

**NAHT Board of Directors
Meeting 11/12/19
2:30-4:00 PM**

Attendee: Dr. George Belitsos, Tricia Barto, Lauren Camp, Jonathan Causey, Sister Shirley Fineran, Linda Greenlee, Jennifer Kerger, Shana Kargbo, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joseph Moravec, Trish Barto, Bernadette Rixner, Jessica Rohr, Maggie Tinsman, Austin McLain, Madison Kuhn, Mike Tupper

Excused: Paul Fitzgerald, Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn, Dr. Taylor Houston, Dr. Alissa Stoehr, Alyse Hardin, and Suzanne Wright

Belitsos called the meeting to order. He opened by asking for feedback from the Board as to the possibility of doing a Zoom Video Conference call for the December meeting. Greenlee asked about the cost. Belitsos explained that a 40 minute Zoom call with 10 people or fewer would be free.

For over 40 minutes and more participants the cost would be \$12.50 a month. The benefit would be that a powerpoint presentation could be made, slides could be shown, and that the agenda for the meeting could be available for viewing during the meeting. However, the Board decided that at this time they were not interested. Belitsos reminded the Board that on January 16th we would be having a face to face Board meeting after the signing of the Proclamation.

Set Me Free expansion from Omaha into Iowa (Yolanda Harden, Stephanie Olson, Madison Kuhn) Olson, Chief Executive Officer, began by thanking NAHT for allowing her to speak about the progress Set Me Free was making in Iowa. Two people joining her were Yolanda Harden, Regional Director of Iowa, and Madison Kuhn, District Lead Educator. She stated that Set Me Free originated in Omaha. In her position, she was basically responsible for fundraising and building relationships with the schools, teachers, and counselors. She sets up meetings with individuals to explain what the Set Me Free Project is and what they are doing.

The Set Me Free Project has been in the Omaha Metro area for the past five years and emerged out of a pursuit to protect children from the predators of the human trafficking industry. Its mission is to bring prevention education to youth and families to stop trafficking before it starts. The curriculum is informative, interact, and age appropriate to reach students 3rd-12th graders, educators, parents, and community leaders. The focus of the curriculum is on defining human trafficking and helping students identify why and how they could be at risk. There was been a big demand to expand into schools in western Iowa, and now Set Me Free is moving forward to expand into the schools of all 99 Iowa counties. To request more information and request Set Me Free to come to a school/community, go to the website www.setmefreeproject.net

Garden Gate Ranch projected opening date and planned services to survivors. Outcome of 4th Eyes Wide Open Human Trafficking summit (Brenda Long)

Long started off by talking about the Eyes Wide Open Conference held on October 20, 2019 in Norwalk, Iowa, which was free and open to the public. The conference was focused on bringing professionals to the table so they can then learn about sex trafficking in Iowa and the Midwest from the perspectives of law enforcement, survivors, and those advocating. Over 200 people attended and the response from the attendees was amazing as they wanted to learn more on how they could get involved.

In early 2015, Long was inspired to open up a safe home to help free young women (with children and or pregnant) from trafficking, exploitation, violence, and abuse. She began researching and educating herself on what was available and if anything was being done. She founded a faith-based non-profit and has been raising money for three years. Fortunately, Long was able to acquire a 5 acre piece of property with a large house for a great price and found an architect to help revamp the property to make it work. Several volunteers dedicate hours to help with the remodeling of the home. Garden Gate Ranch will operate as a 2 year restoration program, specifically for trafficked and sexually-exploited women and their children. A grand opening is scheduled for November 23rd from 1 to 4 pm. On December 5th, there will be an exclusive open house for law enforcement and government officials. Then on December 8th there will be an open house for everyone. If anyone is interested in attending the open house, please email her at brenda@gardengateranch.com.

Long is looking to have Garden Gate Ranch ready to accept women in February 2020. Presently, the main and second floor of the home have been renovated, providing four rooms to accommodate women. It is hoped that the basement can be remodeled to provide another 3 bedrooms.

Approval of Consent Agenda –

- Motion to approve the October 8th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for October 2019
- Motion to authorize the board chair to sign a MOU renewal agreement between the Siouxland Coalition Against Human Trafficking and the Nebraska Coalition on Human Trafficking to continue hotel/motel training and collaboration
- Motion to authorize the board chair to sign a MOU between Sisters of St. Francis, the Tri-State Coalition and the Nebraska Coalition of Human Trafficking to continue hotel/motel training and collaboration.

Tinsman asked that the last two motions concerning MOUs agreements be removed for discussion. Belitsos gave an explanation for the renewal of the MOUs and how this hotel/motel training money was being utilized.

Belitsos also mentioned that Kyker, Chair of the Fundraising Committee and Greenlee are looking into methods of separating out the different fund categories – Legislative Advocacy, 100+Women, and operational expenses

With no further questions on the consent agenda a motion to approve the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Update on labor trafficking in Sioux City Meat Packing businesses. Outcome of the November 1st Legal Aid Human Trafficking Training (Lauren Camp)

Camp spoke about the training event on November 1st, sponsored by Legal Aid and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy with about 30-35 people attending. This included law enforcement, five attorneys, and a lot of people in social service organization. The training was received with a lot of good feedback on the questionnaires. Segments of the training included human trafficking, labor trafficking, and different civil claims that come up with law enforcement.

Camp reported on efforts to rescue and defend foreign born victims of labor trafficking who are being exploited by some Sioux City meatpacking businesses. She has had a hard time with translation of Micronesian languages. As of yet, neither federal nor local law enforcement have investigated complaints.

