

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2018, 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Face-to-Face Meeting, Prairie Meadows Conference Center, Polk County Room**

**Present:** George Belitsos (Chair), Alyse Egan (present from 10 to 10:15), Teresa Davidson (present from 10 to 10:15), Margaret Epplin (proxy for Jan Beran), Joy Fopma, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara, Elizabeth Quinn (proxy for Fitzgerald), Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner (present from 10 to 10:15), Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman (Secretary), Mike Tupper, Suzanne Wright (present from 10 to 10:15)

**Excused:** Jan Beran (Treasurer), Liz Cox, Sr Shirley Fineran, Taylor Houston

**Absent:** Erin Schneider

**Guests:** Stefani Simbric (Human Trafficking Instructor for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy)

Jessica Rohrs (Family Crisis Center)

Katie Kyker (Jennie Edmundson Foundation and Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking)

: Kim Adams, Jen Swim, Judy Bradshaw, and Kim Wadding (Iowa Law Enforcement Academy)

Michael and Marcia Petersen (parents of Monica Petersen)

Courtney Crowder (reporter who is writing a series for *The Des Moines Register* on human trafficking)

Billie McIntire, MA, LPC, LAC (Denver, Colorado, a human trafficking survivor and speaker at today's Human Trafficking Summit)

**Taking Minutes:** Margaret Epplin

**Call to Order and Roll Call. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos. Roll call was taken. Mike Tupper, Chief of Police in Marshalltown, who will be voted on in the Consent Agenda as a new NAHT Board Member, introduced himself.

All Board members in attendance and all guests introduced themselves.

**Review today's agenda. Any changes?**

There were no changes to the Agenda.

**Executive Committee meeting report and approval of Consent Agenda**

Board members pointed out that Egan will be appointed through the Consent Agenda to represent NAHT on the Children's Policy Council. Egan agreed to this appointment.

- Motion to approve March 19 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report. As of March 30, the NAHT recorded \$1,782 in the savings account and \$1,569 in checking.
- Motion to adopt the Board by-law revisions.
- Motion to nominate and elect Steve Eckley as an Emeritus Board member.
- Motion to nominate and elect Marshalltown Chief of Police, Mike Tupper, to fill the vacant Board seat formerly held by Brynne Howard.
- Motion to appoint Alyse Egan to represent the NAHT on the Children's Policy Council.
- Motion to ask the co-chairs of the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee to begin meeting monthly starting in October 2018 to begin to plan for the 2019 Legislative session.
- Motion to approve the nomination of Joy Fopma for an Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award.

- Motion to accept the resignation of Brynne Howard due to a job change.
- Motion to approve these top four legislative priorities for 2018 (1) Restoration of state funding for the Office to Combat Human trafficking, (2) Creation of a workgroup to examine mandatory reporter training, (3) Expansion and improvement of antitrafficking laws, (4) Rape Shield law to apply to survivors.

Executive Committee motion to **approve** the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried.**

### **Report of the Legislative Advocacy Committee and status of bills endorsed by the NAHT (Cox & Tinsman)**

Belitsos handed out an updated NAHT legislative report for 2018. Tinsman gave an update on SF2300 which will create a study group on Mandatory Reporter Training improvements including the addition of sex trafficking. This bill passed the Senate 49-0 and died in the Iowa House. Tinsman reported that there are 400,000 mandatory reporters in Iowa who could all be trained to identify and report trafficking as part of their required Mandatory Reporter Training. This bill sets up a work group which the NAHT hopes will include the identifying and reporting of human trafficking as a requirement in Mandatory Reporter training. Since the bill did not pass the House, Rep Heaton has agreed to put it in the HHS Appropriation Bill. However, since this bill started in the Senate, the addition of the Study Group to the HHS Appropriations bill will need to be initiated in the Senate. Senator Costello is in charge of adding this to the Senate bill. This has not been done yet, and Tinsman asked all Board members to call Senator Costello and request that he add Mandatory Reporter Bill SF 2300 to the HHS Appropriation Bill. Board members should also mention that Rep Heaton is in favor of this bill. Tinsman noted that the bill passing session is essentially over, but the budget hasn't been passed so legislators are communicating about the budget in order to bring the session to an end.

