

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 20, 2018, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Conference Call

Present: George Belitsos (Chair), Jan Beran (Treasurer), Liz Cox, Teresa Davidson, Angela Kenyon Davis, Alyse Egan, Sr Shirley Fineran, Joy Fopma, Taylor Houston, Jennie Kerger, Katie Kyker, Bernadette Rixner, Maggie Tinsman, Suzanne Wright

Excused: Stephen O'Meara, Shirlee Reding

Absent: Paul Fitzgerald, Alissa Stoehr, Mike Tupper

Guests: Gretchen Brown-Waech, newly appointed Victim Rights and Human Trafficking Coordinator in the Attorney General's Office, and Brynne Howard, Brown-Waech's supervisor

Taking Minutes: Margaret Epplin

Call to Order and Roll Call. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos. Roll call was taken. New Board member, Angela Kenyon Davis introduced herself. Kenyon Davis thanked the Network for inviting her to join the fight against human trafficking. Kenyon Davis is from Creston, Iowa and received an undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and a law degree from Drake Law School. Kenyon Davis is the Founder of AKD Legal Consulting and expressed desire to work on complex issues that plague the community and reach the anti-trafficking goals of the NAHT. Kenyon Davis has agreed to co-chair the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee with Tinsman.

Review today's agenda. Any changes? (all)

Tinsman requested that the 2019 NAHT Legislative Priorities be removed from the Consent Agenda. Tinsman wishes to discuss the 2019 priorities with Kenyon Davis, the new Legislative Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, before the 2019 priorities are approved by the entire Board.

Tinsman would like to add an item to the Agenda to report on visits with CEOs of major hospitals in the Quad Cities.

Tinsman requests information on human trafficking at the Iowa State Fair since there was large article on this in the August 15 issues of *The Des Moines Register*.

Beran requested that the Treasurer's report be removed from the Consent Agenda. Beran will give an updated Treasurer's report.

Rixner requests that the Code of Ethics be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed.

The Executive Committee **made a motion** to remove (1) Treasurer's Report, (2) Code of Ethics and (3) Legislative Priorities. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee meeting report and approval of Consent Agenda:

- Motion to approve June 18-meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- ~~Motion to approve the treasurer's report. As of August 1, the NAHT recorded \$777.48 in the savings account and \$781.25 in checking.~~
- Motion to authorize the chair to ask the Iowa Department of Human Services and governor to appoint a NAHT board member representative to the new study group on Mandatory Reporter Training.
- Motion to authorize the chair to send a certificate of recognition to each city in Iowa which has adopted an ordinance to regulate local massage businesses in an effort to expose and end sex trafficking.

- Motion to approve the revised Network policy entitled, “Clarification of Mission & Action Steps.” The policy places more emphasis on labor trafficking.
- Motion to add a new Network goal to the 2019 Strategic Plan to place more public awareness emphasis on labor trafficking and to advocate for improved rescue and service for labor trafficking survivors.
- Motion to approve the revised board member conflict of interest statement.
- ~~Motion to approve the new policy entitled, “Board Member Code of Ethics.”~~
- Motion to authorize the Chair to negotiate a collaborative agreement with the national non-profit, In Our Backyard, to secure up to 5,000 Freedom Stickers to be distributed to Iowa allies and advocates statewide.
- Motion to amend the NAHT bylaws to expand board membership from 18 to 20.
- Motion to elect Angela Kenyon Davis to the Board of Directors.
- ~~Motion to approve the 2019 NAHT Legislative priorities.~~

Updated Treasurer’s Report: Beran reported \$1,490 in checking as of today due to Belitsos’ donation of \$1,000. Prior to this donation, Beran had removed all except \$100 in savings. There are 8 Board members who have yet to make a 2018 donation to the Network. A gift of any amount will be appreciated. Belitsos challenged the Board to reach a funding goal of 100% participation by the Board. Tinsman suggested sending a letter to NAHT Board members asking for contributions. Belitsos would rather call on them toward the end of the year to contribute. Belitsos also asked that members request donations to NAHT from churches and service clubs. Beran’s church has donated and other Board members have successfully solicited donations from churches or organizations

Belitsos reported that Johnnie Hammond’s Foundation will contribute \$1,000 to the Network after the next meeting of the Hammond Family Foundation Board.

