

Iowa NAHT Board of Director Minutes

Tuesday, April 13th 2021

Present: Alka Khanolkar, Alyse Hardin, Bernadette Rixner, Dr. Joe Moravec, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Dr. George Belitsos, Alison Harmon, Heather Brown, Jan Beran, Jessica Rohrs, Kim Hilby, Katie Kyker, Lauren Camp, Lori Freudenberg, Maggie Tinsman, Marielle Roth, Mike Tupper, Patrick Waymire, Ruth Buckels, Sara Kessinger, Shirlee Reding, Shirley Fineran

Absent: Brenda Long

Excused Absence: Teresa Davidson

Guests: Aaron Seydell (ISU Student), Sister Linda Harrell and Sister Linda Lewis (guests of Dr. Joe), Gretchen Brown-Waech (Attorney General's Office)

2:30 Call to order (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and welcomed everyone. Moravec introduced Sister Linda Harrell whom Moravec has known for about 13 years. She's a deaconess at. Corinthian Baptist church in Des Moines which is a premier African American Baptist church. Sister Linda is a long time, foster care mom. She is additionally an ambassador for the police department and she's also on the National Association of Color Women's National Board. Linda Harrell stated that human trafficking is quite new to her but very interesting and she just wants to sit in on the meeting to see what's going on and how concerns are being addressed and how the board works.

Belitsos then introduced two other guests, Gretchen Brown-Waech and Aaron Seydell. Aaron stated that he is from Roland, Iowa and is currently a junior majoring in marketing at Iowa State University. Aaron stated he wanted to serve as a NAHT Technology Consultant because he had a friend who previously worked with Belitsos and was told it was a great learning experience for him. He also stated that human trafficking is something that interests him because there is obviously really good work to be done to fight it.

2:35 Update on DHS anti-trafficking education, training and 2021 legislation. Presentation of 2020 child abuse/child trafficking annual report. (Roxanne Reisberg)

Riesberg thanked the board for inviting her. She began by talking about the human trafficking training which the DHS provides to its staff and foster parents. The department has seven specific trainings for social workers that cover various aspects of human trafficking. If you're a mandatory reporter, you're already familiar with DHS's

child abuse and dependent adult abuse mandatory reporter training. In the child abuse training DHS defines the child sex trafficking category and provides introductory information, along with a viewing of the Hidden in The Heartland video, which is a 14-minute documentary that was created in 2017 by the student capstone group. In this video, Belitsos speaks on behalf of the Iowa NAHT, and there are 5 other speakers. The training section on dependent adult abuse reporter training also defines how human trafficking specifically impacts vulnerable adults in our community.

For child protection (workers who assess abuse), DHS has a basic training and for all of our social work case managers (who are the ones who do the ongoing work with families), DHS has a foundation of social worker practice training. In both of those trainings they define again this child sex trafficking category of abuse, they discuss the need to involve law enforcement and when there's concerns of potential trafficking. They review the use of Child Protection Advocacy Centers for trauma informed care interviews and they talk about the use of human trafficking multi-disciplinary teams that are available throughout the state. They also review some basic information about these types of cases such as how runaways are often trafficked and prosecuting techniques for making federal trafficking charges. Some victims may not realize that they are being abused and then some have delays that we often see in working with law enforcement, who are working to obtain evidence. The fifth, sixth, and seventh training are what DHS refers to as fundamental training. One of the training is for medical fundamentals. DHS reviews the use of Child Protection Advocacy Centers again for trauma informed forensic interviews on all DHS child sex trafficking cases.

In its mental health fundamentals course, DHS includes information on the ways in which traffickers manipulate children. Then in its substance abuse fundamentals course DHS talks about the dangers of homes where illegal substances are either used, manufactured or sold and the possible situations of trafficking in those settings. Riesberg also noted that many of its social workers also seek out additional human trafficking training, as part of their own personal or professional development.

