Meeting Minutes – Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Collaboration

October 12, 2018 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Multnomah County Building Room 315, Portland, Oregon

In Attendance
Jessica Vega Pederson (Commissioner D3); Natalie Weaver (DCJ); Denise Pena (DCJ); Dr. Bimpe Adewusi (Cares NW); Lee Watts (DSVCO); Kendra Bonetti (MCDA); Robin Gray (Giving Connection); Kay Mosby (Giving Connection); Jill Weir (New Avenues); Danielle Ehrismann (New Avenues); Sarah Crisosto (New Avenues); Krystal Menefee (New Avenues); Emmy Ritter (Raphael House); Sarah Nedeau (New Avenues); Julia Tycer (Raphael House); Kathryn Kroeger (CaresNW); Bimpe Adewusi (CaresNW); Jim Moiso (East Portland Rotary); Jim Patton (Author); Dione Bledsoe (Junior League); Amanda Swanson (Oregon DOJ); Elizabeth Alston (State DHS); Tina P. Do (IRCO); Amy Shea Reyes (LifesWorks NW); Jami Thanos (Multco); Kirsten Adkerson (Call to Safety); Fay Schuler (Call to Safety); GT (Raphael House); McKenzie Harker (VRLC); Jill Weir (New Avenues); Jackie Jones (East Portland Rotary); Alena Herrera (ICS); Favi Perez (ICS); Yostina Meikhail (DHS – CSEC); Bryan Smith (DCJ); Tracy Alioth (POIC); Mark Georgioff (PPB – STU); Elizabeth Langford (SAGE); Keli Nay (SAGE); Rena Williams (Another Level); Isabel Ponce (DHS – Child Welfare); Elaine Close (Harry’s Mother); Sonja Good Stefani (MPD – Comm. Law); Andrew Becrar (Systems Financial); Nicole Larson (LCSW)

Facilitated by Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson

Minutes Natalie Weaver**

Introductions

Chair Updates

Welcome to the Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Collaborative Network Meeting. This quarterly meeting is held for individuals and agencies in the community to come together to network, share resources, learn from each other, see where we can fill gaps, and celebrate the good work that is being done in this jurisdiction around sex trafficking. We have agencies and individuals at the table with various perspectives, and these differing perspectives help enhance our work. We cannot do this work in silos and so are grateful for the variety of individuals and agencies represented at this table.

Mission Statement

- Based on feedback from last year’s survey, as well as ongoing conversations many of you all have been having, the executive team is planning to revisit our mission statement. We want to look at why and how we do what we do.
- This issue is not yet fixed, and so it is important to always be evaluating and improving where we can.
- As an executive team, we plan to hold a longer meeting and go through a facilitated process to establish our new mission statement

Further incorporating voices of survivors
We are looking to see how we can better incorporate voices of individuals with lived experience into this work. We are looking at a couple possibilities and would be grateful to hear from you all. We want to do this thoughtfully. You will be hearing more over the next few network meetings as we work through details.

If you or someone you know is interested in using their lived experience in regards to sex trafficking, please email Natalie at info.sextrafficking@multco.us

Feel free to fill out a Constructive Feedback Form

Subcommittees

Sex Trafficking Expansion Project Team (STEP)

- This committee was formed because of the requirement through the Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking (DVHT) grant. The grant expanded services up to the age of 25, and this advisory committee was formed to provide leadership and guidance to that effort. The grant has officially ended, however, providers expressed a desire to continue this advisory committee. Sarah Nedeau with New Avenues for Youth, and the new VOCA funded Multnomah County Human Trafficking Advocate will co-facilitate this meeting. This group will continue with case consultation, do gap analysis and resource sharing, as well as provide guidance to the executive team on needed actions within the collaborative.
- Anyone interested in joining, there is an application to join that can be found on our website: multco.us/sextrafficking

Legislation

- This session will likely not see the introduction of significant ST bills as legislature would like more report back of impact from previous bills passed

Prevention

- First kick off meeting is November 7 from 1:30-3:30 at SE Uplift.
- All are welcome to the initial kick off meeting to help shape the scope of the prevention efforts

Presentation: What is happening around Oregon for human trafficking – Amanda Swanson (ODOJ)

Earlier this year we conducted a survey. A few members of the collaborative asked to learn about the work occurring outside of Multnomah County around the state and about approaches those different jurisdictions are taking to this issue. We have asked Amanda Swanson, the Oregon DOJ Trafficking Coordinator, to share about her work and what is happening throughout Oregon.

