

Meeting Minutes
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking Board of Directors
December 14th, 2021

Present: Tom Barr, George Belitsos, Ruth Buckels, John Chessser, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Shirley Fineran, Linda Harrell, Alka Khanolkar Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Maggie Tinsman

Excused Absence: Teresa Davidson, Alyse Hardin, Kim Hilby, Katie Kyker, Brenda Long, Bernadette Rixner, Jessica Rohrs, Mike Tupper

Guests: Threase Harms (Legislative Liaison), Emilee Harris (Advocacy Strategies Team), Chelsea Hoye (Advocacy StrategiesTeam), Susan Mitchell (Hotel/Motel Video Team), Gretchen Brown-Waech (Attorney General's Office), Angie Wild (Advocacy StrategiesTeam)

I. Call to order (Belitsos)

After some internet difficulties, Belitsos declared a quorum of 11 members in attendance and began the meeting at 2:35 PM. Belitsos stated that many board members are out ill so there will be seven excused absences.

Belitsos sadly informed the board that Teresa Davidson, who was to follow him as the Chair of the Network starting February 1st 2022, has had some major life and work changes and will no longer be able to serve as the Chair. Chessser has agreed to serve as vice-chair and will be elected at the January annual meeting as the new vice chair. Belitsos will continue to serve as the Chair of the board for a seventh year, and is eager to get out of the leadership role. This marks the fourth time a vice-chair has declined to move up to become chair. He thanked Chessser for agreeing to serve as the vice chair with the full expectation that he will become chair in 2023.

Belitsos received a request to move up the Legislative Committee Report on the agenda, and asked if everyone was okay with this. After hearing no objections, Belitsos approved this change and encouraged Tinsman to start on her report.

II.Outcome of December 7th Legislative Advocacy Committee and introduction of Threase Harms, CEO of Advocacy Strategies. Review of three legislative priorities for 2022. (Tinsman)

Tinsman began by stating that the Legislative Advocacy Committee had an excellent meeting, and said that she will be introducing our new legislative liaison, Threase Harms, who was also on the call.

Tinsman gave a brief background on Threase explaining that she serves as the CEO of a full service Government Relations Public Affairs and Media Consulting Firm

called Advocacy Strategies of Iowa based in Des Moines. Threase has nearly 30 years of experience providing strategic guidance and hands on support developing and implementing successful lobbying public affairs, grassroots and media campaigns of all sizes from national campaigns across the country to smaller campaigns in our communities.

Harms has a BA in communication studies from the University of Northern Iowa, and her Masters in Public Administration from Iowa State University. In addition, Harms is serving her second term on the Windsor Heights city council.

Tinsman concluded by explaining that she had previously worked with Threase in 1989 as they were both working for the Iowa Senate, and explained a terrific job she did then.

Tinsman also mentioned that as the board has decided on three Legislative Priorities, she is asking all board members to contact their House and Senate members to not only attend our January 13th Proclamations signing, but also to ask them if they can meet before the Proclamation signing to talk about the three Legislative Priorities. Tinsman shared that the Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet with the Legislative leaders on the afternoon of January 13th, and hand out 150 copies of these priorities.

Tinsman also told the board that the NAHT is planning to sign a contract with Threase Harms for \$5,000, and they are still in need of about \$600. Tinsman encouraged board members to please consider making a contribution to the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee as soon as possible.

Harms thanked Tinsman for her introduction, and explained that she has had the pleasure of working with both Tinsman and Belitsos in many different settings throughout her 30 years. She noted that it is a true honor to be referred by Angela Davis to be working with and representing the NAHT. Harms also explained that two of her team members, Emilee Harris, and Chelsea Hoyer are also on the zoom call, and they will be part of the team who is supporting the NAHT. Harms encouraged the board to go to the Advocacy Iowa website to take a look and get a better understanding of who they are, and exactly what it is that they do.

