

**Iowa NAHT Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2017
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

Present on call: Jan Beran, Liz Cox, Teresa Davidson, Steve Eckley, Sr Shirley Fineran, Joy Fopma, Brynne Howard, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Maggie Tinsman (Acting Chair)
Excused: George Belitsos, Taylor Houston
Absent: Ruth Buckels, Cathy O'Keeffe, Gail Sheridan-Lucht,
Guests: Mahder Serekberhan (Proxy for Taylor Houston)
Taking minutes: Margaret Epplin

Call to Order and Roll Call. Welcome new Board member Joy Fopma. Introduction of guests. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Tinsman.

Review today's agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

Review outcome of January's observance of Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. What should we repeat next year? Improve? New Ideas?

Eckley thought the press conference was great and focused the attention of legislators on human trafficking. Tinsman agreed. Some questioned if the opening day of the legislature was the best time to hold the press conference. Several felt that giving awards was a good idea. Several mentioned that they liked the face-to-face meeting.

Some expressed disappointment that there was little print media and that the press conference was overshadowed by Branstad's appointment as ambassador to China. There was press coverage in the Quad Cities area, and all four of the quad cities made proclamations designating January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention month. In the Sioux City area, several local channels covered the governor's press conference. Des Moines did a proclamation. Beran reported that he Ames City Council and Story County Board of Supervisors declared proclamations. For the third year, proclamations were signed in Sioux City area cities of Anson, Sioux City, South Sioux City NE, and the boards of supervisors of Dakota County NE, Woodbury County IA, and North Sioux City in SD.

Eckley proposed that NAHT write the proclamations and identify the jurisdictions for proclamations, and that one of the NAHT subcommittees assume the task of contacting these jurisdictions to issue proclamations. Tinsman recommended that the proclamations be standardized for all.

Tinsman asked that all members send photos of any proclamations to George to be posted on the NAHT website. Des Moines's proclamation signing picture is already on the website.

Progress report on the series of 2.5 day intensive training "Multi-Disciplinary Response to Trafficking" Warren, Webster and Wapello trainings complete. 9 more trainings to go. (Celine Villongco, Human Trafficking Coordinator, cannot attend and will submit a written report.)

Villongco did not send a progress report, so her report will be moved to the March NAHT Board meeting.

Kerger attended the February 7-9 *Train the Trainer* training in Ottumwa. A group of 12 people, including police officers and service providers, attended. Kerger reported that a variety of types of educational methods were used effectively; e.g., Power Points, small groups, etc. Kerger reported important networking and now knows others to reach out to if human trafficking issues come up in the area.

Reding attended the training in Des Moines. The training was very informative including information on interviewing and different visas. Senator Kinney spoke about an interesting case he encountered when he worked as an investigator for the Johnson County Sheriff's Department.

January 30 Executive Committee meeting report and approval of Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve January 9 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report showing a 1/27/17 checking account balance of \$5,232.26 and savings account balance of \$3,226. There were \$749.16 in on-line Pay Pal donations and \$450 in check

donations. Major December and January expenses included Tana Tesdall (technology consultant) \$462.50, website consultant \$235.50, and Certificate of Recognition and brochure design and 800 printed color copies \$768.20. Two new donation checks of \$600 and \$50 are not shown in these account balances.

- ~~Motion to approve Network policy entitled “Clarification of Mission and Action Steps.”~~
- ~~Motion to approve Board Member Job Description and Board Function.~~
- Motion to approve expanded list of Allies and Advocates.
- Motion to not endorse the Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act at this time. An electronic vote taken on 1/30/17 by 8 Board members showed 50% with serious concerns, 37.5% in favor of endorsing and 12.5% abstaining. The Executive Committee requests further study and consultation from the Iowa Bar Association and the Network Advisory Council.

Rixner asked that the following be removed from the Consent Agenda:

- Motion to approve Network policy entitled “Clarification of Mission and Action Steps.”
- Motion to approve Board Member Job Description and Board Function.