Progress report from the Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition (Shannon Findlay)

Findlay talked about Johnson County's upcoming trafficking conference event in 2020 on April 28th and 29th. They have finalized a co-sponsorship with the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in the area. Some of the funds that the NAHT received from the donation through NAHT of the 100 + Women group are being used to cover the keynote speaker cost for the April conference. They are currently having conversations about what to do with any remaining funds and are looking at doing an awareness campaigns at local movie theaters. They found in the Coralville area that local ordinances prohibited billboards. Earlier this month, they held a human traffick awareness event at the Iowa City Public Library, which was open to the public.

Opening of Lila Mae's House and description of services (Sister Shirley Fineran)

Sister Shirley stated that the mission to provide a safe, healthy environment where adult survivors of sex trafficking can rest, heal, recover and develop life skills necessary to become empowered, independent, and self-sufficient. The home houses 7 adult women for up to two years and the women must go through some type of treatment before they can enter. They had their dedication of the home in October, which was attended by 125 people.

There is still some outside work that needs attention so they are hoping to be open by the end of November or beginning of December. Presently, they are accepting applications from survivors. Marit Westrich, Executive Director, has accomplished a lot since she came on board. In January, which is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, they are planning their first big fundraiser. Check Lila Mae's house on NAHT's blog.

Preparation for January 16, 2020 Proclamation Signing and Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month (Dr. George)

Belitsos reminded the Board to put on their calendar January 16th at 10:30 for the signing of the proclamation making January "Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month." It will take place in the rotunda at the Capitol. He also encouraged Board members to ask their city and county officials to do a Human Trafficking Proclamation. He would be sending out to the Board a sample proclamation that could be used. Also, he wanted to make sure the Board remembered that after the signing of the January 16th proclamation, there would be a face to face board meeting. A flyer can be found in the Board packet.

Report of the Fundraising Committee. (Katie Kyker)

Kyker reported that the fundraising committee met earlier today. In December, Belitsos will be sending out 5 to 10 donation envelopes to each board member to distribute to potential donors. The remainder of the envelopes ordered can be used at different NAHT's functions. Kyker wanted to encourage every board member to make a donation by the end of the year. Currently, nine board members have made a gift in 2019. She mentioned that if you haven't donated, please consider donating on "Giving Tuesday" - December 3rd. Belitsos will be promoting "Giving Tuesday" on Facebook.

Kyker said the committee is also looking at the possibility of doing an event that does require an investment of a lot of time, but would raise money for NAHT. One idea being looked at is a restaurant night where NAHT receives a percentage of the proceeds from 5-7 pm.

Greenlee described how Thrivent Financial gives out money to nonprofits. Throughout the year, members of Thrivent Financial earned "Choice Dollars;" they in turn can request these dollars be sent to an enrolled non-profit organization. NAHT is now listed on their website as a nonprofit choice. (Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Thrivent also has a charitable grant program that supports charitable activities, which the committee should check out.

Progress report from hotel/motel employee training and awareness projects. Proposed training DVD is to be developed for Hotels (Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Suzie Wright, and Shana Kargbo)

Reding stated that this month letters had been sent to all the hotel/motel trainers assigning them three hotels to contact for a training session. Very few hotels have responded, and she thinks this may be due to the fact that corporate hotels were doing their own human trafficking training.

To reach hotels that are outside of our service area, Reding is working with Dr. Moravec to put together a human training DVD that could be used. Reding was asked to have a copy of the material being used for training emailed to several Board members.

Startup of Service Provider Collaboration – (Alyse Hardin and Suzie Wright) No progress to report

Report on the NAHT Rescue Sticker Statewide Distribution Project. Request for 400 stickers by the DOT for rest area restrooms. Do board members need additional stickers? (Taylor Houston) No report since Houston not present

Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee (Maggie Tinsman and Jonathan Causey)

Tinsman began by saying that she sent out the correct legislative priorities just prior to the meeting. The legislative priorities are now ranked as follows:

1. Hotel/motel training bill, requires the Department of Public Safety to oversee the administration of the training program in relation to hotels meeting training requirements as a condition to receive Iowa government contracts.
2. Safe Harbor – decriminalize child sex trafficking survivors (minors), meaning minors would no longer be charged with prostitution and instead would be mandated to receive services.
3. Restoration of the 1.7 million dollars to the state funding for Victim Assistance Grant and create a new funding appropriation of \$1M designated for Human Trafficking Prevention, Education, and Treatment Services.
4. Expand and improve anti-human trafficking laws which could fall into an Omnibus Bill which would not be this year.
5. Ask the Iowa Supreme Court to adopt rules or have the Iowa Legislature to enact legislation to add human trafficking victims to Iowa's Rape Shield law.

Tinsman said she was meeting with Representative Gary Mohr, who agreed to sponsor the Hotel/Motel bill. Rep. Mohr serves as Chair of the Appropriation Committee in the House and would be a good contact to help with the restoration of victim services funds and the NAHT's proposal for creation of a new fund of \$1 M for prevention, education, and treatment services. Tinsman has also been talking with Maria Waterman (wife of

Iowa Chief Justice Tom Waterman) about the adoption of the rules by the Iowa Supreme Court to add human trafficking to the Rape Shield law.

Tinsman stated that the Legislative committee has received donation pledges of \$6,230 and has gone over the goal of \$5,000. She will be meeting with Angela Davis next week to find out not only what to do next and also how the coalition of human trafficking legislative advocates is evolving.

Next Board meeting will be on Tuesday December 10th from 2:30-4:00