In addition to DHS trainings, they do have additional resources that are available to its staff, DHS has what it refers to as a service help desk. They basically provide guidance for case consultation for child protection workers, supervisors, and social worker administrators. DHS also has a sharepoint resource folder where it keeps pretty much any resource, but DHS has one specific folder specific to human trafficking, that is readily available for all staff to utilize. Anytime they come across good information that's specific to trafficking, DHS puts it in that folder to make sure that staff have a place to go if they're looking for something for resources in their case management.

Riesberg then asked for any questions. Belitsos asked if DHS was offering the trauma informed care training to non-profit providers. Belitsos stated that he thought that was only for DHS social workers. Riesberg confirmed that DHS is providing trauma informed

care training to private providers. Riesberg stated that the department's primary responsibility is to provide training to its staff and then providers that they contract with.

Fineran asked about the videos that Riesberg uses and if they are geared toward teens. Riesberg stated the mandatory reporter video was a collaboration that was to give the message "hey human trafficking is happening in Iowa" so she thinks it's really appropriate for anybody. It's a 14-minute documentary. Fineran asked if the video is available for others to use or a link for DHS. Riesberg stated that DHS got permission to use this for its mandatory reporter training, it is available on YouTube Hidden in the Heartland. Belitsos will send a link to this training video Board.

Riesberg stated that she thought before she talked about training for foster parents, it was really important to quickly review the training structure that's required. Any individual that's interested in becoming a foster parent has to first attend an orientation session and to complete the mandatory training, as well as cpr and first aid training, medication management training, and reasonable and prudent parent standard training before they're eligible for our tips map classes. It is a home study process, so the tip map stands for trauma informed partnering for safety and permanence and it's a model approach that DHS has to partner with parents and become foster parents. It's a 30-hour interactive group format that's led by two facilitators. One who's an experienced foster or adoptive parent and the other who's an experienced social worker that's employed in the foster care or adoption field. These classes prepare foster parents to make informed decisions about becoming foster/ adoptive parents and it teaches them firsthand the challenges and the rewards that come with being foster adoptive parents. The tips map course is offered as a 10-week training that is considered pre-service training. In week number nine of that training, the topic of human trafficking is addressed, and they also provide supplemental handouts on human trafficking. Once an individual becomes a licensed foster parent they are required to complete six hours of additional in service training each year to maintain their license. Riesberg stated that Ruth Buckles is the one who organizes the trainers for the three-hour in-service training that's offered two times a year.

The department's position on any human trafficking bills is that the department hasn't declared any positions on current pending human trafficking legislation. None of the human trafficking bills that impacted the department did not pass through the second funnel.

Riesberg stated that the child abuse statistics for calendar year 2020 were provided to Belitsos who emailed it to the Board last week. If you do access that data be aware that it includes five separate tabs of information and that it covers reports or assessment totals, the number of child victims, the duplicate number of child victims, the types of abuse and the ages of child victims. Data you'll see will cover 2020 and that's calendar year so January through December. Just over 30,000 assessments for allegations of

child abuse or neglect and 21% of those were addressed by means of a family assessment and that involves about 8,500 children and 79% of those were by way of child abuse assessments. And, of course, the majority of those are not confirmed at 67%. 27% of those are founded cases and 6% of those are confirmed.

When you look at the age of children, DHS likes to point out that 47% of the abused children were under five years of age that's pretty common nationwide. 26% of those were children between six to 10 years old and 27% of those children were older than 11 years.

When we look at the types of abuse 53% of those were neglect or what we refer to as denial of critical care, 25% of those cases were dangerous substance cases, 7% was physical abuse, 9% was presence of illegal drugs in a child's body, 5% was sexual abuse and child sex trafficking. Child sex trafficking was also among other categories, the rest of the categories of abuse that made up less than 1% of the total substantiated child abuse and neglect.

