

**Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council**  
**Alachua County Health Department**  
**Thomas Coward Auditorium**  
**September 19, 2019**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Kathy Bolick, Mary Ann Burg, Maddy Coy, Robert Edelman, Rita Lawrence, Olysha Magruder, Commissioner Wheeler

Members Absent: Chanae Baker, Lindsey Mitrook

Staff Present: Laura Kalt, Geena Cesar

Guests: None

There was a quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:38pm

Motion to approve the minutes from 8/15/2019 meeting, after correcting date of meeting in the minutes: Mary Ann Burg

Seconded: Commissioner Wheeler

Motion carried

Old Business:

- I. Board of County Commissioners action item for the Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council.
  - a. The Council members reviewed the draft human trafficking signage ordinance.
    - i. Motion to approve the draft human trafficking signage ordinance after Geena Cesar removes language relating specifically to Palm Beach County and forward the other recommendations made by the Advisory Council to the Commissioners.
      1. Recommend the Commission consider expanding signage requirement in the future to the other occupations that are mentioned in the FL SS 787.06(1)(b) – “...trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop factory work, and migrant agricultural work.”, (2) The signage include Several voiced the request for the Commissioners to consider adding businesses:
      2. Recommend the County’s Communications Office design the Alachua Co human trafficking sign for the ordinance.
        - a. Signs for the ordinance should be more focused on text and not include an image that might provoke strong feelings (like the FL DOT poster) since this may make some business owners feel uncomfortable or defensive about posting such images.
        - b. Other recommendations about the sign: 1) do not include the same bird image as Palm Beach County, 2) use a word bubble and include the word “free” in many different languages inside the word bubble
        - c. Recommend the County require businesses place the signs on the back of bathroom doors inside employee bathrooms. This was suggested to allow employees to view the signs without the fear of their employer knowing they are getting information off the sign.
      3. Recommend the County track whether calls or reports increase based on the signs being posted to understand effectiveness, and potentially lead to future initiatives.
      4. Recommend the County create signs that target consumers of human trafficking and signs that promote awareness to the public at large.

Motion: Kathy Bolick

Seconded: Olysha Magruder

Motion carried

- II. Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council's FY2019-20 Workplan
  - a. Members reviewed last year's plan and discussed changes.  
Motion to approve the workplan: Olysha Magruder  
Seconded: Rita Lawrence  
Motion carried

Staff Report:

- I. Two victim advocate counselor vacancies are pending. One of the Gainesville Police Department Office advocate positions continues to be vacant, and the Bradford County based victim advocate position came open in July. Interviews taking place in September to fill both positions.
- II. Alachua County's Communications Office created a video along with member agencies of the Coalition Against Sexual Violence. The goal of the video is to inform the community of the services available to adult survivors of sexual assault, and includes interviews with advocates from the Center, a SANE nurse from UF Health Shands hospital, detectives from the Gainesville Police Dept and Alachua Co Sheriff's Ofc and a prosecutor from the State Attorney's Office of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit. The video aired at the Commission meeting last week. Jessie Lazarchik, Sexual Assault Program Manager with the Center came up with the idea, and she is looking to make it accessible to the community. Council members made suggestions on where to promote the video, such as doctor's offices and local TV stations as a PSA.
- III. Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center passed its biannual site visit with the state and was recertified as a rape crisis center.
- IV. Laura Kalt attended the annual rape crisis center directors meeting in Tampa Sept 17 and 18. Topics ranged from new legislative ideas to undertaking a community assessment.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- I. Sexual Assault Forensic Services Subcommittee
  - a. Laura Kalt reported there were no new updates.
- II. From Report to Court Subcommittee
  - a. Maddy Coy reported there were no new updates.
- III. Education/Awareness Subcommittee
  - a. No report

New Business/Announcements:

- I. Discussed whether to keep the meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30pm, or look at another day. Members who were present discussed, but no action taken since changes in membership might take place in January 2020.
- II. Laura Kalt stated the member's whose terms are due to expire in 2019 are Olysha Magruder, Kathy Bolick and Chanae Baker's terms. Current members can reapply. New applications are completed online, even for current members. Current members should mention the activities they are specifically involved in and would like the opportunity to continue to work on. Commissioners will vote on filling these vacancies in January, and members are encouraged to attend the meeting if they reapply. One consideration Commissioners are known to look at is past attendance at the meetings.
- III. Maddy Coy discussed incorporating human trafficking issues into this year's 16 Days of Activism, and she will keep the Council posted on the event.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Mary Ann Burg  
Seconded: Maddy Coy  
Motion carried

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2019 @ 5:30pm in Alachua County Health Dept, Thomas Coward Auditorium