Rixner noted that NAHT Board members are involved in local organizations and are making contributions locally. Belitsos affirmed and recognized the volunteer time contribution of NAHT Board members.

Beran **made a motion** to accept the revised Treasurer’s report. Tinsman **seconded**. **Motion carried** unanimously.

Code of Ethics. Rixner requested clarification on Item 7. Belitsos explained that policy making decisions of Board members should be kept separate from the duties of paid consultants. Rixner suggested that Item 7 be removed from the Code of Ethics.

Rixner requested that “...that might cause a conflict of interest...” be added to Item 9.

Belitsos noted that the Code of Ethics is completely new and was created after a suggestion by an NAHT Board member.

Rixner **made a motion** to delete Code of Ethics Item 7 and change Code of Ethics Item 9 to read “Disclose any relationship and/or involvement in business transactions or current professional services *that might cause a conflict of interest* with the NAHT,...” Houston **seconded**. **Motion carried** unanimously.

Remove 2019 Legislative Priorities. Tinsman stated that the Committee needs the input of Kenyon Davis before the list of 2019 Legislative Priorities is approved by the full NAHT Board. Kenyon Davis concurred. Belitsos suggested that Tinsman and Kenyon Davis stay on the conference call after this meeting has adjourned to discuss the Legislative Priorities. Belitsos noted that several priorities were carried over from 2018.

The 2019 Legislative Priorities will be added to the September 17 Board Agenda.

Introduction and update from the newly appointed H.T. Coordinator in the Attorney General’s Office, Gretchen Brown-Waech

Brown-Waech introduced herself and reported that she is currently learning her new position and is reviewing the work of Villongco, the previous Human Trafficking Coordinator. Brown-Waech has about a dozen visitations set up for the next month.

Howard, Brown-Waech's supervisor, was also on the call and reported that the Attorney General's Office will hold a Victim Justice Symposium on September 11 and 12 at the Marriott in Des Moines. There will be several speakers on human trafficking including a survivor, as well as a presentation on labor trafficking. Tinsman asked who is invited. Belitsos noted that the flyer with an invitation extended to victim advocates, law enforcement, medical professionals, and prosecutors working with victims of crime was on last week's NAHT blog post. Belitsos asked for more detail on the training, especially on trafficking. Howard noted that one session leader will bring several male survivors of human trafficking. One breakout presentation will give information on labor trafficking in Iowa. The National Immigrant Advocacy Program from DC will give a presentation directed toward law enforcement but open to everyone. This presentation will include best practices for working with immigrant survivors of trafficking. Howard will send an updated link to Belitsos with more up-to-date information on the Symposium sessions.

Howard reported that the AG's Office is planning another Train the Trainer event, but the date has not been set.

Brown-Waech will be reaching out to various people over the next couple of months, including NAHT Board members. If there are local meetings of NAHT Board members, Brown-Waech would like to attend.

Rixner asked if wage theft is considered a part of labor trafficking. Rixner reported on a call received this morning in which a victim requested information on taking the trafficker to court for back wages. Rixner asked who is a specialist in this area. Howard relayed that Iowa Legal Aid recently added a human trafficking fellow Lauren Camp to deal with legal issues of trafficked persons. Belitsos added that Camp has already been invited to report at the September 17 NAHT meeting. Belitsos will send out Camp's contact info to the NAHT Board.

Belitsos reminded the NAHT Board that Howard previously served on the NAHT Board of Directors and thanked her for her service. Howard is currently an administrator in the Attorney General's Office overseeing human trafficking efforts throughout the state. Howard was an immigration attorney for 7 years prior to her current position.

Tinsman asked Brown-Waech to look for labor trafficking beyond immigrant and migrant workers. Brown-Waech agreed that immigrant and migrant workers compose most of labor trafficking but there are other areas being considered.