This is substantiated, so this is not how many child trafficking cases DHS assessed. So, when you look at only those totals that were confirmed and founded you would see **that for 2020 there were 14 total child sex trafficking cases that were confirmed or founded**. Of those, counties that each had one case were in Blackhawk, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Lee, Muscatine, Scott, Story, Webster and Woodbury. There were two counties that had two cases and those were Johnson county and Plymouth county.

3:00 Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the March 9th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for February 2021.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to order 2,500 Spanish Language Stickers.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a technology consultant agreement with Aaron Seydell at \$13/hour. Emma Kern will be doing a full-time paid internship in Chicago this summer and Aaron will pick up these consulting work hours.
- Motion to elect Sara Kessinger as the new Proxy board member whenever Alyse Hardin is unable to attend.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for YSS's application for federal OVC funding for preventing human trafficking of girls, and a second letter in support of a Department of Justice federal grant to improve housing services to victims of human trafficking ages 18-24. Affordable restoration housing will be provided to 18 human trafficking survivors.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a letter of support for Lila May's House

application to deliver customized transitional housing services to 21 female survivors of human trafficking from the tri state Siouland area over a three-year period.

Belitsos stated that it's a recommendation from the Executive Committee that we approve the 7 motions on the consent agenda. He then asked if any board member wanted to pull any motion off the agenda. There were none. Belitsos called for a vote. **The consent agenda passed unanimously.**

3:05 Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee and progress on five legislative priorities for 2021 (see below). (Tinsman)

Tinsman stated that she would start with a discussion about the costs in funding for Victims of Crime Services (VOCA) and their federal and state appropriation budgets. The VOCA federal funds are getting cut 8-12% this next fiscal year and 20-25% cut the year after. The "VOCA Fix" is being considered by the federal government and if approved this will help to make a system so we do not have to go up and down on the VOCA cuts. Victim service programs across the state are looking at some very detrimental cuts the next two years. Tinsman has contacted Senators Grassley and Ernst and Congresswoman Miller-Meeks. All are for this FIX and Grassley is leading the charge. Please contact these 3 and thank them for their support.

We also need state funding to increase from \$5M to \$7.5M – talk to your legislators about this increase so Braking Traffik which only has VOCA money, which has lost money, will have some state money. \$5M is in the budget now for Victims of Crime Services. Safe Harbor (our top priority) unfortunately does not have any affirmative legislation this year. Next year we should look at working harder on not only Safe Harbor legislation, but also expungement. Tinsman spoke to Justice Thomas Waterman about the Rape Shield Law and he's looking into the example we sent him from Arkansas. It is our request to add human trafficking to the Iowa Rape Shield Law. Waterman mentioned that the Iowa Supreme Court had not done much this last year because of Covid, and Waterman promised to address the issue this fall.

Unfortunately, the school requirement to provide sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents and school employees- Prevent Child Abuse- SF270/HF414 died. This bill was one of the NAHT five priorities.

Monitoring Massage business bill: HF452/SF388, a NAHT priority

- 1) Our bill HF452 passed the House unanimously under the leadership of Rep.

Megan Jones and was sent to the Senate.

- 2) Our companion bill, SF388, passed through a subcommittee and committee with unanimous support and was ready to be heard on the floor.
- 3) Under our encouragement, the Senate attached both bills on the Senate floor and then withdrew SF388 and substituted HF452, which had the victims' assistance amendment for an affirmative defense.
- 4) Without notice, Senator Whiting added an amendment on the floor to strike a large portion of the bill dealing with property owner cooperation during an active investigation. The Senate attached the amendment and passed the bill, sending it back to the House.
- 5) The House does not like the amendment, so Angela is working to amend the amendment to save the bill before session ends – likely in a couple of weeks. On hotel/motel funding, Representative Mohr believes he has the hotel/motel funding for the Department of Public Services of \$159,000 will be in the budget.

