

## Meeting Minutes

Iowa NAHT & Slavery Board of Directors  
Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Members in Attendance: George Belitsos, Jonathan Causey, Lauren Camp, Sister Shirley Fineran, Alyse Hardin, Jennifer Kerger, Katie Kyker, Shirlee Reding, Roxanne Riesberg, Bernadette Rixner, Suzanne Wright, and Tish Young

Excused Absences: Paul Fitzgerald, Dr. Taylor Houston, Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn, Dr. Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman, and Mike Tupper

Absent: Joy Fopma

Guests: Gretchen Brown-Waech, Ali Harmon, Brynne Howard, Marit Westrich, Holly Witt, and Shana Karbeo

**Belitsos called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.** The four guests introduced themselves to the board. Shana Karbeo is the newly hired director of Chains Interrupted based in Cedar Rapids. Marit Westrich is the newly hired director of Lila Mae's House based in Sioux City.

Belitsos asked if any of the following consent agenda motions needed to be discussed.

- Motion to approve the May 14th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the election of Dr. Joe Moravec and Jessica Rohrs to each fill one of two vacant board positions.
- Motion to approve election of Belitsos as board chair until February 1st, 2020.
- Motion to approve the elimination of the term limits portions of the bylaws.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a technology consulting contract with Chantzler Brooks. The only change is an hourly increase from \$14 to \$16 per hour.
- Motion to appoint Suzie Wright and Alyse Hardin to co-chair the Provider Collaboration quarterly meetings. This will also place them both on the Executive Committee.

Rixner asked that the motion to approve the elimination of the term limits portion of the bylaws be removed from the consent agenda. Belitsos explained that with the loss of the chair and vice chair leadership, the board is struggling to find individuals to fill positions on the Executive Committee. With the elimination of term limits, three current executive committee members could remain in their roles while we look to fill other gaps.

Belitsos called for a vote on the items in the executive committee consent agenda. Motion passed with no dissenting votes, and one abstention in regards to term limits.

**Kerger gave the treasurer's report.** Kerger reported that the beginning balance for the month of May was \$10,734.13, income deposited was \$974.84, expenses paid out were \$612.80, which left an ending balance of \$11,096.17. She noted that there were two outstanding checks totaling of \$292.54.

**Causey introduced guest speaker Special Agent Holly Witt.** Witt has 25+ years of experience with the Iowa Public Safety department. She shared what the department is doing to combat human trafficking and how they process reports and maintain data from the Human Trafficking Hotline. She shared that the tips can be reported at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/iowa>. Tips are then passed to local county law enforcement jurisdiction.

Witt serves 14 counties in Southeastern Iowa and speaks on human trafficking to law enforcement. She is on the Department of Public Safety Division on Intelligence staff and works closely with the Office to Combat Human Trafficking. Terry Cowman is her director.

Witt commended the NAHT website, especially its section on survivor resources. She refers survivors to restorative services listed on the website.

**Progress report from Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition.** Harmon reported that plans for the Johnson County Human Trafficking conference are underway. The conference will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Iowa City. The first day of the conference will focus on trafficking, and the second will focus on domestic abuse. The conference is open to the public and will have tracks focused on Law Enforcement, Community, and Social Service agencies.

The goal is to have 300 individuals attend. Some scholarships (hopefully around 18) will be available. Speakers include Tema Nagy and Mildred Muhammad.

The conference will be held at the Marriott in Coralville. The registration fee will be between \$100 and \$150. Board members asked about Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and Harmon was unaware.

The coalition is also planning to distribute rescue stickers in Johnson County and will be working with one of the local student groups to complete this. Belitsos reported that the only 100+ Women funds expended thus far have been for additional Rescue Stickers and Posters. The JCHTC has yet to request their stickers and posters.

In Iowa City on Thursday, June 6th, several JCHTC board members presented a progress report to the 100+ Women donor group. Additional donations totalling to \$1,600 were given to JCHTC that night. Belitsos will send instructions on how to transfer the money to the NAHT treasurer.

**Progress report from the Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Attorney General's Office.** Brown-Waech gave an update on anticipated significant funding cuts to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal funding source. Due to funding cutbacks, all programs applying for VOCA funds received funding cuts and several programs were completely eliminated.

Funding for Teens Against Human Trafficking and Human Trafficking Crisis Intervention Service was completely eliminated. Two new small grants were given to Catholic Charities in Council Bluffs and Chains Interrupted. The goal is to prioritize victim services and eliminate prevention and outreach.

Brown-Waech reported that she is working to update the “Train the Trainer” program. She also put out a call for help to assist with the Demand an End campaign. Belitsos reported that the NAHT board has approved support and will collaborate on the campaign. Brown-Waech would like the Network to assist with providing places to hang Demand an End campaign posters and provide a variety of supporters across the state. Roxanne Riesberg offered to coordinate the campaign with state PR agency directors. The Network will arrange a kickoff press conference with the governor’s office to be jointly led by the governor and the attorney general. The launch date was moved from the state fair to after the fair but before Labor Day.

**Report from the Fundraising Committee.** Kyker reported on the outcome of the June 5th meeting of the Fundraising Committee. The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery is now on the approved charity list for Amazon Smile.

To support the Network through Amazon Smile, follow these steps:

1. Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser using your Amazon login.
2. From your desktop, go to **Account & Lists** from the navigation at the top of the page, and then click AmazonSmile Charity Lists.
3. Search and select **Network Against Human Trafficking**
4. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to complete any Amazon shopping and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Belitsos urged all board members to list the NAHT as the .5% charity for all their personal purchases through Amazon.

Kyker also shared that there are several 100+ Men/Women Who Care groups around Iowa. Please visit <https://www.100whocarealliance.org/about-us/list-of-chapters/usa/> and reach out to any chapters in your area. The Network also received its first Bequest gift.

**Report on the NAHT Rescue Sticker Statewide Distribution Project.** Belitsos reported that 2,500 more stickers have been printed. He distributed 500 stickers at the Legal Women Voters Convention last weekend. 100 posters were also printed.

**Report from Central Iowa, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, and Sioux City Hotel/Motel Employee Training Projects.** Reding reported difficulty completing trainings in Central Iowa. Many hotels

are blaming their corporate offices for not wanting training. Rixner reported that Siouxland recently trained 10 hotel/motels. She has made progress with many family owned hotels who have received training. Wright reported that she held trainings at Hotel Julien and Best Western in Dubuque. The manager at the Best Western is interested in becoming a trainer.

**Updates on efforts to adopt city massage ordinances.** Hardin reported that Bettendorf passed the third reading of their massage ordinance. They are now the 17th city to pass an ordinance. Rixner asked about the Davenport ordinance, and Hardin reported that 6 businesses were closed, 10 women were offered services by local advocates, and one trafficker was arrested. Belitsos was asked to email the new Bettendorf ordinance to the board.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**

Next Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 4:00 pm.