

# Meeting Minutes – Human Trafficking Health Adv. Board

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**Location:** Capitol View Building, Conf. Room B&C, 201 Townsend St., Lansing, MI

**Date:** 9/15/2015

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

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## Attendance

### Present:

- Elizabeth Hertel
- Dr. Jeffrey Jackson
- Brigitte Robarge
- Ruth Rondon
- Dr. Subburaman Sivakumar
- Steve Yager (via proxy Kelcy McArthur)

**Absent:** Dr. Dena Nazer, Sheila Meshinski, Erin Diamond

**Presiding:** Vice-Chair Elizabeth Hertel

**Scribe:** Jon Breems

## Agenda

### I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Hertel at 9:05 a.m.

### II. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2015

- Motion by Ruth Rondon; without objection the minutes were adopted

### III. Workgroup Updates

#### A. Current Programs (update from Dr. Jackson)

- Compiling a resource guide for victims and creating the *Survey of the Health Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking in Michigan*
- Identified a need for services to help young adult victims transition from youth programs to independent living

#### B. Local Health Partnerships (update from Brigitte Robarge)

- Working with “Current Programs” on the *Survey of the Health Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking in Michigan*
- Creating a questionnaire to help match interested groups with the area of service for trafficking victims that would best suit their resources, size, and capabilities
- Discussing potential implementation of Dr. Jordan Greenbaum’s Victim Identification Tool for Medical Professionals

#### C. Public/Provider Awareness (update from Jon Breems)

- Creating a directory of groups who train healthcare professionals and calendar of upcoming training for healthcare professionals on human trafficking
- Researching trainings and curriculums for healthcare professionals to suggest to the Human Trafficking Commission

#### D. Legislative/Policy

- Also researching current curriculums/trainings for the statutory requirement for human trafficking training for healthcare professionals
- Researching existing protocols for ERs and Hospitals for adult victims of human trafficking

#### IV. Human Trafficking Commission Update (update from Elizabeth Hertel)

- Education and Training Subcommittee is considering trainings and curriculums to recommend to healthcare professionals for the new statutory requirement for human trafficking training
- Victim Services Subcommittee is looking into establishing a statewide framework for coordinating victim services, finding adequate housing for adult victims, and establishing a standardized tool for victim identification

#### V. Greater Flint Health Coalition's Human Trafficking Victim Identification Toolkit

- Toolkit was created by the Genesee County Medical Society and Greater Flint Health Coalition through a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Members can use the toolkit to inform both their practice as healthcare professionals and as board members

#### VI. Victim Service Provider Survey

- Survey created to give the board a better sense of the health services being offered in the state and identify gaps in services
- Elizabeth Hertel made a motion to approve the survey; motion passed unanimously
- Jon will have an update on the survey at the next meeting. Plan is to distribute survey by the end of the month

#### VII. Upcoming Human Trafficking Events

- [Human Trafficking: A Closer Look \(Oct. 15-16\)](#) in Dearborn
- [Human Trafficking: The Medical and Legal Implications \(Oct. 28\)](#)—CME at St. John Hospital and Medical Center

#### VIII. Annual Report

- Annual board report may be submitted jointly with the Human Trafficking Commission. A draft of the board's report will be given to board members by the next board meeting

#### IX. Questions and Comments from members

- Dr. Sivakumar mentioned the need for a statewide human trafficking awareness campaign for healthcare professionals (ex. human trafficking awareness month for healthcare)

#### X. Public Comment

- **Jay Kommareddi** from the Michigan Women's Commission expressed a need for more attention and awareness on labor trafficking. She recommended reading the recent report by Polaris about labor trafficking entitled "Knocking at Your Door". Ms.

Kommareddi said there was work being done with Genesys Med Center and Ascension to develop a protocol and standardized assessment for human trafficking victims. She said doctors are running into issues with potential HIPAA violations when reporting adult victims of trafficking. She recommended the department look into this issue.

- Ms. Kommareddi also expressed a need for improved awareness and training on human trafficking for two professions—law enforcement and hospital staff. She said law enforcement is, at times, mistakenly arresting individuals as prostitutes when they are actually victims of trafficking—demonstrating a lack of awareness and understanding of the issue. At hospitals Ms. Kommareddi said there needs to be training done for all staff—not only healthcare professionals—because any staff member could be the first person at a hospital to come into contact with a trafficking victim. In addition, she mentioned the lack of Michigan organizations that are listed on the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s database, and she suggested that the board encourage groups to allow the National Human Trafficking Resource Center to list them.
- Ms. Kommareddi mentioned a victim identification assessment tool that was created by Dr. Jordan Greenbaum in Atlanta and how several sites in Michigan were piloting the use of the tool. She recommended the board look into having teen-based health clinics use the identification tool. Another potential area of implementation for the assessment tool is in electronic medical records. Dr. Sivakumar suggested the board develop a small tool, like the domestic violence quick reference card, that health professionals could keep with them.
- **Aleksandra Andjelkovic** expressed the need for schools to receive better training on identifying victims of human trafficking. In addition, Ms. Andjelkovic expressed the need for better oversight by accreditation boards of human trafficking training for their professional group
- Ms. Kommareddi agreed with Ms. Andjelkovic about training at schools and recommended two training videos—“Chosen” by Shared Hope Int. and a video created by the San Diego County Office of Education. Ms. Kommareddi also mentioned that a curriculum for schools about human trafficking is potentially being developed in Jackson County.
- **Sandra Lawson** from Project Liberty expressed the need for better substance abuse treatment for victims of human trafficking. Ms. Lawson commented that many detox centers, rehabilitation centers, and helplines are not open 24-hours a day or on weekends, and this makes it difficult for victims to access services when they need them. In addition, Ms. Lawson noted that many detox centers and rehabilitation clinics will not accept certain types of insurance, or they have prohibitive costs which limit access to their services for victims.

**XI. NEXT MEETING: December 2, 10a.m. - 12p.m., Capitol View Bldg., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Rooms B & C**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dr. Sivakumar; motion seconded by Dr. Jackson

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.