



Meeting Minutes

Iowa NAHT & Slavery Board of Directors

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 2:30–4:00 PM

Present: Dr. George Belitsos, Teresa Davidson, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Shirley Fineran, Lori Freudenberg, Alyse Hardin, Kim Hilby, Alka Khanolkar, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joseph Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Jessica Rohrs, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper

Excused Absence: Heather Brown, Lauren Camp, Ruth Buckels, Brenda Long

Absent: None

Guests: Jessie Johnson, Program Coordinator, Trafficking Awareness Prevention Service of the U.S. Refugee and Immigrant Committee (TAPS), Gretchen Brown-Waech, Human Trafficking Coordinator, Iowa Attorney General's Office

2:30 Call to order (Belitsos)

Belitsos called a meeting to order after quorum was met. Introduced Johnson as a special presenter. Belitsos reminded the board members that the minutes are being taken today by Roth on behalf of board secretary Maggie Tinsman.

2:35 Annual 2020 trafficking report from the Iowa Victim Service Call Center (Rohrs)

Rohrs shared her work with the Iowa Victims Call Center which is part of the Family Crisis Center located in Sioux Center. Funded to serve 99 counties in Iowa by the Iowa Attorneys General Office 24/7 call center. Advocates are in the office 24/7. Advocates receive extensive training in human trafficking.

From January 2020- December 2020 there were 204 sex trafficking calls and 54 labor trafficking calls. Covid has increased numbers in the call center. An increase of 914 incoming calls from December of 2019 to 2020.

Rixner asked what identified as a sex trafficking call and Rohrs stated that most of the sex trafficking calls go to the national number because they have more resources. People call the Iowa victim service call center asking for information for services to those who have been victimized. There are many variables involved in each call situation, but the advocate is trained to understand and identify human trafficking.

Bernadette asked about the sex trafficking calls received, and if they are categorized. Rohrs replied that they are not categorized.

Belitsos asked if the human trafficking figures Jessica gave were up from last year. Rohrs said she believed so, but didn't have the numbers in front of her.

Findlay had a question about who was in charge of multiple incoming calls at the same time. Jessica replied that they had 13 lines that they can come through, but survivors will never receive a busy signal. They have 2 advocates during the day and 5-6 at night.

2:40 Presentation and progress report from Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Service (TAPS). This federally funded grant program is a project of the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (Jessie Johnson)

Johnson is the Program Coordinator of TAPS and has her JD. She has 10 years of experience working with gender violence and labor related services. She is in year 2 of a three year grant cycle and she is pursuing other grants. They have been a staff of one predominantly, but sometimes a staff of 2. Main directives are case management services, outreach and education and policy research. With Covid staff has had significant challenges. They have served 10 individuals with labor trafficking and are working with Lutheran Services who has carried a larger case load of individuals of labor trafficking. Program is open for all forms of labor trafficking. Outreach and education components are working on building existing relationships. She is looking to build relationships with labor unions. Policy and research are also a priority. Not too long ago, they had an intern who looked at the department of labor and trafficking statistics from the state of Iowa vs. the nation. An interesting take away from the project was looking at the highest industry for labor violations in Iowa was food accommodations, restaurants and hotels.

Johnson brought up concerns about the proposed hotel/motel video training project being undertaken by the NAHT. She had reviewed the Minnesota hotel/motel video that is being used as a model for the Iowa video. A number of things jumped out to her, 1) no mention of labor trafficking. The hotel/motel industry has the highest number of labor trafficking in Iowa. There are many survivors of labor trafficking, but because everyone is so focused on sex trafficking there are not resources. She stated that the video spoke about women, but rarely mentioned men. She stated it was important to show specific populations vulnerable to this crime. 2) Minnesota's law does not mention forced fraud or coercion, which is fantastic. The problem is that Iowa's law is different and still needs forced fraud and coercion. 3) The Minnesota video shows a coordinated response. Iowa does not have the kind of coordinated response as they do in Minnesota. She spoke about unfortunate experiences she has had with law enforcement and the Iowa Victims Call Center. An additional concern is that among victims services providers there is no best practice on how things should be coordinated with law enforcement. She suggested that service providers refer a victim to a hospital rather than to law enforcement. In her opinion, Iowa needs a coordinated statewide law enforcement response. Although law enforcement is trying, we are no way near to being able to prosecute this crime away. Only 0.7% of Iowa rapes end up with a conviction of the perpetrator. As a result, there are more problems created for the victims. Survivors need trusted relationships without shame. Policies that disrupt the cycle of poverty is what victims need. She commends the Network for getting creative by reaching out to the business community and making them more aware of trafficking. Because Iowa law enforcement is not cooperative, she does not support the Network's plan to publish the