Wright recently approached Iowa Senator Ernst's staff about labor trafficking at a poultry farm. Wright asked if both Camp and the Human Trafficking Hotline should be contacted. Belitsos suggested contacting both, and Wright will follow-up. Belitsos reported a major labor trafficking bust in the poultry and potato industries in a small town in Nebraska. Some of these labor trafficking victims are being held by ICE because they are illegal immigrants. 8 are being held in the Story County jail by ICE because there was not enough room in local jails in Nebraska. Belitsos reported on efforts to ensure all those jailed had legal representation.

Belitsos pledged full support and cooperation of the NAHT with Brown-Waech and welcomed Brown Waech to any NAHT Board meetings.

Report of the Legislative Advocacy Committee and review of 2019 Legislative Priorities (Cox and Tinsman)

Legislative research consultant's progress report (Erika Rist).

Belitsos reported that Rist has requested a one-month extension on the items listed below. Tinsman asked that Rist contact Tinsman with progress on building a case for the Safe Harbor law and

increased penalties for prostitution as this information is needed to finalize the 2019 NAHT Legislative Priorities. Belitsos will ask Rist to contact Tinsman.

- Research and write a H.T. legislative history for 2006-2012.
One month extension.
- Build a case for Iowa to adopt a Safe Harbor law (those under age 18 will not be charged with prostitution).
One month extension. Rist to contact Tinsman ASAP.
- Build a case for Iowa to increase penalties for buyers of prostitution
One month extension. Rist to contact Tinsman ASAP.

Tinsman reported that the Legislative Advocacy Committee is recommending that the NAHT Legislative Priorities be reduced from 11 to 7 priorities.

Priority 1. Tinsman asked if Belitsos had suggested someone from the NAHT Board to serve on the Work Group which will study changes to Mandatory Reporting. Belitsos has recommended Tinsman, but no one has yet been invited to serve on the Work Group. Recently, Cox relayed to Belitsos that the formation of the Work Group has been delayed due to the resignation of Rickman. Belitsos contacted DHS Director Foxhoven about the delay. Tinsman will ask Cox and Angela to also call DHS Director Foxhoven.

Priority 2: Change Priority 5 to Priority 2.

Priority 3 will stay the same, but the verbiage will be reduced.

Priority 4 will be changed to include only items c and d.

Priority 5 will be original Priority 2.

Priority 6 will be the same.

Priority 7 will be replaced with Priority 8.

Priorities 7, 9, 10, and 11 will be deleted.

Belitsos noted that Priority 7 was suggested by Cox and perhaps Cox doesn't feel this is important any more.

Belitsos suggested listing priorities 9, 10, and 11 not as priorities, but as ideas NAHT would support if they came through legislature. Belitsos noted that lots of state have Priority 9, and Belitsos would like to encourage it be passed through the Iowa legislature.

Belitsos noted that Rixner and others have asked for Priority 10. Instead of each community passing a massage ordinance, this priority would make the massage ordinances statewide. As more and more cities pass massage ordinances, Belitsos believes the ordinances should be standardized throughout the state. Belitsos said a statewide approach has been proposed to the Governor's Office. Kenyon Davis noted that the legislature doesn't like being approached with a mandate. Tinsman believes it will take a lot of local cities passing ordinances before a standardized massage ordinance will become a statewide legislative mandate.

Tinsman and Kenyon Davis will look at policies important to the NAHT to see if they need legislative attention. The Legislative Advocacy Committee has a goal to tighten the agenda when approaching legislators. Perhaps some of these priorities can repositioned without engaging the legislature.

Rixner asked if Rist's idea of using the terminology "Commercial Domestic Violence" is being discussed. Belitsos reported that the Executive Committee had discussed this and didn't agree with the terminology.

Report of the Research, Evaluation & Best Practice Standards Committee. NAHT Board actions to address recommendations (Houston and Reding).

