



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – March 4, 2015
WI Dept. of Administration, 101 East Wilson St., Madison, WI**

Mary Jo Baas, Chair

Board Members Present: Cindy Block, Nicky Bowman, Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Michelle Mettner, Kim Nickel, Jessie Nicholson, Carrie Richard, Senator Janis Ringhand. **Not Present:** Mary Jo Baas, Representative Mary Czaja, Senator Dave Hansen, Katie Mnuk. A quorum of Board members was present.

Others present: Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; Fredi Bove (DCF); Kimberly Liedl (DCF), Jan Miyasaki (Project Respect), Hayley Young (WWC Intern), Maggie Gau (Office of Senator Ringhand).

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was chaired by Michelle Mettner.
2. **Council Business / Approval of Minutes.** Deferred to June 2015 meeting. Additional Council business was moved to the end of the meeting.
3. **Guest Speakers.**
 - a. Fredi Bove, Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Children & Families.

Risk factors for youth from a human trafficking perspective, including:

- homeless/runaway / misconnected youth
- in child welfare system
- feeling stigmatized
- LGBT
- childhood sexual abuse or neglect

Wisconsin child welfare system focuses on children in the care of caregivers such as parents and guardians. For child victims of human trafficking that are not “in the care of” a caregiver, opening a case via the child welfare system is discretionary.

New Federal law: Preventing Human Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PL 113-183) Provides additional (optional) authorities for states and add requirements that the has developed

policies and procedures around youth who are or at risk of being a victim of human trafficking, including key deliverables.

By the end of 2015:

- Engage in consultations with agencies with experience with youth
- Document and determine service for children at risk of human trafficking
- Determine if trafficking has occurred for youth in protective services and runaway
- DCF will be information gathering through April and then draft policies which will be released for public comment prior to implementation

By the end of 2016:

- Implement policies
- Reporting system

Services. Strong need for mental health and AODA programs. A continuum of care and services, including residential and community-based.

Residential Treatment Programs. Pilot program based on Washington State model. The Lad Lake facility is located in Dousman, through Milwaukee County. Started in September 2013 and serves six trafficked youths. Wrap-around, residential care requires substantial resources. The cost at Lad Lake is \$10K per month per person for residential treatment with an average stay of 7-12 months per resident. Includes counseling, peer support, outreach to families (goal of reunification) and legal advocacy. Program is too new for much outcome data.

Community-based Treatment Program. Less expensive and serve a broader range of victims, including those not currently in a court-ordered system, like CPS.

The Governor's proposed budget for 2015-2017 includes \$2M in new GPR funding designated for youth human trafficking victims. Funds are available the second year of the biennium (2016-2017). DCF will use the consultation and planning work being done this year to inform the use of these funds. The intention is to use the funds for a range of services and to make available to victims throughout the state.

b. Jan Miyasaki, Director, Project Respect, Madison, WI

Children age 16-1/2 to 18 years are the most vulnerable to traffickers that prey on youth. Seduction by traffickers: "I will take her heart first, then I will take her body".

Jan noted that the Dane County Juvenile Reception Center receives about 215 girls per year, with 90% admitting to a pediatrician they were having sex with multiple partners for money.

Dire need for services.

Most beds at Lad Lake are allocated to Milwaukee County and are filled all the time. There are very limited available resources to meet the needs of trafficking victims.

Housing, in general, is a big issue. Several faith-based organizations have been very active (e.g., several different orders of nuns, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Church, Salvation Army) and potentially could fill a gap for housing.

There are a host of services that could be provided if at-risk youth could be identified earlier. Victims don't self-identify (fear, coercion by trafficker, self-esteem)

An early-response model to human trafficking requires:

- Cooperative participation locally of school districts, law enforcement and child services.
- School districts are particularly important being often in the "first responder" role.

Need for parental support groups for parents who are not perpetrators. Parents often feel ashamed, afraid, guilt.

Intense individual mentoring has shown some success. Milwaukee County recently received a big grant for this kind of initiative.

Lack of data is a big issue. There is no evidence based screening tool although DCF is looking into this as part of their planning process.

4. Program and Priority Setting

Discussion among board members ensued. Suggestions included:

- Address the Demand Issue
- Community Dialogue / Conversation
 - Press
 - Speakers
 - Generate awareness
 - What are the signs
 - Disseminate info about resources
- Work with what already exists / use resources already developed
- 'how you can help' pamphlet or information, be as specific as possible, add local resources

Motion to create two to three community awareness events in the calendar year, with speakers and local audience to create awareness about human trafficking in Wisconsin. Move by Jessie Nicholson, Second by Karen Katz. Approved.

Motion to Adjourn. Moved Kim Nickel, Second Carrie Richard. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Lidbury