hotel/motel training video. In her opinion, this training will be an embarrassment to our state because we are not prepared to deal with the consequences.

Belitsos commented that the hotel/motel training is a mandated statewide requirement as adopted by last year's legislature. Belitsos mentioned that Iowa is not copying the Minnesota training video. Belitsos informed Johnson that the Minnesota hotel/motel training video is seven years old, and is just an example of the video format for the Iowa training video. The Minnesota training video was produced by Pounds Videography, and the Network has hired this company to produce the Iowa hotel/motel training. The script for the Iowa version is in the process of being written by a special subcommittee of the Network Research and Best Practice Committee. He assured Johnson that labor trafficking would be included in the Iowa video, and that many of her other concerns are already being addressed.

3:00 Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the December 8th 2020 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for December 2020.
- Motion to authorize the chair to pay a Johnson county Human Trafficking coalition expenditure request of \$264/week for 4 weeks (\$1,056 total) for a human trafficking radio PSA with funds from 100+ Women's grant.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a technology consultant contract at \$13 per hour with Emma Kern for 10 hours per week.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a consultant agreement with Pounds Media Services for \$2,000 for a training video for Hotel/Motel employees and to pay \$1,000 with budgeted funds of the Research and Best Practice Committee.
- Motion to approve the two year Strategic Plan Goals for 2020-2021.
- Motion to approve the proposed 2021 NAHT budget.

Belitsos asked if there was anything on the consent agenda that needed further discussion. Moravec proposed corrections to the list of board members in attendance on the December 8th minutes. Belitsos will make the changes, and then post the corrected minutes on the Network website.

Belitsos asked if there were any other concerns or corrections to the consent agenda. Hearing none, the consent agenda was put up for a vote. **The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.**

3:10 Review of recommendations from the Public-Private Partnership National Advisory Council. Here is the link to the 57 page report:

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/public-private-partnership-advisory-council-to-end-human-trafficking-2020-annual-report.pdf>. (Davidson)

Davidson is representing the entire center of the country as a presidential appointee to the Public/Private Partnership Council. A link to the 57-page Council recommendations report is above. She stated that it was an incredible amount of work because they were only able to meet in person as a Council once before Covid and then everything was made highly difficult by Covid.

The public/private partnership was not extended by the new administration, so it is over. Davidson said she was disappointed, but understands the new Biden administration will be appointing their own council. However, the good news is that Davidson made a lot of connections while on the Council. Davidson also has made connections with the House Financial Services committee which has reached out to her for help with a hearing about long term financial impacts of human trafficking on survivors. She is working with Shared Hope International, and they connected Davidson to the National Center of Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE).

They are working on the "Earn It Act" which holds big tech responsible for child sexual material that is online that they refuse to take down. There is a story of John Doe, a 13 year old boy, who sent pictures of himself to whom he thought was a 16 year old girl, but it wasn't, it was really an abuser. This abuser put the images on Twitter. John Doe tried to get Twitter to take down the images and so did John Doe's mother, but Twitter would not. It wasn't until a Federal Agent got involved that Twitter took it down. John Doe tried to commit suicide many times as it was all over school. His mother switched his school only to have the photos released at the new school. The Earn It Act will make it so this is not possible so the survivors will have a chance at getting this material off the internet. Davidson also participated in a trauma informed care call with John Doe's mother who testified before congress.

