



Services and Resources Subcommittee

August 11, 2022

Meeting Recap

Members Present Virtual: Jillian Penhale (Chair), Rocky Brancato, Deborah Laskowski, Kevin Durkin, Kathleen Kempke, Bonnie Doll, Connie Rose, Elle Kane, Molly O'Rourke, Amy O'Rourke, Nada Haddad, Elizabeth Cardenas

Members Absent: Alex Petrilak, Charrita Ernewein, Felicia Patterson, Genet Stewart, Iris C. Valdez-Corey, Jaclynn Willert, Jennifer Glaister, John Long, Kim Figueroa Squires, Nilda Otero, Paul Penhale

Public Comment: None.

Chair Jillian Penhale called the meeting to order at 11:01am. Participants introduced themselves and their organization with Ms. Laskowski, a new COHT member, noting that she a community advocate and is reviewing each subcommittee to decide where her voice is most needed.

The Subcommittee discussed Chair Overman's request to define how the COHT would partner with the HCSO's Step Down Unit "Unit", however, not having any information from HCSO about the unit, they could not speculate what role the COHT would play, if any. Sgt. Durkin offered to track down the information.

Member Kempke asked for a presentation about the Step-Down Unit at a future meeting of the full COHT. She also asked if the Unit was part of a probation condition, if when an individual is released, guidance is offered to services as is done on the federal level. Potentially the Unit could partner with the USF's TiP Lab and their BRIGHT Project as well as the COHT. She explained the BRIGHT (Bridging Resources and Information Gaps in Human Trafficking) Project is based on a pilot program in Houston Texas. She suggested that they present to the COHT to bring awareness to members. *(Lisa Montelione has added this section from their website for clarity: The USF TIP Lab has partnered with the organization United Against Human Trafficking, who created a model program and system that leverages technology to connect trafficked persons to trusted service providers through one central system. Building upon this model, BRIGHT will be an online, interactive database for survivors and case managers to access resources in one central location, while simultaneously collecting data. This data will allow researchers in the TiP Lab to better identify the hidden victims of human trafficking, the types of services they seek, the types of services needed, the locations services are most needed, and where the gaps in services lie.)*

Chair Penhale reminded members of their previous discussion about identifying gaps, which came up at the full COHT meeting. Mental health and educating survivors about the resources available to them are still the biggest needs.

Ms. Kempke advised members of the Crisis Center's work with the USF TiP Lab and Project BRIGHT's goal of having resources available to survivors in real time. There is an intensive vetting process, provider members of the project must be accredited by the (National) Council on Accreditation. The partnership with the Crisis Center would be through 211.

Nada Haddad joined the meeting to answer questions regarding the Step-Down Unit. She learned from Sherriff Chronister's team that the unit will provide housing and wrap around services. She will provide the Subcommittee with the information she has. She believes the Unit would be located near the Faulkenberg Road jail site and that it may be part of a survivor's probation.

Chair Penhale suggested the subcommittee put together a list of ideas for consideration of the Step-Down Unit organizers as a possible way for the COHT to partner with them. She offered that perhaps the case managers at the unit utilize an assessment tool, with a resource card or flyer for them to hand out to those identified as possible victims of trafficking.

Some discussion on the COHT and subcommittee calendar to find potential presentation dates occurred, however there are no other Subcommittee meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Ms. O'Rourke announced that the FREE Network will be meeting in person on September 14th from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Hillsborough Community College, Student Services Building Room 112. and all providers and other stakeholders are welcome to attend. Lisa Montelione will send the invitation to the COHT and Subcommittee members.

Chair Penhale announced that she will be resigning as she has taken a position out of state and is moving at the end of the month. Everyone wished her well on her new adventure. Chair Penhale asked for a volunteer to take the Chair, however with no one stepping forward, it will be addressed at the next COHT meeting on September 29th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am