

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council
Community Support Services, 218 SE 24 St, Gainesville, FL 32641
May 20, 2021
Minutes

Member present in-person: Commissioner Alford, Rita Lawrence, Maddy Coy, Zahira Tucci, Capt. Robert Fanelli

Members present on Zoom: Robert Edelman

Members absent: Mary Ann Burg

Staff in-person: Laura Kalt

Staff on Zoom: Courtney Wilson, Cassandra Moore

Guests on Zoom: University of Florida student (name unknown)

There was a quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:34pm with quorum present in-person

Motion to approve April 2021 minutes: Rita Lawrence

Seconded: Robert Fanelli

Motion Carried

New Business:

I. Agency Review

- a. Discussion about the Advisory Council undertaking an agency review of the Center. Some ideas are to look at other agencies in comparable counties for benchmarking, review the center's rape crisis center certification guidelines and report, develop new tools for client feedback, solicit staff feedback providing direct services for ideas on how the Center is doing and what could be done to improve service delivery and operations.
- b. Laura Kalt will share the 2019 certification audit report for members to review, and the Council will continue to discuss what the agency review will look like at future Council meetings.

I. Bylaws Review

- a. Members will review the current bylaws and be ready to discuss at the May meeting.

Staff Report:

- I. Cassie Moore reported that Sexual Assault Awareness Month resulted in the Center presenting at several locations:
 - a. Every Union County public school held awareness presentations/activities. The Center's staff presented to 4th graders through 12th graders about sexual assault, consent and agency services.
 - b. UF held 4 events March through May, which the Center participated in.
- II. Laura Kalt reported that a new Bilingual Victim Advocate starts June 1. Two other vacancies are pending. A Victim Advocate position is going through the hiring process, and a new position focused on assisting with and processing relocation and victims' compensation applications, will take a bit longer as it needs to be reviewed by the Human Resources office. The new position is currently titled Victim Services Specialist.
- III. Discussion about where the Center promotes its services and how to increase visibility. Recommendations: use tear-off posters and post in public places, promote helpline, post brochures in public places (doc offices, community centers), target boys with consent-related info, target the general pop with Green Dot curriculum, include promotion of reporting options (including ReportRapeGainesville.org), talk with Prof. Moon to see about working with her on her app development (she wants to make an app available that helps identify svcs for sexual assault survivors).

Old Business:

- I. Human Trafficking ordinance and awareness campaign
 - a. HT Posters at Hotels: Rita Lawrence will draft a letter to include when we approach hotels about hanging human trafficking posters. Or, the letter could be used as a tool to follow-up with hotels who were already approached. Rita and Laura recommend continuing to target hotels (13th Street area, communities beyond Gainesville in the County limits)
 - b. Capt Fanelli reported that the Gainesville PD's efforts to create a network amongst hotel managers in the SW 40th Blvd corridor that helps identify issues like human trafficking so there is a cohesive response. He will keep the Council updated as the group develops as this could be a good venue for future presentations on human trafficking.
 - c. Maddy Coy suggested campaign development should make an effort to be survivor led. This allows for the most relevant information to be focused on, as well as ensuring we are not making assumptions about what survivors' face and need to recover and heal. It also provides a forum for survivors be active in a movement to support other survivors.
 - d. Laura and Zahira will meet with Created and invite someone from Created to come to a future Advisory Council meeting.
 - e. Laura and Maddy will wait to follow-up with Jennifer Taylor at the School Board until next school year.
- I. Sunshine Laws Training
 - a. Courtney Wilson reported that she met with new Council members in May to provide training on the Sunshine Laws and how they affect the work of the Council. She is open to taking questions from Council members on this topic as needed.
 - b. Laura Kalt reported that she attended this training as well, and will continue to blind copy members when information needs to be shared amongst members in-between meetings.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- I. Sexual Assault Forensic Services Subcommittee
 - a. Laura Kalt reported that a free 40 hour SANE training course is scheduled in Gainesville for July, but needs at least 15 nurses to register. The Center is promoting it to area hospital, school nurses, the VA hospital. If registration is low, the state will try again in the Fall.
 - b. Laura Kalt meets with UF Health Shands' SANE Program this month to discuss the status of the SANE Program and what they see their greatest needs being in sustaining the program. Zahira asked the Center to reach out to North Florida Regional Medical Center (NFRMC) leadership too as to make sure they're also thinking about the needs of survivors who use their facility. Uf Health Shands is the lead hospital for forensic services and survivors are brought there by area law enforcement when someone reports. However, not all survivors report and choose to go to NFRMC for forensic and medical services.
- II. From Report to Court Subcommittee
 - a. Maddy reported that she and Dr. Zucker plan to continue to research at the Gainesville Police Dept. They have decided to research the years 2014-2018.
- III. Education/Awareness Subcommittee
 - a. See Human Trafficking awareness/campaign discussion above

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 15, 2021 @ 5:30pm at the Community Support Services office. A link for members to attend in Zoom will be provided also.