

December 13th NAHT Board Meeting Minutes

Present: George Belitsos, John Chesser, Maggie Tinsman, Lyna Debner, Shirley Fineran, Bernadette Rixner, Alyse Hardin, Jessica Hagin, Alka Khanolkar, Stephanie Olson, Tom Barr

Excused Absence: Linda Harrell, Mike Tupper

Absent:

Guests: Aaron Seydell (Technology Consultant), Chelsea Hoye (Advocacy Iowa), Gretchen Brown-Waech (Attorney General's Office)

I. Call to order. (Belitsos)

Meeting called to order at 2:31 pm.

II. Preparation for January 12th at 11:00 am Governor's Proclamation of January 2023 as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Awards. (Belitsos) Day on the Hill signup (Tinsman)

In addition to the Governor's Proclamation signing, Belitsos noted that we will be giving out Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Awards on this date and will also be having our Day on the Hill and asked Tinsman to talk about it.

Tinsman responded that the Legislative Advocacy Committee need to know who is coming on January 12th so they can find out who each board member's legislators are and they can reach out to them ahead of time. Tinsman noted that they will be meeting with these legislators before and after the 11:00 am event. Chesser noted that he could attend. Debner noted that she would check to see if she could attend and would let Tinsman know. Hagin noted that she would be in attendance. Olson noted that she would be in attendance if schedule permit. Khanolkar noted that she would be in attendance if weather permits. Fineran noted that she would be in attendance. Reding noted that she plans to be in attendance. Hardin noted that she would be in attendance.

III. Review and approval of Consent Agenda. Reminder: If you wish to remove any motion from the consent agenda for additional information or debate you may do so. No second is required. (Belitsos)

- a. Motion to approve November 8th minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors. (see attached)

- b. Motion to approve the November Treasurer Report. (see attached)
- c. Motion to elect Kim Smith and Deanna Jensen to fill vacant board seats (see attached resumes and cover letters)
- d. Motion to approve six nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Human Trafficking Service Awards. (Shared Google Drive in separate email)
- e. Motion to elect John Chesser, Sister Fineran, Linda Harrell, and Bernadette Rixner to another 2-year board term.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

IV. Report from the December 5th meeting of the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Outcome of the work group's third meeting held November 21st at the State Capitol Building. Review of Iowa 2022 legislative report card (see attached). Review and approve 2023 NAHT legislative priorities (see attached) (Tinsman)

Tinsman reported that they had three workgroup meetings with multiple different parties to talk about Safe Harbor and that they had good discussions. Tinsman also noted that she had sent the board the three Legislative Advocacy Committees recommended priorities and asked for discussion and feedback.

Hoye noted that we have been working on Safe Harbor for over a year and the Legislative Advocacy Committee is currently focusing on the language of the bill in the workgroup. Fineran asked if they are going to send out a copy of the final language of the Safe Harbor bill. Hoye responded that they would be soon sending a copy of the bill language. Rixner asked if the workgroup has been able to find a workaround for some of the concerns expressed by the DPS. Hoye responded that they are moving closer to finding a resolution and will give an update soon.

Tinsman noted that the increase in funding for victim services is important because it addresses part of the issue that law enforcement has with the Safe Harbor Bill. Hoye noted also that they want to expand the language of Victim Services to include human trafficking survivors so that funding can go to that.

Rixner asked if these bills will just cover sex trafficking and not labor trafficking. Hoye responded that they cover both. It was consensus that the wording on the Expungement priority be changed to read "human trafficking" rather than "sex trafficking". There were several other word changes plus the addition of a title.

Belitsos asked if we would be able to add vacatur to the list since it is similar to expungement. Hoyer responded that they could add this but they would need to tweak some language to do so. Belitsos noted that he thinks it would be a good idea to include this since Iowa is one of only four states that doesn't have vacatur. Rixner noted that it may also get traction if it's pointed out specifically that other states around Iowa all have it. Belitsos noted that he would leave it to Hoyer and Tinsman on whether to include it or not. He had already submitted this vacatur recommendation in writing to the Legislative Advocacy Committee and brought it up at the December 5th Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting.

Barr asked if Tinsman and Hoyer could give future updates so that they know talking points and what to say to legislators. Hoyer agreed to give weekly updates once the legislative session begins.

Tinsman motioned for the board to accept as amended the three major priorities and support the three policy statements. Rixner seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The amended and approved document follows below:

The NAHT Has Adopted Three 2023 Legislative Priorities:

Adopt Safe Harbor Law

NAHT requests the Iowa Legislature adopt a Safe Harbor Law, protecting **minors** against prosecution for prostitution and other non-felony offenses while they were trafficked and directs victims to non-punitive specialized services. This legislation will greatly reduce the **harmful and re-traumatizing effects** of arrest, detention, and prosecution for crimes committed pursuant to trafficking victimization.

