

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council
Community Support Services, 218 SE 24 St, Gainesville, FL 32641
July 15, 2021
Minutes

Member present in-person: None

Members present on Zoom: Rita Lawrence, Capt. Robert Fanelli, Maddy Coy

Members absent: Mary Ann Burg, Robert Edelman, Commissioner Alford, Zahira Tucci

Staff in-person: Cassandra Moore, Tia Cox (intern)

Staff on Zoom: Brittany Coleman, Tom Tonkavich

Guests on Zoom: 5-6 students from UF Ethics course

There was not a quorum. Reporting-in and information presented without voting.

Meeting called to order at 5:52pm

Old Business:

- I. Bylaws
 - a. Discussion will continue at August meeting. Reference materials relating to consensus voting will be provided.
- II. Human Trafficking ordinance and awareness campaign
 - a. Members awaiting letterhead from Laura Kalt.
 - b. Plans underway to handout more HT Posters to hotels.

Staff Report:

- I. Discussed current activities:
 - a. Alachua Co Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center's June stats
 - b. Recent awareness/outreach events – Union County Library Summer event, Gainesville Police Explorers (youth group) and more
 - c. Status of staffing at the Center - expectation is for new staff to come onboard in August
 - d. Volunteer opportunities - Tia Cox spoke about volunteer opportunities on the Center's 24 hour sexual assault helpline – the training class starts in September and the Center is accepting applicants. Cassie Moore spoke about the Center's community ambassadors volunteer program – currently all spots are full.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- I. Sexual Assault Forensic Services Subcommittee
 - a. SANE training course postponed due to low registration.
- II. From Report to Court Subcommittee
 - a. Maddy Coy reported that she and Dr. Zucker have 10 years (2011-2020) of data pulled from the Gainesville Police Dept files on sexual assault cases. There was a trend of increased reporting of both child and adult sexual abuse cases starting in 2016, which coincides with the Excellence in Sexual Assault Investigations project that the Gainesville Police Dept and Alachua Co Sheriff's Office pursued through the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence. This could have been the reason for the increase as officers were more aware of signs and trained in new investigative tools with more attention on survivors' needs. Also worth noting, there was a large increase in 2017 of child sexual abuse reports. Child case tapered off afterward to pre-2017 numbers, and since the pandemic they continued to lower, which could be due to children not being seen at schools and other places where there might be an opportunity for intervention. As the project moves forward, they will focus more closely on adult cases that were reported in 2018 and the years prior since they hope to see the outcome of cases after the

investigation, and post-2018 may still be pending in court system. Also, they hope to review the child cases once a full survey of adult cases are done.

III. Education/Awareness Subcommittee

- a. See Human Trafficking awareness/campaign report above.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021 @ 5:30pm at the Community Support Services office. A link for members to attend in Zoom will be provided also.