

**Washington County Citizens Review Panel**  
**May 19, 2020, 5:00pm**  
**Virtual Meeting Agenda**

**Attendance**

Ann Mozey	Nissa Kuntson, County Representative
Jan Hayne, Chair	Pam Clifton
Jody Koch	Sarah Amundson, County Representative
Laurie Gravelle	Susannah Barnes
Mary Doyle, State Rep, DHS Liaison	Teri Bottum- Absent

Amy Berge has decided to step down from the panel due to schedule conflicts.

**Minutes: Pam**

**Sexual Exploitation of Youth**

**Lizzy Grover** and **Jill Doyle**, two forensic investigators skilled in Sexual Exploitation of Youth (SEY) investigations joined us to speak about their work in intake and investigations in Washington County. They are part of a multidisciplinary team which includes law enforcement and have developed protocols to deal with this issue. They spoke of the importance of developing trust with law enforcement and the Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

Last year in Washington County there were three sex trafficking cases. To be classified as sex trafficking there has to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> party receiving money. Thus, twelve additional cases were transferred to child welfare. Unlike labor trafficking which targets older kids (i.e., youth babysitting for drug dealer), the sex trafficking victim locally is, on average, 13-15 year old and female. In California the average age is eleven. Elsewhere, there is a decent number of male victims too.

Ways that the CRP could assist: education, better training for law enforcement, specifically how to identify victims. They cited the MN Department of Health's bulletin's concerning sex trafficking as good resources as well as the Safe Harbor information also on DHS' website. In addition, Lizzy and Jill cited Trevor Berberick, the regional navigator serving Washington County (among other counties) as a good resource. Trevor's bio from the DHS Safe Harbor's website:

*Bio: Berberick is the regional navigator with the Midwest Children's Resource Center, a hospital-based child advocacy center at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. He works to build regional capacity and increase access for exploited and at-risk youth age 24 and under. He has a background working with runaway and homeless youth in emergency shelter and transitional living programs. His Bachelor of Arts was earned at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., with research focused on the intersections of homelessness and exploitation/trafficking of LGBTQ youth and boys.*

Some factors that identify kids at risk are chronic runaways, chemically dependent, victims of child sexual abuse, and from settings with not a lot of structure. Children initially do not know what they want when they are approached by traffickers, it's not necessarily money.

Sex trafficking reports can come from law enforcement, family members, National Center for Missing and Exploited Youth. The report first goes to law enforcement and is cross-referenced with East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force (<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/12294/Sex-Trafficking?bidId=>) or to the region where the trafficking took place. One area of concern is after hour calls and although Lizzy and Jill say there are proposed solutions there is no money available for implementation.

What happens to the child after a report is submitted? They are taken to the hospital, but if they won't disclose what's happened (and they are often hesitant to discuss) it can take up to 6 months and then the forensic evidence is not as good. Because their safety is paramount it is imperative they have a safe place, which might be with their parents or elsewhere...wherever they will be safe from the trafficker. Jill and/or Lizzy conduct a forensic interview. Building relationships with these children is the hardest thing about their job say Lizzy and Jill. They have 45 days to get them resources, case management, etc.

1. **Call to Order:** Following our speakers, Jan called the meeting to order at 5:45.
2. **Approval of last month's minutes:** Jan moved to approve our April minutes, Jody seconded it and all approved
3. **Old Business**
  - a. **Update on projects from last meeting:**
    - i. "Parent Survival Tips" (from Minnesota Communities Caring for Children) for food shelves: Laurie picked up 1200 pamphlets yesterday and presented three options for adding additional contact information for Washington County families. Everyone agreed her last example was the most streamlined- the info we want to give for resources and without the info on reporting suspected child abuse which would tend to disengage parents.  
  
**TO DO:** Laurie will have labels printed with Washington County phone number and 2-1-1 and attach to the MCCC pamphlets.  
  
**TO DO:** Once pamphlets are ready Laurie will email Nissa and Pam to arrange for pickup: Laurie = 250, Nissa = 600 and Pam =350 (Pam's & Jody's)  
  
**TO DO:** Laurie will deliver 250 brochures to Friends in Need, Jody will deliver 200 pamphlets to Family Pathways, Forest Lake, Pam will deliver 150 pamphlets to Hugo Good Neighbor Shelf, Nissa will deliver 600 pamphlets to White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf
    - ii. Speakers on sex trafficking- done. Thanks, Nissa for arranging!
    - iii. Publication for Washington County site and local newspapers was completed by Jan and Pam. Here is the live Washington County website link: <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/Archive.aspx?ADID=1698> . Nissa has not heard from Yvonne that any papers have picked it up. It has been posted on social media by several panel members.  
  
