

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 9, 2017
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Conference Call**

Present on Call: George Belitsos (Chair), Liz Cox (Secretary), Sr Shirley Fineran, Paul Fitzgerald, Joy Fopma, Taylor Houston, Jennie Kerger, Cathy O’Keeffe, Bernadette Rixner, Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman (Vice Chair), Suzanne Wright

Excused: Jan Beran (Treasurer), Teresa Davidson, Stephen O’Meara, Shirlee Reding

Absent: Brynne Howard, Erin Schneider

Guests on Call: Mary Ann Ahrens, American Association of University Women (AAUW); Sgt Elizabeth Quinn (proxy for Fitzgerald), Story County Sheriff’s Dept

Taking Minutes: Margaret Epplin

Call to order, roll call, and welcome guests, and introduction of newly elected Board member, Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos. Belitsos welcomed guest Mary Ann Ahrens, who is a member of the AAUW online branch and is from Iowa. Ahrens has retired from a career in training and development and currently works part-time for an Iowa City legislator.

Ahrens explained that AAUW has a 136-year history and is headquartered in DC. There is a branch in each state, but the online branch has members from all over the US. Each branch holds monthly meetings. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Members have an associate’s degree or higher from an accredited institution or are a student at an accredited institution. Accredited colleges or universities may hold institution memberships. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership and there is no barrier to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Ahrens is a member of the online branch of AAUW which has a human trafficking working group to provide education to AAUW members about human trafficking and outreach to victims of human trafficking. Ahrens met with Villongco last week to learn more about the efforts against human trafficking in the state of Iowa. Ahrens explained that the online AAUW branch is looking for a small niche to improve humanity with an outreach project against human trafficking. Ahrens would like to communicate with NAHT members and report back to the AAUW working group. Belitsos thanked Ahrens and informed her that the list of NAHT Board members is on the NAHT website.

Tinsman shared that she is member of AAUW and attended a recent AAUW ceremony. Tinsman would be glad to share information about what human trafficking is and what is being done about it. Ahrens shared that Mike Ferjak presented a human trafficking workshop at the last AAUW conference.

Belitsos welcomed NAHT’s newest Board member, Story County Sheriff Fitzgerald, and his proxy Sgt Elizabeth Quinn and asked Fitzgerald and Quinn to introduce themselves. Fitzgerald has been in law enforcement for 30 years, including 25 years as Story County Sheriff. Over the years, he has served on local, state and federal committees, task forces, and councils, including the White House Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force. Fitzgerald currently serves as Chair of the Emergency Service Center Coordinating Council of the National Sheriffs’ Association.

Quinn has been with the Story County Sheriff's office since 2005 and was promoted to Sergeant in October 2016. Quinn has been involved with anti-human trafficking throughout her career, and completed a 6-month detail at Interpol Washington where she was assigned to the Human Trafficking Child Protection Division and the State and Local Liaison Program. Quinn is active on the of Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Legislative Committee. Quinn is a human trafficking instructor for the Attorney General's office and helped write human trafficking protocol for Story and Polk Counties. Belitsos said that Quinn would be a good candidate for NAHT Legislative Advisory Council, and Quinn expressed interest and will investigate further.

Belitsos again welcomed both Fitzgerald and Quin. Belitsos will send out bios for both to the NAHT Board members.

Review today's Agenda

Tinsman asked for discussion on a comparison between Iowa and Nebraska anti-human trafficking efforts and what future steps are planned. Last week, Belitsos sent out a comparison of the laws in both states. This item will be added to the Agenda under the Legislative Council report. Tinsman asked for a follow-up report on what happened to the victims in the recent Waterloo human trafficking case. Belitsos had sent out a news report that both traffickers had entered guilty pleas to sex trafficking two 16-year-old girls. This will be added to the end of the Agenda.

Review and approve Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve September 11 NAHT Board meeting minutes.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a Hotel/Motel MOU for training of trainers in Cedar Rapids, MOU three-way agreement between the Nebraska Coalition, Chains Interrupted and the Iowa NAHT.
- Motion to present Governor Reynolds with a Network Outstanding Contribution Award.
- Motion to present Senator Charles Grassley with a Network Outstanding Contribution Award.
- Motion to accept the 9/25/17 report of the treasurer showing a checking account balance of \$5,914.27 and savings account balance of \$1,781.84.
- Motion to authorize the chair to add the Network as a supporter of federal bill S.1693, otherwise known as the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017 (SESTA).

