

Meeting Minutes – Human Trafficking Health Adv. Board

Location: Grand Tower Building, Conf. Room 1A, 235 S. Grand Ave., Lansing, MI

Date: 06/29/16

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Attendance

Present:

- Jay Kommareddi (Chair)
- Elizabeth Hertel (Vice-Chair)
- Dr. Dena Nazer
- Ruth Rondon
- Steve Yager
- Sheila Meshinski
- Brigette Robarge (via phone)

Absent:

- Dr. Subburaman Sivakumar

Presiding: Chair Kommareddi

Scribe: Jon Breems

Agenda

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Chair Kommareddi at 10:04 a.m.

II. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2016

- *Motion to approve by Steve Yager; Second by Sheila Meshinski. Minutes approved*

III. Labor Trafficking Presentation by Suellyn Scarnecchia, Clinical Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School

- Suellyn Scarnecchia gave a presentation about the legal framework of labor trafficking. Copy of slides will be sent to members

IV. Board Membership Update

- Dr. Jackson resigned from the board. Governor's office will be appointing a mental health professional to fill his spot in the coming months

V. Vice-Chair Election

- Board is required to elect a vice-chair every 12 months.
- *Steve Yager motioned to re-elect Elizabeth Hertel as Vice-Chair; seconded by Dr. Nazer. Elizabeth Hertel was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chair*

VI. Subcommittees Update

- Group was presented with new subcommittees that combines the former Local Health Partnerships and Awareness, Education, and Training subcommittees

- *Elizabeth Hertel motioned to approve; Ruth Rondon seconded. Subcommittees were approved unanimously*

VII. MDHHS Human Trafficking Grants Updates

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued two Request for Proposals (RFPs) for human trafficking grants
- Community Services Grant encourages organizations to bring together stakeholders in communities to identify gaps in services for survivors and create common processes and channels of communication between groups
- Hospital/ER Human Trafficking Protocol Pilot Program Grant is for hospitals to work with community partners to develop a protocol in their ER or entire hospital for identifying, assessing, treating, and referring victims. The grantee will submit a report at the end of the grant with “lessons learned”/recommendations from the pilot. The plan is to have the grantee present at future meetings to give updates on their pilot.
- Awards will be announced by MDHHS in mid-July

VIII. Human Trafficking Public Awareness Campaign

- Chair Kommareddi and Jon met with MDHHS staff, Michigan Dep. of Civil Rights, and Michigan Office of New Americans to discuss raising awareness about human trafficking in at-risk populations like immigrants, refugees, and migrant laborers.
- MDHHS is planning to develop some outreach materials and partner with media outlets and community organizations that work with these groups to target these populations.

IX. Upcoming Human Trafficking Events

- Michigan Human Trafficking Commission—July 27, 2016
- Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force—August 10, 2016
- Human Trafficking Summit for Legal Community—September 29, 2016 at Weber’s Inn, Ann Arbor

X. Questions/Comments from Members

- Brigitte spoke with the state’s Crime Victims Board to discuss improving communication of and access to compensation/services for trafficking survivors. Brigitte will be working with Victim Services subcommittee on this issue
- Sheila asked if there were any county-specific human trafficking phone numbers. Group said generally people should contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline who can connect them with the appropriate parties in Michigan. 2-1-1 was also mentioned as a possibility for connecting survivors w/ services, but we don’t know how knowledgeable 2-1-1 is of human trafficking and related services

XI. Public Comment

- Comment from Matt Opsommer with Michigan State Police
- Comment from Elizabeth Thompson with the Michigan Women’s Commission

XII. Adjournment

- *Chair Kommareddi motioned to adjourn meeting; Steve Yager seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.*

Next meeting is October 5, 2016