Houston has added a new volunteer, Rachel Pearce, to the Committee. Pearce has experience with trafficking in Ireland.

Houston recently presented the findings of the research project *The State of Support: Identifying Best Practices and Barriers of Human Trafficking Victim Services within the State of Iowa* at a recent meeting of the Survivor Services Collaboration Committee.

Houston will set up a conference call for the next meeting of the Research, Evaluation & Best Practice Standards Committee. Houston hopes the Committee will provide new ideas for human trafficking research.

Houston reported that he has been asked to work on implementation and research and evaluation of a possible federal grant to work with immigration refugees. Successful grant recipients will be notified in September. Belitsos reminded the Board that NAHT wrote a letter of support for this grant which includes work with labor and sex trafficking among refugees.

Tinsman asked Braking Traffik for a report on its labor trafficking grant. Egan will touch base with Houston about the Braking Traffik grant which touches on labor trafficking.

Belitsos highly recommends continued follow up on the six recommendations from *The State of Support: Identifying Best Practices and Barriers of Human Trafficking Victim Services within the State of Iowa* listed below.

1. Develop a set of best practice standards for delivery of services to survivors of sex and labor trafficking (assigned to the Survivor Services Collaboration of Committee.).
2. Develop a public awareness campaign for labor trafficking and services specifically for its victims. Future projects should place equal emphasis on sex and labor trafficking (placed on the Iowa NAHT 2019 Strategic Goals and ask Braking Traffik for a report on their labor trafficking grant).
3. Develop specialized services for male and transgender victims of sex and labor trafficking. Future projects should include these groups.
4. Develop an improved and expanded directory of organizations and individuals providing services (this goal is on the 2018 NAHT Strategic Plan and will be completed by December 2018). Implement this directory as an online interactive map (Iowa DOT will complete map and the Network will link to its website and Facebook page).
5. Foster better relations between culturally specific and nonspecific service providers.
6. Growing anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment, as well as a lack of funding for social and health services (e.g. DHS and Medicaid), are a barrier for victims of sex and labor trafficking. Solicit more support from the Iowa congressional delegation and Iowa legislators which will further anti-trafficking goals.

Report of the Survivor Services Collaboration Committee, held August 7 (Fopma, Fineran, Davidson)

Fopma reported on the August 7 meeting. There were 20 attendees and 17 agencies were represented. Virginia Bruner from the U.S. Attorney's Office gave a presentation on how a human trafficking case is built.

NAHT Board member Houston presented the outcomes of his research. The Collaboration plans to address Houston's recommendation to have a written best practice guide for Iowa service providers.

Agencies attending filled out a questionnaire on future plans.

Collaboration members requested more trainings on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), as well as presentations on writing codes of conduct and best practices.

Belitsos attended the meeting and complimented the Collaboration and Fopma's leadership. Belitsos noted the Collaboration's expansion and growth. Belitsos asked Bruner to address why only one of the 14 Iowa federal human trafficking cases were given restitution. Bruner will investigate this concern.

The next Collaboration meeting will be Tuesday, October 9, at the YSS Jacobson Family Center in Ames. Fopma said the Collaboration wants to hone in on aftercare for survivors and encourages any agency working with aftercare to attend.

Reports from the Central Iowa, Western Iowa, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Iowa City Hotel/Motel Employee Training Projects. Startup plans in Eastern? (Reding, Davidson, O'Meara, Rixner)

Davidson reported that one volunteer has coordinated trainings for over 50 managers with Kirkwood Hotels. 2 Co-Coordinator plan trainings in Cedar Rapids; one of these trainers has resigned and Kristina, a survivor of human trafficking in a hotel, will take over coordinating hotel/motel trainings in the Cedar Rapids area.

Belitsos reported for Reding in Central Iowa. A third hotel/motel training of trainers will take place this fall. 8 more certificates of completion have been given to hotels/motels in Central Iowa. Belitsos commended Reding's leadership and organization of the Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Project.

