



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12 East, Pontiac, MI 48341

Human Trafficking Task Force

Janet Jackson, Chair

October 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Janet Jackson called the meeting of the Human Trafficking Task Force to order at 10:08 AM in BOC Committee Room A 1200 N. Telegraph Road, 12E, Pontiac, MI 48341.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Jackson, Michael Spisz (2)

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Charles Cavell, Karen Joliat, Gwen Markham (3)

A quorum was not achieved; therefore, Chair Janet Jackson stated that this would be an information-only meeting and no formal action was taken.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Board of Commissioners - dated August 18, 2023**

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Communications

None.

7. Regular Agenda

a. **Board of Commissioners - Human Trafficking Hotline**

Commissioner Spisz led the discussion regarding the Human Trafficking Hotline. Since the changes occurred to the County website, the Hotline is not as accessible to the public. Commissioner Spisz requested that BOC staff work with Information Technology to add the Human Trafficking Hotline link back to the home page of the Board of Commissioners' website.

b. **Board of Commissioners - Human Trafficking Month Event in January**

Commissioner Spisz indicated that since January is Human Trafficking month, he requested that the Board of Commissioners take some action to recognize

this, such as a proclamation or resolution, and possibly coordinate an event. Dawn Ames suggested inviting Michigan's state legislators to provide a brief overview and share some stats about work that is being done in Auburn Hills and Madison Heights. Commissioner Michael Spisz suggested that he and Chair Janet Jackson could work together to bring an item to the full board prior to the end of the year.

c. Board of Commissioners - Survivor to Thriver - Presentation and Report

Dawn Ames provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Survivor to Thriver Pilot program, which ended in September with all goals achieved. The amount of funding raised for the program was \$11,675, between grants and individual contributions, and \$11,075 was spent. The pilot reached 33 individual survivors with 47 requests (3.91 requests per month) fulfilled. A discussion was held regarding the process for submitting funds to agencies and coordinating funds to assure survivors receive the funds and to avoid fraud. During this pilot program, the gift cards were submitted to agencies on behalf of the survivors. Ms. Ames indicated that Polaris is launching a pilot program similar to the Survivor to Thriver Project, but on a larger scale.

Commissioner Spisz suggested that the Survivor to Thriver topic be on the next meeting agenda to discuss how to continue the pilot program and solve the challenges with payment avenues or options. Dawn Ames indicated that the Vista Maria/Michigan Abolitionist Project (MAP) will not continue to be the program administrator for Survivor to Thriver.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Other Business/Adjournment

Chair Jackson recapped the previous discussion about planning an upcoming event for cross-jurisdictional task forces.

The next meeting was set for January 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Committee approval.