

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Iowa NAHT & Slavery Board of Directors**  
Tuesday, May 11th, 2021, 2:30–4:00 PM

**Present:** Heather Brown, Dr. George Belitsos, Ruth Buckels, Lauren Camp, Teresa Davidson, Shirley Fineran, Lori Freudenberg, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Linda Harrell, Bernadette Rixner, Jessica Rohrs and Maggie Tinsman

**Excused Absence:** Mike Tupper, Alka Khanolkar, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Alyse Hardin, and Kim Hilby

**Absent:** Brenda Long

**Guests:** Gretchen Brown-Waech

**2:30: Call to order (Belitsos)**

Belitsos welcomed everyone and apologized for the delay. He then called the meeting to order. Belitsos called upon Moravec to introduce his meeting guest. Moravec introduced Sister Linda Harrell whom is a leader in African American communities in Des Moines, the state and nationally. She's a longtime foster care mom and she and her late husband started a scholarship fund for foster care kids. Harrell is on today's Board agenda; he has nominated Linda to fill the open board seat.

Belitsos thanked Moravec for nominating Linda and next called upon Rohrs to introduce Traci Stubbe who will be Rohr's proxy while Rohrs is out on maternity leave. Stubbe is the head of the Victim Service agency that oversees the 800 victim services lines and she will be joining as the proxy for Rohrs when she's away for three months. Traci's resume can be found in the board packet.

Belitsos then introduced Gretchen Brown-Weach and called attention to Gretchen's emails in the board packet regarding how and where hotel/motel employees should report suspected trafficking.

**2:35: Progress Reports for community and regional coalitions:**

The board heard updates from the following Coalitions. Eight of these coalitions are represented on the NAHT Board. There was no report from Set Free Dubuque. Newton Says No to Human Trafficking sent a written report that they have not been meeting due to the pandemic. Belitsos thanked all those who volunteer on the thirteen coalitions, "you are our boots on the ground."

- Central Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking (Shirlee Reding).

- Eastern Iowa Regional Task Force Against Human Trafficking [Cedar Rapids & Regional Counties] (Teresa Davidson)
- Unchained Coalition [Cedar Rapids & Regional Counties] (Teresa Davidson)
- Sisters of St. Francis Human Trafficking Coalition [Clinton] (Lori Freudenberg)
- Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking [Council Bluffs & Regional Counties] (Katie Kyker)
- Attacking Trafficking [Quad Cities] (Alyse Hardin)
- Plymouth Congregational Church Human Trafficking Task Force [Des Moines & Polk County] (Shirlee Reding)
- Set Free Dubuque (Suzie Wright)
- Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking [IA, IL, WI] (Kim Hilby)
- Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition [Iowa City & Johnson County] (Shannon Findlay)
- Last Watch Coalition [Marshalltown & Marshall County] (Chief Mike Tupper)
- Newton Says No to Human Trafficking (M L Keller)
- Siouxland Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Bernadette Rixner)

### **3:10: Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)**

- Motion to approve the April 13th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for March 2021.
- Motion made by Dr. Joe Moravec and seconded by Teresa Davidson to nominate and elect Linda Harrell to the Board of Directors of the NAHT.
- Motion to approve the keynote speaker fee of \$750 for Samantha Floyd from the National Network of Survivors. Also, approval of the zoom fee of \$250 in order to accommodate 100+ participants. These expenditures are for the virtual conference sponsored by the Johnson County Coalition to take place July 21-22, 2021. This funding will come from the 100+ woman grant.
- Motion to elect Traci Stubbe as a proxy for Jessica Rohrs. Jessica Rohrs will be taking maternity leave later this summer.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a grant letter of support for a new YSS Recovery Center for the substance abuse treatment of youth who have been victims of human trafficking.

Belitsos asked if any board member wished to pull any of the six motions for discussion. Hearing no objections, Belitsos called for a vote. **The consent agenda passes unanimously.**

### **3:15: Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee and passage of the Massage Anti-Trafficking Bill (HF 452). (Tinsman)**

Belitsos then called upon Tinsman for her Legislative Committee report. Tinsman started by thanking everybody on this board for contacting legislators because we've had some great success this year. First, the Committee was able to raise funds to hire the best legislative advocate we could have, which was Angela Davis.

Last week the passage of the uniform statewide local law enforcement authority regarding the massage businesses passed unanimously. We do have \$150,000 in funding secured for the Department of Public Safety for implementation of the Hotel/Motel law.

Tinsman then went on to cover the Bill Tracking Table. HF357 has to do with massage therapist rules and requires a photo on their license. This bill has failed. HF 710, which is on child endangerment by a sex offender that was signed by the governor so that is the new law. HF 361, having to do with guardian ad litem for a witness has been signed by the governor so that is now the law.

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

- Encourage Board members to please make once annual gifts to NAHT
- Amazon Smile and how to designate to NAHT
- ½ page NAHT ad in Business Record
- July 30th World Day Against Human Trafficking in Persons non-celebration fundraising invitation

This agenda item was passed over in error.

**3:35: 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)**

Rohrs reported that the Survivor Service Collaboration Committee is to meet next week to prepare an agenda for the June 3rd 9am-11am meeting of all survivor providers.

**3:40: Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec, Reding, Freudenberg, Davidson and Hilby)**

- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee and recommendation on how/where hotel/motel employees should report suspected trafficking. (Davidson)
- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee and Trafficking Free Zone (Freudenberg)
- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee (Hilby)

Belitsos called upon Davidson to report for the Hotel/Motel Subcommittee of the Research and Best Practices Committee. Davison stated that she has been working hard to create a video script that provides training for hotel motel staff in keeping with the requirements in the hotel/motel bill. The subcommittee has identified training speakers. The script for trainers is complete and agreed to by the Department of Public Safety except for who the hotel/motel employee should report to when Human Trafficking is seen or suspected.

The committee have also been consulting with various survivors of human trafficking. The survivors do not think that it is in the best interest of the victims for motel/hotel staff to always call 911. The committee really feels strongly that calling 911 could actually harm some victims, either because they fear being harmed by the trafficker or they risk being arrested for prostitution or potentially, if they are here illegally and the victim could potentially be deported.

In a nutshell, the script that the committee has now approved for hotel/motel staff is reporting to yes call 911 if there's a minor involved, if there's imminent danger or if the victim asks for it. In all other cases the committee wants the employee to call the Iowa Victim Service Call Center. Davidson went on to state that Iowa has a fabulous resource in our State that is trained in human trafficking and in trauma informed care. The Iowa Service Call Center has all of the Iowa trafficking resources at their fingertips. They would be able to walk through a scenario, with the hotel motel staff, as well as provide a lot of different survivor resources. The Call Center is now working on a policy/procedure for reporting to the Department of Public Safety.

Considerable discussion followed. Belitsos concluded the agenda item noting that the recommended committee script is in keeping with NAHT values of being “survivor informed” on policy and procedure and “trauma informed care” in practice. If the Department of Public Safety will not agree to the script; he expressed hope that the committee will negotiate compromises on script language. However, if the committee decides not to compromise with the Department of Public Safety the Network training video should be withdrawn. In the end, it is the committee’s script and decision.

Rixner suggested that should the Department of Public Safety reject the NAHT script that the NAHT could ask the Governor and legislators to intervene. Belitsos recommended against this as inappropriate and potentially harmful to our working relationship with the Department of Public Safety and other state agency partners.

Tinsman suggested that law enforcement be consulted and since Chief Tupper is not in attendance at today’s meeting he should be called for his opinion.

Belitsos adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, June 8th, 2020 2:30-4:30 PM**