

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2019, 2:30-4:00

Conference Call

Present: Lauren Camp, Jonathan Causey, Liz Cox, Angela Davis, Sister Shirley Fineran, Elizabeth Quinn, Tylor Houston, Katie Kyker, Shirlee Reding, Roxanne Riesberg, Bernadette Rixner, Dr. Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper, and Trish Young

Excused: Dr. Geoge Belitsos and Paul Fitzgerald

Absent: Joy Fopma, Alyse Hardin, Jennifer Kerger, Mike Tupper, and Suzanne Wright

Taking Minutes: Linda Greenlee

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox who reviewed the agenda. Roll call was taken.

Consent Agenda:

- No changes to minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.
- No treasurer report given as Kerger was on the road traveling.
- Budget was discussed and pulled out for further conversation with George about the expected revenue flow and expenses. Reding and Houston asked to be part of the conversation on the budget with George.

Houston reviewed the outcome of the Doodle survey concerning board meetings dates. The most commonly reported day was Tuesday, and he found that the second Tuesday of the month worked best. To give everyone a chance to adjust to the new meeting date, we will meet on Monday, March 18th. Thereafter, meetings would be held on the second Tuesday which would begin on April 9th at 2:30 p.m. Tylor thanked everyone for their input.

Davis gave a progress report of the Legislative Advocacy Committee report. The main priority for NAHT would be getting some affirmative legislation drafted on Mandatory Reporting Training and Certification. Rep. Joel Fry, a member of the Human Resources Committee, has indicated his interest in being the sponsor of a bill dealing with mandatory reporting. There is a wide range of bills out there covering child abuse and human trafficking. Our goal is to make sure we have something out before the first funnel week. We are holding off on endorsing some of these bills at this time. Davis has put together a comprehensive word document that will give you a link to the bills being watched. The one bill we are looking at is SSB1037 that maintains local control. There are some criminally related bills that we are monitoring, so we can provide some additional support as they overlap on our issue as well. The Legislative Advocacy Committee asks that when you have questions about a piece of legislation, that you contact Davis or Tinsman so that a clear organizational message is given by the Iowa NAHT. Chair Cox thanked Davis for all the time she was putting in at the Capitol.

Taylor reported on the Research Evaluation and Best Practice Standards. At their last meeting they decided to move to a quarterly meeting. Their next meeting would be in March. Two things that they have been doing:

- A volunteer has been e-mailing out to law enforcement agencies, asking them about the prosecution and conviction rates for a number of different laws placed on the books surrounding human trafficking. As they have been sending them back, the responses are being placed into an excel sheet format. Taylor had e-mailed the ten largest county law enforcement agencies to hear their responses and so far had heard back from seven. He will following up on the others three.
- Taylor had followed up with Carly Ross on the half million dollar grant that USCR had applied for and received. USCR did go ahead and hire a capacity builder, Jessie Johnson. He spoke with Jessie and will be meeting with her this week to discuss a plan of action for this year. The organization is not going to start working with survivors until next year. They basically will be doing capacity building and making sure everyone is at the table that needs to be.

Taylor continued with an update on NAHT's Network Rescue Sticker 2019 Statewide project. According to the NAHT blog, 17 organizations have requested from 50 to 200 stickers from locations all over the state. Due to the demand more Stickers are being ordered. Stickers are available translated into Spanish and Mandarin. Whenever you are passing out stickers, remember to include the directions on" how to pass out stickers." With the upcoming movie, "Gridlock," it is hopeful that we can find a system to pass stickers out that night along with the directions.

Camp spoke about doing collaboration with other states to help the many victims who desire to move somewhere else. The only coalition we have is with Nebraska through Steven O'Meara. There is a "Safe Key" program through Salvation Army. It was noted that Jennifer Kerger, who works for the Salvation Army, might be able to direct us on how we could collaborate with the Salvation Army to help those victims who move to other states. Having the connections in other states for referral services and resources for victims would be great. Joy Fopma would also be a good resource for seeking connections to other neighboring states.