The Executive Committee **motion to approve** the Consent Agenda **carried unanimously**.

Outcome of September 19 Governor's Press Conference

Belitsos thanked all NAHT Board members who attended the press conference and reported that at least 15 from the media also attended including at least 3 or 4 TV stations. There were several newspaper articles. At the press conference, Governor Kim Reynolds endorsed the NAHT hotel/motel employee training project and supported what the Iowa NAHT is doing. Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg urged all hotels/motels and managers to participate in the anti-human trafficking hotel/motel training. Belitsos presented a call for volunteers to attend the train-the-trainer hotel/motel anti-trafficking training so that they can present the training to hotel/motel employees. The goal is that most hotel/motel employees statewide will receive the anti-human trafficking training.

Tinsman reported that she presented Governor Reynolds with a 50-50 award at an event at Terrace Hill on October 1. Tinsman spoke to Governor Reynolds who mentioned how strongly she felt about fighting and preventing human trafficking, and that the press conference on September 19 was great and she was very supportive of NAHT anti-human trafficking efforts.

Belitsos complimented Tinsman on her leadership in the “50-50 in 2020” organization, Iowa’s only nonpartisan group working for election of women to 50% of the state’s legislative and state-wide elected offices by 2020. Tinsman is the founder of this organization.

Review 2018 slate of officers. Are there any Board members who will not serve for another 2-year term?

Board Members: Belitsos and Reding have agreed to serve a third and final term in 2018. Cox, Rixner, and Tinsman have agreed to serve a second term in 2018.

Executive Committee:

Tinsman has withdrawn her name from nomination as the 2018 Chair due to other obligations. Tinsman will continue to serve as a Board member but will step down as Vice Chair at the end of 2017. As a result, O’Meara has been asked by the Executive Committee to serve as the 2018 Vice Chair. Belitsos has discussed this with O’Meara who is considering but hasn’t made a final decision. Belitsos asked if there was anyone from the Board who would like to have their name put into nomination as Vice Chair. There were no volunteers.

Belitsos thanked Tinsman for continuing NAHT service and leadership as a Board member. Tinsman feels the Vice Chair to succeed Belitsos as Chair in 2019 should be from Central Iowa, rather than Eastern Iowa, and have connections to the Governor and legislature. Rixner agreed with Tinsman that members outside of Central Iowa have less access to the legislature. Belitsos shared that O’Meara is from the western part of the state, but he has many family members in Des Moines and he makes very frequent trips to Des Moines. Tinsman said that O’Meara has had a major role in providing hotel/motel training in Central Iowa and Cedar Rapids, so it makes sense for him to Chair. Belitsos says O’Meara is uniquely qualified as he has worked with law enforcement and has had extensive experience as a prosecutor of human trafficking cases and is very good at collaboration. O’Meara was the force behind the NAHT partnership with the Nebraska Coalition.

Belitsos agreed to be nominated to continue as Chair. Cox agreed to be nominated to continue as Secretary. Beran has agreed to be nominated to serve one more year as Treasurer after which she will complete three terms on the NAHT Board.

Progress report of the Attorney General’s Office Human Trafficking Coordinator. Plans for Human Trafficking Summit, April 17 and 18, 2018 (Villongco)

No report as Villongco was at a training and unable to attend today’s NAHT meeting.

Report of the Research, Evaluation & Best Practice Standards Committee (Reding and Houston)

Houston said that activity of this committee is slow right now. The Committee will have a meeting at the end of October. The Committee will discuss future goals in addition to Houston’s project. Three interviews for Houston’s project have been delayed, but within 2 weeks, 21 interviews will be completed, transcribed and summarized. The Committee will have more to report at the November NAHT meeting. Stoehr has asked to join the group and will make contact with Houston.

Houston asked about the report from the Attorney General’s office as he wishes to see if the AG’s research overlaps with his. Belitsos reported that Villongco told him that the final report is still on the AG’s desk who wants to go over it carefully before it is released and put on the AG’s website.

Report on the September 12 meeting of the Survivor Restoration & Service Provider Collaboration (Fineran, Fopma, and Davidson)

Fopma could not attend the September 12 meeting but received notes. 7 members of the Collaboration were present. The mission of the Collaboration is to coordinate a statewide (IA) network of multidisciplinary services for individuals affected by sexual exploitation and trafficking.

