



Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2025

Council Members Present

Chief Jim Baird, *Council Chair*
Andrew Lorensen, *Council Vice Chair*
Evanne Caviness
Onnastasia Cole
ReJeania Downing
Janet Drake
Judge Shannon Gerhart
Diana Goldberg
Jenelle Goodrich
Yaël Coley-Greene
Amanda Finger
Valerie Hansen
Chris Henderson
Irma Jaimes-Alonso

Anchal Jain
Meghan LaPorte-Trujillo (*departed @ 11:00 am*)
Rebekah Layton
Jo-Ann O'Neil
Steven Ramirez
Capt. Kelby Siegfried
Hava Simmons
Katherine "Kat" Stenquist
Molly Stevens
Caleb Stewart
Dr. Megan Stidd
Dr. Michelle Sunkel
Sheriff Darren Weekly

Council Members Absent (*EXCUSED*)

Christian Gardner-Wood (*proxy to J. Drake*)
Jocelyn Jenks (*proxy to C. Stewart*)
Dominique LaCroix (*proxy to M. Stevens*)
Mona Petrocco Klein (*proxy to A. Finger*)
Bailey Thiry (*proxy to E. Caviness*)

Council Members Absent (*UNEXCUSED*)

Josh Landy

Division of Criminal Justice Staff

Kelly Kissell, Manager Office for Victims Programs
Maria Trujillo, Human Trafficking Program Manager
Camerron Resener, Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Lead
Jill Brogdon, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator
Austin Paul, Human Trafficking Grant Project Coordinator

Meeting Convened: 9:02 a.m.

Council Welcome

Chair Jim Baird welcomed everyone to the July Council meeting including two new Council members, Onnastasia Cole and Judge Shannon Gerhart. O. Cole and S. Gerhart introduced themselves to the Council. M. Trujillo announced several housekeeping items and asked Council members to introduce themselves and their position on the Council. There were six members of the public who attended virtually. The members of the public who attended virtually introduced themselves. No members of the public indicated a desire to provide public comment.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Chair J. Baird asked members for any edits to the June 2025 minutes. There were none. ***Do you approve of the minutes from the June 27th meeting?*** S. Ramirez moved to accept the minutes, seconded by J. Drake. ***The motion passed 28 Yes, 0 No with 3 abstentions. 5 votes were conducted via proxy vote.***

Forum for Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

Pulse Survey Results: Jan-June 2025

J. Baird gave an update on the two Pulse Surveys that were conducted with the Council from January through June. J. Brogdon discussed the pulse survey results with the Council. Specific results discussed were:

- Meeting usefulness results were 3.8/5.0.
- Meeting safety results were 4.9/5.0. There was one member who indicated 3.0/5.0 for safety.
- Meeting comfort results were 4.3/5.0.

Additionally, Council members provided positive feedback on the harm reduction panel that included survivors of human trafficking, compensation for survivors that serve on the Council, and the increased number of survivor representatives on the Council. Suggestions on how the Council can improve its engagement strategy included additional media training, anonymous survivor feedback mechanisms, and more labor trafficking survivor representation.

J. Baird emphasized that how safe Council members feel while serving on the Council was integral to the mission of the Council itself. J. Drake, J. Goodrich, R. Downing, and H. Simmons all recommended changing the language of the survey itself to better define the word ‘safe’ and ‘comfort’, instead using words like ‘respectful’. There was a discussion among Council members on how to address this potential safety concern. A trial solution was offered to add a comment box to that section of the survey. M. Trujillo welcomed suggestions on how to address the feedback provided be made to herself or J. Brogdon.

The Council decided that the remaining quarterly surveys will be combined into one final survey to be administered during the November meeting.

A Conversation About the Important Role of Healthy Relationship Education

Kara Gilson and Jessica Purcell from Thriving Families presented prevention strategies through healthy relationship education. The Thriving Families organization serves pregnant and recently postpartum women who live between 92% - 200% below poverty level, who are mostly Latinas with 40% monolingual Spanish speakers. *Motherwise* is the core program of Thriving Families that addresses human trafficking risk factors including housing instability, limited social networks, low self-esteem, and previous trauma experiences. The curriculum of the *Motherwise* group-based workshops includes self-awareness, healthy relationship standards, intimacy beyond physical aspects, conflict resolution techniques, and future planning.

Following the presentation, the Council was given the opportunity to ask the speakers questions. S. Ramirez asked about this program’s funding, K. Gilson responded noting they primarily use federal, state, and local funding in addition to private donations. Y. Coley-Greene asked if the program also supports fathers, J. Purcell responded saying that the current grant they are applying for will include father support programs. K. Stenquist asked what the program offers for rural communities; K. Gilson said that offering virtual programs and increased word of mouth to and between rural communities has increased overall enrollment. I. James-Alonso asked how the Thriving Families program processes intakes of clients they believe may be human trafficking survivors; K. Gilson said that they approach these clients by addressing their direct needs and not forcing any type of disclosure. A. Finger asked how the Thriving Families organization is handling the shifts of available



resources to communities. K. Gilson said through team collaboration and discussing alternative funding opportunities.

Task Force Updates

J. O'Neil provided an update on the Service Provider Partnerships Task Force. The task force created a survey to present to service providers that indicate they do not serve human trafficking victims. The Council was asked to vote to approve the survey in August's meeting to allow fall research implementation by J. Manrique, the new intern joining the DCJ Human Trafficking team.

H. Simmons provided an update on the Prevention Task Force. The current area of focus of this task force is educational partner outreach and what training the task force can offer to school staff. Task force members have been assigned to different school districts to reach out to and offer these trainings. Additionally, the task force has made a spreadsheet of their conference outreach efforts.

A. Paul provided an update on the Connecting Colorado Project. This project is entering the final two months of its efforts. The July coordinator meeting focused on survivor-centered care training; August's meeting will focus on trauma-responsive care. CSU's evaluation interviews are scheduled for late August.

Funding Opportunities

M. Trujillo gave an update on potential funding opportunities. She received feedback from the Boetcher foundation in July with recommendations for a second letter of intent to submit in September.

The Improving Outcomes grant solicitation has not yet dropped. DCJ staff has received indication that it will drop with anticipated short turnaround times. This grant application proposal will focus on the implementation of the human trafficking vulnerability assessment tool across the state with non-CDHS partners and MDT's. DCJ staff are ready to hold a virtual vote for the Council to move forward with this grant if the grant solicitation timeframe requires submission before the next Council meeting.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

J. Baird welcomes the Council to share their opinions with legislators on Ballot Initiative 69, but to make those opinions heard as an individual or a representative of their organization and not a representative of the Council.



An International Delegation from Tajikistan will be hosted at DCJ Headquarters on July 30, 2025, at 9:30am. All Council members are invited to attend. Tonya Peters of Orange Circle Consulting will participate in this meeting as the delegation is particularly interested in learning about the This is Human Trafficking public awareness campaign.

The Council is partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking to co-host an energy sector event in Greeley at Ames College on 9/23 from 10am-2pm. Additional co-hosts include the Attorney General's office and Phillips 66. M. Trujillo will send the invitation to the event to Council members to help promote and register themselves to attend.

C. Resener is hosting the annual Train the Trainer on 7/30-to 7/31 for Human Trafficking 101. Sixteen people are scheduled for this Train the Trainer.

The POST training board is working with C. Resener to bring the Human Trafficking curricula in line with their requirements.

S. Ramirez motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by J. O'Neil.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 a.m.