Update by regional coalitions in attendance:

Siouxland Group – Rixner gave a report on the Siouxland Coalition who has done the following:

- Siouxland Group – Rixner gave a report on the Siouxland Coalition which has done the following:
- For HT Awareness Month:
- Put up two billboards - one in a high trafficking area and one at the entrance to Sioux City from the interstate.
- Had a display in the South Sioux City NE Public Library

- Two local TV stations had reports on it one focused on a presentation by “Set Me Free” in South Sioux City, NE and the other one focused on the Siouxland Coalition.
- Had a PSA that ran on local TV stations which was done by a group from Leadership Siouxland.
- Had the Proclamations done in 4 Iowa or Nebraska cities and 3 Iowa and 1 Nebraska counties.
- In Other Information:
- Members started a prayer group that prays together monthly against human trafficking and for victims.
- Unity Point has developed an excellent Human Trafficking Protocol. They are hoping to get Mercy Hospital to "attend" Teresa Davidson's April training teleconference and they will work with both hospitals where they are needed..
- Have up-dated their website.
- Did 66 presentations reaching 2,600 people during 2018.
- They hope to have *Set Me Free* come in and do their program called “Social Media Deep Dive” for parents. Set Me Free has given several presentations to Sioux City Community school health classes this year

Sister Fineran stated that Siouxland Restoration Center has change their legal name to Lila Mae’s House and are beginning the process of hiring an executive director

Southwest Iowa Human Trafficking Coalition – Kyker reported that they had

- Designed a new website.
- Put up three billboards.
- Sent out e-blasts and did several newspaper ads.
- Distributed our tear off flyers and the stickers around southwest Iowa.
- Scheduled in March a one day information conference with speakers from law enforcement, Salvation Army, and social services.
- Incorporated some human trafficking education into a peer mentoring program at the five local school.
- Been looking into bringing in a “Johns’ school” to talk to community (Council Bluffs).

Chains Interrupted and Cedar Rapids Coaliton –Young reported the following:

- Held a few fund raisers and will be hosting one on April 23rd.
- Did the red sands project.
- Called on City Council to pass a Human Trafficking proclamation in January.
- Developed a new website.
- Found a donor to donate a transition house.
- Opened a new office space.
- Partnered with Mercy Medical Center to do Theresa’s presentations at hospitals and medication centers.
- Theresa will be doing a statewide education conference on April 23rd.

- Have had 26 referrals in the last six months from outside agencies.
- Theresa held her first regional taskforce meeting developing a response to what is going on locally.

Des Moines and Plymouth Human Trafficking Coalition – Reding reported that they:

- Had participated in the Lobbying Day at the Capitol.
- Put on an evening seminar for law enforcement, city officials and the community on Labor Trafficking. They brought in two speakers, one from Davenport (Breaking Traffik), who works with immigrants - victims of labor trafficking, and one from Minneapolis who coordinates their labor trafficking prevention program.
- Are working with a professor at Drake University to have four students do an internship for the month of April. She is hoping to provide two bilingual interns who will be working with the Hotel/Motel Project and two who will assist with the research planned to study the effectiveness of the Message Ordinances that have been passed.

Sister Fineran had not been able to make the Survivor Services Collaboration committee meeting, but did note that Wings of Refuge has opened a new house.

In reporting on the Hotel/Motel Training projects, Reding felt that due to the holidays not much went on but felt training would now begin to pick up. In western Iowa, they applied for a grant from Junior League to do the Hotel/Motel Training. As human trafficking is a national project for Junior League, they pretty much took over the coordination and training. Junior League has trained seven hotel and over 200 people. They are going into a casino to do training this week. They have three other trainings scheduled for February. She would suggest you look to the Junior Leagues for grants.

Kyker agreed to be on the NAHT fundraising committee. We still need someone to chair the committee and help get things started.

Davis asked that we contact Representative Jon Thorup to see if he would be available to participate in our next meeting's conference calls. Tinsman suggested that we find out what is going on with Johnston County's coalition. A contact for that group might be Shannon Fennelly.

With no further business meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.