The two tasks of the Collaboration are to (1) Put together a survey for each networked organization so that they can define their role, and (2) Create and maintain a website with resource information on housing, advocacy/support services, treatment programs, crisis vs continuing services, FAQs, services by region on an interactive map, professional/organization resource database, and culturally specific resources.

Shannon Schott of Teens against Human Trafficking will create a survey of services provided to human trafficking survivors and will touch base with Houston to see what has already been done. Marissa Price of Wings of Refuge will create a Facebook group "Iowa Human Trafficking Services Network" to share resources, trainings, etc.

Belitsos asked Fopma if she would become Chair of this Collaboration. At this time, Fopma said she needs to focus her time on Wings of Refuge, but can possibly assume the position of Chair in the future.

The next meeting will be held January 23 in Des Moines.

Review of legislation (O'Keeffe and Cox)

O'Keeffe has resigned from Braking Traffik to spend more time with her family. O'Keeffe will also resign from the NAHT Board but will recommend someone. Belitsos thanked O'Keeffe for her work on the NAHT Board. Belitsos also recognized all the work O'Keeffe has done to develop Braking Traffik and mentioned that O'Keeffe received a national award from the Attorney General in 2016 for her work.

- Report from the Legislative Advisory Council. Collaborate with the Child and Family Policy Center, AMP and Coalition for Children and Family Services?

Cox reported that the person who certifies that Mandatory Reporter trainings meet minimum standards attended the last NAHT Legislative Advisory Council. Cox recommends that education on the identification of human trafficking be included in Mandatory Reporter training.

Cox met with Mary Kramer, former Iowa Senator and President of the Iowa Senate, for guidance on how to successfully get legislation passed. Cox shared with Kramer the challenges faced last year in trying to pass Erin's Law through the Iowa legislature. State Representative Heartsill has reached out to Cox about continuing work on passing Erin's Law. Cox reported that Prevent Child Abuse Iowa is honoring Heartsill for his work protecting youth and families.

Cox also met with Dave Heaton, Iowa Representative from District 84 and Chair of the Iowa Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee. Heaton reached out to Cox after he was motivated at the National Conference of State Legislatures Summit in Boston in August 2017 where he attended the Human Services sessions to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Cox and Heaton agreed that sex is hard to talk about, but not talking about it puts youth at risk. Tinsman recalled that she met with Heaton last year and convinced him to include workgroups in the HHS budget, which he did, but took out at the last minute.

Cox suggests that the change to include information on human trafficking in Mandatory Reporter trainings might be the best way to protect youth from human trafficking and feels that many others would support this change. Tinsman, who is on the Board of Health, said she would push to change Mandatory Reporting trainings to include human trafficking. Mandatory Reporter Training is universal, is not expensive, and has to be renewed every three years.

Cox said that currently, the Mandatory Reporter training requirements are minimal. NAHT Legislative Advisory Council members, along with NAHT Chair Belitsos, need to meet with Foxhoven at Iowa DHS, the Department of Education, and others.

Rixner asked for clarification as she understood that NAHT wasn't going to support Erin's Law, due to the NAHT Legislative Advisory Council's research of MA and VT that led to the conclusion that Erin's Law needed to be done differently. Rixner said that sex abuse prevention education is needed in schools. Cox said the NAHT Legislative Advisory Council looked at penalties that the public has paid related to sexual discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and concluded it was a huge project and they didn't have enough energy.

Tinsman suggested NAHT concentrate on Mandatory Reporter training reformation. Cox said she is trying to be mindful that there are persons who have passage of Erin's Law on their legislative agendas, including Child and Family Policy Center, AMP, and Unity Point. Cox felt that, though unsuccessful in passage, people were energized by the progress on Erin's Law last year.

Heartsill and Heaton are advocates for passing legislation on the legislative side, but Cox doesn't know who will be advocates on the Senate side. Cox will ask Heartsill what legislation he thinks is possible to pass and recommendations for Senators. Cox asked Belitsos to meet with Republican Senate leaders to see if they have anyone to recommend.

Belitsos remarked that Heaton is now very inspired due to the recent Summit and suggests that the NAHT Legislative Advisory Council continue to recommend Erin's Law, with Mandatory Reporter Training reformation as an alternative. Belitsos noted, due to recent expensive lawsuits against DHS, the time might be right to pass a less expensive prevention protocol.