Committee Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with two items removed. **Motion carried.**

Motion to approve Network policy entitled “Clarification of Mission and Action Steps.”

In the handout “Clarification of Mission and Action Steps, Rixner asked for clarification of (1) Mission + Action Steps, bullet 7, “Recognize allied group through articles and announcements on website, direct service providers, and other allied nonprofits” and (2) Action Steps for Providing a Platform for Collaboration, bullet 4, “Request written progress reports or minutes from each region’s ‘point person’ following each meeting.”

Tinsman said that Belitsos will be asked for clarification, and approval of this handout will be added to the next agenda.

Motion to approve Board Member Job Description and Board Function

On NAHT Board Member Job Description, Item #1, Rixner asked if unexcused absences are 3 per year or per entire term.

Kerger **moved** that “in a year” be added to NAHT Board Member Job Description, Item #1: “(No more than three unexcused absences in a year).” Fineran **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

Kerger **moved** that the word “and” be added between “Board” and “Subcommittee” to NAHT Board Member Job Description, Item #2: “Make a commitment and actively participate in meetings of the Board and Subcommittee (participation encouraged but not required). No second. **Motion carried.**

Reding **moved** to approve the document *Board Member Job Description and Board Function* with the two changes. Kerger **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

Concern about the proliferation of Chinese massage parlors and sex trafficking plus very little license enforcement

Rixner shared concerns about the lack of licensing, permits, or certification for massage parlors, and that there is actually a legislative trend towards loosening requirements and oversight for massage parlors. There is a connection between human trafficking and massage parlors.

Rixner **made a motion** that the NAHT Public Policy Subcommittee research the connection between human trafficking and massage parlors or nail salons, as well as the required permits, licenses, certifications for massage parlors and nail salons. Kerger **seconded**. **Motion carried.** O’Meara abstained.

Since Fineran had to leave the meeting early, she reported on the recent donation to The Siouxland Restoration Center of a house where up to 7 adult women who have been domestically sex trafficked may stay for up to 2 years. The target date for opening the home is July 1. Fineran had recently sent an email to the NAHT Board describing the donation and asking NAHT Board members for sample job descriptions for house managers, case managers, etc. Siouxland Restoration Center will now start fundraising for staff and renovations. Fineran left meeting.

Continue to discuss priorities for 2017 legislative session

Review the document entitled Legislation Endorsed and Encouraged for Passage by the 2017 Iowa Legislature

- Update on Erin's Law as filed by Rep. Heartsill

Cox attended the House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Erin's Law last week as a representative of NAHT and spoke in support of passage of Erin's Law. To speak at the meeting of three subcommittee members, Cox was required to register as the NAHT lobbyist. Those filing and speaking in support of Erin's Law were Blank Children's Hospital, Child and Family Policy Center, Prevention Child Abuse Iowa, and NAHT. This is the 4th year Erin's Law has been proposed as a law.

Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) came out neutral this year (they filed in opposition the last three years). Their lobbyist questioned if the things in the bill were available to every school district.

Cox pointed out to the subcommittee and IASB that teachers are already trained on child sexual abuse prevention, and the addition of human trafficking to this training would not cost the schools anything. The Blank lobbyist pointed out that child sex abuse, including trafficking, is a crime of secrets, and the more the issue can be brought into the light, the more victims can be helped.

Cox asked the NAHT Board to quickly provide more information to Heartsill: (1) A copy of curriculum used in schools, including a sample of education provided to teachers in professional development and what might be passed along to students and if there would be loss of innocence for lower elementary. (2) A list of people currently trained to provide this training. (3) An estimate of what the actual cost is to schools to have this training for teachers, along with an explanation that there are many service providers already in the schools, and including human trafficking in the child abuse training would not cost much. Erin's Law needs to get through subcommittee quickly.

After the subcommittee meeting, Cox phoned the Executive Director of IASB to find out why they are in opposition or neutral, since including human trafficking will not incur expense.

