



Meeting Recap

June 23, 2022

The June 23, 2022 Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking (COHT) hybrid meeting was called to order by Chair Overman at 1:03 p.m.

Attendance was taken of participants in person and virtually. The COHT did not achieve an in-person quorum.

Members Present In-Person: Public Defender Julianne Holt, Detective Sergeant Kevin Durkin, Major Chris Rule, Gina Justice in for Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrotta, and Charles Klug.

Members Present Virtually: Chair Kimberly Overman, Iris Valdez Corey-Dunaway, Kathleen Kempke, Connie Rose, Jennifer Glaister, Captain Chris Mills, Corporal Tiffany Lindsey Tester, Beverly Mogelnicki, and Deborah Laskowski.

Others Present In-Person: Rob Parkinson, Nada Haddad with two office interns.

Others Present Virtually: Judge Robert Bauman and Jillian Penhale

Members Absent: Santiago Corrada, Deputy Chief Lee Bercaw, Special Victims Unit Chief Courtney Derry, Elizabeth Gutierrez, and School Board Representative Karen Perez.

Chair Overman welcomed and introduced Deborah Laskowski, Community Advocate, Major Chris Rule with HCSO, and Corporal Tiffany Tester with PCPD as the newest members of the COHT, each gave a brief description of experience and qualifications.

No one was signed up for public comment.

There were no changes to the March 31, 2022 Recap, approval will be moved to the September 29, 2022 meeting.

Chair Overman spoke in regard to recidivism and the report on barriers to success; housing, transportation, job skills, and mental health needs, and asked the subcommittees to research how to partner with HCSO Step-Down Unit to address issues and challenges. Chair Overman remarked on the importance of affordable housing inventory to assist survivors with recidivism. Ms. Kathleen Kempke provided an update on the program and the budget needs for the Crisis Center.

Chair Overman spoke in regard to the need for a training program and having the E&O or S&R subcommittees look at and bring back training models and costs to have procurement submit an RFQ and would like to get recommendations for procurement on resources of the expired FKQ marketing and Hillsborough Heroes Training Programs. Chair Overman remarked on the Budget needs to be adjusted accordingly to fit staff and wages to ensure continuity.

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Subcommittee Recap Updates:

Education and Outreach: Connie Rose noted that the Education and Outreach Subcommittee met and discussed issues including victims' court. Also, Ms. Rose confirmed the E & O subcommittee will research and bring back COHT recommendations on education and training. Chair Overman has requested the COHT – Education and Outreach Subcommittee to review/prepare RFPs/Scope of Works for both HT training and marketing. Chair Overman asked for budget recommendations come back to the next meeting.

Legislative and Judicial: Charles Klug spoke on the updates given at the April 28th meeting given by Lauren Storch, Angie Smith, and Judge Bauman, followed by a lively discussion on the Victim's Court and Veteran's Treatment Court in Hillsborough County and Florida. Also, Ms. Holt noted the importance of looking at the data and looping in the prosecutor's office in a timelier manner.

Judge Robert Bauman gave an overview of the Crossover division and the need to address human trafficking issues in the juvenile courts and presented information on the Offering Potentially Trafficked Individuals Options Now (OPTION) Court. Chair Overman would like to COHT to revisit the way cases are identified and asked for Judge Bauman's recommendation to start the Adult victims court and how the court liaison can assist in furthering the process. Chair Overman asked the L&J subcommittee to review and bring back the research on the charges and sentencing guidelines related to Human Trafficking charges and to have School Board Representative Karen Perez come back with information on Teacher Reporting requirements.

Services and Resources: Ms. Jillian Penhale remarked that the subcommittee discussed the gaps in Hillsborough County pertaining to shelter/ housing and Trauma-informed training. An idea from the subcommittee was to create a certification for every provider would know which location has had the trauma training and how to engage with the other subcommittees. Chair Overman asked if the S&R subcommittee is familiar with trauma training options. Ms. Penhale expressed the desire to become familiar with it in order to be able to suggest one.

Public Defender Julianne Holt spoke to the potential of having a Human Trafficking court and her agreement to the idea to travel to models close by that are working. She reached out to the clerk's office to get a better understanding of the budget. No mixing county court and circuit court. Important to give the COHT a good understanding of definitions and what can be done, in terms of the court. She also remarked on her belief of not using the Criminal Justice System to judge the quality of life but instead divert individuals to safe places.

Meeting Adjourned by Chair Overman at 2:34 p.m.