



National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group (NHTDWG) Meeting Notes

Attendees: Katherine Antall, Jody Haskin, Mandy Bowden, Sandra Harrell, Ali Chiu, Amber Connor, Laura Cusac, Heidi Chiu, Jae Jin Pak,, Katherine Gomez, Monique Garvin, Samantha Lake, Sari Latomaa, Reyma McCoy Hyten, Camerron Resener, Frederika Theus, Adonna Wilson-Baney

- I. Welcome
 - A. Introductions.
 - B. NHTDWG Disclaimer, goals and objectives and general meeting instructions.

- II. NHTDWG updates
 - A. NIJ Research Grant Proposal successfully submitted.
 - B. Spring Webinar Series, last webinar Tuesday May 24th, panel discussion on serving youth survivors with disabilities. Webinars have received good feedback, and we had over 100 people register for the last webinar. Recordings will be available on the member portal, members will be notified via email when the recordings are available.
 - C. NHTDWG National Data and Assessment 2020 report and summary will be published on NHTDWG website shortly.
 - D. Thank you for our Academic Year 2021-2022 Graduate Interns Lindsay and Arunima! If anyone wants to connect with either of the interns, please reach out to Jody or Sari and they will make the connection.

- III. Subcommittee updates
 - A. Training and Education subcommittee:
 1. Library system for previous training
 2. Having more discussion about how we can bring the Deaf community into training. Most of them don't identify as having a disability, but we want to bring Deaf individuals in and create curriculum and training that's more inclusive.
 - B. Capacity Building Subcommittee:
 1. Have created a survey to disseminate throughout the nation to try to identify agencies who are equipped to work with people with disabilities.
 2. Build relationships with trauma-informed organizations, raise awareness nationally, identification and training.
 - C. Research subcommittee:
 1. Subcommittee lead position is still open. Needs a leader, and more guidance.
 2. Participated in planning the research grant proposal.

IV. Introducing Subcommittee Goals and Objectives for 2022 Q3-Q4

A. General matters

1. More cohesive in working together.
2. Improving communication in general. Best way to communicate so everyone gets the information. Group did a poll on the best way to receive communication (email, Google Group, member portal). Majority of voters found email to be the best way to communicate.
3. Should there be more general member meetings? Poll on how often general members should meet (Monthly, every other month, quarterly). Most voters thought the current meeting structure of quarterly meetings was the best option.
4. How long should meetings be? Poll on length of general member meetings (1hr, 1,5hrs, 2hrs). Majority of members voted for meetings to be 1,5hrs.
5. More engagement for the group in GMs, breakout sessions.
6. People are not getting emails from subcommittees. How can we improve this? Subcommittee leaders are responsible for scheduling meetings and communicating with their subcommittees. Subcommittees should meet on their own between GM meetings.
7. General member meetings may be the only time most subcommittees can all meet? Time for a subcommittee meeting after the GM meeting. Maybe easier to arrange at the same time than other meetings, so subcommittees all meet at least quarterly and can schedule other meetings themselves.
8. Getting to know each other better in GM meetings could make people more comfortable in speaking in meetings
9. Breakout rooms before and after meetings, for introductions, general conversation and discussion, follow-ups.
10. Discussion about general resources.

B. What members think are most important in working in this intersection.

1. We want to hear from you, what would be helpful for you to hear from us to think about
2. We are the ones that people are turning to for answers, and the more conversations we can have, the more forward movement we can make. More tools and information to both the group and others working in the community.
3. Federal government has come to NHTDWG for resources and help.
4. Training law enforcement is a big issue that needs to be focused on.
5. Dual diagnosis (mental health and disability) is a huge gap. Especially working with law enforcement. Individuals with dual diagnosis are falling through cracks, in a lot of abuse investigations the two systems are fighting instead of working together.

C. Current projects NHTDWG is a part of

- a) NTTAC curricula review, adding appropriate information to include people with disabilities.
- b) VERA grant highlighting the work we all do here. OVC grant to field generated training and TA for HT providing training to LE in

responding to HT survivors with disabilities. Everything mentioned here is an important part of that conversation. Building online, on demand training for LE, corresponding live learning opportunities, reviewing existing screening tools and identifying gaps in training. Looking at laws on HT, state laws, how many count benefits trafficking, only three states in the country actually look at benefits trafficking as HT. Specific ways people with disabilities may be trafficked. Include the fact that under FLSA people with disabilities are allowed to be paid less, may lose important benefits if making too much, “sex work is one way out of that trap” real potential avenue for exploitation.

- (1) Creating a glossary of terms as basic guidance on LE.
 - (a) Glossary of terms and best practices would help in terms of educating LE and prosecutors, speaking and understanding the same terms and appropriate ways to use certain terms.
 - (b) Amber has a base dictionary.
 - (2) Prosecutors struggle with dual diagnosis. When there’s a dual diagnosis, cases often do not move forward, and prosecutors look at if it is a case they can win. More likelihood of a case with an obvious, sympathetic intellectual disability to go to trial, but often a mental health diagnosis makes the jury less sympathetic. NHTDWG could really inform the project.
 - (3) Round table discussions around it and build the content of the curriculum around it. Meetings will be scheduled around the next few months.
- c) The representative payees system can be abused.

V. Resources shared in the meeting:

- A. UIC holding a training on MH dual diagnosis May 31st
https://uichicago.webex.com/ec3300/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=222588982419030703&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=uichicago&confViewID=222588982419030703&internalProgramTicketUnList=4832534b000000056fc0b4188e5f84ac1a164b2474d8d22afef4e9f83033eb37a4a76eccffe1227e&MK=26204603595
- B. <https://thenadd.org/our-mission/>
- C. <https://borealisphilanthropy.org/>
- D. National Federation for the Blind may be good resource to consult on blind / low vision access
- E. Other grant sources could be Admon on Community Living (ACL) or Assoc of University Center on Developmental Disabilities. (AUCD)
- F. We could use as many practical guides as possible. We need to quickly identify ways to improve policies/training materials/documentation/practices and practical guides are helpful.

VI. Screening tools for human trafficking and disabilities

- A. Reaching out to group to ask about screening tools for human trafficking and disability. Camerron’s team has received a request for a human trafficking

screening tool for individuals with developmental disabilities; a county Department of Human Services worker is seeing red flags within this population, and while they are instructed to use a specific human trafficking screening tool, it is not validated for this population.

1. Disability community would rather see an accompanying tool than reinventing the wheel.
 2. Any tools, suggestions from the group?
 3. CO council on developmental disability? May have guidance and input around language and intake. Link <http://www.coddc.org/>
 4. UIC Denver LEND: Leadership Education Neurological Developmental Disabilities program
 5. Resource by self advocates <https://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org>
- B. Do we have screening tools people like to use, validated or not?
1. NHTDWG as a group has not established one, but anyone is welcome to share what they use and like.
 2. IDD training Tempe University
 3. The Adult Advocacy Centers is in the process of developing a screening tool
 4. Important to have self advocate input for screenings.
- C. Project, new grant specifically trying to bolster the response to HT youth and young adults, different tools, service provider workshop 4hrs specifically talking about trauma responsive, culturally responsive care, survivor consultants to review the workshop.
1. If any members want to collaborate in viewing, reach out to Camerron.

VII. Next General Member meeting August 22rd, 2022 at 1pm ET/12pm CT/10am PT

Notetaker: Sari Latomaa