SF2254 (now SF2371) to increase penalties for the trafficking of persons under the age of 18 to a Class B felony passed the Senate 49-0 and died in the Iowa House. Tinsman reported that the penalty was proposed to increase from 10 to 25 years.

The appropriations bill to increase DPS funding for the Office to Combat Trafficking from \$75,000 (Gov. rec) to \$150,000 is pending. NAHT is advocating for an increase to \$150,000.

HF 498, Trauma Informed Care practices and suicide prevention training in schools, passed both Iowa houses and was signed into law by the Governor on March 22, 2018. The NAHT endorsed this bill and is pleased that it is now law.

Tinsman emphasized that bills must be initiated by the majority party to have a chance to be passed and signed into law.

Guest McIntire of Denver, shared that Colorado SF 64 moved prostitution down to a petty offense. Advocates had initially requested blanket immunity for prostitution but negotiated down to a petty offense. Their efforts to pass a Safe Harbor bill were resisted by the prosecutors and the bill went down in defeat. She urged Iowa to work on a similar bill.

### **Report by the Human Trafficking Instructor for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy ILEA (Simbric)**

Simbric shared that she has held the job as Human Trafficking Instructor for 5 months. Her review of the existing curriculum is that the quality of the content is excellent. She is continuing to gather and enhance information. She does not come from a law enforcement background, so she brings a different perspective. She is looking at the curriculum with a critical eye and welcomes any questions about the content of the curriculum.

Simbric shared that she has heard that there has been NAHT criticism that the 3 hours specifically designated in the Law Enforcement Academy to study sex trafficking is not adequate. Simbric explained that sex trafficking is included in other parts of the Law Enforcement Academy which runs for 16.5 weeks and is held 6 times each year. She estimates that there are actually about 30 hours of related training. Some of the other areas of emphasis which include related information on sex trafficking are domestic violence, sexual assault, drug investigation, forensic interviewing, trauma, trafficker tactics, and available community resources.

The Director of the Law Enforcement Academy, Bradshaw further explained that the "Basic Academy" is for newly hired officers, and that the Law Enforcement Academy attempts to develop as many skills as possible

without overwhelming the new officers. Bradshaw noted that the 3-hour trafficking portion is held at the very end of the Academy to pull all the pieces of information about trafficking together so that officers have a foundation to identify trafficking. Bradshaw also said that she is open to ideas and comments, while noting that every advocacy group wants a part of the education, and program developers have to decide how much the new officers can absorb.

Tinsman asked how law enforcement leadership, such as police chiefs and sheriffs, who aren't new, get information and training on trafficking. Bradshaw reported that the Law Enforcement Academy has held a day-long training specific to sex trafficking. 36 police chiefs and sheriffs attended.

Bradshaw says the Law Enforcement Academy will continue to reach out to law enforcement leadership and offer more training on human trafficking. Bradshaw stated that more training is also needed for prosecutors and judges who are in the awareness stage. Bradshaw believes training of prosecutors and judges needs to be managed with a "Task Force" approach, and ILEA will be part of the process. Bradshaw stated that all law enforcement from sheriffs and chiefs to prosecutors and judges get the same training.

Stoehr thanked Simbric for the information shared and complimented Simbric.

Quinn also complimented Simbric and asked what is being offered for existing law enforcement officers. Simbric stated that she has started to offer training to departments throughout the state. Simbric is building a specific 8-hour human trafficking curriculum to take on the road. The first two 8-hour trainings are scheduled. The training is designed for existing officers who did not get trafficking training at the Academy as well as prosecutors and judges. Simbric is also planning some on-site 4-hour trainings. Simbric is identifying local resources and community partners to promote the trainings.

Tupper stated that the Law Enforcement Academy is doing a phenomenal job with limited resources. The Academy is laying a foundation and it is up to local law enforcement agencies to expand the foundation. The public should demand accountability and ask how local police agencies are training staff to identify human trafficking.

Stoehr asked if police officers have required continuing education and if the 8-hour training is considered continuing education. Bradshaw clarified that the Iowa code on continuing education for law enforcement allows latitude for chiefs and sheriffs to set the amount of continuing education required for their own departments. Simbric wants to partner with local chiefs and sheriffs to get their officers to attend trafficking trainings.