Harms then went on to talk about the three Legislative priorities that the NAHT has put together. Harms noted that she thinks that three priorities are a good number, and she really likes how the NAHT has set up our agenda to continue these priorities into the next year. She explained that legislative issues don't always happen overnight, and it can take a while to get everyone educated and on board. Harms mentioned that they typically say that it can take 3-5 years to get a legislative priority passed, so it is always best to get these issues in front of the legislators, and try to get these ideas pumping.

Harms mentioned that she knows that the board has been trying to increase the victim services funding for quite some time. She explained that she and Tinsman had a conversation with Representative Gary Mohr, and Mohr told them that this is a

legislative priority for him this 2022 legislative session, but he is unsure if he can get to \$10 million. Mohr wants to find resources to be able to commit to this, and Harms thought that this was excellent news.

Harms explained that the best way that we are able to get more dollars into this is if Representative Mohr believes in this, and if he hears from all of his colleagues across the state in all of the different legislative districts that they believe in this too. Harms reflected on what Tinsman explained about reaching out to legislators, and she shared the importance of this as well.

Harms went on to talk about the second legislative priority, which is creating sexual abuse prevention training in the schools. She mentioned that there is legislation introduced, and that Prevent Child Abuse Iowa already has a start on this, and that we should work alongside them to continue pushing this into the legislature.

Finally, Harms went on to talk about the Safe Harbor legislation. She explained that Advocacy Iowa has not worked with this issue before, so they are currently researching other midwestern states, or republican states to see what language of this has been successful in the past. Once they have this written out, they will bring it back to the Legislative Committee to review.

Belitsos asked if there were any questions or comments for Threase or Maggie regarding the legislative priorities.

Brown-Waech said that she would love to set up a time with Harms to talk about the Safe Harbor law, but for everyone's benefit she put a link in the chat to the Florida Safe Harbor law.

Brown-Waech also wanted to point out that the \$10 million is also being requested by the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Iowa Coalition for Collective Change, and that she brought this \$10 million recommendation to the Network.

Belitsos explained that collaboration was already described in the minutes from the last board meeting, and told Harms that we have a lot of allies in this request for \$10 million.

Tinsman asked Brown-Waech if the Freedom Network ever had any legislation that combined the Safe Harbor law and expungement, and Brown-Waech responded no, they did not. She explained that there were 4 states that had expungement laws, and that she could share that information with anyone who needed it.

Belitsos told Harms that 30 out of 50 states have some sort of Safe Harbor law, and explained that the state of Iowa received a letter grade "F" from the Shared Hope International on our legislation, and the main reason Iowa received this score was because there is no Safe Harbor law. He explained that Safe Harbor has been on the NAHT legislative priority list for several years now, and he hopes that this is something that we can get done in 2022.

Belitsos also explained that in the NAHT blog post that was sent out on Friday,

December 10th there is an article about a 15 year old Iowa girl who was being sex trafficked and killed one of her rapists, and is now facing 20 years in prison. He explained that there could not be a better example of this injustice, and that he has been in touch with the Attorney representing this girl and let them know that their case is one that we are putting a focus on as to why we need to have a Safe Harbor law for child victims of trafficking.

Harms responded and thanked everyone for the information. She explained that since this is a newer issue for them, they would really appreciate the help of the NAHT to give them more resources and information if we come across any regarding the Safe Harbor law. Her email is threase@advocacyiowa.com and her phone number is 515-975-5299 if anyone would like to reach out to her.

Sister Fineran said that Steve Holt is a representative from Dension, and has gone to two of her human trafficking presentations before, and he told her he was the Chair of a legislative committee. She asked if Harms knew which committee this was. Harms responded and said that he was the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and that he has been great with helping them get legislation passed. Harms said that he is concerned about the legislation of vulnerable Iowans, and that Fineran should try and set up a meeting with him.

Dr. Moravec welcomed Threase, and said how thrilled he was to have Chelsea and Emilee on the team as well. He asked for their website address, and they stated that it is www.advocacyiowa.com.