There is an organization called Nebraska for Founders Values or Obscenity Exemption Statute. Iowa does not have a similar organization. Davidson will be testifying in a Nebraska hearing as an expert witness on February 26th against this statute which allows pornography in our schools. Davidson has been working with Senator Ernst on a bill called Survivors of Human Trafficking Fight Back, which will criminalize people on platforms who knowingly place pornography on their sites so that victims have recourse.

Congress is so busy with everything you see in the news, human trafficking is not currently a frontline issue.

3:15 Successful observance of Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Brief report on outcome of:

- January 14th governor's proclamation signing for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and presentation of Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award presentations (Belitsos)
- January 12th Iowa Freedom Summit (Freudenberg)
- January 27 RAGAS 5 hour global summit (Khanolkar)
- Race Matters: Confronting the Roots of Human Trafficking (Reding)
- Distribution of 2021 Five Legislative Priorities to 150 legislators (Timmons)

Belitsos stated we had a very successful Slavery and Human Trafficking month and he thanked everyone for educating the public, and for getting so much attention from the media on awareness of Human Trafficking in Iowa. Belitsos stated that the NAHT was correct in going ahead with the January 14th Governor's Proclamation signing and five award presentations. The NAHT event was the first public event to be held in 2021 on the Rotunda of the State Capitol Building. There were Covid restrictions which were followed by all of those who were in attendance, including the governor. Belitsos shared the photos of the event with the Board. Belitsos made it optional for the Outstanding Service Award recipients, but all 5 showed up. The April 1st blog post will show the photos and background of each of these 5 unsung heroes.

Freudenberg shared that the January 12th Freedom Summit went well. The 6 panelists were awesome, and 260 people registered for it. Belitsos stated that the summit recording was on the NAHT Blog. Belitsos thanked all the speakers and stated he was proud of the event. He stated that he hoped that this was the first annual summit. Belitsos thanked Lori for initiating and carrying out this summit.

Reding stated that Race Matters went well. She was unable to get a copy. Davidson stated it was phenomenal and that the two hours went fast. She took it to her board at Chains Interrupted. Belitsos said Grechen did a great job as the MC. Rohrs stated that Luana Nelson Brown has been nominated to join the Board. Brown wants to hear more about the board and Belitsos will be meeting with her. Belitsos hopes she will consent to be on the Board because she has a great background.

Tinsman stated that she didn't see many legislators but did see major staff for the Senate and the House and that all legislators got the NAHT priorities and the human trafficking is still a major issue in Iowa. Belitsos thanked Tinsman and said she was a wonderful advocate for legislation.

3:20 Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee and progress on five legislative priorities for 2021 (see below). (Tinsman)

Tinsman stated that the major thing we have been working on is House Study Bill 34 with an amendment which was passed unanimously. This is the massage parlor bill, so please reach out to legislators to thank them for their support. This is for our 5th ranked

priority, which has to do with the massage business. She also mentioned Senate File 246 the companion bill to House Study Bill 34 which has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Governor Education Plan to reopen the schools is Senate File 159 which passed the Senate. There have been 2 childcare bills moved out of the Economic growth committee. House File 2 which is a workforce encourages developers to build new childcare facilities and House File 3 which is onsite childcare which creates incentives for child care at businesses.

In regard to the bill tracking list, House File 357 we are supporting a photo on a license of every massage therapist and that they are mandatory child abuse reporters. House File 361 which entitles a prosecuting witness testifying in a sex offense could be appointed a Guardian Ad Litem. House Study Bill 54 is out of committee and ready for debate. Senate Study Bill 1017 involves minor sex abuse and the statute of limitations. It eliminates the statute of limitations for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree kidnapping, sexual abuse or human trafficking. Senate File 241 which makes it a serious misdemeanor to anyone who allows pornographic obscene material to be seen by a minor and subject to sex offender registry. House File 192 is NAHT's 3rd priority. It relates to sex abuse education and prevention and awareness measures. House File 25 is similar to House File 192 and has no committee. Senate File 58 has to do with K-12 sex education classes including age appropriate dating violence.