The following bills are still alive:

- ✓ HF357, the massage therapist rules are anticipated to move forward – must have photo on their license and mandatory reporter
- ✓ HF710, child endangerment by a sex offender is alive and out of committee ✓
- HF201, has passed the house and is in the Senate. It requires sex offenders to register in other jurisdictions
- ✓ HF361, the guardian ad litem for witnesses is alive. This bill entitles a trafficking survivor the appointment of a guardian ad litem. This is a person to stand for the child and the child's needs. It has passed the House and the Senate
- ✓ HF425, sex abuse against a child under 14, not under 12 has passed the house and the senate and is in the governor's office for signing.
- ✓ HF426, the sex abuse kit tracking is doing okay as a bill, but it needs a budget. ✓
- SF241, a misdemeanor for giving sexual material to a minor is alive ✓
- SF562, sexual exploitation by an adult has passed committee and is ready for debate in the Senate.

The following bills in which we had interest in died:

- ✓ HF245- Preventing Sex Abuse Instruction
- ✓ SF572-Minor Sex Abuse Statute of Limitation
- ✓ SF268- Human Trafficking Training for Commercial Driver's License
- ✓ SF33- Minor Sex Abuse Statute of Limitation
- ✓ SF358- Dating Violence Education
- ✓ SF271 -Supplemental Aid for At Risk Students.

- ✓ SF521- The most disappointing bill that died which established a Human Trafficking Task Force. There were too many questions in the House, but Representative Megan Jones has offered to work on it in the interim- need to have Carlin and Zaun from the Senate also – too many amendments

Belitsos thanked Tinsman for her very hard work as Chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee.

NAHT 5 Ranked Priorities for 2021

1. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt a Safe Harbor Law that protects minors against prosecution for any crimes committed while they were trafficked. 31 states have already passed Safe Harbor Laws.
2. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to enact the expungement of crimes committed by adult survivors which occurred while being trafficked.
3. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation requiring schools to provide child sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents, and school employees. The NAHT is collaborating with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and both organizations will work for passage of this bill.
4. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to add human trafficking victims to Iowa's Rape Shield Law. Iowa's Rape Shield Law (Rule 5.412 Sexual abuse cases; relevance of victim's past behavior) does not currently extend rape shield protection to victims of sex trafficking. Iowa should enact laws that provide protections for Iowa sex trafficking victims in the trial process.
5. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to create uniform statewide local law enforcement authority regulating massage businesses. The American Massage Business Association, Iowa Chapter has initiated this proposed legislation. If adopted, this would allow local law enforcement in all jurisdictions to monitor massage businesses in order to root out illicit activities such as sex trafficking. The bill would mandate that law enforcement in all cities and towns take on this responsibility in addition to the 23 cities which currently have anti-trafficking massage ordinances.

3:25 Report from Fundraising Committee. (Kyker, Freudenberg, Forsyth & Belitsos)

- Givelowa matching grant from Greater Iowa Credit Union \$1,200
- Thank you note posted on Facebook
- Facebook fundraising in honor of one's birthday
- Reminder of Amazon Smile
- ½ page NAHT ad in Business Record

Kyker stated that we received a Greater Iowa Credit Union matching grant. We were the Give Iowa charity in January, so we received a total of \$1,200 dollars (\$600 from donors, \$600 match from GICU). That will be used to purchase rescue stickers and more anti trafficking posters. If you follow us on Facebook you'll see there's a really nice thank you post with Dr. George holding the check and thanking them for that donation.

Kyker reminded everyone that you can host Facebook fundraisers, for your birthday, or for an anniversary, or just because. We have been getting a lot of donors that way, and it's from people we don't even know so we encourage you to do that and encourage your friends or family members to do that as well.

Also, a reminder that we do have an Amazon Smile account. It does take a while to earn larger donations that way, but everything you purchase on Amazon will be rewarded by Amazon Smile.

The fundraising committee was able to create a half page NAHT ad in the Business Record, and this was free of charge. One of our technology consultants made the ad more visually appealing and that's also posted on our Facebook page. It looks great. It talks about what the Network is and gives our contact information, donation link and gives the hotline numbers for the national trafficking hotline as well as the Iowa Victim Call Center. It looks really great and we were very thankful that the half page ad was donated to us.