Rixner commended Cox for her presentation at the subcommittee and strongly encouraged all NAHT Board members to relay support of this bill to Heartsill. Tinsman reminded the Board that the Board voted to support this bill, and it is very important to contact Heartsill and express strong support.

Board members discussed various curricula. Cox said that Erin's Law has a list of recommended curricula, including *Darkness to Light* which she will send to Heartsill. Kerger will contact Buckels and ask her to send the *Teens Against Trafficking* curriculum to Heartsill. Tinsman will ask O'Keeffe to send Braking Traffik's curriculum.

Reding noted that she had read the bill and the words "human trafficking" are not used in the bill. The bill is very generic about sexual assault and prevention. Beran thought the bill might be passed more easily if it doesn't use the words human trafficking.

Cox can represent child abuse prevention which Erin's Law covers, but asked if another NAHT Board member would represent human trafficking. Cox left meeting

- Update on adding survivors of sex trafficking to the Rape Shield Law. Proposed rule change by Supreme Court and how you can help.

Tinsman reported that Senator Sinclair is investigating if the Iowa Supreme Court can add "human trafficking" to the Rape Shield law without requiring legislation.

- Update on continued funding for DPS Office to Combat Human Trafficking and for law enforcement and county attorney training

Tinsman's reported that the 2018 legislative budget is being finalized and she asked all NAHT Board members to call legislators and the chairs of the Appropriations Committee to request that \$300K is in 2018 budget so the Office of Human Trafficking can provide human trafficking training for staff, law enforcement, and county attorneys. This was cut from the 2017 budget.

Eckley reported that Rep Grassley, and Senator Schneider chair the Appropriations Committee, and Eckley will send an email to all NAHT Board members with contact information for Grassley and Schneider.

Since state funding is being cut, O'Meara noted that there are federal grants available for training for multidisciplinary response by states. The Salvation Army, located in Nebraska and Chicago, has been the service component of the successful application and might be looking at Iowa as next place. Kerger said the Salvation Army has decided to wait until next year to apply for Iowa.

- Proposed amendment to Iowa Expungement Law to encompass trafficked minors (Rixner and Eckley)
Move to next meeting.

Outcome of Red Oak trafficking training and recruitment of a Southern Iowa Board member (O'Meara)

O'Meara reported that the Southwest Iowa meeting was fairly well attended. Questions were above normal. The Montgomery County attorney told everyone that this is a very important subject but this did not exist in Montgomery County. O'Meara said the group shared that rural areas such as Red Oak, less than an hour from Omaha, are impacted.

O'Meara shared that the special agent for the FBI has taken position that they "have it covered." Numbers from a Creighton group of researchers show anecdotal case numbers based on risk analysis of people posted online for sex. Numbers are high and are worse outside of Omaha/Council Bluffs area. A cultural change is needed in many places, and there is some movement on this in SW Iowa.

Some NAHT Board members reported that Villongco has asked them to contact providers to increase attendance. O'Meara noted that CEUs increase attendance.

Progress report on status of Advisory Council (O'Keeffe and Cox) and formation of Research, Evaluation and Best Practice Standards Committee (Houston and Reding). Need a Volunteer to chair Fundraising Committee

Status of Advisory Council moved to next meeting.

Reding reported that the first meeting of the Research, Evaluation and Best Practice Standards Committee will be held by conference call on Wednesday, February 22, from 3:30 to 4:15 pm. The committee has six community members referred by Belitsos. Houston will have a proxy represent him at the meetings. The agenda items are:

1. Research and literature search on what various organizations/groups are doing to treat victims of human trafficking to determine best practices.
2. Determine Iowa organizations' treatment modality, i.e., inpatient, outpatient, case management ratios, goals, practices, procedures, etc., and recidivism rates. This item would be developed by doing in-depth interviews with the treatment facilities.

Call attention to the Board meeting schedule for 2017

Adjournment

Next Executive Committee meeting is Monday, February 27, 2:30-4:00 (conference call)

Next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, March 13, 2:30-4:00 (conference call)

Kerger **moved** to adjourn. Jan Beran **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

Tinsman thanked everyone for their participation