Tinsman stated that Davis is working really hard for us and doesn't work on an hourly rate. Davis is paid a lump sum of \$5,000 per year. She is doing bill tracking and attending hearings on behalf of the Network. She is helping to write legislation specifically the amendment to House Study Bill 34. Representative Mohr is putting in the supplemental bill request for \$156,000 to the Department of Public Safety for the hotel/motel training. Tinsman asked everyone to talk to their legislators regarding supporting the hotel/motel legislation.

Belitsos thanked Tinsman and asked her to thank Davis for the NAHT. He stated that there are 8 bills that Davis has recorded the NAHT as supporting.

Davidson asked how Davis decides which bills she wants to support. Tinsman stated that Davis is authorized to support any bill related to the five priorities approved by the Network board of directors.

Davidson stated she received an email from Washington about House File 224 seeking to eliminate the crime of prostitution, which is a bill in the Iowa legislature. While the bill removes criminal penalties for victims, it maintains prosecution for sex buyers and traffickers. This bill was sponsored by Mary Wolf in Clinton, Iowa.

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.

3:30 Report from Fundraising Committee. (Kyker, Freudenberg, Forsyth & Belitsos)

- GiveIowa matching grant from GICU
- Lohse Family Foundation \$5,000 grant for awareness campaign fundraising/administrative consultant, and technology consultants
- Successful \$4,500 fundraising campaign by the Legislative Committee
- Successful \$3,350 fundraising campaign by the Research and Best Practice Committee
- Facebook fundraising in honor of one's birthday of approximately \$500
- Reminder of Amazon Smile

Kyker stated that the Fundraising Committee got a call last week regarding working on a press release and free ad space in the business record. The NAHT was made charity of the month for January 2021 from the Give Iowa matching grant from Greater Iowa Credit Union where they were able to raise \$700.

Belitsos secured a \$5000 grant for a new administrative consultant and current technology consultants to work with the Network for next year. This \$5,000 grant was placed in the Network savings account.

The Legislative Committee has done a wonderful job raising money for Davis. We have been getting a significant number of Facebook donations through birthday fundraisers where they have received over \$500 in the past couple of months.

Rotary Club grants are starting in May, so if anyone is involved in Rotary she would be happy to help with applying for grants. Tinsman asked Kyker about sending her grant information for District 6000.

3:35 Update from Survivor Service Provider Collaboration. Plans for 2021 quarterly Zoom meetings scheduled for 9-11am on Thursday March 4th, June 3rd, September 2nd, and December 2nd. (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

Rohrs stated that the next meeting's agenda includes a presentation from Dorothy's House and from Chains Interrupted, however the majority of the meeting will be about referral platforms and really opening up the meeting to sharing knowledge and information. March 4th will be a Zoom meeting.

3:40 Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec & Reding)

- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee
- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee
- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee

Reding stated that committee members met with the hotel/motel videographer. He is easy to work with. They developed 3 subcommittees regarding the video.

Reding and Moravec met last week with the Department of Public Safety to review our script for the hotel/motel training video. Waymire is pleased that NAHT trained volunteers will usually be present on site at the hotel to monitor the video presentation and to make sure that hotel employees take a post training test. Waymire is supportive of our work. There is some discussion about the Department of Public Safety doing a video and they have hired a videographer. However, if the NAHT training video is good enough they may forego that. Although they hired a videographer, she is caught up in the legislature. One of the things the NAHT reassured the DPS was that labor trafficking will be addressed in the Network hotel/motel training.

Moravec stated that we see Hilby is nominated in the Faculty Hall of Fame for Excellence in Teaching Award. Mercy is all set for the symposium on April 5.

4:00 Adjournment

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, March 9th, 2020 2:30-4:00 PM