



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – March 2, 2016
Wisconsin State Capitol, Rm 32NW, Madison, WI**

Mary Jo Baas, Chair

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

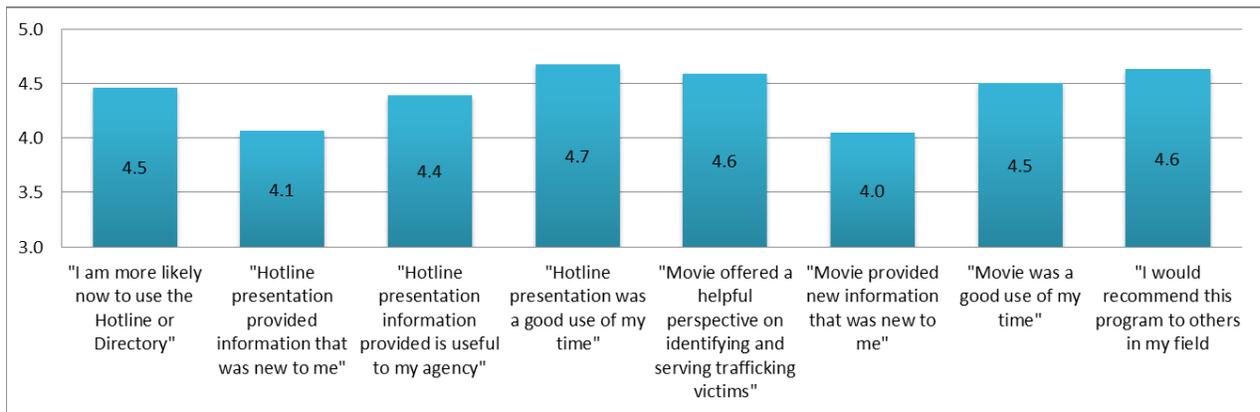
Others present: Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; Julie Braun (DOJ), Fredi Bove (DCF), and Rachel Baldwin (WWC Intern).

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 11:30AM.
2. A motion by Mary Jo Baas was made to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015 Women's Council Board meeting. Seconded by Cindy Block. Approved unanimously.
3. Christine Lidbury and Rachel Baldwin reported on the Council's anti-human trafficking outreach and education programs.
 - a. Planning to organize and co-host a program on human trafficking in Native American communities, in partnership with advocates in the Shawano area, had stalled as two key partners left for different jobs. No one has yet been identified to take their place on the planning committee. Fredi Bove provided that DCF has tribal liaisons that the Women's Council can access in this work.
 - b. The Council's Human Trafficking Resource Directory project, entitled Resources for Hope, ran from August to December 2015.

About the programs: the Council partnered with local law enforcement and advocates to host programs in seven communities: Fox Valley, Bayfield, Elkhorn, Janesville/Beloit, La Crosse and Wausau. Programs included a screening of the film "Very Young Girls," a documentary about human trafficking victims receiving services from the GEMS program in New York, to facilitate and assist in the recovery of formerly sexually exploited youth. Programs also included an overview of the National Human Trafficking Hotline and Resource Directory and a discussion with local law enforcement and service providers on of trafficking in the local community.

Council Intern Erin Harper conducted an assessment, looking at change in Resources Directory listings for Wisconsin during that period and the distribution of listings around communities where programs were held, finding a

- 30% increase in Wisconsin-based Directory listings
- 100% of listing outside the Madison-Milwaukee areas
- An increase in awareness about how local organizations can make use of the National Hotline to identify resources across WI and in neighboring states and communities (via participant evaluations).
- Overall, program participants indicated the program presented information that was useful to their agency and a good use of their time:
 (5.0=strongly agree and 1.0=Strongly disagree):



- Erin's assessment found that the Directory still lacks resources for Central and Northern Wisconsin and should be considered as an area of future efforts.