III. Final plans to start up IBAT and Hotel/Motel training programs (Moravec and Reding)

Dr. Moravec began by introducing Susan Mitchell who is one of the leaders of the production of the hotel/motel video. Susan and Jerry Brimeyer were both facilitators of a training session on Thursday, December 9th. Dr. Moravec explained that Susan Mitchell will be explaining what they discussed at the hotel/motel facilitators training, and also a facilitators toolkit that they have created and have been using in their hotel/motel training.

Susan Mitchell began by showing a 2-minute promo video that Terry Pounds has produced. Dr. Moravec explained that everyone should have this link and be able to access this, as well as the toolkit. Dr. Moravec also explained that this 2-minute promo video will be sent to Pat Waymire to be posted on the DPS website, along with a version with subtitles, and a spanish language version as well.

Susan Mitchell went through a quick run through of the DPS website, which explained the training videos, certified locations, additional resources, and emergency contact information.

Dr. Moravec asked Mitchell about their last training. Mitchell explained that they walked through this website together, and explained what exactly a volunteer needs to do to become certified.

Susan Mitchell explained that there are two ways the hotel/motel employees can become certified, either individually, or in a group setting. To train individually, employees will go through the website and watch the training videos, and then complete the quizzes themselves. To do this, employees must set up a personal account, so they must have their own email address. To do this in an in-person group setting, the trainer would bring along paper copies of the quiz, and they score the quizzes there during the training. These quizzes would then be handed to the manager and told to keep them in their HR files.

Susan Mitchell then went through the toolkit folder and explained what the PDF's are all to be used for. The first file is a checklist with embedded links for easy access. Next is the list of badges to certify the employees with. Third is a presentation to use during these training sessions. Fourth is a presentation put out by DPS to help managers set this training up. Next is the quiz which is shown in English, Spanish, and Bosnian. There is also an answer sheet provided. Next is a flyer in both an image file and a PDF. Finally, there is a large document that explains why the NAHT training video is important and talking points to help promote this.

Dr. Moravec explained the importance of the NAHT board members to be facilitators. He explained that board members would not be trainers, and that is the job of the video. Board members would simply be facilitating this, and helping to answer questions, make relationships with the staff, and to really help support them throughout this training. He also explained that there are plenty of printed copies that can be sent to board members to facilitate these trainings, but he does encourage members to create a relationship with a local printer to keep their supply filled.

Barr asked Susan Mitchell to differentiate between the NAHT video and that of the state video. Susan Mitchell responded and said that quality is what differentiates this. Barr asked if all three videos would qualify a facility to meet state requirements. Susan Mitchell responded and said that the NAHT training video, as well as the state training video are the only two videos that are qualified to meet state requirements alone. The other training videos require other extra steps to be taken to become certified.

Dr. Findlay asked if it was possible to translate this video to French and Arabic, and Susan Mitchell responded and explained that Terry Pounds created a very nice spreadsheet that will make it possible to do almost any translations we ask him to make. Dr. Findlay asked if we had funding to pay for these translations, and Susan Mitchell responded and said we do not. Spanish was being done for free by Terry Pounds, but we will need to raise money for any other translations.

Reding added that if anyone knows someone that is very fluent in another language and would be willing to donate their time to these translations, that this would be much appreciated.

Dr. Moravec moved on to talk about IBAT. He explained that he and Reding met with the Secretary of State last week. He said that they are working on lots of legal stuff. The NAHT is offering to create a 30-minute video that will introduce the program,

and are working on updating the NAHT website. Dr. Moravec explained that the key thing is that the 13th of January is when they are going to roll this out with Secretary Pate taking the lead, and explained the importance of board members to be there during this time.

Dr. Moravec explained that the point of IBAT is that any business in the state of Iowa can become a "Registered Member", and commit that for the next 4 years their business will learn something, and do something regarding human trafficking. He explained that their goal is to really give these businesses specific resources and steps to be able to become a "Registered Member."