3:30 Update from Survivor Service Provider Collaboration. Plans for 2021 quarterly Zoom meetings scheduled for June 3rd, September 2nd, and December 2nd. (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

Hardin stated that the committee is meeting on May 13th at 1pm to plan the agenda for the next Provider Collaboration meeting, which is on June 3 from 9 to 11 am.

3:35 Final written report from Lauren Camp on her 2-year human trafficking victim service fellowship and update on her current position at Legal Aid as it relates to human trafficking. (Camp)

Belitsos thanked Camp for sharing her written fellowship report which he sent to all NAHT board members. He will also place the report in a future blog post. Camp stated that she helped both sex trafficking and Labor trafficking victims at her two-year human trafficking fellowship. She has collected interesting data about some Iowa human trafficking cases she served. Her fellowship revealed that there is a great need for legal services to victims of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking in Iowa. There were a lot more labor trafficking group cases she wasn't expecting. Camp also worked with several sex trafficking victims and survivors and provided legal services. More direct or

longer term full legal services were provided for a wide variety of clients including federal crime victims' rights, housing issues, privacy consumer issues, credit collection issues, identity theft, wage and hour rules, protective orders, divorces, etc. Some of Camp's bigger cases referred to private attorneys that were involved in some more complex civil litigation against business owners.

Camp had some successful cases against a farm worker employer who trafficked some immigrant farm workers. Two of the three labor group cases came out of Woodbury county.

Belitsos asked about one of the sex trafficking cases. The case involved two minors that were victims of sex trafficking and Camp helped them win a settlement for restitution awards of \$111,000 and \$23,000. Belitsos asked if the trafficker of the minors was brought to justice.

Camp replied that the labor trafficker made a plea deal and the trafficker was charged with child pornography, and child exploitation.

3:45 Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee.
(Moravec, Reding & Hilby)

- Feedback on April 5th Child Trafficking Symposium
- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee
- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee
- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee (Hilby)

Belitsos commended Moravec and the two board members who were speakers at the very successful sex trafficking symposium. With Moravec's permission, Belitsos will send the recording to the board and post it in the blog post.

Khanolkar stated that she learned a lot from the MercyOne child sex trafficking symposium. The talk on the trauma informed care was very, very insightful information and she thanked Moravec for organizing this. She stated it was a very important symposium that she thinks it could benefit many, many people. Her question was, can we share that recording at our clubs? Moravec stated that yes, you can use that recording. He also stated that he was honored to have heard such great feedback. They had over 520 people registered for the symposium.

Brown stated that first off, Dr Joe, thank you for letting her speak at the symposium She stated that if you ever have a group or organization that needs somebody to stand up and speak for survivors she is willing to speak. Brown believes that it is important to put a face to human trafficking. She asked board members to please reach out, she is always happy and willing to come and talk and to share her story.

Hilby stated that, in a nutshell, she started to work on the best practice modules, Brown

Waech has given her a wonderful database to use. Gretchen did a lot of the legwork so Hilby is in the process of doing a draft right now. She has two students that can give them 450 hours on this project. They start at the beginning of May, and Hilby's goal is to get a rough draft done and then have the students look at over. Then Hilby would like to take it to the other human trafficking direct service providers and invite them to give input. They students and providers are going to be the ones that are driving this more or less so Hilby is going to be the rough draft person.

Freudenberg stated that the US Institute Against Human Trafficking has been wonderful as far as providing resources and guidance, so she just would encourage everyone to look at the website.

Reding reported on the Hotel employee video. She stated that pretty much every speaker is lined up now and they're into the scripting. We anticipate starting to do the filming right after the first or middle of May.

4:00 Adjournment

Belitsos thanked the Board for all of their hard work on the NAHT committees.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 2:30-4:00 PM