

Meeting Minutes – Human Trafficking Health Adv. Board

Location: South Grand Building in Conference Room 1A
333 S Grand Avenue, Lansing MI 48933

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present:

- Dr. James Blessman *
- Debi Cain (Chair)
- Sheila Meshinski *
- Rodica Richmond
- Demetrius Starling *

Board Members Absent with Notice:

- Jay Kommareddi
- Brigette Robarge
-

Board Members Absent without Notice:

- Dr. Subburaman Sivakumar

Scribe: Michael Bobbitt

* Participating remotely under exception to open meetings act

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order** • Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Adoption of March 10, 2022 Agenda as Presented**

- *Motion by Sheila Meshinski to approve; Second by Demetrius Starling. Agenda approved unanimously with no changes.*

IV. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2021

- *Motion by Shelia Meshinski to approve; Second by James Blessman. Minutes approved unanimously with no changes.*

V. Updates from Debi Cain

- Board member Stacey Doctoroff's term has ended, and the mental health seat should be filled by the next Board meeting. The seats for Dr. Blessman and Dr. Subburaman Sivakumar have both expired, but they will remain on the Board until new appointments are made. These two seats are nominations from the House and Senate Majority leaders, which then go to the Governor's Office. The appointments should be made by the next meeting. A request was made to reappoint Dr. James Blessman.

VI. Update on 2020/2021 Annual Report by Gail Krieger from the Division of Victim Services.

Gail Krieger discussed the Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board 2020/2021 Annual Report. The report summarizes the main activities the Board has engaged in over the past two years. It was suggested to add information regarding the social media campaign.

- *Motion by James Blessman to approve the Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board 2020/2021 Annual Report with the addition of the social media campaign piece; Second by Demetrius Starling. Motion approved unanimously.*

VII. Update on Funding by Tiffany Martinez from the Division of Victim Services.

Tiffany Martinez provided an update on funding streams specifically targeted to victim service providers to provide services to human trafficking survivors. One source of funding comes from general funds at DHHS. \$500,000 was allocated to be used over three years. Part of these funds were used to help build capacity in programs that want to begin human trafficking work. The funds were also used to help programs that have worked with human trafficking survivors but have little or no expertise in applying for and managing federal or state dollars. The RFP went out and funding was approved for S.A.F.E. Place in Battle Creek and Sacred Beginnings in Grand Rapids, whose contracts began on March 1st.

Another funding stream is VOCA dollars. An RFP has gone out and programs are applying for funding. \$4 million dollars is targeted for organizations that have demonstrated expertise in providing not only victim services, but to increase victim services specifically for Human Trafficking survivors. These dollars will be used to enhance the services the programs are currently providing. It is hoped the contracts will begin May 1st.

VIII. Update on the Toolkit Survey by Tiffany Martinez from the Division of Victim Services.

The Division of Victim Services is working together with MPHI to put together a survey to learn whether Michigan health care providers have human trafficking policies, if they have protocols in

place, and if they are thinking about human trafficking issues. The survey will be used to figure out a basic idea of who is discussing human trafficking and health care. Follow up will be provided to some of the health care providers for the purpose of gaining information for the toolkit that MPH and Ascension are working on. The toolkit will assist health care providers implement a more systematic response to identify human trafficking in the health care setting and respond to human trafficking within the health care system.

IX. Online Training Project by Tiffany Martinez from the Division of Victim Services.

Tiffany Martinez talked about two trainings she forwarded to Board members for their feedback. One training was from the American Hospital Association on screen assessments. The other training was put together by Polaris about what human trafficking is and is not.

X. Questions/Comments from members

- None.

XI. Public Comment

- Claudyse Holloman of Voices for Children Advocacy Center spoke about human trafficking victim trends. She said human trafficking victimization among children is increasing in the LGBTQ community. She said she is trying to help children that have been victimized and educate the school system about prevention.

XII. Board Comment

- None

XIII. Upcoming Events

The next Board meeting is Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- *Motion by Demetrius Starling to adjourn; Second by Shelia Meshinski. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.*