Belitsos asked Cox if she is requesting an expansion of the definition of a Mandatory Reporter in this legislation. Cox is not looking at the definition of who is Mandatory Reporter, but what is going on in the trainings. Belitsos noted that Nebraska added hotel/motel trainers as Mandatory Reporters. Rixner didn't feel this is realistic due to turnover of hotel/motel staff and language barriers. Cox suggested that management staff at hotels/motels do not turn over as quickly and perhaps they should be the Mandatory Reporters instead of lower level staff.

Cox reported that she will make a presentation to the IA Association of School Boards around the risk factors of sexual abuse and discrimination in schools. Claims and costs have increased dramatically, and Cox will encourage leaders to attend trainings to minimize risks. Belitsos noted that O'Meara has relevant slides with data and other information, and Cox will call O'Meara.

Tinsman **made a motion** that the NAHT Board support Erin's Law and reforming the requirements embedded in Mandatory Reporter Training. Wright **seconded**. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- Research into child abuse prevention legislation in Massachusetts & Vermont. Does this legislation also address sex trafficking?

Belitsos asked Cox if she had read the Nebraska laws and compared them to Iowa laws. Cox plans to read them soon.

Tinsman asked the NAHT Legislative Advisory Council to look at five human trafficking problems: (1) Clarify the Iowa definition of human trafficking and add solicitation. (2) Add a penalty in Iowa for the john. (3) Provide immunity in Iowa for the victim. (4) Increase human trafficking penalties in Iowa. (5) Include a civil standing law in Iowa. Belitsos explained that a civil standing law means that the survivor could go to

court and ask for a civil settlement; e.g., a person who was abused at a hotel or motel that looked at the other way could file a civil suit against the hotel or motel.

Wright has heard that there is penalty for john prosecution, and that some states are moving to a higher penalty for participation in human trafficking as opposed to participation in prostitution. If there is no penalty for human trafficking, and they are charged with human trafficking, then there is no penalty. Wright said that some states want johns listed on the sex abuse registry and would like victims of human trafficking to have their past record expunged.

Tinsman reported that Cook County is seizing goods instead of arresting, and the offender must pay a fine to get their car back. Wright reported in some drug cases, that cars are placed on auction, and the owner must buy back their car with money from the sale going to the associated law enforcement fund.

Cox asked if NAHT should use the Nebraska law as a model. Tinsman noted that Iowa receives a higher national score on human trafficking laws than Nebraska, though Tinsman believes penalties in Iowa are shockingly small.

- Massage legislation and efforts to guide local city councils to adopt regulation massage business ordinance. Cities that are working on an ordinance include Ames, Des Moines, Sioux City, Clive, Windsor Heights, Ankeny, Newton, Cedar Rapids, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, Dubuque, Davenport and Bettendorf.

Belitsos has posted a recent blog about the Johnston massage ordinance and hopes as many cities as possible move in this direction. Rixner reported that the new Sioux City Chief of Police is in favor, and a suggested ordinance will be presented at the City Council soon.

- Progress by Iowa Supreme Court to make a rule change to add human trafficking victims to the Iowa Rape Shield law.

Tinsman reported that nothing will be done on this until 2018, and this item will be removed from the Agenda until 2018.

Report of the Cedar Rapids and Des Moines Hotel/Motel Project Steering Committees and outcome of September 13 and September 25 training of trainers held at Des Moines Plymouth Church. Status of hotel/motel training for Eastern Iowa and Western Iowa. Training dates? (Reding, Davidson, and O'Meara)

Belitsos reported that 30 people were trained on September 13 by the Nebraska Coalition. Each of the 30 attendees signed up to train employees at 3 different hotels and motels. Last week, a letter was sent to all those hotels and motels inviting hotel/motel employees to a training. Trainers will go as a pair to meet with the hotel/motel manager and set up a training date. Belitsos is keeping an Excel spreadsheet of any hotels/motels scheduled.

Cedar Rapids had 50 people attend their training to train trainers for the hotels/motels in the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City-Waterloo corridor.

Human trafficking arrests in Waterloo

Belitsos reported that two traffickers in Waterloo pled guilty to the human trafficking of two minors. The victims were not making enough money at \$250 per john, so they were sent into Target to steal candy to sell and they were arrested. Belitsos heard that both victims testified against the traffickers and were not prosecuted in any way. The traffickers are facing a minimum of 10 years in prison. The victims have received services. Belitsos will post the article on Facebook page and will send the article to everyone on the blog list.

Other

Rixner reported on a prostitution sting and that prosecutors are trying to build case to charge with human trafficking.

Adjournment. Next NAHT Board of Directors meeting November 13, 2017. The November Executive Committee meeting has been cancelled.