



Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2025

Council Members Present

Andrew Lorensen, *Council Vice Chair*
ReJeania Downing
Janet Drake
Yaël Coley-Greene
Amanda Finger
Christian Gardner-Wood
Jenelle Goodrich
Valerie Hansen
Chris Henderson
Irma Jaimes-Alonso (*departed at 10:30am*)
Anchal Jain
Jocelyn Jenks

Dominique LaCroix
Josh Landy
Meghan LaPorte-Trujillo
Rebekah Layton (*arrived @ 9:09am*)
Det. Kate Morrissey (*rep for D. Weekly*)
Jo-Ann O'Neil
Steven Ramirez
Capt. Kelby Siegfried
Hava Simmons (*arrived @ 9:16am*)
Caleb Stewart
Dr. Megan Stidd (*arrived @ 9:06am*)
Bailey Thiry (*proxy to E. Caviness*)

Council Members Absent (EXCUSED)

Chief Jim Baird, *Council Chair*
Evanne Caviness (*proxy to B. Thiry*)
Onnastasia Cole
Judge Shannon Gerhart
Diana Goldberg (*proxy to J. Drake*)
Mona Petrocco Klein (*proxy to A. Finger*)
Katherine "Kat" Stenquist
Molly Stevens (*proxy to D. LaCroix*)
Sheriff Darren Weekly (*proxy to J. Goodrich*)

Council Members Absent (UNEXCUSED)

Dr. Michelle Sunkel

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: 9:04 a.m.

Council Welcome

Vice Chair Andrew Lorensen welcomed everyone to the June Council meeting. M. Trujillo announced several housekeeping items and asked Council members to introduce themselves and their position on the Council. There were five members of the public who attended virtually. The members of the public who attended virtually introduced themselves. There was one member of the public who attended in-person who introduced themselves. No members of the public indicated a desire to provide public comment.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

Vice chair A. Lorensen asked members for any edits to the May 2025 minutes. There were none. ***Do you approve of the minutes from the May 16th meeting?*** S. Ramirez moved to accept the minutes, seconded by J. O'Neil. ***The motion passed 23 Yes, 0 No with 5 abstentions. Five votes were conducted via proxy vote.***

Forum for Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

Language: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

C. Resener introduced herself and started the discussion of language surrounding the human trafficking field. Data regarding public awareness of human trafficking and common misconceptions about human trafficking terminology was presented. The group discussed the principles of trauma-informed care:

1. Safety
2. Trustworthiness and transparency
3. Peer support and mutual self-help
4. Collaboration and mutuality
5. Empowerment, voice, and choice
6. Cultural, historical, and gender issues

The group was divided into small groups to discuss two recent news articles that C. Resener provided and asked the groups to review the article for any sensitive words that may cause challenging feelings for those within the anti-trafficking field. Each group presented their articles and the narrative the language painted. Words that groups flagged included rescue, juvenile, scar, victim, prey, operation, sex-slave. These words were either used in dehumanizing connotations about victims, used too frequently, perhaps used in the wrong scenario (ex: using 'victim' in a courtroom versus by law enforcement), or insinuated distrust with government agencies.

Another group noted their article used quotations and language such as ‘the victim **said**’, and that this is minimizing language that may cause the audience to believe the survivor could be not credible on top of gaslighting the victim themselves.

The group emphasized the need for sensitivity in messaging around trauma and victimization, including considering using narratives that would avoid sensationalizing language. Additionally, one group noted that using the survivor’s actual words and language would best represent their experience and provide the utmost impact for the audience of these articles; preventing any additional harm that the media may unknowingly inflict on survivors themselves. A. Finger suggested a resource that trains journalists on how to represent and report on human trafficking.

Task Force Updates

A. Jain provided an update on the Service Provider Task Force. This task force has reviewed questions for a survey to give to service providers who report not serving human trafficking victims. Today’s meeting will host a panel of service providers who indicate not providing services to human trafficking survivors to bring new discussions and perspectives to the task force. The panel’s input will help determine if the survey questions are relevant, appropriate, and effective.

Hava provided an update on the Prevention Task Force. This task force has drafted a pitch letter to be sent to educational partners in Colorado regarding training their staff about human trafficking. Today’s conversation will discuss how the task force will send out the letter effectively and efficiently. This group has also discussed proposals that will be sent to relevant education sector conferences in Colorado where the Council can present. J. Jenks moved to vote on approving the draft pitch letter via an online JotForm that will be sent out prior to next month’s meeting, seconded by J. Goodrich. ***The motion passed 22 Yes, 0 No with 4 abstentions. Five votes were cast via proxy (two in the affirmative, 3 abstentions).***

A. Paul provided an update on the Connecting Colorado Project. Currently the project is in the technical assistance phase. C. Resener and A. Paul met with MDT coordinators for Weld County, Immigration and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado, and Northern Colorado Coalition against Trafficking. This provided more insight into how they work together as well as being able to show them what resources they can tap into. Next month the team will be heading to Larimer County’s MDT coordinator meeting being hosted in Estes Park in the hopes of engaging that community into the work of the MDT community. They will also head to Routt County to get to know the community, build those relationships, and show resources available to them.

Funding Opportunities

M. Trujillo gave an update on potential funding opportunities that were discussed at last month's council meeting. She sent the Council's letter of intent to the Boetcher Foundation and will know in July if they would like the Council to send a full proposal.

There is still no Improving Outcomes grant solicitation for the MDT project, though sources feel confident that this administration will release a solicitation for proposals.

Pulse Survey – Quarter 2 (April – May)

J. Brogdon informed Council members that they should have received an email invitation to participate in this quarter's pulse survey. She also displayed a QR Code as an alternative way to access the survey. A. Lorensen encouraged everyone on the Council to complete the Pulse Survey.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Next month's Council's next meeting will be **Friday, July 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at SungateKids.**

A. Lorensen noted a delegation representing 12 countries as part of the International Visitor's Leadership Program will be hosted by DCJ staff to share the work on the Council on July 11th at 2PM at 690 Kipling Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 at the CDPS headquarters. This will be a 2-hour joint meeting with the Human Trafficking Team and the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. All council members are welcome to join.

R. Layton brought up Ballot Initiative #69 that is being proposed for inclusion in the 2026 Colorado State ballot. The initiative recommends two changes to 18-3-504, Colorado's sex trafficking of a minor statute. It would add language to the definition of sex trafficking of a minor to include "knowingly trades anything of monetary value to by our sell sexual activity with a minor." It also proposes to change human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude from a class 2 felony to a class 1 felony resulting in a sentence of mandatory life in prison without release. At this point in time the ballot initiative is only being proposed, and it is unclear if it will make it onto the 2026 ballot.

S. Ramirez motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by J. Goodrich.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:23 a.m.