Dr. Moravec also explained that his Community Foundation Board is developing a Giving Portal and they hope to have this completed by the 13th of January; but if not, until its completion, then IBAT "Registered Businesses" can donate to the NAHT. The ultimate goal of this new Giving Portal is provide IBAT businesses with the ability to donate directly to approved NAHT affiliates throughout Iowa.

Fineran asked about how we will be able to add resources, or request for provider resources to be added to the training. Dr. Moravec asked if this is in relation to DPS, and Fineran said yes. Dr. Moravec said that he will ask Pat Waymire about this.

Belitsos thanked Susan Mitchell for a great presentation, and also Dr. Moravec and Reding for their great contributions to the hotel/motel video.

IV. Preparation for January 13th signing of Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation

- IBAT kickoff added to the Save the Date flyer. (See attached)
- Begin now to promote proclamations by your local City/County Board of Supervisors.
- In-person annual Board meeting at State Capitol Noon January 13th and election of officers.
- Delivering legislative priorities to all mailboxes in the House and Senate.
- NAHT Freedom Summit was well received in 2021. No one volunteered to organize a 2022 Summit. Any interest in organizing and leading the Freedom Summit in 2023?
- Training or other events to be held in January 2022?

Belitsos reminded the board that the Proclamation Signing and IBAT kickoff is on Thursday, January 13th at 11am at the state capitol building. He noted that proxies are welcome to come along as well. He also mentioned that the board is going to take a group photo at this meeting. Belitsos reminded the board that the Save the Date flyer attached to the board agenda has been revised, and he encourages board members to print this flyer out and invite people to this event.

Belitsos encouraged board members to go to their local city/county board supervisors and encourage them to declare January as Human Trafficking Prevention and

Awareness month.

The annual in person board meeting was scheduled for Room 116 right after the proclamation signing and presentation of the IBAT program. However, yesterday Belitsos received an email from the Iowa Senate explaining that due to the Covid spike they are not allowing outside groups to use their meeting rooms because of COVID. Since the NAHT cannot secure a room in the Capitol Building, Brown-Waech offered a meeting room in the Lucas Building. Tinsman objected and would rather Board members stay in the Capitol Building to speak with their representative or senator. Another alternative would be to schedule a zoom board meeting later in the month.

Belitsos explained that though last year's summit was very well attended, this year we will not be able to have this summit because of the lack of a volunteer leader to organize. However, Belitsos did mention that other training will be offered during the month of January. Belitsos asked Reding if she will be going ahead with the training on January 20th, and she responded that yes they are, and a rep from Breaking Free will be speaking.

Belitsos asked if any other board members are going to be having training during the month of January that the board can publicize and help promote. Dr. Findlay responded and said that JCHTC will be having a presentation, and Belitsos asked to be sent more information about when and where.

V. Report from NAHT Executive Committee on where we go from here with tabled motion on the Suggested Guidelines for Survivor Services Programs. Recommended motion to remove the Best Practice Standards goal from the 2022 NAHT Strategic Plan (Belitsos)

Belitsos began by putting forth a motion from the Executive Committee to remove the Best Practice Standards Goal from the 2022 Network Strategic Plan. Belitsos explained that if we vote in favor of this motion the board will not be voting to endorse what was previously called the Best Practice Standards, which is now called the Suggested Guidelines for Survivor Services. Belitsos opened this up for discussion. Hearing no discussion Belitsos called for a vote, and the Executive Committee motion was **unanimously passed**.

VI. Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the November 9th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for October and November 2021.
- Motion to approve the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award nomination of the Hotel/Motel Employee Training Video Planning Team.