- Oregon was one of the first to have a coordinated effort for the entire state.
- Programs/schools/adults have conversations around sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking often. The goal is that trafficking would be incorporated into the conversation as routinely as those topics
- There is a State Advisory Committee which meets that works to make change throughout the state.
  - The hope is there will be funding that groups can apply to that will be managed by this group
- Multnomah County was the first jurisdiction doing a coordinated effort, we now have 11 counties with their own task force/collaboratives.
  - DOJ has been able to offer funding to help create task forces / Collaboratives.
- Amanda is working with rural communities to reach out to the vulnerable communities, including native communities as a first thought, not an afterthought.
- Each community is very different and so Amanda’s role is to help them see who needs to be at the table
- Things we’re seeing:
  - County fairs are seeing a lot of recruitment
There is a Tri-City ordinance against strip clubs and so things are moving to Pendleton and reservations. People being flown into Boise or onto reservations. We are seeing a lot of familial training.

J Bar J has housing for boys, it is not sex trafficking specific but is responsive. They partner with HUD.

We are not trying to encourage a bunch of new nonprofits but working with groups to see if they can add services to their program.

Resources go where the public is worried, and rural communities often do not realize this is a problem, and so Amanda has focused on helping raise awareness to mobilize resources such as law enforcement towards human trafficking.

The advisory committee created a certification process for task forces across the state to ensure they are doing the work with best practices and that they are truly multidisciplinary. Multnomah County was presented an official certificate as a recognized entity by the DOJ State Advisory Committee.

Individuals can go online and see what other counties are doing across the state for trafficking:
https://www.doj.state.or.us/crime-victims/victims-resources/other-resources/exploitation-and-sex-trafficking/

Executive Team Report Out

- State DHS - Elizabeth Alston
  - Trained over 2,000 case managers and so we have more people identifying. We make sure to resource the people that are identified. Sex trafficking training is a requirement within the first 6 months of a DHS case manager being hired. In a CNN clip a youth who had experienced sex trafficked said “no one looks for us” and so DHS wants to get the message across that “we are looking for you”. DHS is compiling data from the screening tool that was created. The DHS screening tool was created by a number of different agencies. It is not circulated but if an agency was interested in learning more they can contact Elizabeth at ELIZABETH.ALSTON@dhsoha.state.or.us.

- PPB - Sex Trafficking Unit - Mark Georgioff
  - Three call outs in the last week dealing with minor victims
  - Still facing a staffing crisis - 80-90 people retiring this coming march could impact the sex trafficking Unit
  - We are seeing recruiting and prostitution activities within the strip clubs
  - Working on projects to resource victims and enhance the work
  - Attending the Shared Hope Justice Conference
  - Partnering with DCJ & New Avenues for the collaborative trauma training

- DCJ – Natalie Weaver
  - We have wrapped up a successful Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Grant
  - Dr. Laura Vandernoot Lipsky Trauma Training, December 7, 8:00am-12:30pm PCC Cascade

- DCJ - Bryan Smith
  - The guys we are supervising are taking the women all over the country and so are trying to stop that from happening. Club Rogue has had two deaths outside of that strip joint, there is a lot of recruiting out of that strip club. We are trying to work with strip clubs to see where people are recruiting. As we see people who are trying to traffic minors we are working closely with PPB STU. As we identify victims we pass them on to service providers.
- HEAT Program - Afrocentric program designed to address young adult men who have been in gangs. It’s a support group for people that are incarcerated. It just received funding to help expand the programming
- There is a HEAT for youth program through OYA inside McClarian - there has been some talk about that going into juvenile detention
- There has been an uptick in latino gangs being involved in trafficking. There is a partnership with Latino Network to work with victims of sex trafficking and gangs
- Clackamas County has seen more trafficking and their specialized parole officer is taking on the specialized cases of trafficking
- People are going to Bend & the Coast because so many people go there for vacation and so traffickers go there to bring their people, and get arrested there

- **MCDA – Kendra Bonetti**
  - Worked a few cases this week to go to grand jury
  - VOCA grant was awarded - 1 FTE Advocate at DA’s office, .5 Safety Compass
  - Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (SAVA) training - If people want to apply October 19 is the deadline. [http://mcda.us/index.php/about-the-da/volunteers/](http://mcda.us/index.php/about-the-da/volunteers/)

- **Lifeworks NOW – Amy Reyes Shea**
  - Restructuring the NOW program. Hiring a manager and mental health

- **Morrison – SAGE – Keli Nay and Elizabeth Langford**
  - Looking to connect with people for after-care case managers. A waitlist for referrals. Working on the discharge process and structuring it more to be able to track outcomes, and what is a successful outcome for the youth. Looking for resources for parents and guardians of youth - contact [keli.nay@morrisonkids.org](mailto:keli.nay@morrisonkids.org)

- **Raphael House – Emmy Ritter**
  - Looking forward to the prevention subcommittee
  - Executive Director is retiring in February
    - Teri Lorenzen received the Judge Herrell Award last night. This award is an honor within the Domestic and Sexual Violence community
  - GT and Julia have been working on the trafficking prevention curriculum

