

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2019, 2:30-4:00

Conference Call

Present: George Belitsos, Lauren Camp, Liz Cox, Angela Davis, Sister Shirley Fineran, Joy Fopma, Elizabeth Quinn, Alyse Hardin, Taylor Houston, Jennifer Kerger, Katie Kyker, Elizabeth Quinn, Shirlee Reding, Roxanne Riesberg, Bernadette Rixner, Dr. Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper, Suzanne Wright, and Trish Young

Excused: Jonathan Causey and Joy Fopma

Cox called the meeting to order. In review of the Agenda corrections on dates of upcoming Board of Directors meetings were made. For the February 18th minutes, a motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made.

Sticker Program: Houston reported that at least 28 different groups had placed a request for these rescue stickers. He strongly requested that people use the permission request form, which is to be signed by the manager of the organization where the sticker will be placed, to insure stickers are being placed in a legitimate business. Hardin requested stickers be sent to Braking Traffic as they had not received any.

Budget: Belitsos presented the proposed 2019 budget, which was reviewed and discussed. The budget proposal now has a column showing 2018 expenditures and income. In this way, one can compare actual 2018 expenditures to the proposed 2019 budget. \$6,600 was carried over to 2019 budget which gives a positive start to the new year of fundraising. Cox will make some revisions to the categories of the budget and place it on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Belitsos answered questions and clarified that 2018 funds were donations and there is no fee for services.

Legislative Advocacy Committee Report – Davis started off the progress report discussing the bill tracking table sent to each board member. She reported that the Mandatory Reporter Training bill is in good shape as it has passed through both committee chambers. The next step is getting the bill placed on the active debate calendar, which is a step towards getting it passed. She asked that each board member reach out to the subcommittee chairs to ask that they move the bill forward to be debated. On the tracking table you will note that the Mandatory Reporting Training bills have been reassigned new numbers HF731 and SF544. The second funnel date is April 5th. Davis encouraged the board to make the push now. If you plan to contact the subcommittee chairs by e-mail, be sure to thank them for being wonderful advocates for this bill.

Davis reminded the board of Vanesa McNeal's documentary, "Gridshock." The film will premiere on April 2nd at the Des Moines Civic Center. She asked that the board encourage legislators, sheriffs, state patrol officers, county attorneys, and coalition's members to attend the filming.

Tinsman commended Davis for the phenomenal job she has done with the Mandatory Reporter Training Bill as it progressed through both the house and the senate chambers. She suggested that each board member not only connect with Senator Carlin who would be floor managing SF544, but also contact their senator to ask Senator Carlin to bring the bill to the floor. Tinsman mentioned two other bills that the Legislative Advisory Committee are tracking: HF642, DHS information sharing, and SF267 – massage therapy licensing. (To see the status of other bills being tracked see the email attachment)

Other Legislation –Tupper shared his concern for SF579 as he felt this bill would discourage people from reporting crimes such as human trafficking and diminish any confidential relationships that police officers might have built. Tupper asked that the NAHT register in opposition to SF579. Belitsos, Houston, Quinn, and Camp all agreed with Tupper's concern and requested that the NAHT oppose the bill. Davis noted that the Iowa State Police Association and Iowa Peace Officers Association were undecided on this bill. Two questions raised about the bill included who initiated the bill and why they wanted it. Davis will look further into this bill to see if it warrants opposition by NAHT and the Legislative Advocacy Committee would let the board know as soon as possible its position.

Regional coalition reports were not given, due to the time constraints of the meeting. Harding from Braking Traffic would be e-mailing a progress report of Braking Traffic to the board.

The meeting was turned over to Belitsos as Cox had to leave for another meeting. Belitsos asked which agenda items were the most important to address. At that point the meeting jumped to the topic of city massage ordinances. Davenport just recently adopted an ordinance. This makes 16 cities across Iowa that have adopted ordinances to fight trafficking in illicit massage business.

The board requested two items be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th. They are as follows:

1. A report on how effective the local massage ordinance are and if they are being enforced.
2. A motion to have Shirlee Reding review/audit the treasurer's financial records once each quarter.

Fundraising – The committee needs a volunteer from the board to help raise the 2019 fundraising goal of \$4,659. Kyker would be willing to serve on the Fundraising Committee but would not serve as chair.

Announcements:

- Kyker reported that the Southwest Iowa Human Trafficking coalition has almost 100 people registered for their first ever human trafficking conference on March 20th.

- Belitsos stated that a showing of Gridshock would take place on Monday, April 8th, at 7:00 pm in the Ames ISU Memorial Union. The Iowa NAHT and ISU Student NAHT are sharing an information table and are both listed as co-sponsors of the film.
- Future Board of Directors' Meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, which would be April 9th, May 14th and June 11th from 2:30-4:00 pm. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, June 4th, 2:30-4:00 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.