- Motion to approve the nomination of Grace Byram to fill a vacant seat on the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a \$2000 check to Pounds Media Services for extra video filming and editing.
- Motion to elect the following board members to a new 2 year term; George Belitsos, Teresa Davidson, Alyse Hardin, Alka Khanolkar, Shirlee Reding, Maggie Tinsman, and Mike Tupper.
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Lori Freudenberg
- Motion to authorize the Chair of the Board to sign a \$5,000 MOA with Advocacy Strategies to provide advocacy and interaction with legislative matters. The agreement begins January 1, 2022.

Belitsos mentioned one change that will need to be made to the consent agenda. This was to elect six instead of seven board members for another two year term on the board. Belitsos mentioned that yesterday he received an email from Reding saying that she will not be able to serve another two year term.

Belitsos explained how hardworking Reding has been, and how her leadership skills will be missed. Reding explained that most people think when someone resigns from the board it is because they are mad or dissatisfied, but she explained that is not the case, and she has loved every minute of it. Reding explained that she needs a little more balance in her life, and having less meetings and commitments might help with this. She explained that she would love to stay a part of the committees she is a part of, and if anyone needs anything that they can feel free to reach out to her. Belitsos thanked her for her loyal service and dedication to fighting trafficking, and said that she will sorely be missed.

Belitsos asked for any further discussion on the 8 motions on the consent agenda. Hearing no further discussion, he called for a vote. **The consent agenda unanimously passed as amended.**

VII. Anti-trafficking resolution approved by Rotary International (RI) Council on Resolutions submitted by Iowa Rotary District 6000. The vote was held on November 1st with 318 in favor and 151 opposed. This will be the first step in RI engaging 1.2 million Rotarians in 90 countries in the fight to end modern day slavery. (Khanolkar)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Rotary

International to encourage all Rotarians to become more familiar with the growing problem of modern-day slavery, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity and to work towards solutions to end modern-day slavery in all its forms. Be it further resolved to encourage Rotary Clubs around the world to engage in projects to protect all victims from hunger, neglect, abuse, and all forms of

exploitation and modern-day slavery.

Belitsos explained that Khanolkar took this historic Rotary resolution to the Rotary District 6000 68 clubs and got approval. She then took it to the International Council on Rotary Resolutions, and it was approved by a vote of 318 in favor, and 151 opposed.

This now goes to the Rotary International board of directors at their April meeting, and if passed this will become part of their policy. Belitsos asked Khanolkar and Barr to explain how they got this done, and what their next steps are to get this through Rotary International.

Khanolkar began by thanking Belitsos, Tinsman, and Barr for taking a stand and being a part of the solution. She explained that this went around to all of the clubs to sign this resolution. They experienced some technical difficulties, but were able to get this approved on November 1st, 2021 by the Rotary Council on Resolutions. Khanolkar said they could not be happier and more proud of what has taken place because Rotary is the world's largest service club with 1.2 million members in 90 countries.

Belitsos thanked Khanolkar for her leadership on this. Khanolkar stated that this was truly a team effort and will be working to get this approved by the RI Board of Directors.

VIII. Report of the Fundraising Committee and outcome of the November 30th Giving Tuesday (Kyker)

Kyker was unable to attend today's meeting and we will not review this agenda item. However, Belitsos was able to tell the board that the fundraising committee was able to raise over \$2,000 for Giving Tuesday.. Belitsos explained that a lot of this was from board members, so he thanks everyone for their gifts. He explained that he matched the donations up to \$500, and already gave his gift.

Belitsos also mentioned to Maggie that a check was in the mail for her committee for \$250, so she only needed \$200 more for the Legislative Advocacy committee's goal of \$5,000.

IX. Report from the Survivor Services Panel (Hardin)

Hardin was ill and so we did not review this agenda item.

X. Report from the Provider Services Collaboration (Rohrs)

Rohrs was ill and so we did not review this agenda item.

XI. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm. Belitsos wished the board a healthy and joy-filled holiday and thanked the board for their volunteer service over the past year.

Next Board Meeting: January 13th, 2022, Noon at the State Capitol Building