- **New Avenues**
  - Still accepting referrals - [newdayreferral@newavenues.org](mailto:newdayreferral@newavenues.org)
  - Currently serving about 50 youth informally or formally
  - 10 youth who the program has supported getting into stable housing
  - Wanda Sykes is performing at New Avenues fundraiser Wednesday, October 17: [http://newavenues.org/event/17th-annual-steve-allen-comedy-show-starring-wanda-sykes](http://newavenues.org/event/17th-annual-steve-allen-comedy-show-starring-wanda-sykes)

- **Call to Safety**
  - Kirsten is new in the director role.
  - The advocate position for sex trafficking youth is now open. The advocate will be less on the crisis line to help be more available. Looking for resources and support in reducing the trauma confidential advocates face in supporting sex trafficking survivors.
  - Last month 35 calls specifically about trafficking
  - Spending down motel vouchers to help with the urgent housing needs
  - October 25 fundraiser – all sales that day, a portion will go to Call to Safety: [https://calltosafety.org/event/nosh-4-nonviolence/](https://calltosafety.org/event/nosh-4-nonviolence/)
DCHS
  Rose Bak’s last day is today. She has done a lot of incredible work for this system, she will be missed.

Announcements

- Natalie - Please let us know if anyone is doing an event or project for January's human trafficking awareness month.
- East Portland Rotary
  - November 16 hotel training
  - Possible candlelight vigil in January
- Sonja Good Stefani
  - Rosewood Initiative - 16126 SE Stark
  - Legal service day that happens every month
  - Limited number of legal services
    - Debt that is owed to the County, money can be forgiven
  - If people are uncomfortable appearing in person, then going on site can be waived
  - Expungement on site as well
  - Vacate TriMet tickets as well
  - Next one is December 14
    - If you want to have someone screened contact Sonja Good Stefani sgstefani@mpdlaw.com
    - Easy to waive the appearance if they are pregnant or parenting or have some form of disability.
- Rena Williams – Another Level program. Able to take on new clients for support group anotherlevelportland@gmail.com
- Andrew Becvar - financial planning tools for anyone in the community who can use them
  - They are giving money to programs who are doing anti-trafficking work in the community https://www.systems-financial.com/
- ICS - Developing the anti-trafficking program
  - Training available on identifying foreign-born trafficking victims
  - Services for parents as well
  - Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) available through ICS
  - Contact them at aherrera@ics-law.org or fperez@ics-law.org

January Meeting

Next Network Meeting: January 11, 10:00am-12:00pm, Room 315, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd
This will be Human Trafficking Awareness Day!

Attachments

Reported Job Openings:

  Morrison – SAGE: Residential Counselor (Sex Trafficking)
  https://www.morrisonkids.org/job/sage-milieu-counselor/
Call to Safety: Advocate (Sex Trafficking)
https://calltosafety.org/get-involved/employment-opportunities/

New Avenues for Youth: (Not trafficking specific)
http://newavenues.org/about-us/employment-opportunities

Raphael House of Portland: (Not trafficking specific, but current prevention opening)
http://raphaelhouse.com/about/job-openings/

October 25

Nosh4Nonviolence is a collaborative fundraiser for two local domestic violence intervention agencies, Call to Safety and Bradley Angle House. The event mobilizes restaurants willing to donate proceeds from one day of business directly to services for survivors. The event is in its ninth year, and our supporters are eager to participate again in 2018!
HOSPITALITY TRAINING
on COMMERCIAL SEX TRAFFICKING
East Portland Rotarians are sponsoring a FREE seminar

TOPICS THAT WILL BE COVERED
• Dynamics of Sex Trafficking
• Signs of someone being trafficked
• Steps to take if you believe someone is being trafficked at your location
• How to prevent trafficking at your location
• Additional training resources for hotel/restaurant staff

Friday, November 16, 2018 from 1 - 4 pm
Double Tree by Hilton, Lloyd Center
1000 NE Multnomah
Portland, OR. 97232

Trainers are members of the Portland Police Bureau’s Sex Trafficking Unit: Officers Michael Gallagher and Ariana Ridgely; plus Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney, J.R. Ujifusa and a local “Survivor”.

Please call 503-255-0118 with any questions about this training.

Please register by emailing:
rotaryendsextrafficking@gmail.com
Include your name, email, phone and your business name by 11.14.18

A special thank you to Paul Peralta, General Manager Double Tree for hosting this training. Complimentary PARKING provided.
ANOTHER LEVEL

SEX TRAFFICKING PROGRAM
SUPPORT GROUP SATURDAY AT
6:00 PM

gender inclusive, kid friendly and snacks

Please call Rena Williams 503-847-8505
Certified Recovery Mentor specializing in Human Trafficking
anotherlevelportland@gmail.com
anotherlevelportland.com

MISSION STATEMENT: To inspire, restore hope, and transform to ANOTHER LEVEL!

**Please contact Natalie Weaver at natalie.weaver@multco.us if any information in this document needs adjustment.