Reding asked if the hotel/motel trainings are mentioned in the Academy. Simbric shared that she doesn't know much about the hotel/motel training. Reding will send Simbric more information.

### **Report from the Iowa Crisis Call Center 800-770-1650 and data on sex trafficking calls (Rohrs from the Family Crisis Center)**

Rohrs gave a presentation on the Family Crisis Center crisis call program. The Family Crisis Center is a 24-7 call center located in Sioux Center, Iowa, and serves the entire state of Iowa. The Center is funded through the Iowa Attorney General's Office to answer human trafficking calls. 15-17 paid advocates in three shifts per day are awake and take crisis calls at the Family Crisis Center, in full and part time shifts. They are trained and certified through the State of Iowa to answer crisis calls. Advocates field 2,500 to 3,000 calls per month.

The Family Crisis Center was initially set up in 2015 as a call center for domestic violence calls but has expanded to become the only call center in Iowa and fields calls for all crimes, including human trafficking, sexual assault, and homicide, in addition to domestic violence. The Center has recently added the ability to contact the Center through text as sometimes it is too dangerous for victims to use the phone. The Family Crisis Center text number is 20121.

The Family Crisis Center has two primary goals. First the Center fields calls from victims, advocates, and concerned citizens seeking services or reporting incidences. This is 75% of the calls. The second goal is to provide relief to agencies statewide who have a contract with the Family Crisis Center to roll their phone lines to the Family Crisis Center whenever they want to. Most of these contracted agencies roll their phone lines over to

Family Crisis Center when they leave work at 5 p.m. until they open again at 8 a.m. Two clients of the Family Crisis Center are Wings of Refuge and Braking Traffik.

Rohrs reported on a recent collaboration with the Iowa DOT. Currently advocates work in cubicles surrounded with statewide maps that identify local resources. Once an advocate identifies what the caller is going through, they can pinpoint on the map the local resources available to the caller. The Family Crisis Center is working with the IA DOT to develop a digital map of local resources. The Family Crisis Center will keep the list of local resources up to date and the IA DOT will provide the technical expertise to digitize the information and maintain the website. The website is [Iowadot.gov/endslavery](http://Iowadot.gov/endslavery) and has recently gone active. Belitsos requested a copy of the human trafficking service maps, and Rohrs agreed to send the maps. Belitsos will then send this to the Board.

Tinsman asked Rohrs for data the Family Crisis Center receives on sex trafficking calls. Rohrs answered that in the month of December 2017, 27 duplicated sex trafficking calls were received. This FY, 127 duplicated sex trafficking calls have been received. Since October 2015, 415 duplicated sex trafficking calls were received.

The Family Crisis Center has recently separated the sex trafficking calls. From July to December 2017, 118 unduplicated calls were received, or about 20 unduplicated sex trafficking calls per month.

Kerger asked if the Family Crisis Center reported data to national hotlines. Rohrs reported that she recently talked to Polaris and learned that any call that comes to a national line is referred to the Iowa DPS. The Family Crisis Center refers callers to a national hotline if the caller wants information out of the state of Iowa. Rohrs noted that the Polaris national hotline serves all 50 states, is very busy, and sometimes no one answers.

Reding asked if the calls are reported to local law enforcement. Rohrs responded that the call is reported only if the caller requests that the Family Crisis Center report.

Fopma complimented the Family Crisis Center for its very skilled workforce and encouraged Board members to visit the hotline office in Sioux Center, Iowa, for a tour to see the work firsthand.

#### **Report from the Research, Evaluation & Best Practices Standards Cmte (Houston & Reding)**

Reding reported that the Committee has a conference call meeting scheduled this Friday to review and make comments on Houston's research report. The committee will report at the next NAHT Board meeting

#### **Report from the Hotel/Motel Employee Training Projects (Reding, Davidson, O'Meara, Rixner, updates from any other areas of the state?)**

Reding reported that a successful 3-hour Central Iowa hotel/motel training of trainers was held on March 8 at Plymouth Church in Des Moines. 24 new trainers participated. Stringer is leaving as Project Coordinator, and Reding is attempting to coordinate in her absence.

