts and 7 training and technical assistance organizations.

X. Public Comment

- No public comments.

XI. Board Comment

- Debi Cain said Aleksa Andjelkovic is leaving to start a job as a victim advocate with the Attorney General's Office.
- Rodica Richmond said Prison Project purchased a safehouse for 12 to 17-year-olds in Linden, Michigan.
- Sheila Meshinki asked Susan Tippettt why the algorithm she used bypassed local police agencies and went straight to county and state police for reporting. Susan Tippettt replied that they also work with local law enforcement for reporting.
- Jay Kommareddi asked Sarah Prout Rennie and Merkeb Yohannes how they plan to promote the Toolkit. Sarah Prout Rennie replied that there is a social media public relations plan for promoting the Toolkit, and she said the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board can share the Toolkit as well.

XII. Upcoming Events

- Next Board meeting is on Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Debi Cain; Second by Sheila Meshinski. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.