

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council
Alachua County Health Department
Thomas Coward Auditorium
August 15, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Bolick, Maddy Coy, Robert Edelman, Rita Lawrence, Lindsey Mitrook,

Members Absent: Chanae Baker, Mary Ann Burg, Olysha Magruder, Commissioner Wheeler

Staff Present: Laura Kalt, Tom Tonkavich, Geena Cesar

Guests: None

There was a quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:38pm

Motion to approve the minutes from 5/16/2019 meeting: Rita Lawrence

Seconded: Robert Edelman

Motion carried

Old Business:

- I. Board of County Commissioners action item for the Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council: make recommendations on an ordinance to require human trafficking signage posted in adult entertainment establishments. The following recommendations resulted from the members and staff discussions. Geena Cesar, County Attorney, was present and offered to draft the ordinance based on recommendations made during this discussion, and make it available for review at the September meeting.
 - a. Determine which languages the Alachua Co sign should be in to best match the population in Alachua Co, and the type of businesses that are being targeted.
 - i. Palm Beach County's flyer is in English, Spanish and Creole. Should we use Creole or a different third language? Or, just focus on English and Spanish. Maddy Coy will do some research with a local organization that conducts outreach to potential human trafficking victims.
 - b. Recommend the County's Communications Office design the Alachua Co human trafficking sign for the ordinance.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - i. This was suggested to allow employees to view the signs without the fear of their employer knowing they are getting information off the sign.
 - d. Recommend the County 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."
 - e. Recommend the County track whether calls or reports increase based on the signs being posted to understand effectiveness, and potentially lead to future initiatives.
 - i. Recommend the County also create signs that target consumers of human trafficking and signs that promote awareness to the public at large.

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. Advertising took place in July, written assessments in August, and interviews are expected to take place in September to fill both positions.

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 on recent activities. Background checks for research staff were approved, and they will begin doing initial analysis of GPD cases soon. Maddy will draft a letter to Sheriff Darnell to seek a meeting to discuss expanding the research to the Alachua Co Sheriff's Office.
- 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 were open to moving to the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm if needed, but no action taken.
- II. FY19-20 Workplan is due September 30. Brief discussion about changing some of the language from the FY18-19 workplan is mostly what will be needed.

The meeting was adjourned: Maddy Coy

Seconded: Rita Lawrence

Motion carried

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2019 @ 5:30pm in Alachua County Health Dept, Thomas Coward Auditorium