Rixner reported on Western Iowa. The first hotel/motel training is scheduled for September 20 thanks to a grant from the Junior League. Junior League volunteers are taking care of many details and PR. They have met with the City of Sioux City and would like to hold a press conference. Brown-Waech would like to attend the training and Rixner will send Brown-Waech the details.

Rixner asked about the federal Blue Campaign online training. Belitsos sent out the Blue Campaign digital materials to the full Board, but does not recommend using this material because the Blue Campaign recommends referring trafficked immigrant refugees to ICE.

Belitsos reminded the Board that the Eastern Iowa hotel/motel "training of trainers" will take place on Thursday, September 6, from 4-8pm at the Sisters of St. Francis Canticle, 841 13th Avenue N., Clinton Iowa. Dinner will be provided. This will launch the eastern Iowa Hotel/Motel Employee Training Project. All info is on the August 15 NAHT blog post. Belitsos recommended that Brown-Waech attend.

Belitsos noted that he signed the MOU on behalf of the NAHT and that the training will be done by O'Meara. He noted that O'Meara was hard at work preparing the training manual and Power Point presentation, and that is why he was unable to attend today's Board meeting.

Brown-Waech said she can't make the September 6 training in Clinton but will plan to attend the September 20 training in Sioux City.

Updates on efforts to adopt city massage ordinances in Newton (passed), Marshalltown (introduced but on hold), Altoona (passed), Clive (passed), West Des Moines (passed), Urbandale (passed), Pleasant Hill (passed), Sioux City (on hold), Cedar Rapids (holding 3 hearings), Marion (passed), Newton (passed) Ames, other cities? (all)

Rixner reported that the new Sioux City Police Chief is lukewarm and they are holding off right now.

Davidson and Houston attended a City Council meeting in Cedar Rapids. Survivors met with the City Council and Police Department, which was helpful. The Police Department asked Davidson for a "wish list" of things Cedar Rapids Police Department could do for victims of human trafficking, and Davidson provided a list of 10 items. Cedar Rapids is slowly working on a massage ordinance which will provide

services and not shut down legitimate businesses. Cedar Rapids City Council does not want to require an additional license and fee. Both Houston and Davidson are optimistic a massage business ordinance, specific for Cedar Rapids, will be passed in 2018.

Rixner asked Davidson for the “wish list” of 10 things Cedar Rapids Police Department could do for victims of human trafficking. Davidson would like to see what the response is, and then will share with the NAHT Board. Belitsos noted this is an auxiliary bonus in addition to a massage ordinance.

Davidson reported that Coralville and Iowa City are also looking at ordinances. Davidson said that there have been several articles in local papers in July. Belitsos will add Coralville and Iowa City to the list.

Belitsos and Beran are watching for the right time to again approach the City of Ames about a massage ordinance. The Mayor told Belitsos that as soon as the zoning bill gets finished, he will work on the massage ordinance.

Wright reported that the staff of the City of Dubuque are deciding how to write a massage ordinance.

Other Topics Added to Today's Agenda

Tinsman requested that the Chair request a report from the Des Moines Police Department on the outcome of their Iowa State Fair anti-trafficking activities.

Tinsman said she is very excited that Mercy in Cedar Rapids has created the anti-human trafficking position for Davidson. Tinsman contacted Genesis and Trinity health care systems about a similar position. Genesis CEO told Tinsman that he had already talked to Mercy and is interested in doing something similar. Tinsman recommended ER and urgent care staff be trained to recognize human trafficking as these might be the places that human trafficking victims first seek medical care. Trinity told Tinsman that they are educating staff about human trafficking. Tinsman reported that these conversations were very positive.

Davidson said she has been inundated with requests for trainings and conferences. Davidson will include urgent care clinics. Tinsman emphasized the importance of identifying human trafficking when victims enter a health care system.

Davidson said Michigan has passed a mandate that all licensed people must be educated on human trafficking to renew their licenses (doctors, nurses, massage therapists, etc.).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Next Executive Committee conference call: Monday, August 27, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Next Board of Directors conference call: Monday, September 17, 2:30 to 4 p.m.