O'Meara reported on western and eastern Iowa. A hotel/motel training of trainers is scheduled this fall in eastern Iowa for Clinton, Dubuque, and the Quad Cities; no MOU has been signed yet. Sioux City recently received a Junior League grant to hold a hotel/motel training.

O'Meara reported that he is impressed with the strategic planning and organization of the new Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking, represented at this meeting by guest Kryker.

O'Meara reported recent contact with Native Americans and their casinos and hopes to provide trainings to them.

O'Meara reported on a new form of MOU and that two foreign countries have asked for information on the hotel/motel training.

O'Meara will expand the original hotel/motel hospitality training to include the transportation industry. The DOT will work collaboratively with O'Meara.

O'Meara reported on the collaboration with Rotary. In Omaha, the hotel/motel project is the premier Rotary project. Omaha Rotary has expanded its Training and Education Committee to include human trafficking. O'Meara reported that Rotary is the main service club partner to bring groups together and develop programs.

Rotary is reorganizing to combine Iowa and Nebraska into one zone. Belitsos is also advocating for the Iowa Rotary District 6000 to adopt anti-trafficking projects.

Belitsos is a new Board member of the International Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. Belitsos reported that he is attending the June 2018 International Rotary Conference in Toronto. Rotary has had eradication of polio as its international project for years and has spent over one billion dollars fighting polio. This project has been very successful as there were only 8 new cases, in Pakistan and Afghanistan, last year.

Rotary is looking for new international projects, and Belitsos will continue to advocate that Rotary adopt stopping human trafficking as its new international project.

O'Meara reported that he is speaking in Winterset next week. In preparation for the speech, O'Meara did research on the local area and found that, from 2015 to 2017, there appears to be correlation between victims of sex trafficking from 18 months of age and up and the production of pornography in South Central Iowa. O'Meara found actual cases of sharing and production of pornography in South Central Iowa and found that routine users of pornography are more likely to trend to sex trafficking.

**Updates on efforts to adopt city massage ordinances in Newton (passed), Marshalltown (introduced but on hold), Altoona (passed), Sioux City (introduced but on hold), Ames, Clive, West Des Moines, other cities?**

Belitsos reported that three cities now have a massage ordinance, Johnston, Newton, and, recently, Altoona. Belitsos reported that only one person spoke against the ordinance at the Altoona City Council meeting. This person was later found to be running a traveling massage business and was not a licensed massage therapist. After Altoona passed a massage ordinance, 13 existing legitimate massage businesses completed the application for a Massage Therapy Business License in Altoona. One existing business did not complete the application and disappeared.

Tupper shared that passage of a massage ordinance in Marshalltown was stopped by licensed massage therapists who spoke against the ordinance. Tupper reported that law enforcement is investigating a male suspect who was operating an illicit business out of his home.

Belitsos reported that objections by legitimate massage therapists have also prevented passage of a massage ordinance in Sioux City. Advocates should first meet with licensed therapists to obtain buy-in before approaching law enforcement.

Tinsman noted the importance of passing massage ordinances in large Iowa cities, such as Des Moines and Cedar Rapids.

Reding reported that she has talked to the Des Moines City Attorney, the Des Moines Mayor, and the Des Moines City Council members. Reding has formed a massage ordinance subcommittee which has been meeting for several months. They recently attended the Clive City Council Meeting for the first reading of a proposed ordinance. Susan Mitchell spoke on behalf of the ordinance which was drafted by the Chief of Police. It's likely it will pass at the council meeting in early May.

**Other**

Wright reported that the Julien International Dubuque Film Festival will be held April 26 to 29, 2018. "Invisible Hands" about child labor trafficking, will be shown at the film festival. Wright reports that this is an excellent film. Also included in the film festival is a shorter piece, "Los Lecheros" (The Dairy Workers) on the relationship between immigration and labor trafficking on dairy farms in Wisconsin. Sr Mary McCauley, who was involved with the Postville raids, will be in attendance at the festival. The feature film, "Market Value" is also included in the film festival schedule. This film investigates issues faced in LGBT adoptions, and illegal adoptions.

Belitsos asked Wright to please post the schedule on the NAHT website calendar.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is Monday, April 30, 2:30-4:00. (conference call).

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, May 21, 2:30-4:00pm (conference call)