4. Presentations by Fredi Bove (DCF) and Julie Braun (DOJ).

Fredi Bove, [title], WI Department of Children & Families

- DCF plans to establish a task force co-chaired by the DCF Secretary and the Attorney General, comprised of a range of stakeholders, including two tribal representatives (Bad River and Oneida Tribes). The task force is charged with not duplicating local efforts but to serving as an umbrella steering group supported by five working groups (see handout). Budget bill included \$2M increase service capacity for victims of human trafficking.
 - An RFP has been issued for residential services/facility, outside of Milwaukee County, with specialized services for female victims identified through Juvenile Justice or CPS.

- ii. First draw on the funds is for the residential facility. If there are funds remaining then they may look at other kinds of services such as community-based programs.
- Recent State legislation, AB737, has been passed and is waiting for the Governor's signature, requiring child welfare to screen in cases of alleged sex trafficking even if the abuser is not the child's caregiver.
 - DCF is also implementing the Federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and revising state statutory definitions to align with Federal requirements to be effective May 2017, which coincides with the effective date of the Federal law.

Julie Braun, [title], WI Department of Justice

- The Crime Victims Council (CVC) is a statutory advisory body, like the Women's Council, and has had human trafficking on its agenda for several years.
- The Council continues to address the issue of how to disrupt the business model of human trafficking, as well as developing more equitable approaches to addressing trafficking – for example, criminalizing prostitutes and traffickers while Johns go about their business.
- Everyone who is exploiting trafficked victims has some culpability. If we don't go after everyone in the stream and look at how the entire business model functions, then where is the justice?
- DOJ is working in concert with law enforcement in all corners of the state are being trained to identify, investigate and prosecute human trafficking. The only reason human trafficking exists is that there is a demand for buying sex. Without this demand, there would be no reason for traffickers to exploit victims in this way.

Discussion was raised around the topic of "prevention" including getting into schools to educate youth about trafficking and a focus on healthy relationships. Concern was also raised about a focus on Johns extending to property seizure by the State. Julie noted that this is not the focus on the current initiative.

Ms. Braun also highlighted the planning for the new Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force which will be co-chair by Attorney General Schimel.

Ms. Braun thanked the Women's Council for its successful partnership with the CVC and her hope that the Council will continue to bring its resources and expertise to anti-human trafficking efforts in the future.

Ms. Lidbury thanked Ms. Bove and Ms. Braun for their leadership and important work in this area and the opportunity for the Women's Council to partner in their efforts.

5, 6, 7. Program updates

Year-end budget. Christine noted that the Women's Council is in the last quarter of the State's fiscal year, which will end June 30th. She provided that she has designated bulk of the Council's remaining program funds for an event on human trafficking the Native American community, including to bringing in an expert speaker and hosting (co-hosting) an event. Planning efforts for that project continue with intern Rachel Baldwin and community partners in Shawano. Nicky Bowman offered to assist with developing additional contacts and potential partners.

Future planning. Christine recommended that with a new fiscal year approaching, the Council engage in planning for the period 2017-2018. The Human Trafficking Resource Directory project was largely complete and the upcoming 2016 Trailblazer Award Program will also likely be finished by the end of June. Christine proposed that the Council use one or more upcoming Board meetings to review issues and determine whether to continue to work on public awareness for anti-human trafficking efforts or move to a new focus area or some combination. Board members asked that specifics on the issues raised in previous Board planning session be included in Board materials for any such planning sessions.

Trailblazer Update. Christine has been working with the Office of the Governor on the review of Trailblazer finalists to ensure they meet the threshold of being "in good standing with State and other government agencies." The final list of award recipients is expected to be released in mid-March via a press release issues by the Governor's Office.

At 1:22 the Council moved into Executive Session to discuss issues raised in assessing the status of two Trailblazer nominees. The Council move out of Executive Session at 1:30.

8. There were no Public Comments or Announcements.

Motion to Adjourn by Michelle Mettner, second by Karen Katz. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Lidbury