**TO DO:** Pam to resend everyone the link. Done (see above)
    - iv. Offer support through neighborhood watch groups- Laurie and Pam have done this.

## 2. **Projects on hold due to the pandemic**

- a. Citizen Review Panel File Review 2020

**TO DO:** Sarah will inform us when the government center re-opens and is able to accommodate a meeting for us following social distancing guidelines.

- b. CRP membership during lock-down

Due to the uncertainty of future social distancing guidance, Nissa has decided to continue recruitment for panel members.

**TO DO:** Nissa and Sarah will do virtual interviews for 2 people already in the que.  
**TO DO:** Pam will forward CRP information to her neighbor along with contact information so he can contact Nissa.

- c. Distribution of CRP Brochure and Washington County Info Cards  
Nissa now has 200 each of the for neighbors, for parents, for service industry, for spiritual community and for employers Washington County Info Cards along with the general cards explaining CRP. Everyone agreed to wait to deliver these until we reopen as it will be more effective “face to face.”
- d. Pizza project
  - i. **TO DO:** Revisit our approach at our August meeting
- e. Develop a CRP partnership with CONNECT Washington County regarding adolescent drug use and life choices.
- f. The Panel would like to work with Children’s Services to ensure all stakeholders have consistent and relevant information. We were considering a half-day training symposium later in 2020 with a possible panel, speakers, and vendors. Is this still plausible?

### 3. New Business

- a. Reconsiderations- Sarah has reviewed a few on her own and if our COVID situation were short term she would continue to do them. Because this may not be short term, and because reports are picking up again, she is going to figure out a way panel members can review them. It may be through secured emails going to the panel members a day or two prior to a virtual meeting to further discuss and get questions answered. Panel members felt this was a good solution and were willing to do reconsiderations this way.

**TO DO:** Sarah will go over process with Laurie

**TO DO:** Sarah will let us know when and how we will do reconsideration

- b. Susannah gave us updates on Corner House and Evolve

~~**TO DO:** Susannah to send additional information to panel members.~~ DONE. See below:

“Here is the virtual camp I mentioned if there are any adoptive, foster or kinship families in the county who would benefit.

UMOJA MN is a Black Heritage camp for pre-adoptive, adoptive, foster, and kinship families who are parenting African American children of various ages. Our aim is to expose families to Black Excellence, resources and parenting information.

UMOJA MN has made the decision to cancel our in-person June camp. To replace our physical camp, we will hold a shortened virtual version of the camp that will be released June 1, 2020. We will also be providing families with target gift cards, African American family gifts, and a list of online African American resources as part of this virtual camp.

While we are sad that we cannot gather as a group, we are hoping you will find this alternative valuable to get you through this challenging time. Families that already registered for the June camp will NOT have to re-register.

Here is the link to register for our virtual camp. <https://evolveservices.org/umoja/register/>

**Please encourage any of your families who could benefit to register. It is FREE.**

**Registration ends June 1, or when funds run out so encourage families to register soon!"**

- c. Ann mentioned that a friend of hers says there is anticipation of a lot of trauma due to the pandemic.
4. Update from Washington County (Sarah, Nissa)
    - a. Phase 1 Planning for June 1? Is underway. This includes protocols for, UAs, supervised visitation, and office safety. The budget is not looking good and there are open positions that are not being filled.
    - b. Even though cases are down, the cases that are being seen are more intense.
    - c. Staff are doing a good job but are apprehensive to come back to work.

~~TO DO: Nissa to forward Best Practice Guide Child Trafficking and Exploitation~~ DONE. See below:

[Minnesota's Best Practice Response to Trafficking and Exploitation of Children and Youth: A Guide for County and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies](#)

[bulletin #20-68-04](#)

**5. Update from DHS (Mary)**

- a. Staff are not going to be allowed to go back into the building for awhile
- b. When the Governor's powers go away so will the state and federal waivers.
- c. Parental visits are currently a big issue. Bigger kids are doing better.
- d. Foster parents that have tested positive for COIV19 are problematic.
- e. The state CRPs are doing a great job with virtual meetings and supporting families.

**6. Next Virtual Meeting via Zoom: June 16, 2020**

- a. Jody will coordinate
- b. Snacks: On your own!