Increase Victim Services Funding

NAHT requests the Iowa Legislature to allocate an **additional \$5M** in Justice System Appropriations for Victim Services and to amend the victim service budget line item to **include human trafficking, homicide, and other violent crimes**. Currently \$5M is allocated to victim services.

Expungement for Trafficking Survivors

NAHT requests the Iowa legislature enact an expungement process for survivors of human trafficking who were compelled or forced to commit illegal acts.

NAHT Policy Statements on Other Issues:

- NAHT supports adopting legislation requiring schools to provide child sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents, and school employees as requested by Prevent Child Abuse in Iowa.
- NAHT supports adopting legislation to prevent cell phones and tablets from accessing or displaying material that is harmful to minors using safe filter technology.
- NAHT supports exceptions for survivors of trafficking and other victims of violence and assault, from the \$150K restitution law.

V. Outcome of final quarterly Provider Collaboration quarterly meeting Thursday, December 8th NAHT. Periodic provider email news will continue (Belitsos). Startup of new provider community meetings (Hardin)

Belitsos noted that the meeting had a good turnout and outcome. Tinsman reported about the Legislative Advocacy Committees priorities and got feedback from service providers.

Brown-Waech noted that it was an informative meeting and that providers want to stay in touch and keep tabs of what is going on. Belitsos reminded the Network board that they will no longer be hosting meetings but will continue to update providers about legislation, resources, and trainings via email. The termination of the Survivor Provider Collaboration meetings was requested by Hardin and Davidson.

Belitos noted Alyse Hardin and Teresa Davidson will be starting a new provider collaboration. Hardin noted that this new group will be for providers at the Director level and up. People that meet these criteria can reach out to Hardin and Davidson to get information. Hardin also noted that she would be willing to report to the NAHT Board on how the meetings are going. Belitsos asked if Hardin would let him know when meetings take place so that he could place her report on future board meetings and Hardin agreed to do so.

VI. Outcome of Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign. Have we reached goal of 100% board member participation? (Belitsos)

Belitsos noted that Giving Tuesday is the only fundraising effort that has been done this year due to no Fundraising Committee Chair, which John is currently looking to fill. Belitsos noted that it is an expectation that every board member will contribute at least once a year. As of now, only 60% of the board has contributed this year Belitsos offered to let those who may not know if they have in 2022 an answer to their question. This year there have been 18 gifts adding up to \$2100 given for Giving Tuesday.

VII. Plans for in-person Board training on victim systems approach and trauma-informed care following the January 12th Day Proclamation signing (Hardin and Chesser)

Chesser noted that he and Hardin have had a scheduling issue up to this point in getting Teresa Davidson scheduled to do this Board in-person training. Hardin noted that she has been talking with Davidson about when it is best to do this training. They want to pick a date and time that will allow Davidson to give full and comprehensive training. It appears that January 12th may not work for Davidson. Tinsman asked if they could avoid doing it on January 12th because they will be meeting with legislators that day. Hardin agreed with that and noted that not having it on January 12th would allow for a more comprehensive in-person training. Belitsos suggested that they could do a hybrid session with some people in-person and some joining virtually. He noted that January 12th is the only in-person NAHT event each year. Chesser noted that the board will need to be patient with this because they have the right person for the training but they need to get all the other logistics figured out first.

VII. Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (S.4912/HR 8498) needs approval from Senator Grassley (see attached)

Belitsos noted that the NAHT endorsed a bill at the National level. Belitsos noted that Senator Grassley is the Senate Judiciary Committee and we need Grassley to add the Act to the appropriations bill and include it in the budget. Tinsman noted that she could reach out to Grassley and say that the NAHT Board voted to support the bill.

Tinsman motioned to support the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act and Chesser seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Belitsos noted that he would email Senator Grassley's staff about the result of the vote.

IX. Update on Tri-State Anti-Trafficking Coalition's request to edit the hotel/motel training film for use in Illinois and Wisconsin (Chesser)

Chesser reported that there haven't been any updates because they were checking to see if they could afford to edit the video.

X. Adjournment. Upcoming Board Meetings: Tuesday, January 10th annual board meeting.

Belitsos noted that the next meeting is the annual board meeting and we will have election of officers at this meeting. Belitsos noted that Chesser is looking to fill the Vice-Chair and Treasurer spots. Chesser will serve as Chair and Tinsman has agreed to continue as treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.